

VERIFICATION OF "TIST PROGRAM IN KENYA, CCB-001"



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Summary:

EPIC Sustainability Services Pvt. Ltd.(hereinafter called ESSPL), contracted by Clean Air Action Corporation has conducted the second verification of the CCB project entitled "TIST Program in Kenya, CCB-001".

The verification includes assessment of the implementation status of the monitoring plan of the registered CCB report in line with the requirements of CCB Standard (Second Edition, December 2008) and Rules for the use of the Climate, Community, & Biodiversity Standards, Version December 2013. The verification was done for the period starting from 01-January-11 to 11-August-2015 (both days included).

Project activity is a subset of the TIST Kenya program and corresponds to TIST VCS project description KE-VCS-001, 002, 003 and 004. It originally applied to 1,078 of the Small Groups, 8,047 members, 4,264 project areas and 1,565.2 ha.

The CCBA verification scope is defined as a periodic independent review and ex post determination by the verifier EPIC, of the monitored CCBA indicators during defined verification period, and consisted of the following three phases

- 1. Desk review of the registered project document;
- 2. Physical site inspection and follow-up interviews with project stakeholders;
- 3. Resolution of outstanding issues and the issuance of the final verification report including verification opinion.

The overall verification, from Contract Review to Verification Report & Opinion, was conducted using EPIC's internal procedures. On the basis of the physical site inspection of the project activity and review of the documents submitted by the project participant, the Verification team confirms that, for the CCB verification period from 01-January-11 to 11-August-2015, the indicators have been monitored in line with CCBA requirements. In conclusion, it is ESSPLs opinion that the CCBA Project Implementation Report for the project activity "TIST Program in Kenya, CCB-001" Version 05 dated 23rd March 2016, meets all relevant requirements established by the CCB Standard, Methodology as applicable including the identification of social economic and environmental impacts as well the presentation of the results obtained in accordance to the CCBA indicators.



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CCBA VERIFICATION REPORT

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Objective

Clean Air Action Corporation has contracted EPIC Sustainability Services Pvt. Ltd.(ESSPL) for second verification of the the project "TIST Program in Kenya, CCB-001" (hereafter referred to as "the Project"), for the period from 01-January-11 to 11-August-2015.

EPIC Sustainability Services Pvt. Ltd.(hereinafter called ESSPL), contracted by Clean Air Action Corporation has conducted the second verification of the CCB project entitled "TIST Program in Kenya, CCB-001".

The verification scope is defined as a periodic independent review and ex post determination by the Designated Operational Entity (DoE) of the implementation status of the monitoring plan in accordance with the specified indicators as per social carbon standard. The verification scope consisted of the following:

- 1. Implementation of the project activity in conformance with the requirements of the Project Document
- 2. Verification of the Monitoring Plan in line with the requirements of the Project Document and assessment of their status
- Opinion on whether the project has shown improvement of the project indicators for the monitoring period

The verification was carried out based on the requirements of the CCB Standard, Second Edition, December 2008 and Rules for the use of the Climate, Community, & Biodiversity Standards, Version December 2013 based on information made available to EPIC.

1.2 Scope and Criteria

The CCB Standard for this project activity being complimentary to the VCS, does not in itself set the criteria regarding the project type, location, and size, crediting period or baseline and monitoring methodologies; it covers only criteria of climate community and biodiversity impact of the project but not for emission reduction itself.

The scope of the verification covers the independent evaluation of this specific project activity by a certifying entity against the requirements of the CCB Standard and its indicators, on the basis of the Project Implementation Report (PIR) report submitted.

The implementation status of the monitoring regarding the Climate, Community and Biodiversity indicators are verified based on CCB Standard (Second Edition, December 2008) in order to confirm that the impacts arising from a carbon offset project for the indicators are documented with adequate justification and can be reasonably verified.

2 VERIFICATION PROCESS

2.1 Method and Criteria



The overall verification process, beginning from the Contract Review to Verification report, certification statement & opinion, was conducted using internal procedures of EPIC Sustainability Services Pvt. Ltd. (ESSPL). The project is already validated as a CCB project and hence the CCB verification was based on criteria as per CCB Standard¹¹.

The Monitoring requirements were reviewed based on the CCBA project description dated 14th February 2011, previous reports such as CCBA monitoring report dated 14th February 2011 and PIR for first verification dated 28th April 2011 and validation and verification reports.

For verification of the status of the monitoring of CCBA indicators the following steps were undertaken:

- Completeness check of the submitted PIR version 01 and desk review of the supporting documents
- Onsite inspection and issuance of findings, conducted during 19th to 24th October 2015.
- Issue of Draft findings and the Resolution of findings
- Preparation of Final Verification Report based on the revised PIR version 05

The team members involved in the CCB verification of the project activity are as follows:

Name	Role	Components reviewed
Dr G Vishnu	Lead Auditor	Completeness check, desk review, onsite inspection, Interview with project representatives, issuance of findings, report preparation.
Dr R Madhukar	Auditor	Completeness check, desk review, onsite inspection, Interview with project representatives, issuance of findings.
Mr Misheck Kaburi	Host Country	Interviews with community and forestry land
Kamau	Expert	use patterns
Mr R Vijaya Raghavan	Technical	Checking and verifying of information
	Reviewer	related to draft final report.
Mr Sai Kishore	Expert assisting Technical review	Assisting the technical review

2.2 Document Review

On receipt of the PIR from the PP, a desk review of the following documents was done:



- The validated documents for the Project
- The documents relating to the first verification of the project
- Supporting documents for the CCB indicators
- Conformance of information in the PIR with the monitoring plan and project design

A complete list of all documents reviewed is referenced in Section 06 of this report.

2.3 Interviews

Multiple level interviews were conducted to assess understanding of project requirements and to determine if monitoring conducted in the field was implemented in accordance with the requirements in the validated CCB report⁽³⁾. The following lists of persons were interviewed on the relevant topics by the verification team during onsite visit.

Name Designation	Company	Interview Topics
Mr. Ben Henneke	Clean Air Action Corporation	Project design, Project
President		implementation, Procedures, Monitoring plan and
		Procedures
Mr. Martin Weru	TIST Field Manager	Monitoring plan and
		Procedures, Training details,
		field measurement
Mr. Charles Iberere	TIST Field Manager	Monitoring plan and
		Procedures, Training details,
		field measurements

Apart from this, farmers were interviewed regarding the community and biodiversity benefits achieved during the monitoring period. A total of 1.0 % of the total farmers were interviewed.

2.4 Site Inspections

The physical site inspection was performed by the verification team from 19th to 24th October 2015 to cover the scope on:

- 1. Verification of physical location of the site and confirm the boundaries of the project activity
- 2. Implementation and operation of the project activity as per the description in the validated project design.

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- 3. Recording and monitoring of data in line with the CCBA requirements.
- 4. Stakeholder inputs regarding benefits accrued from the project implementation

2.5 Resolution of Findings

Based on the site inspection and review of records including the monitoring plan, a list of non-conformities; Corrective Action Requests (CAR), Clarification Requests (CRs) and Information Requests (IR) were raised. The previous verification reports was reviewed in case to address any FARs, which were not observed. The non-conformities could be related to lack of adherence to the CCBA requirements, non-conformance to the monitoring plan as defined in the registered report and or where evidence provided is found insufficient to prove conformity. They could also be mistakes in applying data/ assumptions and in calculation of emission reductions.

- If information made available is insufficient to transparently arrive at the stated conclusion, a Clarification request (CL) is raised and communicated to the project proponent.
- In case of a non-conformance to requirements a Corrective Action Request (CAR) is raised.
- Observations may also be raised which are for the benefit of future verification period.
 (FARs) These, however, have no impact upon the completion of the current verification activity.
- In case of additional information required for confirming the requirements and Information Request (IR) is raised

On receipt of response from the project developer, the adequacy with compliance with CCB requirements is checked along with a revised monitoring report. Closure of comments raised occurs only if the response provided and correction made fully complies with the stated requirements of the methodology applied.

The list of CLs and IRs raised and the response provided and the resolution are provided in Appendix A.

2.6 Internal quality control

A Technical Reviewer / Technical review team is appointed to review the final draft verification report and the final verification report. The comments made by the Technical Reviewer / Technical review team are taken into consideration and incorporated in the final report. The final report (after resolutions of all findings) is then submitted to the Head – Operations for review and final approval.

3 VERIFICATION FINDINGS

3.1 Project Design and Description



The verified information on the project design is summarised below

Project Name	TIST Program in Kenya, CCB-001
Location	Laikipia, Nyeri, Meru and Kirinyaga Districts, Kenya
Project validation date	March 2012
Indicators	CCBA Second Edition
First Verification date	March 2012
Project Developer	Clean Air Action Corporation
Current verification	Second from 01-January-11 to 11-August-2015
Public Comment Period	2nd October to 1st November 2015 No comments received

Small Groups of subsistence farmers in India, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Nicaragua, and Honduras have been empowered to combat the devastating effects of deforestation, poverty and drought by The International Small Group and Tree Planting Program (TIST). TIST projects support the reforestation and biodiversity efforts of over 63,000 subsistence farmers with a combination sustainable development with carbon sequestration initiatives.

TIST in Kenya began in 2004 and has grown to nearly 50,000 TIST participants in over 6,700 Small Groups. The TIST projects are based on grassroots initiative in which small groups of farmers are provided a structural network of training and communications that allows them to build on their own local knowledge and develop best practices accordingly. Small Groups also benefit from a new income source; the sale of carbon credits that result from the sequestration of carbon from the atmosphere in the biomass of the trees and soil. These credits have already been verified during the first verification under the Voluntary Carbon Standard and, because they are tied to tree growth, are proposed to be sustainable. Carbon credit sales generate participant income and provide project funding to address agricultural, HIV/AIDS, nutritional and fuel challenges. In the course of the project lifetime it is expected that the maturing trees and conservation farming practices will provide additional sustainable benefits that far exceed the carbon payments. These benefits include improved crop yield, improved environment, and marketable commodities such as fruits, nuts, and honey. TIST adopts a high-tech approach to quantify the benefits and report the results in transparent way, which includes palm computers, GPS, and a dynamic "real time" internet based database.

This PIR corresponding to CCB - 001 is for a subset of the TIST Kenya program and corresponds to TIST VCS Project Descriptions VCS-001, VCS-002, VCS-003 and VCS-004. It originally applied to 1,078 of the Small Groups, 8,047 members, 4,264 project areas and 1,565.2 ha.

4 ASSESSMENT OF CCB INDICATORS



4.1 Methodology

The CCB verification for this project activity being complimentary to the VCS, the VCS monitoring period was also verified from the VCS Monitoring report submitted. The monitoring period was the same which is in line with requirements. As per the PIR submitted methods adopted for verification and collection of the information included semi-structured interviews with Project Proponents of the enterprise, visits to the Project sites, meeting with Government representatives and interview with the stakeholders and analyses of the aspects identified during participatory interviews. The approach adopted was found to be in line with the methods and guidance recommended by CCBA. The evidences for the information was verified by the verification team and found to be reliable.

