Core Standards					
No.	**Issue**	**Criteria**	**Main Standard**	**Top Standard**	**Verification Category & Metric**
A1	**PLANNING A PROJECT** Do you have a project plan? / Type of project	A1.1 Existence of a project with clear objectives adapted to the social, economic and environmental context of landscape.	The project is developed according to the local context (social and biological) and site conditions. It has a written plan with clear goals, objectives and the work is aligned with them.	Holistic land use planning and spatial prioritization approach to ensure native forest continue to regrow and not compromising other productive activities	VERIFIED Copy of the plan, questionnaire or interview with the project leaders
	What is the original problem / is the cause of degradation solved?	A1.2 Underlying drivers and root causes of deforestation or degradation	Work in place to address drivers of deforestation or degradation in the project area	Degradation cause eliminated in the project area and work in place to address drivers of deforestation or degradation in the community or surroundings of the project area.	PLAUSIBILITY CHECK Questionnaire and site visit
	Who is implementing the project?	A1.3 Type of organization	Registered as: Non-profit organization Cooperative Community groups organization Other		VERIFIED Registration certificate / registration number
	Land tenure	A1.4 Agreement on land tenure If buying; payment for land	Land tenure clearly defined and without conflicts. No land dispossession to local/indigenous communities. If buying land, fair payment and by will of local owners.		VERIFIED Copy of land tenure contract / Agreement / Letter of Intention
	Does the community support the project?	A1.5 Community approval	No current conflict between the community and the project implementation	Community initiated the project.	SELF-REPORTED Questionnaire
	IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT Who is involved in project implementation?	A1.6 Community	Working with community, women, and indigenous groups (if applicable). At least 1/3 of women working in the project	Working with a diverse selection of community members in the project, for ex. women, youth, etc.	SELF-REPORTED Questionnaire Code of Ethics
		A1.7 Community involvement	Community is involved in the implementation of the project.	Community has been involved since the planning phase of the project.	PLAUSIBILITY CHECK Questionnaire and site visits

	MONITORING Reviews	A1.8 On-site visits	Full access on-site to reviewers and observers		VERIFIED Site visits

Social & Financial Standards					
No.	**Issue**	**Criteria**	**Main Standard**	**Top Standard**	**Verification Category & Metric**
C7	**PLANNING THE PROJECT** How does the project affect the community?	C7.1 Respect of cultural and daily livelihoods	No significant affects to livelihood, or any cultural or subsistence requirements of the community due to project implementation		PLAUSIBILITY CHECK Questionnaire / site visits Minimum needs for security protection of the area (human threats)
	Land tenure	C7.2 Land rights	Landholders have full rights on the management and use of the trees according to their needs and interests. Project should ensure technical support to landholders so that they can do a sustainable use of resources		SELF-REPORTED Questionnaire
C8	**IMPLEMENTING THE PROJECT** Who is involved in project implementation?	C8.1 Community involvement	Direct benefits to the community that improve their livelihood (social and economically)	Some local people have leadership roles or are involved in the decision making process.	SELF-REPORTED Questionnaire Agreement / Code of Ethics
		C8.2 Benefit access	Ensure equal access to the benefits	Marginalized people are also getting benefits from the project, specially if they are working on the project	
		C8.3 # Jobs created / % of local people working	Involve as many locals as much as possible in the project (for ex. in monitoring, prunning, maintenance and in achieve awareness)		SELF-REPORTED Questionnaire
	Local / Economic benefits	C8.4 Salary [5]	Minimum wages above country poverty line		SELF-REPORTED Agreement / Code of Ethics
		C8.5 Worker rights / benefits Training / other services	Healthcare, social security provided based on country situations		
		C8.6 Funding allocation between groups overseeing/implementing the project	Funds shared appropiatelly between the projects groups	At least 70% of funds for implementing group	
		C8.7 Livelihood improvement for long-term sustainabillity	The project is helping diversifying/increase the income options (not only related to trees) or improving livelihood of the community to ensure long-term sustainability	Promote community empowerment and develop or support the creation of new income generation models appart from the project itself, such as agroforestry value chains	PLAUSIBILITY CHECK Questionnaire / site visits
C9	**ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE** Economic viability of the project	C9.1 Independence sustainability	The project has a diversity of funding sources to ensure sustainability		SELF-REPORTED Questionnaire
	Project assurance	C9.2 Economical assurance/ exit strategy		Clear actions / process in case the NGO runs out of funding / shuts down	SELF-REPORTED Questionnaire

