REDD Estimated Rating

WHITEPAPER

Sylvera

Executive Summary

This document details the Estimated Rating framework logic for the REDD project type.

REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) projects are initiatives aimed at protecting forests by creating financial incentives for reducing emissions caused by deforestation and degradation. These projects often include conservation, sustainable land management, and community engagement to promote both climate benefits and local livelihoods. This white paper explains how we provide an estimation of the Rating range a project would receive based on select few, material data points provided by the project and benchmarked against Sylvera-provided data.

This contains a **description** of each component used in the assessment, **scoring logic** which breaks down the rules used to derive a quality score for each component, and **data inputs** where these are used in specific tests.

It is important to note that Estimated Ratings are not reviewed by a Ratings Committee, are not monitored after delivery and do not involve any proactive developer engagement. Full due diligence aided by our Ratings is encouraged prior to an investment decision.

Integrity Risk

Range

Description

The Estimated Rating is based on selected, key data points, surfaced in the assessment, which are the core drivers of the equivalent scoring in our Ratings. The range provided is an estimation of what Rating a project may achieved based on the key information, it is not an exhaustive analysis nor a guarantee.

Scoring Logic

The Estimated Rating range is calculated by evaluating each pillar **Carbon Accounting**, **Additionality** and **Permanence** scores separately and mapping these against the Ratings matrices for that project type framework (see user guide). A **Safeguarding and Co-Benefits** is also calculated. This is leveraging our estimated scores as limiting factors on the Rating, and therefore the upper and lower bound set by those limiting factors are combined on the final Ratings matrix to triangulate the Estimated Rating range.

The Estimated Rating range provided is based on limited inputs about the project's design and reporting where applicable. The inputs were selected based on known materiality for project integrity but will not capture all project nuance. Thus, the range is a prediction of where the project Rating will fall but this is not a guarantee and should not be used to underpin any investment decisions.

Notes:

At the component level - higher scores indicate lower risk (5 = very low risk; 1 = very high risk).