4.2 CCB Indicators

Summary of verification results

Indicator	Description	Required / Optional	Conformance
G 1	Original Conditions in the Project Area	Required	Yes
G 2	Baseline Projections	Required	Yes
G 3	Project Design and Goals	Required	Yes
G 4	Management Capacity and Best Practices	Required	Yes
G 5	Legal Status and Property Rights	Required	Yes
CL 1	Net Positive Climate Impacts	Required	Yes
CL 2	Offsite Climate Impacts ("Leakage")	Required	Yes
CL 3	Climate Impact Monitoring	Required	Yes
CM 1	Net Positive Community Impacts	Required	Yes
CM 2	Offsite Stakeholder Impacts	Required	Yes
CM 3	Community Impact Monitoring	Required	Yes
B 1	Net Positive Biodiversity Impacts	Required	Yes
B 2	Offsite Biodiversity Impacts	Required	Yes
B 3	Biodiversity Impact Monitoring	Required	Yes
GL 1	Climate Change Adaptation Benefits	Optional	NA
GL 2	Exceptional Community Benefits	Optional	Yes
GL 3	Exceptional Biodiversity Benefits	Optional	NA

4.3 Verification findings

G 1 Original Conditions in the Project Area

Name of Indicator	G1.1 General Information, location of the project and basic
	physical parameters



Current status assessed	Similar to the first monitoring period, the PIR refers to the location of the project within Kenya. The project areas are dispersed in the general vicinity of Mt Kenya, predominately around Nanyuki and Meru. The Nanyuki project area covers the Laikipia District and parts of northern Nyeri District. The Meru project area covers the larger Meru District and parts of Kirinyaga District. Further a description of the geology, hydrology and climate is also provided as per the validated PDD It is also verified that the basic physical parameters of the project area and zone have not changed since the validation of the project as verified from the maps.
Evidences and Interviews	Section G.1.1 of the validated PDD and First Monitoring period PIR.
Findings, if any	No findings were raised as the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed.

Name of Indicator	G.1.2 General information, types and condition of vegetation within the project area
Current status assessed	PIR describes the vegetation as generally cropland and grassland with a few scattered trees. The pre-project trees were counted and identified and are listed by project area in worksheet "Baseline Strata." The rest of the ground cover was estimated as a percent of the total individual project area size. The stratification is present in worksheet "Grove Summary. It was verified that the types and condition of vegetation of the project area and zone have not changed since the validation of the project.
Evidences and Interviews	Section G.1.2 of the validated PDD and First Monitoring period PIR and baseline worksheets.
Findings, if any	No findings were raised as the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed.

Name of Indicator	G1.3 General information, boundaries of the project area and the project zone
Current status assessed	The PIR which infers the PDD describes the Project Zone as the area of central Kenya surrounding Mt Kenya. It extends south of Embu, northwest to near the Nyambeni Forest, north almost to Isiolo, northwest almost to the Baringo Province, west to Nyahururu and south west to Nyeri. Further the boundaries have been surveyed by GPS and presented in Appendix 01, 02 and 03 in the form of maps and images.
	It was verified that the boundaries of the project area and zone have not changed since the validation of the project.
Evidences and Interviews	Section G.1.3 of the validated PDD and First Monitoring period PIR and baseline worksheets.
Findings, if any	No findings were raised as the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed.

Name of Indicator	G1.4 Climate Information, baseline carbon stocks



Current status assessed	The PIR infers to the PDD which describes that the baseline carbon stocks have been estimated based on the approved Clean Development Mechanism methodology AR AMS0001, Version 05: Simplified baseline and monitoring methodologies for small-scale afforestation and reforestation project activities. based on the information provided in the PDD and previous PIR Table G.1.4 shows the strata selected for the baseline calculation, the hectares and percent of area of each stratum and the relevant assumption needed to determine the baseline carbon stocks It was verified that there is no change in the assumptions and baseline carbon stocks information since the validation of the project.
Evidences and Interviews	Section G.1.4 of the validated PDD and First Monitoring period PIR and baseline worksheets.
Findings, if any	No findings were raised as the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed.

Name of Indicator	G1.5 Community information, description of communities in project zone
Current status assessed	The PIR infers to the PD which describes that the predominant ethnicity of the people in the project zone and of the TIST members is Meru and Kikuyu who are early migrants. The Meru people are concentrated on the east side of Mt Kenya and the Kikuyus are located on the west side. There are no "indigenous" people living in the project areas or project zones. Other aspects included gender, age and marital status which were surveyed as part of the baseline during validation. It was verified that there is no change in the communities residing in the project zone since the validation of the project.
Evidences and Interviews	Section G.1.5 of the validated PDD and First Monitoring period PIR and site visit.
Findings, if any	No findings were raised as the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed.

Name of Indicator	G1.6 Community Information, current land use and customary and legal property rights
Current status assessed	The PIR describes the land use practices and legal property rights which is in line with the description in the PD. The Small Groups own the trees that they plant together and grant the rights to all carbon associated with TIST to Clean Air Action Corporation (CAAC) under a "Carbon Credit Sale Agreement." Under the agreement the members affirm their ownership or rights to the land designated as project areas. The current land is used for agricultural purposes. It was verified that there is no change in the land use and legal property rights in the project zone since the validation of the project.
Evidences and Interviews	Section G.1.6 of the validated PDD and First Monitoring period PIR and site visit.
Findings, if any	No findings were raised as the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed.

Name of Indicator G.1.7 Biodiversity Information, current biodiversity within the project



	zone
Current status assessed	The PIR describes the original conditions at the project area and the surrounding project zone before the project commences" and, there are no changes from the first verification. It was verified that there is no change in the biodiversity in the project zone since the validation of the project.
Evidences and Interviews	Section G.1.7 of the validated PDD and First Monitoring period PIR and site visit.
Findings, if any	Findings were raised based on which the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed. Refer Appendix A for details.

Name of Indicator	G.1.8 Biodiversity Information, High Conservation Values and attributes
Current status assessed	The PIR describes the original conditions at the project area and the surrounding project zone before the project commences" with respect to the identified HCV areas and endangered species, which are identical to the first verification. It was verified that there is no change in the biodiversity and HCV attributes in the project zone since the validation of the project.
Evidences and Interviews	Section G.1.8 of the validated PDD and First Monitoring period PIR and site visit.
Findings, if any	Findings were raised based on which the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed. Refer Appendix A for details.

G2. Baseline Projections

Name of Indicator	G2.1 Most likely scenario
Current status assessed	The baseline scenario is described similar to the first PIR and It was verified that there is no change in the baseline scenario, which is mainly cropland and grassland in the project zone since the validation of the project.
Evidences and Interviews	Section G.2.1 of the validated PDD and First Monitoring period PIR and site visit.
Findings, if any	Findings were raised based on which the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed. Refer Appendix A for details.



Name of Indicator	G2.2 Document how project benefits would not have occurred without project
Current status assessed	Additionality was proven using the "Assessment of Additionality" contained in Appendix B of Clean Development Mechanism Methodology AR-AMS0001, which demonstrates that the project activity would not have occurred in the absence of the proposed project activity.
	The PIR infers the previous PIR and PD indicating that there is a clear pattern of rural firewood use and forest degradation in Kenya that supports the case that deforestation, loss of natural habitat and loss of biodiversity on each individual project area would continue, and at best, stay the same without an intervention such as TIST.
	It was verified that there is no change in the information provided for this indicator in the project zone since the validation of the project.
Evidences and Interviews	Section G.2.2 of the validated PDD and First Monitoring period PIR and site visit.
Findings, if any	Findings were raised based on which the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed. Refer Appendix A for details.

Name of Indicator	G2.3 Calculate carbon stock changes without project.
Current status assessed	As inferred in the PIR this in unchanged from the validation and the methodology used to calculate the changes in carbon stock is based on CDM small scale afforestation reforestation methodology AR-AMS0001 Version 05: Simplified baseline and monitoring methodologies for small-scale afforestation and reforestation project activities under the clean development mechanism implemented on grasslands or croplands.
	It was verified that there is no change in the information provided for this indicator in the project zone since the validation of the project.
Evidences and Interviews	Section G.2.3 of the validated PDD and First Monitoring period PIR and site visit.
Findings, if any	Findings were raised based on which the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed. Refer Appendix A for details.



Name of Indicator	G2.4 Effect on communities without project
Current status assessed	As inferred in the PIR this in unchanged from the validation and the following is summarised for the effect on communities in absence of project:
	The communities would not receive the added income that has been paid to the TIST farmers as a carbon stipend and they would not receive the 70% of the project profits, once the carbon sequestered in the trees is enough to sustain the project.
	This added income benefits them in many ways. Further the training by TIST provides an opportunity for developing leadership skills and become Small Groups leaders regardless of gender, religion, education or general background.
	It was verified that there is no change in the information provided for this indicator in the project zone since the validation of the project.
Evidences and Interviews	Section G.2.4 of the validated PDD and First Monitoring period PIR and site visit.
Findings, if any	Findings were raised based on which the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed. Refer Appendix A for details.

Name of Indicator	G2.5 Effect on biodiversity without project
Current status assessed	As inferred in the PIR this in unchanged from the validation and the following is summarised for the effect on biodiversity in absence of project. There is an increase of indigenous tree species as also increase in forest cover which facilitates opening of new corridors and conserving the biodiversity.
Evidences and Interviews	Section G.2.5 of the validated PDD and First Monitoring period PIR and site visit.
Findings, if any	Findings were raised based on which the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed. Refer Appendix A for details.



G3. Project Design and Goals

Name of Indicator	G3.1 Summary of climate, community and biodiversity objectives.
Current status assessed	As inferred in the PIR this in unchanged from the validation and the following objectives of TIST are summarised as follows:
	 increase biomass and carbon sequestered in project areas, provide a sustainable fuel wood supply for the members, provide a new source of revenue to the members from the sale of carbon credits, provide training in important social and health related subjects, and improve the biodiversity of the area by adding canopy and indigenous trees. It was verified that there is no change in the information provided for this indicator in the project zone since the validation of the project.
Evidences and Interviews	Section G.3.1 of the validated PDD and First Monitoring period PIR and site visit interviews and document review.
Findings, if any	Findings were raised based on which the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed. Refer Appendix A for details.

Name of Indicator	G3.2 Description of project activities.
Current status assessed	As inferred in the PIR this in unchanged from the validation and the following activities of TIST are summarised as follows:
	 Nursery training and development. Tree planting. Selective use of tree products. Provide training on social and health aspects.
	It was verified that there is no change in the information provided for this indicator in the project zone since the validation of the project.
Evidences and Interviews	Section G.3.2 of the validated PDD and First Monitoring period PIR and site visit interviews and document review.
Findings, if any	Findings were raised based on which the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed. Refer Appendix A for



details.

Name of Indicator	G3.3 Maps of project location and zone.
Current status assessed	As inferred in the PIR this in unchanged from the validation and the following documents of TIST mapping the individual project area is provided as below:
	 Appendix 01. This is a Landsat 4/5 image of the project zone, with dots depicting the location of each discrete project area. Appendix 02. This is a Landsat 7 image of the project zone, with dots depicting the location of each discrete project area. Appendix 03. This is a KML file for use in Google Earth that has the GPS track of each project area. It was verified that there is no change in the information provided for
Evidences and Interviews	this indicator in the project zone since the validation of the project. Findings were raised based on which the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed. Refer Appendix A for details.
Findings, if any	No findings were raised as the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed.

Name of Indicator	G3.4 Project Lifetime.
Current status assessed	As inferred in the PIR this in unchanged from the validation and the following information is provided as below:
	The lifetime of the TIST Program in Kenya, CCB-001 is 60 years with period starting from 01 January 2004 and ending on 31 December 2063. Validation and Verification was completed on 11 April 2011, and covers the same TIST project areas as the VCS project TIST Program in Kenya, VCS-001, 002, 003 and 004. The first verification period was from 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2010.
	This project was fully implemented prior to the first verification. Activity between 01 January 2011 and the 30 year anniversary will be under the VCS Standard which is a 30 year program. Operations in the last 30 years (2033 to 2063) will be dependent upon the status of the voluntary carbon market.



