



Validation Report

Version 1.4

15-Sept-2025

Document Prepared by AENOR CONFIA S.A.U.



**Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)
Carbon Fund**

Validation Report (VAR)

ER Program Name and Country:	Emission Reduction Program in Dominican Republic (ERP-DR)
Crediting Period	01-03-2021 to 31-12-2024
Name of the VVB:	AENOR CONFIA S.A.U.
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Date of the Validation Report:	15-09-2025
Version:	1.4
Report Approved by	José Luis Fuentes

1. VALIDATION STATEMENT

The review and cross-check of explanations and justifications included in the Monitoring Report version 4 dated on 06/08/2025 and supporting documents, have provided AENOR with sufficient evidence to determine with a reasonable level of assurance the compliance of the Emission Reduction Program in Dominican Republic (ERP-DR), with the applicable validation with extend scope criteria and materiality set out in the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) requirements.

The scope covered by the validation with extended scope includes the ER Program's crediting period (01-03-2021 to 31-12-2024), the selected Reference Period (01-01-2006 to 31-12-2015), the accounting area (1,295,981 ha), the REDD Country Participant's Forest Monitoring System, the national REDD+ Programs and Projects Data Management System and the following GHG sources and sinks (REDD+ activities), carbon pools and type of GHGs:

GHG sources and sinks (REDD+ activities)
• Emissions from deforestation – Included • Emissions from forest degradation – Included • Removal as a result of enhancement of carbon stocks (forest remaining forest and land converted to forest land) – Included • Emissions and removals from carbon stock conservation – Excluded • Emissions and removals from sustainable forest management - Excluded
Carbon pools
• Above-Ground biomass (AGB) – Included • Below-Ground biomass (BGM) – Included • Litter – Included • Dead wood – Included • Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) – Included
GHG
• CO₂ – Included • CH₄ – Excluded • N₂O – Excluded

The validation with extended scope was performed through a combination of document review, interviews and communications with relevant staff. Findings were issued, requesting: MAJOR Corrective Action Request (MCAR); MINOR Corrective Action Request (mCAR); and Observations (OBS) according to the FCPF validation and verification guidelines (VVG) v2.7 section 11, to ensure compliance with all requirements.

A total of 12 MCAR, 3 mCAR and 3 Observations were raised as part of the validation with extended scope process. All MCAR, and OBS were successfully addressed by the ER Program and closed by the VVB. The findings are reported in Appendix 1 of this report.

Regarding the reference Level, it is AENOR's opinion that the ERP-DR meets the applicable validation criteria set out in the FCPF requirements, and that it is free of material misstatements. Hence, AENOR recommends the FCPF Carbon Fund to continue with the relevant subsequent steps to proceed with the verification of the FCPF ERs.

Statement issuing date: 15-September-2025

Intended User: World Bank Group, FCPF Carbon Fund Participants



Javier Cócera
Team Leader



José Luis Fuentes
Climate Change Manager

2. Agreement

2.1 Level of Assurance

The validation with extended scope audit assessment was conducted to provide a reasonable level of assurance concerning material misstatements, errors, or omissions in conformance with the validation criteria and scope set out in the FCPF requirements, in conformance with paragraph 31 of the VVG v2.7. The provisions undertaken to ensure such a reasonable level of assurance included a risk assessment of the sources and the magnitude of potential errors, omissions, and misstatements, as required by section 4.4.1 of ISO 14064-3:2006, previous to the elaboration of a sampling/evidence-gathering plan.

Based on the previous provisions and considering the findings raised during the audit, a positive evaluation statement reasonably ensures that the FCPF Program Reference Level is materially correct and is a fair representation of the GHG data and information provided in the ER Monitoring Report and supporting documents.

2.2 Objectives

The objective of audit was to conduct a systematic, independent, and documented process for the evaluation of the GHG assertion made by the Emission Reduction Program in Dominican Republic against the FCPF criteria applicable to validation with extended scope to determine if the Program is in compliance to the agreed criteria, and its implementation can be expected to result in the proposed GHG reductions and removal enhancements as described in the ER Monitoring Report and its Annex 4.

The general objectives of the validation, as required by paragraph 32 of the VVG v2.7, were:

- Review of the ER Monitoring Report and supporting information to confirm the correctness of presented information;
- Identify if the methodological steps and data are publicly available in accordance with applicable criteria;
- Assess whether the start date of the crediting period proposed by the ER Program is in compliance with the definition provided in the FCPF Glossary of terms;
- Assess the extent to which the Reference Level has been reported with a transparent and coherent step-by-step process that enables reconstruction and have meet the requirements of applicable criteria;
- Assess the extent to which the Reference Level is materially accurate;
- Identify sources of uncertainty due to both random and systematic errors related with the Reference Level setting and determine whether the ER Program has conducted the uncertainty analysis in compliance applicable criteria;
- Assess the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) of the ER Program and validate that there are controls for sources of potential errors, omissions, and misstatements in place;
- Identify components of the NFMS that require attention and/or adjustment in future monitoring and reporting or identify areas of risk of future non-compliance.

The specific objectives of the validation with extended scope, as required by paragraph 33 of the VVG v2.7, were:

- Determine that the ER Program's scope in terms of sources, sinks and carbon pools is in accordance with the applicable validation criteria;
- Assess whether the ER Program's methods are in accordance with applicable validation criteria as the latest IPCC Guidelines;
- Assess if the Reference level is in accordance with applicable validation criteria.

2.3 Criteria

The audit assessment was carried against the criteria set for validation with extended scope by the following documents:

- FCPF Methodological Framework, v3, April 2020.
- Validation and Verification Guidelines v2.7 January 2025.
- Buffer Guidelines v4.2.1 March 2025.
- Guidelines on the application of the Methodological Framework.
 1. Use of Interpolation of Data in Relation to the Reference Period of an ER Program v1 June 2016.
 2. Technical Corrections to GHG Emissions and Removals Reported in the Reference Period v2 November 2020.
 3. The Definition of Reporting Periods of Emission Reduction Programs v1 November 2018.
 4. Uncertainty Analysis of Emission Reductions v1.0 November 2020.
- Process Guidelines v6.3 March 2025.
- Glossary of Terms v2.3 January 2025.
- Guidelines contained in the ER Monitoring Report Template (v3.1.2) and the Verification Report Template (1.4.2, March 2025);
- ISO 14064-3:2006
- ISO 14065:2013
- ISO 14066:2011

The following documents will be considered as documents that provide acceptable methods for satisfying requirements provided in the above criteria, as per VVG paragraph 38:

- 2006 IPCC Guidelines;
- 2013 IPCC Wetlands Supplement;
- 2019 refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines;
- GFOI 2016 Methods and Guidance Document;
- FCPF Guidance Notes.

Specifically, the following criteria and indicators of the MF were applicable to the validation with extended scope, as per paragraph 37 of the VVG 2.7:

Criteria/indicator	Topic
3	Scope and methods
4	Carbon pools and GHG
5	IPCC guidelines
6	Data availability
7, 8, 9.1	Identification and address source(s) of uncertainty
10 to 13	Reference level
14.2, 14.3	Robust Forest Monitoring system
15	National Forest Monitoring System
16	Community participation in Monitoring and Reporting

2.4 Scope

The scope of validation included as per section 8.4 of the VVG v.2.7:

- The Crediting Period of the FCPF program applicable to the ER Program;
- The selected Reference Period
- The ER Program Accounting Area as defined in the ER Program's Final ER Program Document (ER-PD);

- The GHG sources and sinks associated with any of the REDD+ Activities accounted for as required by the Methodological Framework;
- The Carbon Pools and greenhouse gases to be accounted for as required by the Methodological Framework;
- The REDD Country Participant's Forest Monitoring System as described in the ER Monitoring Report;
- The national REDD+ Program and Projects Data Management System (DMS) as described in the Monitoring Report.