Carbon Accounting

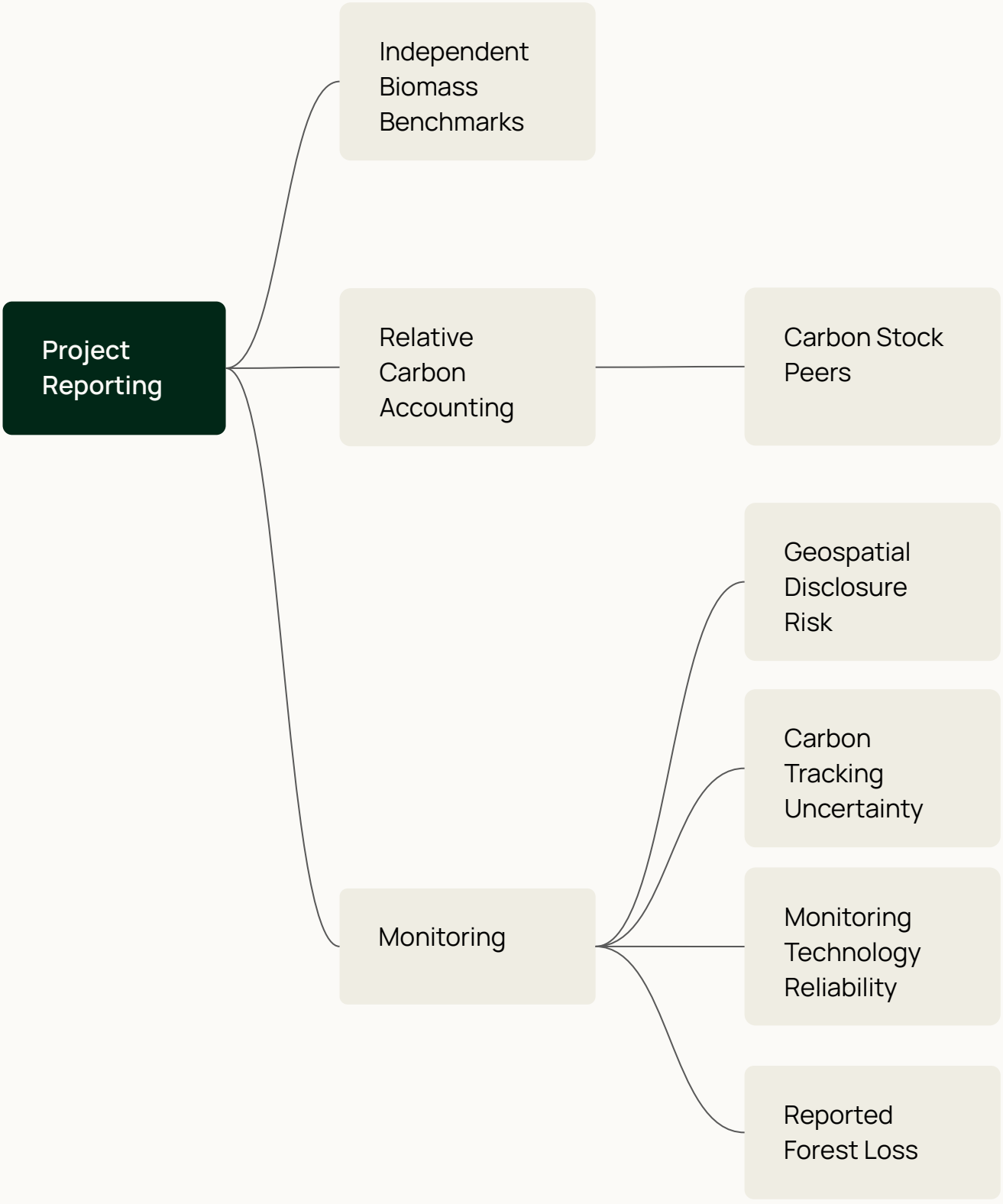
Description

Carbon accounting refers to the methods, assumptions and reporting of the project related to carbon fluxes on the ground which are ultimately used to calculate the credit volumes. Accurate carbon accounting is essential to minimizing over crediting risk.