	KE VCS-001-004 is not a programmatic approach and any project expansion will be focused on adding new groups, members and trees within the original PAs. regular monitoring and training, holding regular training and having ongoing and regular consultation with stakeholders will be done.
	A number of Gantt Charts indicate the timing of events for the project – already completed and planned such as:
	 Main planting schedule (project). Replacement planting schedule (project). Monitoring (project). Verification (project). Thinning (project area). Fruit and nut harvest (project area). Deadwood harvest (project areas).
	It was verified that there the information provided for this indicator in the project zone has been updated for the current verification.
Evidences and Interviews	Section G.3.4 of the validated PDD and First Monitoring period PIR, current PIR, site visit interviews and document review.
Findings, if any	No findings were raised as the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed.

Name of Indicator	G3.5 Natural and human-induced risks.
Current status assessed	As inferred in the PIR this in unchanged from the validation and the following information is provided as below:
	Risks due to the uncertainities of the carbon market is mentioned referring to the acceptance of credits from AR projects in future
	Risk of farmers leaving the program is also mitigated as there are thousands of farmers who have joined the programme which continue to grow
	 Natural risks such as drought, pestilence and fire are mitigated by the fact there are thousands of individual project areas spread over thousands of square kilometres and the loss is not signifacnt.
	A risk analysis for the PIR period was conducted for VCS KE 001, 002, 003 and 004 using AFOLU tool specified by VCS and the risk



	verified by EPIC indicating a low level of risk to project.
Evidences and Interviews	Section G.3.5 of the validated PDD and First Monitoring period PIR, current PIR, Risk analysis, site visit interviews and document review.
Findings, if any	Findings were raised based on which the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed. Refer Appendix A for details.

Name of Indicator	G3.6 Maintenance of the high conservation value attributes
Current status assessed	As inferred in the PIR this in unchanged from the validation and the following information is provided as below:
	Ongoing efforts of TIST at reversing the deforestation in Kenya by planting millions of new trees, many of them indigenous is described. It is has recognized that nearly 20% of deforestation is a result of the need for wood for cooking and heating which the programme addresses by providing the resources needed without affecting biodiversity.
	TIST trees are planted on the lands of small hold farmers, so the maintenance of HCV areas is indirect. TIST trees are being planted where deforestation has taken place. The addition of indigenous trees, tree cover and fruit trees enhance biodiversity by providing an expanded range for some of the animals that rely on the HCV area. In addition, the many discrete project areas help improve the wild life corridors between HCV areas needed for healthy animal populations.
Evidences and Interviews	Section G.3.6 of the validated PDD and First Monitoring period PIR, current PIR, site visit interviews and document review.
Findings, if any	Findings were raised based on which the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed. Refer Appendix A for details.

Name of Indicator	G3.7 Measures to maintain benefits beyond the project lifetime.



Current status assessed	 As inferred in the PIR this in unchanged from the validation and the following information is provided as below: Training in the benefits of specific tree species such as macadamia trees for their nuts, citrus trees for their fruits and <i>Croton megalocarpus</i> as a source for biofuels. Training in the maintenance of a sustainable woodlot not limited to project lifetime. Training in the benefits of biodiversity include more productive soil, return of edible indigenous plants, enhanced area ecotourism, and return of native wildlife that is useful to them personally (e.g. bees). These benefits apart from the carbon revenues have helped in providing long lasting measures beyond project lifetime.
Evidences and Interviews	Section G.3.7 of the validated PDD and First Monitoring period PIR, current PIR, site visit interviews and document review.
Findings, if any	Findings were raised based on which the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed. Refer Appendix A for details.

Name of Indicator	G3.8 Communities and other stakeholders
Current status assessed	TIST consults community leaders, village heads/village leaders, local NGOs and local government officials to determine if there is an interest in the program. If there is an interest, TIST holds a public seminar to present the program, answer questions, address concerns and receive comments. This is followed by regular and ongoing meetings where the public is invited to attend. TIST representatives have met with numerous State, District and Village officials seeking comment and showing them the project. In addition to the meetings, information about TIST is disseminated by word of mouth; using the "Mazingira Bora," a multi-lingual newsletter published by TIST Kenya; and direct contact with community leaders and government officials. At the Small Group level, member farmers meet with TIST representatives regularly at Cluster meetings, 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 newsletter.



	The result of this stakeholder process has led to numerous invitations for TIST to come to new villages and numerous positive comments about TIST. There have been no negative comments received. Based on the comments and responses above, no changes were necessary for the project. The information presented is verified to be sufficient for the indicator.
Evidences and Interviews	Section G.3.8 of the validated PDD and First Monitoring period PIR, current PIR, Risk analysis, site visit interviews and document review.
Findings, if any	Findings were raised based on which the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed. Refer Appendix A for details.

Name of Indicator	G3.9 Publicizing the CCBA public comment period.
Current status assessed	TIST announced the intent to verify this project in two major Nairobi papers and in an email to stakeholders. comments on behalf of CCB were solicited. In addition, a publicly accessible webpage that lists and contains all of the documents associated with this and the associated VCS project are available. It includes the PDDs, PIRs, maps, KML files, risk reports, spreadsheets, monitoring reports, verification reports and appendices. No negative comments were received during the comment period. The e-mail to stakeholders was also marked to EPIC and further the advertisements in the local Nairobi newspapers were verified. Hence, the requirements relating to the public commenting have been sufficiently addressed as relevant for the indicator.
Evidences and Interviews	Section G.3.9, e-mail to stakeholders, advertisements in local newspapers, publically available documents
Findings, if any	Findings were raised based on which the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed. Refer Appendix A for details.

Name of Indicator	G3.10 Handling unresolved conflicts and grievances.



The process of addressing grievances and conflicts is described in the PIR as follows: 1. Internal process where TIST policies and Values are used as the basis. 2. For new issues beyond the policies, it is brought to the next seminar or Leadership Council meeting, where decisions are made by representatives of the Small Groups, Kenya Staff and TIST Management 3. If conflicts or grievances cannot be resolved internally, CAAC will submit to arbitration in through the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Kenya Branch within 30 days for notice by the aggrieved party indicating they wish to appeal the internal process. It was verified that TIST has not received any formal grievances during this verification period.
Section G.3.10, TIST documents, site visit and interviews
No findings were raised as the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed.

Name of Indicator	G3.11 Project Financial Support.
Current status assessed	The process of financial funding for the project is summarised in the PIR as follows:
	From the time USAID cash funding ended in June 2013 TIST has been operating the project solely from carbon revenues. Confidential internal financial projections indicate the rate of TIST tree growth and sequestration is sufficient to provide enough credits over the life of the project to fund the project. The financial plan and the prices received in the carbon market for the credits generated indicate that the project is on target to achieve financial stability and sustainability.
	In addition, TIST has almost 90,000 issued VCUs in inventory and over the next 6 months it is expected to create several others under VCS.
Evidences and Interviews	Section G.3.11, TIST previous verification reports, site visit and



	interviews
Findings, if any	No findings were raised as the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed.

G4. Management Capacity and Best Practices

Name of Indicator	G4.1 Project Proponent
Current status assessed	The project proponent is Clean Air Action Corporation (CAAC). The The role of CAAC and other parties involved with TIST are summarized which is inferred to the PDD: • Clean Air Action Corporation (CAAC) is a for profit US corporation that manages the GhG component of TIST and is the largest contributor, provides technical assistance and uses its host country subsidiaries to manage operations.
	 Institute of Environmental Innovation (I4EI), is a US based non-profit organization, and provides funding from government agencies, foundations, and private donors. Unites States Agency for International Development (USAID) has committed to provide financial assistance to TIST through I4EI to improve sustainable development activities and biodiversity Further the many numbers of TIST farmers make up the core group as the stakeholders
Evidences and Interviews	Section G.4.1, TIST documents, site visit and interviews
Findings, if any	No findings were raised as the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed.

Name of Indicator	G4.2 Document key technical skills for successful implementation.
Current status assessed	The PIR summarises the carbon development expertise and experience of both CAAC and TIST. Similar model of TIST projects are implemented across many countries and are successfully



	managed by CAAC. Hence it is verified that the information provided is sufficient to address the indicator.
Evidences and Interviews	Section G.4.2 of PIR, TIST documents, site visit and interviews
Findings, if any	No findings were raised as the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed.

Name of Indicator	G4.3 Developing Local Capacity
Current status assessed	The PIR summarises the local expertise and experience TIST. Almost complete localisation is achieved as both TIST quantifier and managers are Kenyans and are adequately trained at the various annual seminars and events organised. Hence it is verified that the information provided is sufficient to address the indicator.
Evidences and Interviews	Section G.4.3 of PIR, TIST documents, site visit and interviews
Findings, if any	Findings were raised based on which the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed. Refer Appendix A for details.

Name of Indicator	G4.4 Equal Opportunity Employment.
Current status assessed	The PIR describes that the 50-plus Cluster Servants (formerly termed Quantifiers) are TIST farmers trained to use the monitoring system and hired based on ability, not gender, religion or tribal affiliation. TIST farmers are trained as trainers. TIST holds regular training seminars and makes a concerted effort to make sure attendance has a gender balance. During this Verification Period, four new Cluster Servants were added. Three of them were female. Most of the farmers on the west side of Mt Kenya are Kikuyu and the farmers on the east side are Meru giving TIST an overall mix of tribal affiliations. Hence it is verified that the information provided is sufficient to address the indicator.
Evidences and Interviews	Section G.4.4 of PIR, TIST documents on employment policy, agreement templates, recent appointments, site visit and interviews



Findings, if any	Findings were raised based on which the information pertaining to
	the indicator was adequately addressed. Refer Appendix A for
	details.

Name of Indicator	G4.5 Relevant workers right laws.
Current status assessed	 The relevant host country laws as applicable for the project are: The Employment Act, 2007 Regulation of Wages and Conditions of Employment Act National Hospital Insurance Fund Act, 1998
	Most of the Kenyans working for TIST are aware of their rights before starting employment. However CAAC uses an employment contract that was vetted by local counsel that reiterates the more important parts of the relevant employment law such as salary, types of leave, rest days and termination. Quantifiers are contracted independently and heir contract has been reviewed by local counsel. Candidates are given the contract to read well in advance of signing and given the opportunity to ask any questions about the terms.
	Hence it is verified that the information provided is sufficient to address the indicator.
Evidences and Interviews	Section G.4.4 of PIR, TIST documents on employment policy, agreement templates, recent appointments, site visit and interviews
Findings, if any	Findings were raised based on which the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed. Refer Appendix A for details.

Name of Indicator	G4.6 Occupational Safety.
Current status assessed	TIST has a safety manual for Quantifiers which addresses the occupational risks sufficiently. Hence it is verified that the information provided is sufficient to address the indicator.
Evidences and Interviews	Section G.4.6 of PIR, TIST documents on employment policy, agreement templates, recent appointments, site visit and interviews



Findings, if any	Findings were raised based on which the information pertaining to
	the indicator was adequately addressed. Refer Appendix A for
	details.

G5. Legal Status and Property Rights

Name of Indicator	G5.1 List of all relevant local, national and international laws.
Current status assessed	TIST is subject to laws and regulations of Kenya as applicable which are listed below:
	The employment laws listed in G4.5.
	Companies Act, (Law of Kenya Cap. 486).
	Environmental Management and Co-ordination Act, 1999. Further its funding partner is subject to USAID rules which are listed.
	Hence it is verified that the information provided is sufficient to address the indicator as TIST operations is in conformance to applicable laws and regulations.
Evidences and Interviews	Section G.5.1 of PIR, site visit and interviews, host country documents for laws and regulations.
Findings, if any	No findings were raised as the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed.