2.5 Materiality

The materiality threshold of the validation, as required section 8.5 of the VVG v2.7, was:

- Quantitative: the threshold for materiality with respect to the aggregate of errors, omissions, and misrepresentations relative to the total reported GHG emission and removals was one percent (1%). (Under-estimation of the Reference Level was not considered a material discrepancy).
- Qualitative: any issue related to management system and controls, poorly managed documentation, and non-compliance with the applicable requirements of the MF and other applicable criteria; and any errors in reporting of factual information in the ER Monitoring Report as required by the FCPF MF.

The validation process based on the desk review and remote audit found that there are not quantitative and or qualitative material discrepancies affecting the Reference Level and the Reference Level setting.

3. METHODOLOGY AND PLANNING

3.1 Validation Team

Name	Role	Activities				
		Desk review	Site visit	Reporting	Supervision	Technical review
Carlos Jiménez	Team Leader until September 2024	X	X	X	X	
Javier Cócera	Validator/verifier auditor Team Leader from September 2024	X		X		
Daniel Bermejo	Validator/verifier auditor	X		X		
Adrián Vidal	Validator/verifier auditor	X		X		
Pablo Moreno	Auditor in trainee	X		X		
José Luis Fuentes	Reviewer				X	X

3.2 Validation schedule

Tasks	Deliverable	Date	Responsible
1. Kick off meeting	Minute	10.05.2023	All parties
2. Desk review of documents	Preliminary findings (if required)	18.05.2023	AENOR
3.1. Draft sampling plan	Sampling plan draft	18.05.2023	AENOR
3.2. Sampling plan	Sampling plan	25.05.2023	AENOR
4.1. Draft Audit plan	Audit plan draft	25.05.2023	AENOR
4.2. Audit plan	Audit plan	01.06.2023	AENOR
5. Country visit	-	20-21.06.2023	AENOR/ Country participant
6. 1st round of findings	1st round of findings	09.08.2023	AENOR
7. Answer to findings	Answer to findings	14.09.2023	Country participant
8. Review of findings and potential 2nd round of findings (if required)	2nd round of findings (if required)	28.09.2023	AENOR
9. Answer to the 2nd round of findings (if required)	Answer to findings	06.10.2023	Country participant
10. Review of answers		13.10.2023	AENOR
11. Draft reports	Validation and verification draft reports	03.11.2023	AENOR
12. Provide opportunity to REDD Country and FMT to comment draft reports	Comments to draft reports (if required)	03.11.2023	Country participant/ FMT
13. Final validation report and final verification report with statements. AENOR technical review	Final validation and verification reports	08.09.2025	AENOR

3.3 Methodology description

The validation with extended scope was performed simultaneously with the first verification, through a combination of document review, interviews, and communications with relevant personnel. The conformity was evaluated against the criteria described in section 2.3.

A sampling/evidence-gathering plan was developed for the validation with extended scope and first verification of the ER Program, as required by section 9.4 of the VVG v2.7. A risk assessment of the sources and the magnitude of potential errors, omissions, and misstatements was carried out, as required by section 4.4.1 of ISO 14064-3:2006, previous to the elaboration of the sampling/evidence-gathering plan. The sampling/evidence-gathering plan was developed considering all the criteria set by section 4.4.3 of ISO 14064-3:2006:

- a) Agreed level of assurance;
- b) validation and verification scope;
- c) validation and verification criteria;
- d) amount and type of evidence (qualitative and quantitative) necessary to achieve the agreed level of assurance;

- e) methodologies for determining representative samples; and
- f) risk of potential errors, omissions, or misstatements.

All evidence requested and reviewed was crosschecked in order to evaluate the consistency of information in the ER Monitoring Report. All statements, claims and procedures described within the scope of the validation included in the ER Monitoring Report were part of the assessment of the sampling/evidence-gathering plan and all the reviewed supporting evidence were evaluated against the ER Monitoring Report.

The magnitude of the sampling was based on the previous experience of AENOR as VVB and ensure the achievement of reasonable level of assurance. The sampling/evidence-gathering plan was open to be modified based on any new risks or materiality concerns that could potentially lead to errors, omissions or misstatements identified during the validation process.

The validation team carried out a deep and meticulous review of the calculation spreadsheets to verify the correct application of the used methodology (formulae, equations) and checked that data required to calculate the GHG emission was appropriately provided.

All documentation provided by the Country Participant was assessed against the applicable criteria described in section 2.3. Several MCAR, mCAR and OBS were raised and submitted to the Country Participant to ensure compliance with all requirements, which addressed them either by providing to the validation team with the requested information or by making the appropriate corrections. Updated versions of the documentation were submitted by the Country Participant and the validation team reassessed them against the guidance documentation. This process was repeated iteratively until all MCAR were fully closed.

A total of 12 MCAR, 3 mCAR and 3 Observations were raised as part of the validation with extended scope process. All MCAR, and OBS were successfully addressed by the ER Program and closed by the VVB. The findings issued during the validation process and the inputs for their closure are described in Appendix 1 of this report.

3.4 Review of documentation

A detailed review of all documentation was conducted to ensure consistency with and identify any deviation from FCPF requirements. Initial review focused on the ER Monitoring Report and included an examination of the Annex 4. Specially, in relation to the carbon pools, sources and sinks included within the scope of the ER Program, the methodological approach for the determination of the Reference Level, its alignment with IPPC guidelines, the data and parameters used for calculations, the estimated uncertainty, and the design of the NFMS.

In addition to the ER Monitoring Report, all documentation cited in it was downloaded and reviewed in order to verify its public accessibility and to crosschecked with the statements made in the ER Monitoring Report. These documents include, among others, calculation spreadsheets used for the determination of emission factors (EF) and estimation of the Reference Level, GIS data (satellite images and remote sensing analysis) used for determination of activity data (AD), and additional documents related to monitoring procedures, literature sources of parameters, etc.

As result of the desk review of documents and interviews, the validation team required additional documentation to the Country Participant to verify certain statements or have further clarification regarding GHG assertions, data and parameters used or employed procedures. All the additional documents requested were added to the later versions of the ER Monitoring Report, as required by criterion 6 of the MF.

For a listing of all documents provided by the Country Participant and review for the validation, see Appendix 2.

AENOR confirms that sufficient evidence was presented for all GHG assertions and that there is a clear audit trail that contains the evidence and records that validate the stated figures in this validation report since:

- Sufficient evidence available: the Country Participant has provided the 100% of data used in the calculations to achieve the final estimated amount of GHG emissions and removals.
- Nature of evidence: the raw data were collected from reliable sources. They are detailed in the program documents and have been provided to the validation team.
- Cross-checked evidence: AENOR cross-checked the collected information through interviews with stakeholders and reproducing calculations.

3.5 REDD Country Visit

In accordance with FCPF Carbon Fund Facility Management Team (FMT) and the Country Participant, and provided that a reasonable level of assurance was achievable, AENOR as VVB, carried out an onsite audit that ensured the achievement of the assurance level required by the FCPF.

Thus, the Audit was performed onsite, complemented with desk revision: some aspects were assessed remotely, since reported Emission Reductions rely on activity data estimates through Earth Observation data obtained in a centralized Forest Monitoring System with few field data. On the other hand, other aspects were assessed onsite thanks to the Team Leader onsite visit, as VVG paragraphs 48 and 50 allows.