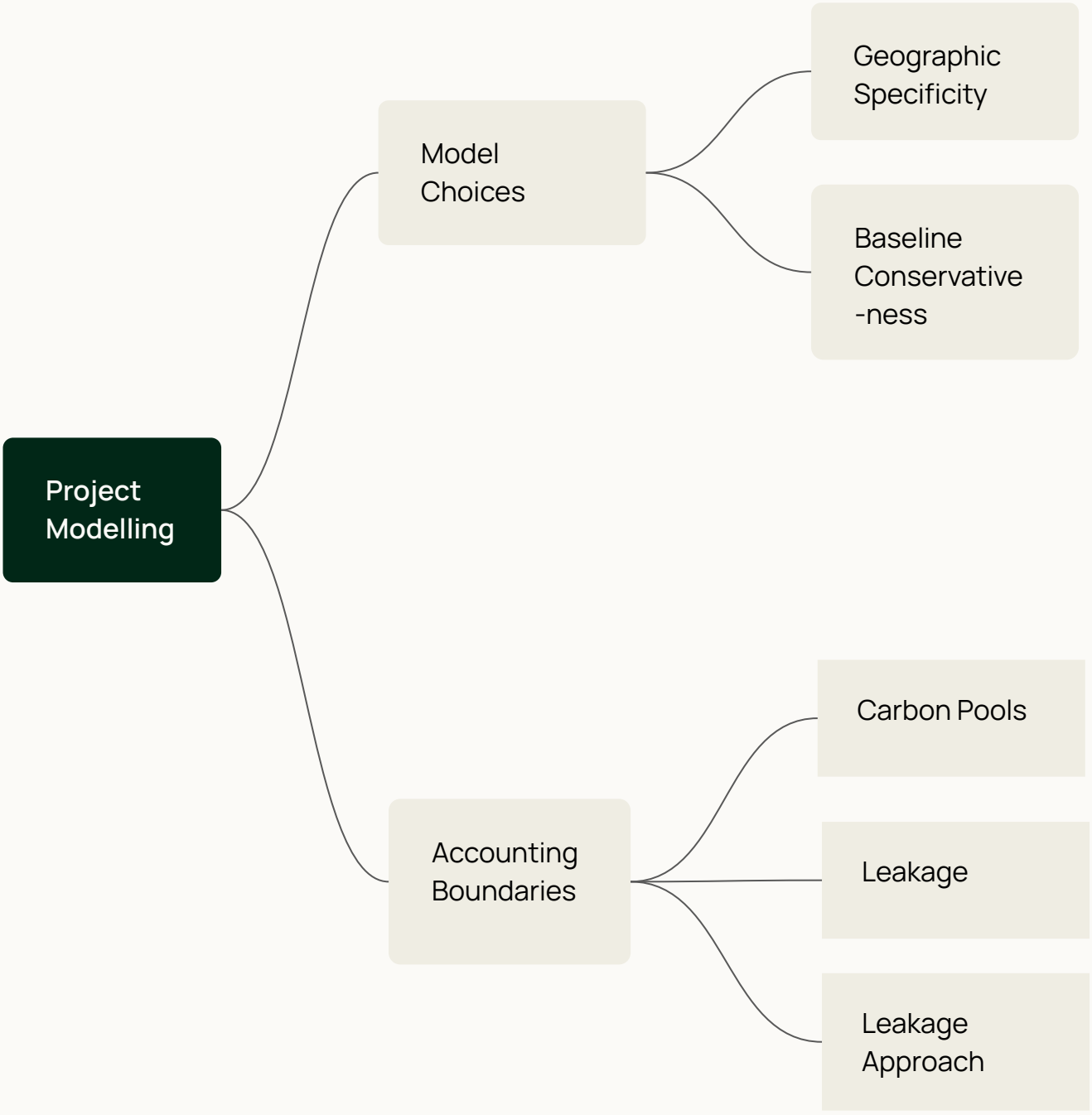
Scoring Logic

The **Carbon Accounting** score is calculated by averaging the **Project Modelling** and **Project Reporting** components.

Carbon Accounting



Carbon Accounting



Project Reporting

CARBON ACCOUNTING

Description

The thoroughness, transparency and methods of project documentation and disclosure. The outcome of the selected methods for reporting carbon removals benchmarked against other projects can indicate likelihood of over-crediting risk.

Scoring Logic

The Project Reporting score is calculated by taking the lower of **Relative Carbon Accounting Benchmarks** and **Monitoring,** and then averaging that with **Independent Biomass Benchmarks**. This approach ensures that weaknesses in either conservative benchmarking or monitoring quality reduce the overall reporting score.

Independent Biomass Benchmarks Pt.1

CARBON ACCOUNTING – PROJECT REPORTING

Description

Comparing the project's reported carbon stock against Sylvera's observed geospatial biomass data of similar projects. High reported values when compared to peers can suggest a lack of accuracy in the project's activity reporting and/or a lack of conservativeness in the carbon quantification assumptions, increasing the risk of over-crediting.

Scoring Logic

Benchmarking is done by creating a peer group of projects with similar characteristics, based on a characterization of activities conducted.

Compare a project reported carbon value *Initial Carbon Stock (tCO2e)* with a range (derived from Sylvera's observed geospatial biomass data) from a peer group of projects. The reported value is compared to the distribution of peer project values in the narrowest peer group Possible.

- Initial carbon stock falls within the top 25% of peer group values – high risk.
- Initial carbon stock within the middle 50% of peer
- group values – moderate risk.
- Initial carbon stock within the lower 25% of peer group values – low risk.

Independent Biomass Benchmarks Pt.2

Data Inputs

Input name	Description	Dropdown Options
Initial Carbon Stock (tCO2e)	Reported carbon stock value at the start of the project. Values are converted by Sylvera if reported in different units.	Initial Carbon Stock (tCO2e)
Sylvera Benchmark Biomass Distribution	Benchmark biomass values observed by Sylvera in a range of projects with similar characteristics to the target project.	Sylvera Benchmark Biomass Distribution

Relative Carbon Accounting Benchmarks

Description

Standardised estimated annual carbon dioxide reductions (tCO2/ha/yr) represent the average crediting claimed per year, adjusted for the size of the project. This component compares project outcomes against transparent, independent benchmarks to test conservatism in reported reductions, reported removals, and overall crediting.High values when compared to peers can suggest a lack of accuracy in the project's activity reporting and/or a lack of in the carbon quantification assumptions, increasing the risk of over-crediting.

Scoring Logic

The **Relative Carbon Accounting Benchmarks** score is based on the **Carbon Stock Peers** component.

Carbon Stock Peers

CARBON ACCOUNTING – PROJECT REPORTING – RELATIVE CARBON ACCOUNTING BENCHMARKS

Description

Comparing the project's reported carbon stock against a range of reported carbon stock values in similar projects. High reported values when compared to peers can suggest a lack of accuracy in the project's activity reporting and/or a lack of conservativeness in the carbon quantification assumptions, increasing the risk of over-crediting.

Scoring Logic

Benchmarking is done by creating a peer group of projects with similar characteristics: methodology, region, species distribution, etc.

- Initial carbon stock falls within the top 25% of peer group values – high risk.
- Initial carbon stock falls within the middle 50% of peer group values – moderate risk
- Initial carbon stock falls within the lower 25% of peer group values – low risk.