Name of Indicator	G5.2 Project Approvals
Current status assessed	The PIR infers to the PDD which lists the project approvals sanctioned at the validation of the project.
	 A letter from the Chief Conservator of the Forest to the Director General of the National Environment Management Authority dated 08 January 2007 requesting that TIST be allowed to operate. A letter from the National Environment Management Authority dated 19 March 2007 confirming they have no objection to the further development of the TIST project.
	Hence it is verified that the information provided is sufficient to address the indicator as TIST operations is in conformance to applicable laws and regulations.
Evidences and Interviews	Section G.5.2 of PIR, site visit and interviews, host country documents for laws and regulations.
Findings, if any	No findings were raised as the information pertaining to the indicator



was adequately addressed.

Name of Indicator	G5.3 Document project will not encroach on other lands.
Current status assessed	The PIR describes that TIST takes place on the existing land of farmers and their families whom participate voluntarily. CAAC enters into contracts with the Small Group members. In the contract, the members attest in that they have the rights to plant on these lands.
	Hence it is verified that the information provided is sufficient to address the indicator.
Evidences and Interviews	Section G.5.3 of PIR, site visit and interviews, host country documents for laws and regulations.
Findings, if any	No findings were raised as the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed.

Name of Indicator	G5.4 Involuntary relocation.
Current status assessed	The PIR infers that CAAC and TIST do not own or lease any of the project lands. Participation is strictly voluntary on lands owned by farmers. CAAC has no authority or desire to relocate any of the members or land owners.
	Hence it is verified that the information provided is sufficient to address the indicator.
Evidences and Interviews	Section G.5.4 of PIR, site visit and interviews, host country documents for laws and regulations.
Findings, if any	No findings were raised as the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed.

Name of Indicator	G5.5 Illegal Activities.
Current status assessed	Illegal activities such as the following exist at the project zone:
	Harvesting of trees and charcoal making.
	TIST hopes to reduce this problem through its development of on- farm, sustainable, wood lots, which offer an alternate, sustainable source of fuel to some of the population. Hence it is verified that the



	information provided is sufficient to address the indicator.
Evidences and Interviews	Section G.5.5 of PIR, site visit and interviews, host country documents for laws and regulations.
Findings, if any	No findings were raised as the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed.

Name of Indicator	G5.6 Title to carbon rights.
Current status assessed	The carbon rights are originally vested with the trees and are transferred to the Project Proponent along with the "Carbon Credit Sale Agreement." Hence it is verified that the information provided is sufficient to
	address the indicator.
Evidences and Interviews	Section G.5.6 of PIR, site visit and interviews, agreement contracts
Findings, if any	No findings were raised as the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed.

CLIMATE SECTION

CL1. Net Positive Climate Impacts

Name of Indicator	CL1.1 Change in carbon stock due to project activity.
Current status assessed	The methodology AR-AMS0001 Version 05 allows the change in baseline carbon without the project to be ignored, providing it is less than 10% of the change in carbon that results from the project. The following data was verified from the worksheets to confirm the same: worksheet "Baseline Strata" - The existing trees were recorded and measured during the baseline study. worksheet "Grove Summary" - The non-woody areas were stratified and the area estimated. worksheet "Baseline Growth" - A conservative case was used to estimate the increase in carbon overtime. The ex-ante estimate of the baseline without the project is 2.3% of the ex-ante estimate with the project which is well below the limit and hence the baseline case is ignored in the calculations.
	Based on the methodology, the change in baseline carbon is ignored and the ex-ante net change in carbon stocks is 1,699,076 tonnes of



	CO ₂ e. Hence it is verified that the information provided is sufficient to address the indicator.
Evidences and Interviews	Section CL 1.1 of PIR, Worksheets – Baseline strata, Grove summary, baseline growth
Findings, if any	No findings were raised as the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed.

Name of Indicator	CL1.2 Change in the emissions of non-CO ₂ GHG emissions
Current status assessed	The change in emissions of non-CO2 carbon stocks which are below 5% are ignored.
	non-CO2 carbon stocks is mainly methane emitted due to burning of biomass. Burning of wood is mainly done for cooking purposes and further the burning of biomass is neither necessary for the project, nor promoted by TIST. Hence any methane emission will be de minimised and well below the 5% threshold.
	$N_2\text{O}$ is a potential non-CO2 source emitted from chemical fertilizers. which his avoided to a large extent as TIST promotes use of organic fertilisers
	Also neither of these are the result of project activity and hence are not considered.
Evidences and Interviews	Section CL 1.2 of PIR, Worksheets – Appendix 06 and Appendix 08
Findings, if any	Findings were raised based on which the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed. Refer Appendix A for details.

Name of Indicator	CL1.3 GHG emissions resulting from project activities
Current status assessed	The change in emissions of non-CO2 carbon stocks which are below 5% are ignored. non-CO2 carbon stocks is mainly methane emitted due to burning of biomass. Burning of wood is mainly done for cooking purposes and further the burning of biomass is neither necessary for the



	project, nor promoted by TIST. Hence any methane emission will be de minimised and well below the 5% threshold.
	$\mbox{N}_2\mbox{O}$ is a potential non-CO2 source emitted from chemical fertilizers. which his avoided to a large extent as TIST promotes use of organic fertilisers
	Also neither of these are the result of project activity and hence are not considered.
Evidences and Interviews	Section CL 1.3 of PIR, Worksheets – Appendix 06 and Appendix 08
Findings, if any	No findings were raised as the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed.

Name of Indicator	CL1.4 Demonstrate a positive net climate impact.
Current status assessed	The PIR describes that the ex-ante estimate is that TIST trees will sequester is 1,699,076 tonnes of CO_2e over the 30 years and will, therefore, have a net positive impact on the climate. The total net change through the end of the PIR Period is 183,556 tonnes and the net change for this PIR period is 92,635 tonnes. Hence it is verified that the information provided is sufficient to address the indicator.
Evidences and Interviews	Section CL 1.4 of PIR, Worksheets – Appendix 08
Findings, if any	No findings were raised as the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed.

Name of Indicator	CL1.5 Double Counting.
Current status assessed	The project areas which cover this CCB 001 PD are being validated and verified under VCS001, VCS 002, VCS 003 and VCS 004. Subsequent to this second verification, VCS will issue VERs that will be entered on one registry which will prevent these VERs from being sold twice. Hence the aspect of double counting is addressed sufficiently.
Evidences and Interviews	Section CL 1.5 of PIR, Previous Monitoring and verification reports



Findings, if any	No findings were raised as the information pertaining to the indicator
	was adequately addressed.

CL2. Offsite Climate Impacts (Leakage)

Name of Indicator	CL2.1 Potential Sources of Leakage.
Current status assessed	The PIR describes that that no leakage is expected, and provides explanations for why each type of leakage is not applicable.
	Hence it is verified that the information provided is sufficient to address the indicator.
Evidences and Interviews	Section CL 2.1 of PIR, Previous Monitoring and verification reports
Findings, if any	Findings were raised based on which the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed. Refer Appendix A for details.

Name of Indicator	CL2.2 Leakage mitigation.
Current status assessed	The PIR describes that that as no leakage is expected, mitigation is not applicable.
	Hence it is verified that the information provided is sufficient to address the indicator.
Evidences and Interviews	Section CL 2.2 of PIR, Previous Monitoring and verification reports
Findings, if any	Findings were raised based on which the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed. Refer Appendix A for details.

Name of Indicator	CL2.3 Subtracting unmitigated leakage
Current status assessed	The PIR describes that that as no leakage is expected, this is termed as zero.
	Hence it is verified that the information provided is sufficient to



	address the indicator.
Evidences and Interviews	Section CL 2.3 of PIR, Previous Monitoring and verification reports
Findings, if any	Findings were raised based on which the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed. Refer Appendix A for details.

Name of Indicator	CL2.4 Non-CO₂ leakage in excess of 5%.
Current status assessed	The PIR describes that that as no leakage is expected None have been identified.
	Hence it is verified that the information provided is sufficient to address the indicator.
Evidences and Interviews	Section CL 2.4 of PIR, Previous Monitoring and verification reports
Findings, if any	Findings were raised based on which the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed. Refer Appendix A for details.

CL3. Climate Impacts Monitoring

Name of Indicator	CL3.1 Initial Monitoring Plan
Current status assessed	The PIR describes that the monitoring plan is operational since 2004 and there is no deviation from the previous plan and verification. Further, QA / QC procedures adopted for the different parameters are also summarised. Hence it is verified that the information provided is sufficient to address the indicator.
Evidences and Interviews	Section CL 3.1 of PIR, Previous Monitoring and verification reports
Findings, if any	Findings were raised based on which the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed. Refer Appendix A for details.



Name of Indicator	CL3.2 Commit to developing a full monitoring plan.
Current status assessed	The PIR describes that the full monitoring plan is available as Appendix 06. The monitoring plan is being implemented from 2004 and there is no deviation from the plan as implemented. Hence it is verified that the information provided is sufficient to address the indicator.
Evidences and Interviews	Section CL 3.2 of PIR, Appendix 06, Worksheets –Appendix 11
Findings, if any	Findings were raised based on which the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed. Refer Appendix A for details.

COMMUNITY SECTION

CM1. Net Positive Community Impacts

Name of Indicator	CM1.1 Impacts on community.
Current status assessed	The PIR lists a number of positive community impacts which might not have occurred in the absence of the project:
	 New job opportunities Direct Effects to Small Groups
	 Small Group Structure Fruits and nuts from tree plantings Wood products and limited timber from trees Natural medicines, insecticides and other benefits from trees Capacity building on agricultural improvements, business skills, nursery development, and reforestation Small Groups organize to deal with other social and economic problems such as famine and AIDS Improved beauty of the landscape Hence it is verified that the information provided is sufficient to address the indicator
Evidences and Interviews	Section CM 1.1 of PIR, Stakeholder interviews
Findings, if any	Findings were raised based on which the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed. Refer Appendix A for details.



Name of Indicator	CM1.2 No High Conservation Values negatively affected
Current status assessed	The PIR describes that the project does not have a negative effect on the HCV areas as it has been implemented on private lands that have been under human habitation and agriculture for generations. Further, the activities under this program does not cause displacement or move activities to the HCV areas. Hence it is verified that the information provided is sufficient to address the indicator.
Evidences and Interviews	Section CM 1.2 of PIR, Stakeholder interviews
Findings, if any	No findings were raised as the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed.

CM2. Offsite Stakeholder Impacts

Name of Indicator	CM2.1 Identify potential negative offsite stakeholder impacts.
Current status assessed	While the project activity does not have potential for negative
	impacts on offsite stakeholder one of the negative impacts identified
	is the effect of eucalyptus trees on ground water and water courses.
	While farmers have a choice to plant the type of trees, the Kenya
	forest Service has historically encouraged the planting of eucalyptus
	trees. Due to this there are many eucalyptus trees as part of the
	project activity.
	Hence it is verified that the information provided is sufficient to
	address the indicator.
Friday and Intervious	Continue CM 0.4 of DID. Otalishaldan intensione
Evidences and Interviews	Section CM 2.1 of PIR, Stakeholder interviews
Findings, if any	No findings were raised as the information pertaining to the indicator
	was adequately addressed.

Name of Indicator	CM2.2 Mitigation of negative offsite stakeholder impacts.