The audit was based on the following auditing techniques:

- Document review and cross checks between the information provided in the ER Monitoring Report and supporting information and evidence provided by the Country Participant.
- Review, based on the selected methodologies, tools and the other applied methodological regulatory documents, of the appropriateness of formulae and accuracy of calculations.
- Meetings, via teleconference and during the onsite visit, with relevant stakeholders and personal responsible for the implementation of the ER Program and the elaboration of the ER Monitoring Report, as identified in section 2 and 9.2 of the ER MR.
- Cross checks between information provided by interviewees to ensure that no relevant information was omitted.

The audit procedure was agreed with the Country Participant on the basis of available means and safety procedures. The teleconferences were carried using software agreed with the Country Participant, i.e., Microsoft Teams.

Two technical sessions (one for validation with extended scope and the second one for verification) during the site visit were carried out on June 20th-21st 2023 with Country Participant's staff involved in the management of the ER Program and the elaboration of the ER Monitoring Report. The aim of the sessions were to cross-check and verify with the responsible staff of each area the procedures described in the ER Monitoring Report and additional documents, as well as to clarify doubts from the audit team, prior to the issuance of the first round of findings.

The following table includes the list of all Country Participant's staff that participated in the technical sessions, who gathered in the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources offices, together with the VVB Team leader, while the rest of the VVB team supported with documentary revision.

Name	Organization	Role/Position
César Augusto Abrill Cáceres	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	REDD Coordination Office Manager
Germán Obando Vargas	World Bank	Carbon accounting specialist
Bepsy Carolina Morales Gutiérrez	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	Analyst

Esther María Villalona García	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	Financial Analyst
Juan Grillo	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	REDD Coordination Office
Kenia Amarilis Feliz Sánchez	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	Head of Climate Change Metrics and Transparency Department
Maiker Carvajal Paulino	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	Administrative support
María Evangelina Hidalgo Ramirez	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	Climate Change Analyst
Rafael Antonio Rivera	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	Zoning Manager
Rafael Santiago Hernández Batista	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	Geomatics Department Manager
Ramón Alberto Díaz Beard	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	Forest Monitoring Coordinator
Sarita Altagracia Marte Jiménez	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	Technical assistant
Tomás Montilla	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	REDD Analyst
Patricia Garffer	ANAB	Auditor

The program covered during the technical sessions was the following:

Activity & Information
Opening meeting Introduction and scope of the Audit. Review of meeting agenda. Generalities.
Technical meeting 1 (validation with extended scope): 1. <u>1. Carbon pools, sources and sinks</u> Sources and sinks associated with the REDD+ Activities. Criterion 3 MF Significant Carbon Pools and greenhouse gases. Criterion 4 MF 2. <u>Reference level</u> Use of the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) guidance and guidelines. Criterion 5 MF. Key data and methods detailed and available for reconstruction of the Reference Level. Criterion 6 MF. Clearly documented Forest Reference Emission Level or Forest Reference Level for the ER Program Measures Area. Criterion 10,11, 12 and 13 MF 3. <u>Measurement, monitoring and reporting</u> Robust Forest Monitoring Systems. Criterion 14 MF. National Forest Monitoring System. Criterion 15 MF. Community participation in Monitoring and Reporting. Criterion 16 MF. 4. <u>Uncertainties of the calculation</u> Identification and address source(s) of uncertainty (identify, minimize, quantify remaining). Criterion 7, 8, 9.1 MF.
Technical meeting 2 (verification):

Activity & Information
1. <u>Implementation and operation of the ER program during the reporting period</u> Monitoring and reporting of displacement mitigation Criterion 17.3, 17.4 MF. 2. <u>System for measurement, monitoring and reporting emissions and removals occurring within the monitoring period</u> Consistency of monitored estimates with RL 14.1 MF. 3. <u>Data and parameters</u> Key data and methods detailed and available for reconstruction of the reported emissions and removals. Criterion 6 MF. 4. <u>Quantification of emission reductions</u> Calculation of Emission Reductions. Criterion 22 MF 5. <u>Uncertainty of the estimate of emission reductions</u> Identification and address source(s) of uncertainty (identify, minimize, quantify remaining). Criterion 7, 8, 9.1 MF. Estimation of residual uncertainty. Criterion 9.2, 9.3 MF. 6. <u>Transfer of title to ERs</u> REDD projects and programs DMS. Criterion 37. Double counting. Criterion 23 MF. 7. <u>Reversals</u> Addressing and account for reversals Criterion 18.2 and 19 MF
Closing Meeting: Remarks, clarifications, questions, following steps.

4. VALIDATION OF ER PROGRAM DESIGN

4.1 Completeness of Report

AENOR made a review of the ER Monitoring Report, supporting information, procedures, calculations, and supporting documentation of the ERP-DR and confirms that Annex 4 of the ER Monitoring Report contains the required information to be subject to validation with extended scope.

4.2 Start date of the crediting period

AENOR assessed information provided in the ER Monitoring Report and is able to confirm that the start date of the ER Program's crediting period, 1st March 2021, complies with the definition of the start date provided in the FCPF Glossary of Terms, since:

- It is not earlier than the date the first ER Program Measure generating ERs has been implemented.
- It has justified with objective evidence to AENOR.
- It is not earlier than the date of program inclusion into the carbon fund portfolio.
- It does not fall within the Reference period.
- It has been demonstrated to AENOR that the ER Program complies with requirements on safeguards, carbon accounting, and double-counting as specified in the MF since the start date.

4.3 Sources and Sinks

The ER Program selected the following GHG sources and sinks (REDD+ activities):

GHG sources and sinks (REDD+ activities)

- Emissions from deforestation – Included
- Emissions from forest degradation – Included
- Removal as a result of enhancement of carbon stocks (forest remaining forest and land converted to forest land) – Included
- Emissions and removals from carbon stock conservation – Excluded
- Emissions and removals from sustainable forest management - Excluded

AENOR assessed the justifications and methods provided in Annex 4 - section 7.1 of the ER Monitoring Report and found acceptable the justifications provided to include or exclude the sources and sinks. Emissions from deforestation are included in the Reference Level, as well as emissions from forest degradation since these emissions are significant, in compliance with the requirements set by criterion 3 of the MF. Enhancement of carbon stocks are also included, as recovery of canopy cover in the forest lands remaining as a forest and carbon removal in lands converted to forest land (including forest plantations, and excluding the accumulation of carbon in secondary forests that already existed before 2005).

Additionally, AENOR confirms that the ER Program the exclusion of conservation of forest carbon stocks and sustainable management of forests, because there is no national definition for these REDD+ activities, and there is comprehensive accounting for GHG emissions and removals from forests so that GHG emissions and removals that may be included in this sources are included in previous REDD+ activities.

There are no plans for improving data since the excluded sources represent a small fraction of forest-related emissions.

4.4 Carbon pools and GHG

The following carbon pools and types of GHG have been included from the ER Program:

Carbon Pools
• Above-Ground biomass (AGB) – Included • Below-Ground biomass (BGM) – Included • Litter – Included • Dead wood – Included • Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) – Included
GHGs
• CO₂ – Included • CH₄ – Excluded • N₂O – Excluded

AENOR has assessed the rationale of the ER Program for selecting or excluding carbon pools and greenhouse gases and deems that it is reasonable and in accordance with criterion 4 of the MF. The program accounts all significant carbon pools.

Regarding GHG, the Reference level does not include emissions of non-CO₂ gases resulting from forest fires, since the available data is limited and it is not possible to separately estimate the effect of fires on forest land converted to other use or on forests remaining as forests. On the other hand, the CH₄ and N₂O emissions represent are not significant during the reference period.

No overestimations are occurring due to the inclusion of non-significant carbon pools and GHG. AENOR confirms that the ER Program has no proposed plans for improving data on excluded pools, as they already included them all.