Data Inputs

Input name	Description	Dropdown Options
Initial Carbon Stock (tCO2e)	Reported carbon stock value at the start of the project.	Initial Carbon Stock (tCO2e)
Sylvera Benchmark Biomass Distribution	Benchmark biomass values observed by Sylvera in a range of projects with similar characteristics to the target project.	Sylvera Benchmark Biomass Distribution

Monitoring

CARBON ACCOUNTING – PROJECT REPORTING

Description

Certainty of the project's reported carbon values and the ability to independently verify them are critical to constraining the accuracy of credit quantification. Greater uncertainty increases the likelihood of over-crediting.

Scoring Logic

The Monitoring score is calculated by averaging **Monitoring Technology Reliability**, **Geospatial Disclosure Risk**, **Proxy Area Disclosure** and **Reported Forest Loss**. If data for one factor is missing, the calculation uses the available factors only.

Monitoring Technology Reliability

Description

The dependability and precision of tools (e.g., remote sensing, field measurement devices) used to track carbon and environmental indicators. Reliable and scalable technology boosts data accuracy.

Scoring Logic

The Monitoring technology reliability score is calculated by considering the maturity and validation status of the monitoring technologies and datasets; more robust, well-validated systems result in a higher score. Take the highest score from:

- Remote sensing → very low risk
- In-person sampling → neutral risk
- Digital sampling → neutral risk
- No information → neutral risk
- Self-reporting → very high risk

Data Inputs

Input name	Description	Dropdown Options
Project monitoring approach	How the project is monitoring/plans to monitor progress in the project area.	Remote sensing; In-person sampling; Digital sampling; Self-reporting; No information;

Geospatial Disclosure Risk

CARBON ACCOUNTING – PROJECT REPORTING – MONITORING

Description

The transparency and precision of location-specific data, which is critical for validating project activities and ensuring environmental integrity.

Scoring Logic

The Geospatial Disclosure Risk score assesses the completeness, validity, and accessibility of geospatial files required for project evaluation. More complete and verifiable disclosure indicates lower risk.

- Yes – geospatial files provided → very low risk
- No – but high-quality maps are provided → neutral risk
- No – and no high-quality maps are provided → very high risk

Data Inputs

Input name	Description	Dropdown Options
Boundary Availability	Whether a spatial file of the project boundaries has been provided, and if not whether there are clear maps instead (which could potentially be digitised).	Yes - Boundary file provided; No - High quality maps provided; No - No high quality maps provided

Proxy Area Disclosure

CARBON ACCOUNTING – PROJECT REPORTING – MONITORING

Description

Proxy or reference areas are areas outside of the project area that act as a baseline for the project. The disclosure of the areas indicate systematic and transparent monitoring and calculation of the project's impact.

Scoring Logic

The Proxy/Reference Area Availability score evaluates how projects establish reference points for deforestation risk, which affects the robustness of baseline setting and the potential for over-crediting.

- Proxy/reference areas are not disclosed and modelling alone is used → very high risk: This creates significant over-crediting risk since deforestation rates cannot be independently verified.
- Proxy/reference areas are available and transparently disclosed → neutral risk: Independent examination of deforestation rates is possible, lowering uncertainty about over-crediting risk.
- Jurisdictional baseline methodology applied → very low risk: Reliance on jurisdictional risk maps prevents project-level selection of reference areas and reduces over-crediting risk.

Data Inputs

Input name	Description	Dropdown Options
Proxy/Reference Area availability	Does the project documentation display the reference or proxy areas used by the project?	Yes; No (Jurisdictional Baseline); No (Modelling used);

Reported Forest Loss

Description

Assessing the likelihood of reported forest loss through benchmarking serves as a proxy for conservative and accurate carbon accounting, as some forest loss is expected in REDD projects. Projects can still maintain high integrity if forest loss remains below a conservative baseline.

Scoring Logic

Some degree of loss is expected, so failing to report it may indicate non-conservative accounting, while reporting excessive losses may indicate weak project performance.

- High risk: No reporting or accounting for project emissions from forest loss. This is potentially non-conservative and inaccurate, since some degree of loss is usually expected.
- Moderate risk: Project reports and accounts for forest loss emissions, but at relatively significant levels (>10%). This indicates transparency but also signals risk to achieving long-term mitigation success.
- Very low risk: Project reports and accounts for some emissions from forest loss at low levels (between 0 and 10%) This suggests conservative and transparent accounting, lowering the risk of over-crediting.