Current status assessed	In order to reduce the negative impact, TIST has brought in a requirement that all Small Groups are to reduce their percentage of eucalyptus to under 33% of their total trees and file forest plans that show how they are going to achieve this reduction. Further, TIST is also offering a higher per tree incentive to encourage the planting of indigenous trees in riparian areas and throughout the project. Hence these mitigation actions are considered as sufficient for addressing the indicator.
Evidences and Interviews	Section CM 2.2 of PIR, Stakeholder interviews
Findings, if any	Findings were raised based on which the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed. Refer Appendix A for details.

Name of Indicator	CM2.3 No net negative impact.
Current status assessed	There is no net negative impact as the number of listed benefits to the community members and benefits to the environment outweigh the negative impact from eucalyptus planting.
Evidences and Interviews	Section CM 2.3 of PIR, Stakeholder interviews
Findings, if any	No findings were raised as the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed.

CM3. Community Impact Monitoring

CM3.1 Initial monitoring plan of community variable.

Name of Indicator	CM3.1 Initial monitoring plan of community variable.
Current status assessed	The PIR lists 17 parameters for community which are a part of the initial monitoring plan. Further the Quantifiers collect all field level information from the cluster meetings and the records are available at the administrative level.
	Hence information provided is considered as sufficient for addressing the indicator.



Evidences and Interviews	Section CM 3.1 of PIR, Stakeholder interviews
Findings, if any	Findings were raised based on which the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed. Refer Appendix A for details.

Name of Indicator	CM3.2 Initial monitoring plan of HCV impacts.
Current status assessed	The PIR describes that there is no direct monitoring of the Mt Kenya HCV as there is no change from the practice for generations. Instead the number of indigenous trees planted by the project and the numbers of hectares that contain indigenous trees serve as an indirect way of monitoring the HCV impact. Hence information provided is considered as sufficient for addressing the indicator.
Evidences and Interviews	Section CM 3.2 of PIR, Appendix 11 worksheets
Findings, if any	No findings were raised as the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed.

Name of Indicator	CM3.3 Develop a full monitoring plan.
Current status assessed	PIR infers that the full monitoring plan was developed prior to the first verification and information is available as Appendix 06. The results of the Community Impact Monitoring are also listed based on the Program-wide data extracted from the TIST database as of December 31, 2013. Hence information provided is considered as sufficient for addressing the indicator.
Evidences and Interviews	Section CM 3.3 of PIR, Appendix 06, Appendix 11 worksheets
Findings, if any	Findings were raised based on which the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed. Refer Appendix A for details.

BIODIVERSITY SECTION

B1: Net Positive Biodiversity Impacts



Name of Indicator	B1.1 Changes in biodiversity as a result of the project.
Current status assessed	PIR describes the historical scenario as grasslands or croplands on private lands owned by subsistence farmers. Natural wildlife populations were eliminated or driven off long ago and are currently restricted to transient animals. Hence the approach to improving biodiversity in the project was limited to planting indigenous trees. Isolated woodlots with indigenous trees also improve the connectivity of wildlife habitat between natural forests. This second verification lists the following:
	 Over 55,562 new indigenous trees Over 178 ha of indigenous trees Further, by providing fuel wood from sustainable wood lots and improving livelihoods, the project has a positive effect on biodiversity. Non-native trees such as eucalyptus, cypress and grevillea indirectly contribute to maintaining biodiversity as they reduce pressure for fuel wood and other purposes.
	Hence information provided is considered as sufficient for addressing the indicator.
Evidences and Interviews	Section B 1.1 of PIR, Appendix 06, Appendix 11 worksheets, previous verification and monitoring reports
Findings, if any	Findings were raised based on which the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed. Refer Appendix A for details.

Name of Indicator	B.1.2 No HCVs be negatively affected by the project.
Current status assessed	The Mt Kenya area is identified as HCV area and the project areas bordering, or in the vicinity of, Mt Kenya have significant conservation value and high diversity. The project provides vital resources that reduce pressure on these important areas, and through the planting of indigenous trees, expands the range of biodiversity in these forests.
	Overall the Project activity has had a positive affect on HCVs.
	Mt Kenya and surrounding highlands are one of Kenya's five main water towers. The planting of trees has prevented water from running off, and helped the water seep into the ground and back into the water table. In addition, 16 hectares were determined to be in



	riparian areas at the time of the second verification.
	Hence information provided is considered as sufficient for addressing the indicator.
Evidences and Interviews	Section B 1.2 of PIR
Findings, if any	No findings were raised as the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed.

Name of Indicator	B1.3 All species to be used by the project.
Current status assessed	The PIR lists the tree species planted in this project area with details of the indigenous and non-indigenous species. As no tree seedlings are supplied by TIST, farmers gather seedlings from existing species already available.
	Two invasive species have been identified from among the list which are:
	Psidium guajava - A popular fruit and part of the Kenyan diet. At the time of this verification there were 2,792 guava trees out of 762,841 project trees, or 0.37%.
	Leucaena leucocephala – Main usage as fodder and firewood. At the time of the first verification there were there were 134 leucaena trees, out of 762,841 project trees, or 0.02%
	Hence information provided is considered as sufficient for addressing the indicator.
Evidences and Interviews	Section B 1.3 of PIR
Findings, if any	Findings were raised based on which the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed. Refer Appendix A for details.

Name of Indicator	B1.4 Adverse effects of non-native species.
Current status assessed	PIR describes that the trees planted by TIST farmers are locally sourced from existing trees with a history of being grown in the country and regionally. Some non-native species, such as Eucalyptus may have negative effect on the water table. Some of



	the steps taken by TIST to reduce the negative effect of non-native
	species and on the whole invasive species are:
	As part of the contract, that trees that damage the environment will not be counted as TIST trees.
	Groups are trained on the benefits of alternative indigenous trees and how to grow these trees, and develop group forest plans to decrease eucalyptus on their farms.
	Planting of Indigenous trees, including water conserving species such as <i>Bridelia</i> and <i>Sysygium</i> spp, are encouraged in riparian areas.
	An additional incentive for indigenous seedlings quantified in their nurseries are provided
	For the groves to qualify under TIST several water and soil conservation measures are required.
	Hence information provided is considered as sufficient for addressing the indicator.
Evidences and Interviews	Section B 1.4 of PIR, Site visit
Findings, if any	No findings were raised as the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed.

Name of Indicator	B1.5 No GMOs will be used for GHG removals.
Current status assessed	Declaration is provided by the PP that no GMOs were used this verification period
Evidences and Interviews	Section B 1.5 of PIR
Findings, if any	No findings were raised as the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed.

4.3 B2 Offsite Biodiversity Impacts

Name of Indicator	B.2.1 Negative offsite biodiversity impacts
Current status assessed	As described in the PIR no negative offsite biodiversity impacts were



	identified duringthis verification. There is no displacement of the land owners and the program is designed to allow sustainable harvest within the project boundary by the members, which will
	reduce the need for fuel wood from external sources.
	Hence information provided is considered as sufficient for addressing the indicator.
Evidences and Interviews	Section B 2.1 of PIR
Findings, if any	No findings were raised as the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed.

Name of Indicator	B2.2 Mitigation of negative offsite biodiversity impacts.
Current status assessed	As there are no offsite negative biodiversity impacts, there are no mitigation measures proposed.
Evidences and Interviews	Section B 2.2 of PIR
Findings, if any	No findings were raised as the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed.

Name of Indicator	B2.3 Justify the net positive biodiversity impact.
Current status assessed	As there are no negative effects on biodiversity the project has only positive diversity effects and the overall net impact is positive.
Evidences and Interviews	Section B 2.3 of PIR
Findings, if any	No findings were raised as the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed.

B3 Biodiversity Impact Monitoring

Name of Indicator	B3.1 Initial plan for biodiversity monitoring.
Current status assessed	As per the PIR, the biodiversity monitoring plan as described in Appendix 06 is in operation from 2004 and is being implemented with no deviations .



	 Annual monitoring of each site is the goal and a minimum of every two years is achieved. Monitoring in riparian areas is of special focus with the following: At a landscape level, the number of hectares of riparian land improved with indigenous tree planting by TIST farmers and their location. TIST Small Groups with land in riparian areas who plant indigenous trees to help preserve the area and reduce erosion caused by runoff and flooding receive an additional incentive per live tree. Riparian areas were chosen for their critical importance in providing ecosystem services such as enhanced water quality, reduced sedimentation, and enhanced wildlife habitat.
Evidences and Interviews	Section B 3.1 of PIR, Appendix 06
Findings, if any	No findings were raised as the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed.

Name of Indicator	B3.2 Plan to assess effectiveness of measuring effect on HCV
Current status assessed	PIR describes that as there is no direct interaction with the HCV, the monitoring is indirect and based on monitoring direct project achievements per B3.1 and B3.3. Hence information provided is considered as sufficient for addressing the indicator.
Evidences and Interviews	Section B 3.2, B 3.1 and B. 3.3 of PIR
Findings, if any	No findings were raised as the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed.

Name of Indicator	B3.3 Commit to developing a full monitoring plan.
Current status assessed	PIR infers that the full monitoring plan as described in Appendix 06
	is being implemented and the list of the parameters monitored based
	on extraction from the TIST database as of December 31, 2013 is



	provided. Hence information provided is considered as sufficient for addressing the indicator.	
Evidences and Interviews	Section B 3.3 of PIR and Appendix 06	
Findings, if any	No findings were raised as the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed.	

GOLD LEVEL SECTION

GL2. Exceptional Community Benefits

Name of Indicator	GL2.1 Low human development.
Current status assessed	The PIR indicates that Kenya meets the requirements of being a medium human development country with at least 50% of the population of the area below the poverty line. The reports from UN agencies such as UNEP and UNDP support the same. The more recent UNDP report (2013) also indicates the same.
Evidences and Interviews	Section GL 2.1 of PIR
Findings, if any	Findings were raised based on which the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed. Refer Appendix A for details.

Name of Indicator	GL2.2 Poorest quartile will benefit
Current status assessed	It was demonstrated during validation and the first verification that many of the TIST members are in the lowest quartile. In this verification, the gold level survey further indicates the following:
	72% make less than KES 5,000 (US\$582) per year (i.e. are poor)
	98% of them have received monetary benefits from the program.
	The remaining 2% reported receiving health training (a



	benefit).
	In addition, no one in the members of the lowest quartile have reported a negative impact from TIST.
	The PIR infers to a number of benefits due to TIST to subsistence farmers who are the most poor. Because the TIST project zone covers tens of thousands of square kilometers, the community is defined as the over 58,000 farmer members and their families.
Evidences and Interviews	Section GL 2.2 of PIR, site visit, survey documents, survey reports
Findings, if any	Findings were raised based on which the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed. Refer Appendix A for details.

Name of Indicator	GL2.3 Barriers to benefits addressed.
Current status assessed	The barriers that might prevent benefits going to poorer households have been identified and addressed in the project design and initiatives have been undertaken to remove these barriers to a lare extent.
Evidences and Interviews	Section GL 2.3 of PIR
Findings, if any	No findings were raised as the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed.

Name of Indicator	GL2.4 Negative impacts on the poor identified.
Current status assessed	TIST Kenya was developed through visioning sessions with poor small-hold subsistence farmers based on aspects suc has recurrent famine, poor crops, lack of shade and firewood, declining rainfall, declining soil fertility, poor access to water for personal and agricultural use, poor diet, regular health problems including AIDS and malaria, lack of economic opportunity, poor cattle forage on eroded lands, and the decline of wildlife due to over hunting and lack of forests. Because this was approach to the project, no poorer and more vulnerable households and individuals whose well-being or poverty may be negatively affected by the project have been identified.



Evidences and Interviews	Section GL 2.4 of PIR
Findings, if any	No findings were raised as the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed.