4.5 Reference Period

AENOR confirms that the start and end dates of the Reference Period (01-01-2006 to 31-12-2015) have been defined in accordance with criterion 11 of the MF and that it complies with the definition provided in the FCPF Glossary of Terms. The Reference Period has not change from the proposed period in the ER-PD.

4.6 Forest Definition

The definition of forest used in the Reference Level differs from the one adopted by DR in the 2015 forest resources assessment report from the FAO. The operational definition of forest was updated to be adjusted according to the resolution of the satellite images used in land-use mapping, achieving an appropriate separation of forest and non-forest use categories, and need to include the carbon stock gains in the reference level as a result of increasing the tree-shaded agricultural crops areas produced during the implementation of the ERP-DR.

AENOR assessed the information according to criterion 12 MF and the guidance from UNFCCC decision 12/CP.17, and deems that it was an appropriate selection of forest definition, and consistently used in the construction of the Reference Level of the ERP-DR.

4.7 Calculation of average annual historical emissions

After review of all ER Monitoring Report information, procedures, calculations, and supporting documentation, and according to the scope of the validation with extended scope carried out, AENOR confirms that:

- ERP-DR made a systematic and step-by-step assessment of the methods, assumptions, and approaches used for the calculation of historical emissions, i.e., the Reference Level;
- All equations parameters and fixed data, such as AD and EF, are appropriately linked to the equations used for the quantification of the Reference Level;
- The correctness of presented information, publicly available, reported with a transparent and coherent step-by-step process that enables reconstruction of the Reference Level to validate its compliance with the requirements of applicable criteria;
- The start date of the crediting period proposed by the ER Program is in compliance with the definition provided in the FCPF Glossary of terms;
- The GHG emissions, emission reductions of the Reference Level, and its technical corrections, are materially accurate, and free of material misstatements, errors, or omissions;
- According to criterion 5 of the MF, the ER Program's equations and methods are in accordance with applicable validation criteria as the latest IPCC Guidelines, using the most recent guidance and guidelines, as adopted or encouraged by the Conference of the Parties as a basis for estimating forest related GHG emissions by sources and removals by sinks.
- The emissions from forest degradation are accounted. These emissions were estimated using the best available data, according to indicator 3.3 of the MF.

4.8 Activity data and emission factors

4.8.1 Activity data

AENOR confirms that the reliability of the source and nature of the reported evidence justified the selection of the monitored data and parameters; and that all parameters related to activity data and described below have been reported in line with guidelines provided in the template and validation criteria.

AENOR confirms the correctness of each step of monitoring from measurement to data transfer and calculation and confirmed the information for each parameter is complete and that the stated parameters are free of error and material misstatements.

AENOR also confirms that methodological steps and data are publicly available in accordance with applicable criteria, and the open links to the multiple sources are provided in the ER Monitoring Report. AENOR confirms that the evidence provided by the ER Monitoring Reports is sufficient and appropriate to determine the GHG reductions and removals.

AENOR confirms that Activity Data were determined periodically and allowed for the Reference Level to be estimated for the Reference Period.

Assessment details are as follows per activity data grouped parameters:

Parameters	$A(j, i)_{RP}$; $A(j, i)_{LU}$; $A(j)$; $R(j, i)_{LU}$
Free of Material Misstatement	Yes
Reported Appropriately	Yes
Assessment Details	These parameters represent: - $A(j, i)_{RP}$: Area converted from forest type j to non-forest type i during the Reference Period (hectare) - $A(j, i)_{LU}$: Area converted from forest type j to non-forest type i of the Land Unit (hectares) - $A(j)$: Area of Stable Forest type j (hectare) - $R(j, i)_{LU}$: Area converted from non-forest type j to forest type i of the Land Unit (hectare) Deforestation and enhancements (land converted to forest land) were determined through sample-based visual interpretation, primarily using remote sensing data of all satellite imagery available to the country, to collect sample information. ERP-DR presented information about data sources for estimating Activity Data, methods for mapping land-use and land-use change (including sampling design and size, absence of stratification justification, assessment and labelling, analysis and Activity Data calculation), QA/QC procedures applied, values applied, and uncertainty associated with these parameters. The validation team conducted an independent analysis of similar remotely sensed data to confirm that the source data was reliable and appropriate. Additionally, the validation team was able to ensure that LULC classification was appropriate and followed the defined classification system. The validation team conducted independent data checks for each step necessary for the quantification of these parameters. Activity data parameters were examined using remotely sense imagery to ensure accurate classification of LULC classification. Spatial analyses conducted in ESRI GIS confirmed the geographical boundary, ensuring that all activity data fell within the Accounting Area and that the Accounting Area was computed correctly. Independent data checks were used to ensure that the quantification of the parameters was performed correctly. This included an independent review of the literature cited in reference to the applied equations. The uncertainty associated with this parameter was independently calculated after a thorough review of the calculation spreadsheets. The calculation of uncertainty applied the methodology from Olofsson, et al. (2014), and the validation team reviewed and confirmed that the estimation was correct and without any error.

Parameters	Deg(j,i) _{RP}
Free of Material Misstatement	Yes
Reported Appropriately	Yes
Assessment Details	These parameter represents: - Deg(j,i)_{RP}: Area converted from forest with canopy cover j to forest with canopy cover i during the Reference Period (hectare/year) Degradation and enhancements (forest remaining forest) were determined through sampling-based estimates and associated uncertainties were used to calculate the activity data. Forest cover annual maps were used as reference information to determine the canopy cover categories for each sampling point. DR ER Monitoring Report presented information about data sources for estimating Activity Data (including type of sampling, number of sampling units, classification scheme, sources, interpretation key, data collection and analysis), values applied, QA/QC procedures applied, and uncertainty associated with these parameters. The validation team conducted independent analysis of the information provided to confirm that the source data was reliable and appropriate. Additionally, the validation team was able to ensure that LULC classification was appropriate and followed the defined classification system. The validation team conducted independent data checks for each step necessary for the quantification of these parameters. Spatial analyses conducted in ESRI GIS confirmed the geographical boundary, ensuring that all activity data fell within the Accounting Area and that the Accounting Area was computed correctly. Independent data checks were used to ensure that the quantification of the parameters was performed correctly; this included an independent review of the literature cited in reference to the applied equations. The uncertainty associated with this parameter was calculated by the bootstrap method, with 10,000 simulations based on the bias estimate, and independently calculated by the VVB after a thorough review of the calculation spreadsheets.

Thus, AENOR confirms the sufficiency of quantity and appropriateness of quality of the evidence used to determine the Activity data factors and later used in the GHG reductions and removals calculations, and also that the Activity data is compliant with the Methodological Framework and the IPCC Guidelines and Guidance.

4.8.2 Emission Factors

AENOR confirms the reliability of the source and nature of the reported evidence justified the selection of the emission factors; and that these have been reported in line with guidelines provided in the template and validation criteria.

AENOR confirms the correctness of each step of monitoring from measurement to data transfer and calculation and confirms the information for each parameter is complete and that the stated parameters are free of error and material misstatements.

AENOR confirms the source of emission factors is from data collected during different national inventories, and models or average values of direct measurements reported in literature and following IPCC Guidance and Guidelines.

AENOR confirms that emission factors of the ERP-DR and the methods to determine them are the same for Reference Level setting and for Monitoring. IPCC Tier 2 or higher methods are used to establish emission factors, and the uncertainty for each emission factor is documented.