Biological Standards					
No.	**Issue**	**Criteria**	**Main Standard**	**Top Standard**	**Verification Category & Metric**
C2	**PLANNING A PROJECT** Where is the project located? – What are the current conditions?	C2.1 Original ecosystem type	Ensuring species growing are accordant to the original ecosystem type, mainly dominated by native species. If there is planting of trees implemented, not having negative effects to the ecosystem.	Only native species accordant to the original ecosystem type are growing in the area.	VERIFIED Evaluation of vegetation present at site before the project starts (i.e., List of plant species present, number of regenerants, soil condition, general description of site and surrounding landscape).
		C2.2 Vegetation present in the area	Make a mapping of the landscape were the project will work in order to have an assesment of the regeneration potential in the area before starting. If soil degradation is a limitant for ANR, ensure to focus on the implementation of the necessary methods for its improvement and restoration to ensure saplings can germinate and grow there, before taking other actions. If soil degradation is not limiting the grow of species, improvement techniques such as SWC (Soil Water Conservation), trenches, mulching, percolation pits, etc can be implemented together with ANR and/or tree planting		
		C2.3 Project context	Know the site history to understand the degradation causes and drivers of deforestation (when, why, how)		SELF-REPORTED Questionnaire
		C2.4 Size and connectivity of the area	Tree cover (forest reserves or conserved patches) close to the regenerating area or at least ensure presence of adult desired species in the vicinity to ensure seed sources availability. If there's seed dispersal limitation the project should adapt other strategies to enable regeneration.	Working in areas that connect remnants of native ecosystem or Working in endangered ecosystems	PLAUSABILITY CHECK Questionaire and field visit
C3	**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT** Is the site suitable for natural regeneration? Is natural regeneration enough?	C3.1 Number of regenerating plants	Regenerating seedlings required will vary based on objectives, distribution, species composition, soil fertility, rain, etc. but the project should be aware that they are present at adequate/sufficiently high densities or there should be an adequate input of seeds (seed bank assessment) from surrounding areas[1] in order to make the project feaseable	Projects have done a census of the area and they have an assessment of the number of regenerants. If it's of interest, they are marked and species have been identified.	PLAUSABILITY CHECK Questionaire and field visit
		C3.2 Species diversity	Species should be based on the original ecosystem type and mimicking the natural succession process *Donations by the platform should be restricted to allow restoration of native trees. Planting of exotic species is allowed using other resources		VERIFIED Questionnaire and site visit

		C3.3 Approach complementarity	Productivity activities should be allowed to improve livelihoods and complementary interventions/approaches (such as tree planting, percolation pits, soil recovery methods, etc) should be implemented in case natural regeneration alone is not enough.		VERIFIED Questionnaire and site visit
C4	**MAINTEINANCE** Ensuring natural regeneration	C4.1 Regeneration barriers	At least the main barrier(s) to natural succesion/regeneration, should be removed or work to reduce it is in place. Barriers are defined as anything that prevents seedlings from growing, such as competition or disturbances like grass, cattle, insects, pests, fires, unsustainable harvesting, etc. [1]		VERIFIED Questionnaire and site visit
		C4.2 Invasive species (if already present in the ecosystem)	If invasive species in the area could arrest the Natural Regeneration process, the project should be working to suppress them. Invasive alien species (IAS) are species introduced into places outside their natural range that have negative impacts on native biodiversity [2] *Planting of invasive species is not allowed. If there is an already present invasive species useful for the community, the project can maintain it (but not plant more) if special measures to avoid spreading or damages to the ecosystem are being applied.	For areas where Natural regeneration has started more than 5 years ago, invasive species should not be dominating the landscape.	VERIFIED Questionnaire and site visit
		C4.3 Prunning	Prunning is allowed but the right technique should be used to ensure the continous growth or re-growth of the trees (not prunning to high in the tree, cutting side branches, but not all leaves) In FMNR prunning of trees and seedlings is suggested to encourage accelerated growth every 2-3months.		PLAUSABILITY CHECK Questionnaire
C5	**MONITORING [3],[4]** Reporting and reviews	C5.1 Monitoring	Do regular follow-ups to effectively supervise the project and the areas, particularly in the early stages. Perform annual monitoring plots to check on the change in the composition and structure of the sites for at least 5 years	Do timely, regular follow-ups to effectively supervise the project and the areas during the whole project. Perform annual monitoring plots for at least 10 years.	PLAUSABILITY CHECK Questionnaire and site visits
		C5.2 Reporting	Publish annual statistics on: - Area restored, including shapefile (GeoJson or KML of the working area) - Species composition /richness - Succession mimic Note: this standard can be fulfilled using the free TreeMapper tool, but other tools are accepted - Provide an annual confirmation of the use of funds	Publish annual statistics, including data collection methodology, on: - Vegetation cover - Functional groups diversity - Community engagement - Fauna monitoring or other indicators	VERIFIED TreeMapper or annual reports Annual confirmation

C6	**CONSERVATION ASSURANCE** How long are plants/sites secure?	C6.1 Self-sustainability of the project	The project areas should have a commitment regarding the long-term management of the land, in order to maintain or increase the tree number in the areas for at least 20 years.	The project has defined protection measures for the ecoystem in the long-term to ensure that the trees are conserved forever	PLAUSABILITY CHECK Questionnaire and site visits
			The project should be working to encourage a mindset change in the community to ensure the long-term success of the project		PLAUSABILITY CHECK Questionnaire and site visits
	How do you protect the sites (if necessary)?	C6.2 Areas protection (fires, animal threats, cattle, humans, etc)	Identify the threats of the area and take actions/have a plan to prevent the main/most important of them	Take actions to control/ prevent all of the threats identified	VERIFIED Site visits

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[1] FAO. 2019. Restoring forest landscapes through assisted natural regeneration (ANR) – A practical manual. Bangkok. 52pp

[2] IUCN. 2018. Invasive Alien Species and sustainable development. *Issues Brief.* International Union for Conservation of Nature (online)

[3] Moonlight PW, Banda-R K, Philips OL, et al. (2021): Expanding tropical forest monitoring into Dry Forests: The DRYFLOR protocol for permanent plots. Plants, People, Planet. 2021;3: 295-300. https://doi.org/10.1002/ppp3.10112

[4] Elliott, S., & Wangpakapattanawong, P. (2012). GUIDELINES FOR MONITORING ASSISTED NATURAL REGENERATION.

[5] Global Change Data Lab (2021): National poverty line https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/national-poverty-lines-vs-gdp-per-capita?tab=table

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