Name of Indicator	GL2.5 Monitoring Community Impacts
Current status assessed	The PIR refers to the two surveys which have been done to monitor community impacts.
	Survey conducted with 124 random TIST members between June and August 2011.
	 In March 2015, a similar survey was conducted for TIST by Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies and New England College. The number of members surveyed was 61.
	Both the reports indicate analysis as summarised below to demonstrate that the farmers in TIST are poor and 15 % of TIST members are more vulnerable.
	The original survey indicates that 35.5% of the respondents make less than KES 12,000 (US\$123) per year and a cumulative total of 85% make less than 60,000 Ksh (US\$616) per year. The Yale/NEC survey indicates 16% of the respondents make less than KES 1,000 (US\$116) and 72% make less than KES 5,000 (US\$582) per year. Since income level for abject poverty varies between US\$1.00 per day and US\$2.00 per day, it is clear that most of the members of TIST are poor
	Results from the surveys are tabulated to further describe that benefit to poor, benefits to vulnerable and benefits to women were achieved to a large extent. The survey on whether any negative impacts are perceived to occur due to the project indicated that a minority of the population indicated it to be the case while overall, the net community benefits achieved by the project, as indicated by the two surveys are much greater.
Evidences and Interviews	Section GL 2.5 of PIR, Survey documents, survey report
Findings, if any	Findings were raised based on which the information pertaining to the indicator was adequately addressed. Refer Appendix A for details.

EPIC Sustainability

CCBA VERIFICATION REPORT

5 PUBLIC STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

TIST announced the intent to verify this project in two major Nairobi papers and in an email to stakeholders on 14th October 2015. This e-mail was also marked to EPIC. Comments on behalf of CCB were solicited. TIST also maintains a publicly accessible webpage that lists and contains all of the documents associated with this and the associated VCS project. It includes the PDDs, PIRs, maps, KML files, risk reports, spreadsheets, monitoring reports, verification reports and appendices. The web link to this page was also made available as part of the public notification. The details of the public comment process are described in Appendix B of this report.

6 VERIFICATION CONCLUSION

EPIC Sustainability Services Private Limited has been engaged by Clean Air Action Corporation to perform the second periodic verification of the climate, community and biodiversity benefits reported for the project titled "TIST Program in Kenya, CCB-001 for the period from 01st January 2011 to 11th August 2015 under CCBA certification requirements.

The verification was based on the validated Project Design, validation reports, previous verification reports and PIRs and the PIR version 05 dated 23rd March 2016 and other supporting documents made available to EPIC verification team by the project participant.

It is the responsibility of EPIC verification team to express an independent verification opinion on the quality of emissions from the project for the monitoring period starting from 01st January 2011 to 11th August 2015 in terms of the net climate, community and biodiversity benefits achieved by the project. EPIC confirms that all verification activities including objectives, scope and criteria, level of assurance, the project's adherence to the validated PDD, and implementation as outlined in the PIR Version 05 adhere to the CCB Project Design Standards, Second Edition, as documented in this report.

EPIC concludes without any limitations and with reasonable level of assurance that that the International Small Group & Tree Planting Program (TIST), Kenya, CCB-001, CCBA Project Implementation Report for TIST Program in Kenya CCB-001, Version 05 dated 23rd March 2016 meets the requirements of the CCB Project Design Standards (Second Edition – December 2008), achieves significant level of climate, community and biodiversity benefits and Gold Level for Exceptional Community Benefits.

Prepared by:	Approved by:
Egiden	Van
Dr. G. Vishnu	Mr. K. Sudheendra
Verification Team Leader	Head-Operations

EPIC Sustainability

CCBA VERIFICATION REPORT

7 LIST OF REFERENCES:

Documents as available at:

http://www.tist.org/PD-VV%20Temp%20Files.php

http://www.tist.org/PD-KE-VCS-001-004%20Documents.php

Ref No.	Document details
/1/	Auditors Manual
/2/	Cluster Audit Schedule
/3/	Connect Palm to Internet Manual
/4/	Zip file with GhG Contacts
/5/	Kenya Weekly Audit Report
/6/	PD Grove Status Spreadsheet
/7/	Quantifier Training 120507
/8/	Quantifiers Training Attendance
/9/	Sample Desk Audit Page
/10	TIST Baseline SOP 100425
/11/	TIST Circumference Quantification SOP
/12/	TIST Grove selection
/13/	Tract System SOP
/14/	Description and Size
/15/	PIR version 05 dated 23 rd March 2016
/16/	Cluster Training Sessions
/17/	Cluster Servants Seminar
/18/	Leadership Council Minutes



	In deal of the Contractor Townshot
/19/	Indepenent Contractor Template
/20/	Quantifier Safety Policy
/21/	Newsletter Apr 2015
/22/	Newsletter May 2015
/23/	Newsletter Jun 2010
/24/	Newsletter Ar 2012
/25/	Screen shot: DB Participant Table
/26/	Screen shot: DB Group Participants
/27/	Screen shot: DB Small Groups
/28/	YaleNEC Benefits Survey
/29/	YaleNEC Benefits Results
/30/	Document Defining Indigenous people
/31/	TIST employment contract template
/32/	Environmental Management Coordination Act
/33/	Kenya Forest Service letter addressing invasive species.
/34/	UN Human Development Report
/36/	FAO food security program report
/37/	FAO report on environmental degradation
/38/	UNEP Billion tree campaign
/39/	Coping with Water Scarcity, UN report
/40/	UNEP Kenya Integrated Assessment of the Energy Policy
/41/	Situational Analysis of HIV/AIDS in Kenya
/42/	TIST Quantifier Safety SOP
/43/	Public comment process for CCB-001 Second Verification



/44/	Overview of the CCB Gold Level differentiated survey
/45/	Survey form for the CCB Gold Level differentiated survey
/46/	Final report of results and analysis of the CCB Gold Level differentiated survey
/47/	Riparian Eucalyptus Policy
/48/	Mt Kenya Aerial Survey 1999
/49/	UNESCO Mt Kenya Description



APPENDIX A - RESOLUTION OF FINDINGS

Category	Finding	Code	Reply by PP	Final Opinion of verification team
CAR	G.1.7provide references that provide information that the description for this indicator as mentioned in the previous validation and verification is maintained. It is also requested to provide any mechanism (eg. Surveys, interviews) which indicates that this aspect was monitored for this verification period.	CAR/01/26/11/2 015	A new section has been added to the 3 PIRs	The revised PIR has been submitted and reviewed to address the requirements.
CAR	G.1.8 - It is requested to provide more information in the PIR which indicates that that the description for this indicator as mentioned in the previous validation and verification is maintained. It is also requested to provide any mechanism (eg. Surveys, interviews) which indicates that this aspect was monitored for this verification period. Rare and Endangered Species	CAR/02/26/11/2 015	A new section has been added to the 3 PIRs	The revised PIR has been submitted and reviewed to address the requirements.
CAR	G2.1 – Provide information supporting the baseline scenario in the PIR for this monitoring period.	CAR/03/26/11/2 015	A new section has been added to the 3 PIRs	The revised PIR has been submitted and reviewed to address the requirements.
CAR	G2.2 - Provide information	CAR/04/26/11/2	A new section has been added to the 3	The revised PIR has been submitted



Category	Finding	Code	Reply by PP	Final Opinion of verification team
	supporting the baseline scenario in the PIR for this monitoring period.	015	PIRs	and reviewed to address the requirements.
CAR	G.2.3 - Provide information in the PIR supporting the baseline calculations based on the methodological requirements.	CAR/05/26/11/2 015	A new section has been added to the 3 PIRs	The revised PIR has been submitted and reviewed to address the requirements.
CAR	G2.4 - Provide information in the PIR on effect of communities without the project.	CAR/06/26/11/2 015	A new section has been added to the 3 PIRs	The revised PIR has been submitted and reviewed to address the requirements.
CAR	G2.5 - Provide information in the PIR on effect of biodiversity without the project .	CAR/07/26/11/2 015	A new section has been added to the 3 PIRs	The revised PIR has been submitted and reviewed to address the requirements.
CAR	Information for the indicators G 3.1, G 3.2, and G 3.3 to be provided in the PIR. Further evidences supporting activities as listed under G 3.2 in the PDD to be provided for this monitoring period.	CAR/08/26/11/2 015	3 new sections has been added to the 3 PIRs	The revised PIR has been submitted and reviewed to address the requirements.
IR	Under Section G.3.5 it is indicated that "Having a few farmers quit will not have a significant effect on the project". Considering that in CCBA 01 there is only 70% active sites compared to the earlier verification, discuss on the possibility of the inactive sites under various	IR/01/26/11/201 5	As part of the monitoring for this verification (CCB 001) all of the 4,265 PAs were reviewed by the quantifiers and management. They were marked Active, Pending or Removed. The categories are explained in detail in the associated VCS PD:	Reply by the PP addresses the requirements.



Category	Finding	Code	Reply by PP	Final Opinion of verification team
	categories becoming active and what are the mitigation actions proposed to ensure that this is not a permanent loss.		Active: These are PAs that are active in TIST and have valid tree counts and calculated carbon volumes. Only Active PAs contribute to the carbon volume of this verification.	
			Pending: These are PAs that need to be reviewed to determine if they will continue as TIST PAs or need a current quantification. They will still be listed on the PA Summary sheet to acknowledge they are currently part of the PD but for this verification their trees and carbon are zero. Once their circumstances have been reviewed, they will either be removed or listed as active. If they are listed as active, we will reestablish the tree count and carbon in subsequent verifications.	
			Removed: These PA are being permanently removed from the program. They will still be listed on the PA Summary sheet to acknowledge they were part of the PD but their trees and	

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Category	Finding	Code	Reply by PP	Final Opinion of verification team
			carbon are zero. They will not participate in the future.	
			Sixty eight % of the CCB 001 PAs are marked "Active". In addition, however, another 31% are "Pending". Of the "Pending", 95% are marked "Pendingneeds requantification". We are aware that with our rapid expansion, we have not achieved all of our goals for quantification.	
			Many PA were marked "Pending-needs requantification" because 1) the quantification were not current (i.e. within the 5 year requirement), 2) they were quantified by quantifiers no longer with the program and the current quantifiers did not have enough information or 3) they had heard something at the cluster meetings that indicated there might be a change in inventory since the last quantification. Had they direct knowledge that the PA was no longer active, it would have been	
			was no longer active, it would have been marked "Removed" during their review (and 84 PAs were marked "Removed").	



Category	Finding	Code	Reply by PP	Final Opinion of verification team
			We believe that most of the "Pending" PAs will become "Active" once they are requantified.	
			Regarding mitigation, we are revising our quantification schedule to address the "Pending" PA. It is in our best interest to re-categorize these as "Active" because to be conservative, we zeroed out the carbon of all "Pending" PAs from the first and second verifications. In other words, in order to receive any carbon from this verification we had to make up for all the previously issued carbon from the "Pending" PAs from the first verification. This indicates to us that even in the worst case (all pending PAs are removed), there is still a net gain in credits. We do not believe that this is a worst case situation.	
IR	Information under G.3.6 indicates that TIST is reversing the trend of ongoing deforestation and helps in maintaining HCV attributes. Provide statistical information on the trend of deforestation and rate of planting of indigenous species in this monitoring period in support of the above	IR/02/26/11/201 5	Provide statistical information on the trend of deforestation: Please see PIR section 2.2. Rate of planting of indigenous species: There were 10,207 indigenous trees	Reply by the PP addresses the requirements.