Assessment details on emission factors are as follows:

Parameters	$B_{\text{Before},j}$, $B_{\text{After},i}$, ΔC_{RBI}
Free of Material Misstatement	Yes
Reported Appropriately	Yes
Assessment Details	These parameters represent: - $B_{\text{Before},j}$: Total biomass of forest type j before conversion (tC/ha) - $B_{\text{After},i}$: Total biomass of non-forest type i after conversion (tC/ha) - ΔC_{RBI}: Annual change in carbon stocks in biomass on land converted to forest i (tC/ha*year) ERP-DR Monitoring Report presented the following information about emission factors: source of data; values applied in reference period; QA/QC procedures applied; and uncertainty associated with each emission factor. The source is primarily three different inventories or sources (The National Forest Inventory, 2015; Assessment of Biomass and Carbon Content in Non-Forest Cover in the Dominican Republic, 2017; Collection of information required for the Technical Correction of the Forest Reference Level of the Dominican Republic 2006-2015, 2021). The validation team conducted independent analysis of the information provided to confirm that the source data was reliable and appropriate. The validation team has reviewed the sources, and these parameters were explained during the onsite visit. Additionally, the validation team judged that the methods to estimate these parameters were reasonable and appropriate. The validation team performed an independent check of the IPCC Guidance and Guidelines to ensure the parameters ensuring correctness. The validation team conducted independent data checks for each step necessary in the quantification of these parameters. Additionally, the validation team conducted an independent review of the literature cited in reference to each equation in the calculation procedure. The uncertainty associated with these parameters was independently calculated after a thorough review of the calculation spreadsheets; and the validation team reviewed and confirmed that the estimation of uncertainty was correct and without any error. The validation team reviewed the ER Monitoring Report and associated links to ensure that all data related to this parameter are made public.

Parameter	SOC _j , SOC _i , S _(j,i)
Free of Material Misstatement	Yes
Reported Appropriately	Yes
Assessment Details	These parameters represent: - SOC_j: Soil Organic Carbon of forest type j before conversion (tC/ha) - SOC_i: Soil Organic Carbon of non-forest type i after conversion (tC/ha) - S_(j,i): Soil Organic Carbon Linear decreasing rate for transition j to i (tC/ha*year) ERP-DR Monitoring Report presented the following information about emission factors: source of data; values applied in reference period; QA/QC procedures applied; and uncertainty associated with each emission factor. The source is Collection of information required for the Technical Correction of the Forest Reference Level of the Dominican Republic 2006-2015 (2021). The validation team conducted independent analysis of the information provided to confirm that the source data was reliable and appropriate. Additionally, the validation team judged that the methods to estimate these parameters were reasonable and appropriate. The validation team performed an independent check of the IPCC Guidance and Guidelines to ensure the parameters ensuring correctness. The validation team conducted independent data checks for each step necessary in the quantification of these parameters. Additionally, the validation team conducted an independent review of the literature cited in reference to each equation in the calculation procedure. The uncertainty associated with these parameters was independently calculated after a thorough review of the calculation spreadsheets; and the validation team reviewed and confirmed that the estimation of uncertainty was correct and without any error. The validation team reviewed the ER Monitoring Report and associated links to ensure that all data related to this parameter are made public.

Thus, AENOR confirms the sufficiency of quantity and appropriateness of quality of the evidence used to determine the Emission factors and later used in the GHG reductions and removals calculations, and also that the Emission Factors are compliant with the Methodological Framework and the IPCC Guidelines and Guidance.

4.9 Adjustments to the average annual historical emissions over the reference period

The Reference Level has not been adjusted in the average annual historical emissions regarding the conditions mentioned in Criterion 13 in ER-MR.

However, a technical correction was applied to the Reference Level. The provisional inclusion of the ER-PD into the portfolio of both Tranche A and Tranche B of the Carbon Fund was deemed approved upon fulfilment of the submission of a document to the FMT detailing any proposed additional technical corrections to be made to the Reference Level before the first verification. In September 2019, DR

presented a technical and methodological proposal responding to the conditions pointed out in resolution CFM/20/2019/5. The improvements achieved by the technical corrections to update the Reference Level for the period 2006-2015 are justified in the ER-MR, and AENOR validated that All the technical modifications are in line with paragraph 2 of the "Guideline on the application of the methodological framework Number 2: Technical corrections to GHG emissions and removals reported in the reference period". Technical corrections do not compromise the consistency of GHG emissions and removals estimates between the Reference Period and monitoring periods, as both calculations apply the improvements. None of the improvements relate to a change in policy and design decisions affecting the Reference Level. Carbon pools and gases, GHG sources, reference period, forest definition, REDD+ activities, Accounting Areas, forest types remain unchanged.

4.10 Estimated Reference Level

AENOR assessed the Reference Level for the ER Program for the Crediting Period and confirms that the Reference Level is materially accurate. AENOR confirms the relation, and its consistency, between the Reference Level, the development of the FREL/FRL submitted to the UNFCCC and the country's existing greenhouse gas inventory.

The results of the estimated Reference Level are as follows, according to ER Monitoring Report:

Crediting Period year <i>t</i>	Average annual historical emissions from deforestation over the Reference Period (tCO ₂ -e/yr)	Average annual historical emissions from forest degradation over the Reference Period (tCO ₂ -e/yr)	If applicable, average annual historical enhanced Removals from afforestation/reforestation (AR) (tCO ₂ -e/yr)	If applicable, average annual historical enhanced Removals from other activities besides A/R (tCO ₂ -e/yr)	Adjustment, if applicable (tCO ₂ -e/yr)	Reference level (tCO ₂ -e/yr)
2021	2,703,708	745,946	-1,840,160	-595.042	NA	1,014,451
2022	2,703,708	745,946	-1,840,160	-595.042	NA	1,014,451
2023	2,703,708	745,946	-1,840,160	-595.042	NA	1,014,451
2024	2,703,708	745,946	-1,840,160	-595.042	NA	1,014,451
<i>Total</i>	10,814,832	2,983,783	-7,360,640	-2,380,168	NA	4,057,803

4.11 Consistency of the Program's Reference Level with national FREL/FRL and GHG Inventory

AENOR confirms that ERP-DR' proposed Reference Level is consistent with the national FREL/FRL submitted to the UNFCCC and with the country's existing and future GHG inventory. To ensure consistency between the ERP Reference Level and the GHG Inventory (INGEI), the activity data and emission factors used in the RL were consistently applied with those used to estimate the net INGEl. In 2020 the Government presented the FREL/FRL to the UNFCCC, and to ensure consistency between with the ERP Reference Level, the first one was developed based on the information set out in the ER-PD.

Although some differences can be noted, all of them are measures that improve the accuracy of the Program's Reference Level. The differences were assessed and considered consistent and reasonable by AENOR and in conformance with indicators 10.2 and 10.3 of the MF.

4.12 Uncertainty of the Reference Level

4.12.1 Identification and assessment of sources of uncertainty

The Country Participant identified and assessed through a stepwise approach, the sources of uncertainty of the Reference Level in Activity Data (measurement, representativeness, sampling), Emission Factors (DBH measurement, H measurement, plot delineation, wood density estimation, biomass allometric model, sampling, and in other parameters such as Carbon Fraction, root-to-shoot ratios, etc.), as well as in Integration.

The validation team recalculated the uncertainty statistics independently to confirm the accuracy of the reported precision, reviewed assumptions and sources associated with parameters used in the quantification, and reviewed uncertainty of the Reference Level due to random and systematic errors. AENOR confirms that the sources of uncertainty are systematically identified and correctly assessed in the Reference Level, and addressed according to validation criteria, including the Guideline on the application of the Methodological Framework Number 4.