Data Inputs

Input name	Description	Dropdown Options
Total deforestation (ha) reported	The reported total deforestation experienced in the project area to date (in the monitoring period)	N/A

Project Modelling

CARBON ACCOUNTING

Description

The carbon-related modelling choices made by a project include what model the project uses and what the model includes. This can influence the accuracy of the carbon accounting and ultimately overcrediting risk.

Scoring Logic

Scoring the project on the basis of how it choices to approach carbon quantification. The Project Modelling score is calculated by averaging **Model Choices** and **Accounting Boundaries (inclusions/exclusions).**

Model Choices

Description

There are many different approaches that involve different models for quantifying carbon, which have strengths and weaknesses based on the appropriateness for the project-specific activities. Therefore, the choice of model can impact the accuracy of the carbon accounting.

Scoring Logic

The score is calculated as the average of the **Geographic Specificity of Modelling Assumptions** score and the **Baseline Conservativeness** score.

Geographic Specificity of Modelling Assumptions

Pt.1

CARBON ACCOUNTING – PROJECT MODELLING – MODEL CHOICES

Description

The degree to which the project's model inputs reflect local terrain, climate, and ecological conditions based on location. High specificity ensures more accurate and context-relevant carbon projections.

Scoring Logic

This score evaluates whether the equations and assumptions used in project modelling are tailored to the project region. Greater regional specificity increases robustness, while generic or irrelevant assumptions increase risk of over-crediting.

- Equations and assumptions are specific to the project region, which is considered best practice → very low risk.
- Some equations and assumptions are specific to the project region, which indicates some room for improvement → low risk.
- It is unclear whether the equations and assumptions are specific to the project region, which creates uncertainty about the robustness of the project choices → high risk.
- Equations and assumptions are definitely not specific to the project region, which is considered worst practice → very high risk.

Geographic Specificity of Modelling Assumptions

Pt.2

Data Inputs

Input name	Description	Dropdown Options
Region specific modelling	Whether the source(s) of the assumptions and equations used are specific to the project region.	Equations and assumptions are specific to the project region; Some equations and assumptions are specific to the project region; It is unclear whether the source of the equations and assumptions are specific to the project region; Equations and assumptions are definitely not specific to the project region;

Baseline Conservativeness

Pt.1

CARBON ACCOUNTING – PROJECT MODELLING – MODEL CHOICES

Description

The relative aggressiveness of the baseline deforestation scenario can indicate whether emission reductions have been calculated against conservative counterfactual scenario. Deforestation scenarios that are comparatively aggressive compared to peer projects can indicate a likelihood of over-crediting risks. This component tests whether reported baselines conservative by comparing them against an independent baseline benchmark.

Scoring Logic

Benchmarking is done by creating a peer group of projects with similar characteristics: methodology (AUD / APD), region, etc.

- Reductions fall within the top 25% of peer group values – high risk.
- Reductions fall within the middle 50% of peer group values – moderate risk
- Reductions fall within the lower 25% of peer group values – low risk.

Baseline Conservativeness

Pt.2

Data Inputs

Input name	Description	Dropdown Options
Country	The country in which the project is based.	N/A
Baseline deforestation (ha)	Sum of all reported (MRs›PDD) baseline deforestation during the issuance period.	N/A
Baseline deforestation (%)	Baseline deforestation, if reported as an average % of the PA per year.	N/A
Baseline period	How many years does the sum of baseline deforestation in ha span?	N/A
Project type - APD vs. AUD	The kind of deforestation agents claimed for the project area.	AUD (Avoided Unplanned Deforestation); APD (Avoided Planned Deforestation); Mixed AUD and APD;
Monitoring Period Start Date	The planned date the project is able to sell credits from.	N/A
Reported project area average carbon stock	The average per hectare carbon stock reported for the project area at the project start.	N/A
Monitoring Period End Date	The end date of the total project lifetime crediting period.	N/A
Total Ex-Post Baseline (tCO2e)	Total emissions expected to occur in the baseline scenario across the verified-to-date crediting period.	N/A

Accounting Boundaries (Inclusions / Exclusions)

Description

The carbon pools, and assumptions applied to what takes place in those carbon pools such as mortality or decay rates, included in the modelling of a project. These elements can influence the accuracy of the carbon accounting and ultimately overcrediting risk.

Scoring Logic

The **Accounting boundaries (inclusions/exclusions)** score is calculated by averaging the **Carbon Pools Uncertainty**, **Leakage** and **Leakage Approach** scores.

Leakage

Description

The projects accounting for leakage, defined as increased emissions caused by the project outside of project accounting boundaries.