Category	Finding	Code	Reply by PP	Final Opinion of verification team
	statement.		planted in the PAs during this verification period and a total of 48,890 indigenous trees present. However, it really relevant how many indigenous trees were planted in the verification period because there continued existence benefits biodiversity and one could argue that the larger, older project trees provide more biodiversity benefits than the smaller ones planted during the verification period. Also, what is missing from this question is how many total trees are in the projects because even the exotic trees help mitigate deforestation. As noted in the Gold Level surveys, project trees are providing a source of fuelwood for the members that reduce their need to harvest in the natural forests.	
IR	For G.3.7 provide evidences of training farmers in biodiversity and benefits and provide relevant examples of new approaches during this monitoring period which has resulted in maintaining or enhancing the biodiversity.	IR/03/26/11/201 5	See "V2 KE PD-CCB-001-009 Cluster Training 151218.xlsx" for a summary of the training session provide to the members. We believe that the Result 3.0a Indig, NRM 1.5 and Biodiversity fall within this requested scope. See "V2 KE PD-CCB-001-004 MB 2015.07 July.pdf" for an example of the newsletter discussing biodiversity and benefits.	



Category	Finding	Code	Reply by PP	Final Opinion of verification team
	For G.3.8 provide information that	CAR/09/26/11/2	The interaction mostly takes place at	
CAR	interaction with various levels of stakeholders was held and their comments if any to be indicated.	015	Seminars and cluster meetings. Please navigate to https://www.tist.org/mobile/cluster.php?s es=gea0rj8ej2odmk314l6difd7q3 to see the cluster meeting schedule and last election to see that cluster meetings are active and ongoing. See "V2 KE PD-CCB-001-009 Cluster Training 151218.xlsx" to see the types and frequency of trainings. See "V2 KE PD-CCB-001-009 Cluster Servants Seminar Nov 17-19 2014.docx" for an example of a Cluster Servant Seminar. See "V2 KE PD-CCB-001-004 LC Minutes 140923.docx" for the minute of a Leadership Council meeting that discussed LC members going to clusters.	Reply by the PP addresses the requirements.
CAR	For 3.3.9 the links to be updated providing information on the stakeholder process conducted for this monitoring period	CAR/10/26/11/2 015	This has been updated in all 3 PIRs	Reply by the PP addresses the requirements.



Category	Finding	Code	Reply by PP	Final Opinion of verification team
IR	For G.4.3 provide evidences for training as relevant for this monitoring period as per the requirements mentioned in the PDD	IR/04/26/11/201 5	See "V2 KE PD-CCB-001-009 Cluster Servants Seminar Nov 17-19 2014.docx"	Reply by the PP addresses the requirements.
IR	Relating to G.4.4 and G.4.5 provide a sample of newly initiated employment contract during this monitoring period	IR/05/26/11/201 5	See "V2 KE PD-CCB-001-004 Indepenent Contractor Template 130521.doc"	Reply by the PP addresses the requirements.
IR	For G.4.6 please provide sample of latest safety policy of TIST and process of meetings conducted to communicate this to the quantifiers.	5	The most current safety policy has been provided ("V2 KE PD-CCB-Spt 13 Quantifier Safety 110110.doc"). We have not been conducting annual safety briefings so that sentence has been removed. However, as the section states, TIST members are not engaging in activities that are inherently unsafe. We have had no reports of any incidents at the quantifier seminars.	Reply by the PP addresses the requirements.
IR	For CL 1.2, Provide sample copy of the policy of TIST indicating that the farmers to refrain from using chemical fertilizers, and instead, to rely on dung and plant material. Also describe how this aspect is monitored at the field level.	IR/07/26/11/201 5	Our policy is to train in using manure for fertilizer. See page 5 of "V2 KE PD-CCB-001-004 MB 2015.04 April.pdf" where in discussing preparing seed bed is says "the soil should not be overly fertile. The proper ratios of the soil should be followed. Reduce nitrogen content by applying less manure". See	Reply by the PP addresses the requirements.



Category	Finding	Code	Reply by PP	Final Opinion of verification team
			page 3 of "V2 KE PD-CCB-001-004 MB 2015.05 May .pdf" which states "Put in a 5cm layer of grass (dry grass in rainy season, fresh grass in dry season), (called mulching). Some groups add manure as well" and "Leaves and twigs fall to the ground and provide the soil with extra nutrients". We do not have a system for monitoring at the individual PAs.	
CAR	Information relating to sections CL 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and CL 2.4 relevant for this monitoring period to be provided in the PIR.	CAR/11/26/11/2 015	These sections have been added to the 3 PIRs	Reply by the PP addresses the requirements.
CAR	In CL 3.1 the summary table does not specify the frequency of each of the monitored data	CAR/12/26/11/2 015	This has been added to the comment column of the 3 PIRs	Reply by the PP addresses the requirements.
CAR	In CL 3.2 the active project areas for which verification is conducted in this monitoring period are not indicated in consistency with the monitoring spread sheet information.	CAR/13/26/11/2 015	These have been corrected in the 3 PIRs.	The revised PIR has been submitted and reviewed to address the requirements.
IR	For each of the positive impacts mentioned under CM 1.1 provide a	IR/08/26/11/201	This section has been update in each	The revised PIR has been submitted and reviewed to address the



Category	Finding	Code	Reply by PP	Final Opinion of verification team
	sample statistic to support the same relevant to this monitoring period.	5	PIR.	requirements.
IR	In CM 2.2, it is mentioned that "TIST has been requiring all Small Groups to reduce their percentage of eucalyptus to under 30% of their total trees and file forest plans that show how they are going to achieve this reduction" Provide a policy document to support the same.	5	The policy was misstated in the PIR. The actual percentage is 33%. The PIRs have been corrected. See page 3 of "V2 KE PD-CCB-001-004 MB 2010.06 June.pdf" for a discussion of the forest plan and requirement for eucalyptus.	The revised PIR has been submitted and reviewed to address the requirements.
			See page 6 of "V2 KE PD-CCB-001-004 MB 2012.04 April.pdf" for a reinforcing statement of policy: " We are planting trees, which shall last for the long –term (30 years and over) as required by carbon markets. Farmers in Small Groups with high percentage of eucalyptus should try to achieve the TIST recommendation of having no more than 33% eucalyptus trees, by planting indigenous trees on new land or thinning some eucalyptus and replacing	



Category	Finding	Code	Reply by PP	Final Opinion of verification team
			them with other trees, especially indigenous trees. This is especially important along rivers. Remember that the government discourages planting of eucalyptus near rivers and in riparian areas. Plant water friendly indigenous trees, and follow best practices, and you may be able to qualify for the additional incentive for indigenous trees in riparian areas. You'll be making rivers healthier for your family, for people downstream, and for generations to come.	
IR	In CM3.1 Provide selected samples of the monitoring data to indicate that the components of the initial Community Impact Monitoring plan were monitored as relevant for this monitoring period.	IR/10/26/11/201 5	1. Number of Small Group members in PD (male and female). This is obtained using a query of the database that counts the members in each PD. The member count is obtained from the participant table (see screen shots from database, "V2 KE PD-CCB-001-004 DB Participant Table.jpg and "V2 KE PD-CCB-001-004 DB Group Participants.jpg"). All data is collected electronically on the palm computers. 2. Number of Small Groups in PD. This is a count of unique SGs from the	Reply by the PP addresses the requirements.

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Category	Finding	Code	Reply by PP	Final Opinion of verification team
			VCS monitoring spreadsheets. 3. Number of community members in TIST Kenya (male and female). This is obtained using a query of the database that counts the SG members in Kenya. The source is the participant tables.	
			4. Number of Small Groups in TIST Kenya. This is obtained using a query of the database that counts the SGs in Kenya (see screen shot "V2 KE PD-CCB-001-004 DB Small Groups.jpg").	
			5. Number of community members active in TIST Kenya. This is obtained using a query of the database that counts the active SG members in Kenya. To be active, the SG has to have trees or in gauge in a TIST sustainable development activity such as conservation farming or stoves.	
			6. Number of community members adopting natural resource management practices. This is obtained using a query of the database that counts the active SG	



Category	Finding	Code	Reply by PP	Final Opinion of verification team
			members in Kenya that have trees. 7. Number of community members with greenhouse gas agreements with TIST. This is obtained using a query of the database that counts the active SG members 14. Number of fruit or nut trees in TIST Kenya. This is obtained the Ex Post Strata worksheet of the VCS monitoring spreadsheets (filter Col AQ) by yes and total the trees in Col P) 15. Number of eucalyptus trees in TIST Kenya. This is obtained the Ex Post Strata worksheet of the VCS monitoring spreadsheets.	
IR	CM 3.3 – provide copy of the latest monitoring plan for all CCBA projects (Appendix 06, as indicated in the PIR). For example, Monitoring plan uploaded in the link http://www.tist.org/PD-KE-VCS-001-004%20Documents.php indicates 2011 date while the reference indicated in the PIR indicates 2013		The monitoring plans have not changed and the indicated example is the most current. If there is a requirement to submit a new one with each verification, please provide a reference to said requirement. However the link is updated in the PIR	The revised PIR has been submitted and reviewed to address the requirements.



Category	Finding	Code	Reply by PP	Final Opinion of verification team
CR	date. Section B 1.1 and B.1.3 indicates the data to be of the first verification while the values indicate it to be of the current second verification.	CR/01/26/11/20 15	We believe you mean Sections B1.1 and B1.2. We have corrected the reference from first verification to second verification in both sections of each PIR.	The revised PIR has been submitted and reviewed to address the requirements.
IR	Clarify on the correct data vintage Section B.1.1 of the Previous PIR for CCBA 001 indicates that there is a decrease in the both the tree numbers and hectares for the indigenous trees. It is requested to provide reasons for this decrease.	IR/12/26/11/201 5	There is a net decrease of 7,438 indigenous trees from V1 to V2. There is actually a decrease of 9,615 trees from zeroing out the Pending trees in V2. The difference between 7,438 and 9,615 is from increase in indigenous trees in Active PAs. As the tree count of an indigenous strata in a PA decreases,	Reply by the PP addresses the requirements.
CAR	Information to be provided under Section GL 2.1 in the PIR as relevant for this monitoring period.	CAR/14/26/11/2 015	A new section has been added to the 3 PIRs	The revised PIR has been submitted and reviewed to address the requirements.
IR	In Section GL 2.2 provide details supporting the case that there are substantial benefits to 50% of the lowest quartile during this monitoring period based on updated figures on people affected by poverty reduction	IR/13/26/11/201 5	This section has been updated to reflect the benefits demonstrated in the Gold Level survey. We have kept the previous text that describes how the results from TIST benefit essentially all the poor in the project zone in general. These statements are based on third	The revised PIR has been submitted and reviewed to address the requirements.



Category	Finding	Code	Reply by PP	Final Opinion of verification team
	in Kenya.		party studies and are still valid.	
IR	GL 2.5 mentions survey conducted in March 2015. Provide the survey document for the same.	IR/14/26/11/201 5	See the following at the bottom of this link: http://www.tist.org/PD-VV%20Temp%20Files.php V2 KE PD-CCB-Spt 27 YaleNEC Benefits Survey.doc V2 KE PD-CCB-Spt 28 YaleNEC Benefits Results.xls	Reply by the PP addresses the requirements.