Additionally, AENOR confirms that there is an appropriate process for reducing uncertainty in the activity data and emission factors, where possible: systematic errors are minimized through the implementation of a consistent and comprehensive set of standard operating procedures, including a set of quality assessment and quality control processes; and random errors and other uncertainties are minimized to the extent practical based on the assessment of their relative contribution to the overall uncertainty of the emissions and removals.

4.12.2 Uncertainty of the estimate of the Reference Level

The Country Participant estimated the uncertainty of the Reference Level based on Monte Carlo analysis. A total of 10,000 iterations were calculated for the cumulative emissions of the reference period. The uncertainty estimate for the Reference Level strictly follows the guidelines of Approach 2: Monte Carlo simulation from 2006 IPCC Volume 1 General Guidance and Reporting Chapter 3 as well as the Guideline on the application of the Methodological Framework Number 4.

The validation team reviewed and confirmed that elements mentioned in section 4.12.1 related to the estimation of uncertainty for the Reference Level were all addressed in the provided Uncertainty spreadsheet. AENOR also confirmed that the estimations were correct and that the results matched the Reference Level included in the ER Monitoring Report. Therefore, AENOR concludes that the application of Monte Carlo simulation for the quantification of Uncertainty of the Reference Level was performed correctly and free of errors and misstatements.

4.12.3 Sensitivity analysis and identification of areas for improvement of the MRV system

In order to identify the relative contribution of each parameter to overall uncertainty, a sensitivity analysis was conducted by the Country Participant in which the uncertainty of each parameter was selectively removed prior to running Monte Carlo simulations and combining uncertainties.

AENOR confirms that uncertainty of AD and EF used in Reference Level setting and the monitoring period are quantified in a consistent way.

AENOR reviewed and confirmed that above-mentioned (section 4.12.1) elements related to the sensitivity analysis were all addressed in the provided calculation spreadsheets. The validation team also confirmed that the estimations were free of errors and the results matched the sensitivity analysis included in the ER Monitoring Report. Therefore, AENOR concludes that the sensitivity analysis was performed correctly.

4.13 Data quality and availability

The validation team reviewed the quality and descriptions of the data and reproduced calculations of the Reference Level as presented in the ER Monitoring Report and related documents and is able to confirm that the steps are described with enough detail to enable the reconstruction of the Reference Level.

Additionally, AENOR confirms that the main methodological steps, relevant spatial information, maps, or synthesized data, related to the Reference Level, and the reported emissions are documented and included in the monitoring report and made publicly available online. There is not a specific webpage to find together all the references, but along the ER Monitoring Report there are links and references that lead to the data, methods, and assumptions.

5. NON-COMPLIANCES AND OBSERVATIONS

To ensure conformance of the ER Program with all requirements set by the FCFC and the audit criteria (section 2.3), the validation team issued findings in accordance with section 11 of the VVG v2.7 in the following cases:

- **Major Corrective Action Request (MCAR):** i) the evidence provided to demonstrate conformity is insufficient, unclear, or not transparent and may lead to a material error, omission, or misstatement, and/or a breakdown in the systems delivery; ii) underlying assumptions used to develop the reported estimates are not supported by data; iii) material errors, omissions or misstatements have been made in applying assumptions, in data or calculations; or i) non-compliance with validation criteria.
- **Minor Corrective Action Requests (mCAR):** i) the evidence provided to demonstrate conformity is insufficient, unclear, or not transparent, but does not lead to a material error, omission, or misstatement, and/or a breakdown in the systems delivery; or ii) non-material errors, omissions or misstatements have been made in applying assumptions, in data or calculations;
- **Observations (OBS):** i) there is no objective evidence to prove that there is a non-conformity, but the VVB observes practices and/or methods that could result in future MCAR and mCAR; or ii) the VVB wishes to identify an area of the Forest Monitoring System that requires attention and/or adjustment in future monitoring and reporting.

The findings were submitted by the validation team in a single document, in which the Country Participant was able to offer answers to each of them and list supporting documents provided.

The Country Participant made the requested corrections and provided the validation team with updated versions of the ER Monitoring Report, which the validation team reassessed against the guidance documentation. The validation team either closed the opened findings when corrections, evidence and answers were satisfactory to comply with the audit criteria or asked for further corrections or clarifications. This process was repeated iteratively until all MCAR were suitably closed, as required by paragraph 62 of the VVG v2.7.

A total of 12 MCAR, 3 mCAR and 3 Observations were raised as part of the validation with extended scope process. All MCAR, and OBS were successfully addressed by the ER Program and closed by the VVB and only mCAR 03 is still open. There are no non-compliances pending for the subsequent crediting period. Appendix 1 includes the description of all findings issued and the inputs for their closure.

APPENDIX 1: OVERVIEW OF NON-COMPLIANCES & OBSERVATIONS ISSUED DURING THE VALIDATION BY THE VALIDATION TEAM

Non Conformities (NCs)

NC ID: Major	01	Date: 09/08/2023
Description of NC		
The presentation of values in the ER-MR, including those used for the calculation of emission reductions, is not in international standard format (e.g. 1,000 representing one thousand and 1.0 representing one), as the MR template requests.		
Project Participant response		Date: 14/09/2023
All numerical values have been revised to ensure that they comply with the international standard format.		
Documentation provided by the Project Participant		
VVB Assessment		Date: 28/09/2023
The PP has revised the numbers and updated the MR. Therefore, MCar 01 is closed		

NC ID: Major	02	Date: 09/08/2023
Description of NC		
1- Section MR 1.1 does not contain all the information requested in the MR template. 2- Same section does not include the information requested by Indicators 27.1 and 27.2.		
Project Participant response		Date: 14/09/2023
Although the finding raised by the auditor was not clear as it did not specify which information was missing, section 1.1 has been updated to include additional information covering the updates on the strategy to minimize displacement, and the effectiveness of the organizational arrangements and involved partner agencies.		
Documentation provided by the Project Participant		
VVB Assessment		Date: 28/09/2023

1. Section 1.1 has been updated to include all the sections indicated in the template.
2. The explanation of compliance with indicator 27.2 of the Methodological Framework is still missing in section 1.

Project Participant response
Date: 02/10/2023

Section 1.1 has been edited to summarize the currently planned ER Program measures to address the key drivers of deforestation and degradation

VVB Assessment
Date: 13/10/2023

Information regarding “planned ER Program Measures and how they address the key drivers and the entities that would undertake them” is now included in section 1.1. Note that the assessment of its compliance (indicator 27) is out of the VVB validation and verification scope.

Therefore, MCar 02 is closed

NC ID: Minor
03
Date: 09/08/2023
Description of NC

In section MR 1.2:

1- Subsection ‘Update on the strategy to mitigate and/or minimize potential Displacement’ would correspond to MR section 1.1, according to MR template instructions.

2- Sources of figures 1-1 and 1-2 are not provided.

Project Participant response
Date: 14/09/2023

The text covering the strategy to mitigate displacement has been moved to section 1.1. Also the sources of the figures have been included.

Documentation provided by the Project Participant
VVB Assessment
Date: 28/09/2023

The section has been updated.

Therefore, mCar 03 is closed

NC ID: Major
04
Date: 09/08/2023
Description of NC

Section MR 2.1 does not contain all the information requested in the MR template.

Project Participant response
Date: 14/09/2023

Although the finding raised by the auditor was not clear as it did not specify which information was missing, section 2.1 has been updated to include additional information covering the following topics:

- Selection and management of GHG related data and information
- Process for collecting, processing, consolidating and reporting GHG data and information
- Design and maintenance of the forest monitoring system
- Role of communities in the forest monitoring system

Documentation provided by the Project Participant

VVB Assessment

Date: 28/09/2023

Section 2.1 has been updated properly.