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APPENDIX B - PUBLIC STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION PROCESS:

Email Comment Solicitation, 14 October 2015

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Date: Wed, 14 Oct 2015 11:31:45 -0600
From: Charlie Williams < Charlie Williams @ Clean Air Action.com >
To: Charlie Williams < Charlie@OuachitaMaps.com>
CC: africanwildlife@awf.org, mwenda.agnes@yahoo.com,
laban rintuara <rintuaralaban@gmail.com>,
Rodney Portman <rodneyportman@thebrt.org>, info@care.or.ke,
 sferris@crs.org, mkusewa@ke.earo.crs.org, cnjue@ke.earo.crs.org,
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 dmbithi@kenyaforestservice.org, keforsoc@yahoo.co.uk, kws@kws.go.ke,
 director@laikipia.org, executivedirector@laikipia.org,
 damarismaina@gmail.com, dgnema@nema.go.ke, wellrows@gmail.com,
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 lmitchell@pactworld.org, Neil Bellefeuille <neil@theparadigmproject.org>,
 Justus Mochache <pyrethrumgrowers@yahoo.com>,
 kennedynjenga@yahoo.com, jend@landesa.org,
 "Weru, Martin" <martinweru@tist.org>,
 "Enock (KENYA/ABEO/NRM) Kanyanya" <ekanyanya@usaid.gov>,
 "Wamalwa, Beatrice (KENYA/ABEO)" <bwamalwa@usaid.gov>,
m.misiko@cgiar.org, worldagroforestry@cgiar.org,
 Dombara@mara.wwfearpo.org
Subject: TIST Kenya seeking CCBA accreditation. Comments Requested.
*Subject: TIST Kenya seeking CCBA accreditation. Comments Requested.
Clean Air Action Corporation (CAAC) announces its intent to verify its
projects "TIST Program in Kenya CCB-001", "TIST Program in Kenya
CCB-002" and "TIST Program in Kenya CCB-004", each for the second time
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under the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) standards.

CCB 001 as first validated and verified 2011 and the current verification period is 01-Jan-11 to 11-Aug-15. CCB 002 as first validated and verified 2011 and the current verification period is 09-Jun-11 to 11-Aug-15. CCB 004 as first validated and verified 2013 and the current verification period is 13-Nov-12 to 11-Aug-15.

To receive the verification, CAAC must demonstrate, among other things, that TIST is beneficial to climate, community and biodiversity. CAAC has submitted a Project Implementation Report (PIR) to EPIC Sustainability, a CCBA certified auditor. EPIC will conduct their site visit between 20 October and 25 October, 2015. The documents are available on line at::

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

In addition, all documents and appendices related to the original validation and verification are available at:

CCB-001: http://www.tist.org/PD-KE-VCS-001-004%20Documents.php CCB-002: http://www.tist.org/PD-KE-VCS-005%20Documents.php CCB-004: http://www.tist.org/PD-KE-VCS-009%20Documents.php

CAAC is seeking public comments. They may be submitted directly to CCBA by clicking on "SUBMIT COMMENTS" at:

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

The comment period is open through 01 November 2015. In addition, a public stakeholders meeting will be held between 10:00 AM and 11:00 AM on 19 October, 2015 at the Gitoro Conferences Center in Meru, Kenya where questions will be answered and comments will be taken. Attendance is not required at the meeting in order to submit comments to CCBA.

In the CCB documents we will demonstrate that we meet the CCB standards as follow:

Climate: The following net reductions of CO2 have been made during



the verification period and have been verified under VCS Standard.

CCB-001: 93,788 CCB-002: 112,091 CCB-004: 115,143

Community: TIST has provided a new sustainable revenue stream in the form of carbon payment; improved food security from Conservation Farming, fruits, nuts and honey; other tree products such as fodder, poles and fuel; capacity building; sustainable wood lots; health training; improved stoves.

Biodiversity: TIST farmers have planted new indigenous trees, improved connectivity with the protected forest, reduced the pressure to take fuel wood from the protected forests and have made a net improvement to biodiversity.

*Exceptional Community Benefits: * TIST was created to be pro-poor in a poor area and with net positive impacts on community. Survey results show that participants experience a range of economic benefits and positive social impacts, regardless of socioeconomic status, gender or part of more vulnerable groups.



CCBA Public Meeting

Venue: Gitoro Conference Center, Meru-Kenya

Date: 19th October 2015. Time: 10.00 am - 12.00 pm.

Opening Remarks.

Charles Ibeere, TIST staff made opening remarks. He introduced TIST to the participants but most importantly, he explained the purpose of having this public meeting. He mentioned that it is a crucial requirement in determining whether or not the work by TIST is beneficial to the climate, community and biodiversity. He requested attendees to give the comments freely, honestly and accurately. The meeting lasted for 2 hours.

Public Comments.

NAME: Job Onserio.

LEADERSHIP POSITION: Church Elder.

Our area has recently been introduced to TIST. We are in Nandi County. We are now three years old in TIST. Prior to TIST coming to our area, only a few farmers were practicing agro forestry. Today, from trainings from TIST we have planted fruit trees in our cropland, which are beginning to bear fruits. We see a great potential in both sales of fruits and nutrition for our families.

2. NAME: Hudson Mbaya

LEADERSHIP POSITION: Secretary, Tea Buying Center.

I come from a high potential area of Imenti in Meru County. Most of our small lands are occupied by tea bushes. We have little space for crop farming. Since joining TIST in 2008, we were taught Conservation Farming. I personally practiced and I get more harvest from the same size of the land compared to conventional farming. Additionally, we were taught about protecting the water ways. Today, we experience little run off of our river banks. The quality and quantity of water has tremendously increased.



3. NAME: Joseph Gituma

LEADERSHIP POSITION: Human Rights Defender, Igembe Sub-County, Meru

I joined TIST in 2008. Our area is semi-arid. However, since TIST came to our area, many farmers embraced it. Initially, they didn't understand well the carbon but after numerous trainings, they now understand it very well. However, the key motivation of joining, was the high demand for firewood. Women used to walk long distances into the forest to fetch firewood. All that has changed now. People get firewood from their own farms. They prune and thin some of the trees. TIST has done us well.

4. NAME: John Nderitu Kamutu

LEADERSHIP POSITION: None

I am not a TST member. I come from Laikipia County. I came here to thank and ask TIST to come to our area because my community needs training and motivation to plant trees.

5. NAME: Lenah Lagat

LEADERSHIP POSITION: Secretary, Sobet Women Group.

I am glad to say that TIST's rotational and servant leadership has empowered women and youth leadership in our Sobet TIST Cluster. The TIST approach of leader, co-leader and accountability person is really amazing. Because leaders are elected regularly – after every four months and the leader rotates out, every person has an equal chance to exercise their leadership gifts.

6. NAME: Festus Mutegi

LEADERSHIP POSITION: TIST Quantifier.

I have earned income from TIST for over seven years now while doing quantification work. Besides that, I am a TIST Small Group member. I have earned extra income from tree incentives, fruits and nuts in my farm.

7. NAME: Naftali Magenda

LEADERSHIP POSITION: TIST Trainer.

The greatest benefit have received from TIST is energy saving stove. I say the greatest without belittling other benefits because it has saved me a lot of money I used to spend in buying firewood. A TIST stove reduces smoke from the kitchen area and making it safe for children. I would encourage everyone here to try any of TIST stoves.

8. NAME: Jane Kanja

LEADERSHIP POSITION: Church Treasurer.



The respect I get from community is all because of TIST. I joined in February 2005. I have gained a lot of skills and experience in training, data collection, use of computers, trainings, starting TIST in new areas, and many more. Today, I am relied upon in my community to support them with accounting and computer issues. TIST has impacted considerable knowledge on myself.

NAME: Regina Mweni

LEADERSHIP POSITION: Women Leader, Kituluni Self -Help Group.

TIST was introduced in our area, Mbeere- Embu County through partnership with Catholic Relief Services. TIST helped a great deal in complementing CRS work. We were doing green gram with CRS. TIST taught us in doing trees especially fruit and indigenous trees. This supplemented our income. Our economic incentives became more diversified. Our green gram crops began to do better as trees provide shade and hold soil together against erosion.

10. NAME: Jinarris Gachoya

LEADERSHIP POSITION: TIST Leader

TIST gave me an opportunity that I will remain ever grateful to be a TIST Social Entrepreneur (TSE). I was given capital to go start TIST in a new area through an expansion program. I was successful in starting TIST in Wiyumiririe area where more than 300 groups were formed. It was a great experience.

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11. NAME: Joseph Wambugu

LEADERSHIP POSITION: TIST Trainer.

I am a TIST Stove builder. TIST sponsored me to Uganda to learn on how to build a mud stove using locally available materials. I got the skills and on returning I began constructing mud stoves for TIST members. Up to now, I have done more than 500 mud stoves for TIST members. For non-TIST members I charge a small fee which gives me extra income for my family. From my own observation, farmers with TIST stoves experience a better life in saving firewood, against destruction of trees as well as saving money.

12. NAME: Josephine Gatwiri

LEADERSHIP POSITION: TIST Auditor.

My farm is adjacent to a gazetted forest area – Lower Imenti Forest. This forest had experienced a lot of destruction in early 2000's. Today, most TIST farmers have been granted access rights to plant trees in the forest. One of the noticeable changes is the return of birds in the area. Also crucial insects that help in pollination are back.

13. NAME: Mary Kathei

LEADERSHIP POSITION: Church Secretary



I am a TIST Quantifier. I earn income from Quantification work as well as from tree incentives. I have learnt leadership skills through TIST. I am now a confident woman leader in my society.

14. NAME: Zipporah Muna

LEADERSHIP POSITION: Executive Member, YWCA, Meru Branch

We hail TIST because of her continued support to women leadership. Our society has now embraced women leadership because of TIST's rotational and servant leadership.

15. NAME: Grace Gathoni

LEADERSHIP POSITION: Church Deacon.

I am from Othaya Sub-county, Nyeri County. I came all the way, one, to learn what is TIST because I heard first from sister who is married here in Meru. Second, to make a request that TIST expand to my area. Our area is in dire need of support to get millions of trees planted.

16. NAME: Naomi Kamau

LEADERSHIP POSITION: Social Worker in Children issues and with persons living with disabilities.

Practicing Conservation Farming has increased food for the families especially in arid and semi-arid areas. I come from Yatta, Machakos County. We have embraced TIST's Conservation Farming because of increased yields and less labour.

17. NAME: Joseph Muthee

LEADERSHIP POSITION: Community Leader

TIST's Mazingira Bora, a monthly newsletter, has continued to offer trainings in real time and accurate manner to both TIST and Non-TIST Farmers. Importantly, it is published in 6 languages, enabling many people to understand it. The fact that it is delivered during the cluster meetings, it offers a chance for farmers dialogue and discussions. It is an effective training tool.

18. NAME: Jane Koech

LEADERSHIP POSITION: Chair person, Widowa and Widowers.

We decided to join TIST because we wanted economic empowerment for our group members. We got a lot more. We have benefited socially – through Cluster meetings interactions; economically – through tree incentives and other incomes from trees; environmentally – we experience more rains than before.

19. NAME: James Bundi Buria

LEADERSHIP POSITION: TIST Leader



I was worried about my old age since I have never been in formal employment where I would earn pension. But upon joining TIST, I realized my trees are my pension. I am happy growing old. TIST trees will give me carbon income, fruits, nuts, firewood, medicine etc.

20. NAME: David Thuku

LEADERSHIP POSITION: TIST Quantifier

When I joined TIST in 2008, I was lucky to select as TIST Quantifier for my area in our Cluster meeting. But I was hesitant to take the job. I was ashamed that I hadn't been keen in planting trees. In fact, my baseline trees were 3 trees only! Today I am proud to say I have planted and kept alive more than 500 trees. I am proud, not ashamed!

21. NAME: Esther Maina

LEADERSHIP POSITION: TIST Leader

TIST Stoves is one of the important issue for women. We are saving money. We are saving trees. We are conserving our biodiversity because when we lack firewood, any plant in the farm is cut down for fire.

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Public Notice, 13 October 2015, Daily Nation (English)





Public Notice, 13 October 2015, Taifa Leo (Swahili)