Therefore, Mcar 04 is closed

NC ID: Minor	05	Date: 09/08/2023
Description of NC		
1- Please, ensure that equations cited in sections MR 2.2.2, 3.1 and 3.2 are reflected in line diagram of section 2.2.1 (Figure 2-2).		
Project Participant response		Date: 14/09/2023
The line diagram of section 2.2.1 was updated reflecting the equations cited in sections 2.2.2, 3.1 and 3.2.		
Documentation provided by the Project Participant		
VVB Assessment		Date: 28/09/2023
The diagram was updated and now it is considered correct.		
Therefore, mCar 05 is closed		

NC ID: Major	06	Date: 09/08/2023
Description of NC		
In section MR 3.1 it is stated "with these three surveys a total of 573 plots were collected". However, the figure does not match the one in the source provided (Footnote 22: FREL-RD_FOREST-CarbonDensities_Tool_V6.xlsx.		
Project Participant response		Date: 14/09/2023

We confirm that the correct number is 573 plots. The footnote link refers to an outdated version of the Carbon Densities estimate tool, but it has since been updated to provide access to the final version (<https://app.box.com/s/x4dhc9qynotu4rwmn82mulysneirvrhv>).

Documentation provided by the Project Participant

VVB Assessment

Date: 28/09/2023

The VVB has reviewed the spreadsheet and considers that the value of 573 plots does match with the plots stated in the MR.

Therefore MCar 06 is closed

NC ID: Major

07

Date: 09/08/2023

Description of NC

Table 3-24 in MR section 3.2 includes a column that states "Area 2006-2015 (ha)". However, in the spreadsheet source and the table title, it is categorized as area of change 2019-2021.

Project Participant response

Date: 14/09/2023

The title in the area of change column in Table 3-24 in MR section 3.2 has been updated as the area of change 2019-2021.

Documentation provided by the Project Participant

VVB Assessment

Date: 28/09/2023

The chart has been updated and it is deemed correct.

Therefore MCar 07 is closed

NC ID: Major

08

Date: 09/08/2023

Description of NC

1- Throughout the MR, 7,697 Permanent Sampling Units are mentioned; however the sum of the plots broken down by land use type gives a result of 7,694 plots (as in Table a4.1).

2- Throughout the MR, 2,083 sampling points are mentioned; however the sum of the plots broken down by land use type gives a result of 2,043 plots (as in Table a4.2).

3- Throughout the MR, 573 plots are mentioned; however the sum of the plots broken down by land use type gives a result of 597 plots (as in Table 3-4 and 8-12).

Project Participant response

Date: 14/09/2023

1. We confirm that the Activity Data estimate for both the reference and monitoring periods is based on 7,697 Permanent Sampling Units. You can verify this information in the control

table found in the “Resumen FOLU” sheet in the Activity Data tools for both the monitoring and reference periods. The total number of points in this control table is 7,967. However, when validating the canopy cover change map from 2006-2015, only 7,694 points were used. The reason for this is that the remaining three points corresponded to no-data information in the canopy cover maps. A footnote was added in Annex 4 - Technical Corrections section for clarification.	
- The number of sampling plots mentioned in Annex 4 - Technical Correction Section has been updated to match the information in Table A4.2, which contains 2,043 sampling points. - We can confirm that the correct number of plots is 573, which can be cross-checked in the final edition of the Carbon Densities estimate tool available at https://app.box.com/s/x4dhc9qynotu4rwmn82mulysneirvrhv. There was an error in Tables 3-4 and 8-12 where it was mistakenly stated that there were 24 plots for Human settlements. However, it was assumed that the carbon density of Human settlements was the same as that of Grasslands. The indication of 24 plots for Human settlements has been removed from Tables 3-4 and 8-12. Therefore, the total number of plots is 573.	
Documentation provided by the Project Participant	
VVB Assessment	Date: 28/09/2023
- The information is deemed correct and the clarification is approved - The figure has been updated and deemed correct. - The tables have been updated and deemed correct. Therefore MCar 08 is closed	

NC ID: Major	09	Date: 09/08/2023
Description of NC		
In section MR 4.1 it is stated “The Reporting Period starts on March 1st and ends on December 31st, 2021; therefore, the pro-rata's factor is 0.84”, which is not correct. On the other hand, while in Table 4.1 the monitoring period (first column) indicates 2021; however, 2021 is not the monitoring period and the pro-rata factor has not been applied in the values of the Table. Please, for clarify indicate the values for the Reporting period and the Monitoring period.		
Project Participant response		Date: 14/09/2023
The Reporting Period runs from March 1st to December 31st, 2021. Meanwhile, the Monitoring Period started on January 1st, 2019, and ended on December 31st, 2021. A pro-rata factor was used to adjust the Emission Reductions calculation for the Monitoring Period. This factor was only applied to Emission Reductions produced during 2021, since annual net emissions were computed (due to the availability of change dates) for the Monitoring Period, despite having data covering the period 2019-2021. By dividing the total days of the Reporting Period (305) by the number of days in 2021 (365), a 0.84 factor was obtained. Section 4.1 has been updated with a clarification and the corresponding Table has been revised to include all the years monitored.		
Documentation provided by the Project Participant		

VVB Assessment	Date: 28/09/2023
The section has been updated and it is deemed correct. The clarification provided is deemed correct. Therefore MCar 09 is closed	

NC ID: Major	10	Date: 09/08/2023
Description of NC		
In section MR 4.3 it is stated “Monitoring period starts January 1st and ends December 31st, 2021”; however, that is not correct.		
Project Participant response		Date: 14/09/2023
Similar to the above response, the Reporting Period runs from March 1st to December 31st, 2021. Meanwhile, the Monitoring Period started on January 1st, 2019, and ended on December 31st, 2021. A pro-rata factor was used to adjust the Emission Reductions calculation for the Monitoring Period. This factor was only applied to Emission Reductions produced during 2021, since annual net emissions were computed for the Monitoring Period. By dividing the total days of the Reporting Period (305) by the number of days in 2021 (365), a 0.84 factor was obtained. Section 4.3 has been updated with a clarification.		
Documentation provided by the Project Participant		
VVB Assessment		Date: 28/09/2023
The section has been updated and it is deemed correct. Hence MCar 10 is closed		

NC ID: Major	11	Date: 09/08/2023
Description of NC		
In section MR 5.2 it is stated “Twenty-one values for the Reference Period”; however, according to the sources provided, values are twenty-two.		
Project Participant response		Date: 14/09/2023
Text in section 5.2 has been updated as follows “Twenty-two values for the Reference Period”.		
Documentation provided by the Project Participant		
VVB Assessment		Date: 28/09/2023

Section updated and deemed correct.

Therefore, MCar 11 is closed

NC ID: Major	12	Date: 09/08/2023
Description of NC		
Footnote 91 links to a Buffer Guidelines that is not the updated one (Version 3.1 May 2022). Please, correct the link and ensure the content complies with the most updated version of the Buffer Guidelines.		
Project Participant response		Date: 14/09/2023
Footnote 91 presented in page 69 has no link to the Buffer Guidelines. It is footnote 99 the one that included the link to an outdated version of the document. The link has been updated.		
Documentation provided by the Project Participant		
VVB Assessment		Date: 28/09/2023
In the version reviewed by the VVB it was footnote 91. The link has been updated, however, the title of the reference is still referring the buffer guidelines (2015)		
Project Participant response		Date: 02/10/2023
The title of the reference has been adjusted to clarify that the current applicable version of the Buffer Guidelines is from 2022		
VVB Assessment		Date: 13/10/2023
The title of the reference in footnote 99 has been corrected. Therefore, MCar is closed		

NC ID: Major	13	Date: 09/08/2023
Description of NC		
In section MR Annex 4: 7.1, values for Emissions from deforestation and Emissions from forest degradation in Table A4-7 0 1 do not match the spreadsheet.		
Project Participant response		Date: 14/09/2023
The values for all sources and sinks in Table A4-7-0-1 have been updated to reflect the estimates made in the Emission Reduction calculation tool.		
Documentation provided by the Project Participant		

VVB Assessment	Date: 28/09/2023
The values have been updated and they are deemed correct. Therefore, MCar 13 is closed	

NC ID: Major	14	Date: 09/08/2023
Description of NC		
According to the MF 6.1 and 6.2 indicators, the ER-MR (sections MR 2.2, 3, 4.2, Annex 4: 8.3, 9.1) shall mention if key data and methods for building the Reference Level and monitoring period have been made public. If this information has not been made public, explain why.		
Project Participant response		Date: 14/09/2023
The data and methods used to create the Reference Level and monitor emissions have been publicly shared in the ER-MR report available on the FCPF website (https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/sites/default/files/documents/domrep_er_mr_2020_ver03_ghg_accounting_final.pdf). The report includes links that provide unrestricted access to all data and calculation tools.		
Documentation provided by the Project Participant		
VVB Assessment		Date: 28/09/2023
The clarification is deemed correct. Therefore, MCar 14 is closed		

NC ID: minor	15	Date: 28/11/2023
Description of NC		

According to MF v3:

- Indicator 37.2: A national REDD+ Programs and Projects Data Management System or a third party centralized REDD+ Programs and Projects Data Management System needs to provide the attributes of ER Programs, including:
 - i. The entity that has Title to ERs produced;
 - ii. Geographical boundaries of the ER Program or project;
 - iii. Scope of REDD+ activities and Carbon Pools; and
 - iv. The Reference Level used.

An ER Program for the Carbon Fund shall report its activities and estimated ERs in a manner that conforms to the relevant FCPF Methodological Framework C&Is.

- Indicator 37.3: The information contained in a national or centralized REDD+ Programs and Projects Data Management System is available to the public via the internet in the national official language of the host country (other means may be considered as required).

However, DR' DMS access is not currently public (restricted access to general public). On the other hand, the content does not include information regarding indicator 37.2.i (related to the information provided in section '6.1 Ability to transfer title' of the ER-MR).

Project Participant response

Date: DD/MM/YYYY

Documentation provided by the Project Participant

VVB Assessment

Date: 08/04/2025

In November 2024 the VVB has reviewed this finding again, and after one year from the issue, the Country has not provided response yet.

Nevertheless, in April 2025, the Country Participant has already updated the MR with the corresponding response.

The new information is deemed correct, and hence, this finding is closed.

mCar 15 is closed

Observations (OBSs)

Obs ID:

01

Date: 09/08/2023

Description of the OBS

The MR Table of Content contains format errors.

Project Participant response

Date: 14/09/2023

The table of contents has been updated.	
Documentation provided by the Project participant	
VVB Assessment	Date: 28/09/2023
The index is still having some errors. Specifically in section 4.1. Complementary the size of the index according to the template is 11.	
Project Participant response	Date: 02/10/2023
The index and its font size have been adjusted	
VVB Assessment	Date: 13/10/2023
The table of contents was corrected. Therefore, OBS 01 is closed	

Obs ID:	02	Date: 09/08/2023
Description of the OBS		
In section MR 5.2, table “Parameters and assumptions used in the Monte Carlo method”, “Removal factors” row, it is stated “See all values in the Carbon Densities calculation tool ‘CarbonDensities’ Sheet cells G45..G62”. However, cells are G45-G52.		
Project Participant response		Date: 14/09/2023
Text in section 5.2 has been updated as follows “See all values in the Carbon Densities calculation tool ‘CarbonDensities’ Sheet cells G45..G52”.		
Documentation provided by the Project participant		
VVB Assessment		Date: 28/09/2023
The section has been updated. Therefore OBS 02 is closed		

Obs ID:	03	Date: 09/08/2023
Description of the OBS		

1- Please, use the same Font as in the rest of the MR.

2- Note that the Table is not in section 8.

3- Please, delete instructions.

Project Participant response

Date: 14/09/2023

2. The Font has been standardized

2. Section 8 has been adjusted

3. All instructions of the body of the report and annex 4 have been removed

Documentation provided by the Project participant

VVB Assessment

Date: 28/09/2023

The observation is considered updated and correct.

Therefore OBS 03 is closed

APPENDIX 2: EVIDENCE PROVIDED BY COUNTRY PARTICIPANT AND REVIEWED BY AENOR

Title
Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Carbon Fund ER Monitoring Report (ER-MR): fcpf_DomRep_ER_MR_2020_16 oct 23_clean
Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Carbon Fund ER Program Document (ER-PD): Version ERPD 14-08-2019 Uncertainty correction-Trend in Ref level_rev
Signed Contract ERPA
Database of visual interpretation of hi-res imagery to determine land-use change activity data during the reference and monitoring periods (Propuesta Protocolo version 2 de EVM RB Junio-2019 rev LA TP3-GO.docx, ArchivoCEP, ArchivosCSV_Malla7k_2001-2018, ArchivosFinalesDatosRefRD)
NFI database used to estimate carbon densities (Base Estadística INF-RD 2018 CALCULOS (Fase I y II) VERSIÓN SEPTIEMBRE 2019.xlsx, Forest Degradacion Biomass Plots.xlsx, ForestBiomassPlotsData.xlsx, Inventario_Nacional_Forestal_Rep_Dominicana.pdf, NT9_Dominicana_InventarioNacionalForestalMultipropsitodeRepblicaDominicana2015-2015-2.pdf, PROTOCOLO PARA EL CONTROL DE CALIDAD INF-RD.pdf)
Database of the 32 additional sampling plots used to estimate carbon densities (Lukeinvestment_Informe_Final_09_12_2021.docx, NEW_ FORMULARIO DE DIGITACION INMF R. DOMINICANA 2021_Revisado.xlsx, Resultados 32_UM_15 Nov 2021.xlsx)
Non-Forest Biomass Inventory database used to estimate carbon densities (BD_Republica_Dominicana_23jul2018.xlsx, InvBiomasaNoBosque.shp, InvBiomasaNoBosque_Suelos.csv, Inventario Biomasa No Bosque Estimaciones totales e incertidumbres 291018.xlsx, MANUAL DE CAMPO INVENTARIO DE BIOMASA Y CARBONO EN SISTEMAS NO BOSQUE 25.10.17.docx, NonForestBiomassPlotsData.xlsx)
Database used to estimate carbon densities (CarbonDensities_Tool.xlsx)
Activity Data (DatosDeActividad_PR.xlsx, DatosDeActividad_PM.xlsx)
Excel tool used to estimate the canopy cover change category determination uncertainty by the bootstrap method and Error of Tree Canopy Cover change (IncertidumbreDoseIRDv3.xlsx)
Database of SOC sampling plot data used to estimate the SOC linear decreasing rate estimate: Database of SOC before and after conversion (Resultados COS 130 UM.xlsx), Final database used to estimate average SOC before and after conversion (COS_EFV2.xlsx)
SOC Emission Factor calculation tool (COS_EF.xlsx)
Uncertainty calculation tool (EstimacionIncertidumbre.xlsx)
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Document information

Version	Date	Description
1.0	03-Nov-2023	Final report version after Internal Technical Review.
1.1	10-Nov-2023	Corrections after ITR
1.2	18-Nov-2024	Review of the report after communications with the WB
1.3	08-Apr-2025	Final report after DMS updates
1.4	29-Apr-2025	Update after FMT review