Scoring Logic

The Leakage score is calculated by considering whether leakage is analyzed (e.g., market effects or displacement) and conservatively deducted when applicable; more comprehensive analysis and appropriate deductions result in a higher score.

The leakage deduction is compared across all REDD projects, both Avoided Planned (APD) and Avoided Unplanned Deforestation (AUD), which results in stricter test as APD projects tend to account for leakage more.

- Leakage deductions fall within the top 25% of peer group values – low risk.
- Leakage deductions fall within the middle 50% of peer group values – moderate risk
- Leakage deductions fall within the lower 25% of peer group values – high risk.

Data Inputs

Input name	Description	Dropdown Options
Leakage %	Leakage factor as a %	N/A
Leakage tCO2e (MR/VR)	Leakage Deduction in tonnes	N/A
Total Ex-Post Credit Issuance	tCO2e - The total credits issued.	N/A

Leakage Approach

Pt.1

Description

The projects approach to accounting for leakage emissions (increased emissions outside the project boundary as a result of project implementation). The choice to include leakage from different potential sources can indicate relative conservativeness of accounting assumptions.

Scoring Logic

The Leakage Approach score evaluates whether the project accounts for both activity-shifting leakage and market leakage, depending on the project type:

Very low risk – This is considered best practice and a conservative accounting assumption:

- Project type = AUD, APD, or Mixed AUD & APD, **and** both activity-shifting leakage and market leakage are accounted for.

Low risk – These choices are reasonable since the accounted-for leakage type is the most material for that project type.

- **AUD projects:** Activity-shifting leakage is accounted for but market leakage is not.
- **APD projects:** Market leakage is accounted for but activity-shifting leakage is not.

High risk – These choices are non-conservative, as they omit the most material leakage type, leading to potential over-crediting.

- **AUD projects:** Market leakage is accounted for but activity-shifting leakage is not.
- **APD projects:** Activity-shifting leakage is accounted for but market leakage is not.
- **Mixed AUD & APD projects:** Only one type of leakage is accounted for.

Very high risk – This is a non-conservative accounting assumption with high over-crediting risk.

- Project type = AUD, APD, or Mixed AUD & APD, and **neither activity-shifting leakage nor market leakage is accounted for**.

Leakage Approach

Pt.2

Data Inputs

Input name	Description	Dropdown Options
Project type - APD vs. AUD	The kind of deforestation agents claimed for the project area.	AUD (Avoided Unplanned Deforestation); APD (Avoided Planned Deforestation); Mixed AUD and APD;
Activity-shifting leakage	Whether the project has (or plans to) account for activity-shifting leakage.	The project plans to account for activity-shifting leakage and claims to date no activity-shifting leakage has occurred; The project plans to account for activity-shifting leakage and has reported and accounted for some activity-shifting leakage to date; The project does not plan to account for activity-shifting leakage (assumed negligible)
Market Leakage	Whether the project plans to or has accounted for market leakage	The project plans to account for market leakage and claims to date no market leakage has occurred; The project plans to account for market leakage and has reported and accounted for some market leakage to date; The project does not plan to account for market leakage (assumed negligible)

Carbon Pools Uncertainty

Pt.1

Description

The extent of carbon pools, including emission sources and storage, accounted for by the project. Different carbon pools can introduce different over-crediting risks based on uncertainties derived from measurement limitations.

Scoring Logic

The Carbon Pools Uncertainty score reflects which carbon pools are included in project accounting and how reliably they can be measured. Pools are grouped as follows:

- High-certainty pools: Above ground biomass, Below ground biomass, Harvested wood products
- Moderate-certainty pools: Deadwood, Litter
- Low-certainty pool: Soil organic carbon
- No information: Carbon pools not disclosed

Scores are assigned according to the mix of pools included:

- Only high-certainty pools are included → very low risk.
- High-certainty pools plus at least one moderate-certainty pool → low risk.
- No information is disclosed, or High-certainty pools plus soil organic carbon → neutral risk.
- High-certainty pools plus soil organic carbon and at least one moderate-certainty pool → high risk.
- High-certainty pools plus soil organic carbon and multiple moderate-certainty pools → very high risk.

Carbon Pools Uncertainty

Pt.2

Data Inputs

Input name	Description	Dropdown Options
Project carbon pools	The pools of carbon that the project has included in their carbon calculations.	Above ground biomass; Below ground biomass; Deadwood; Litter; Soil organic carbon; Harvested wood products;

Additionality

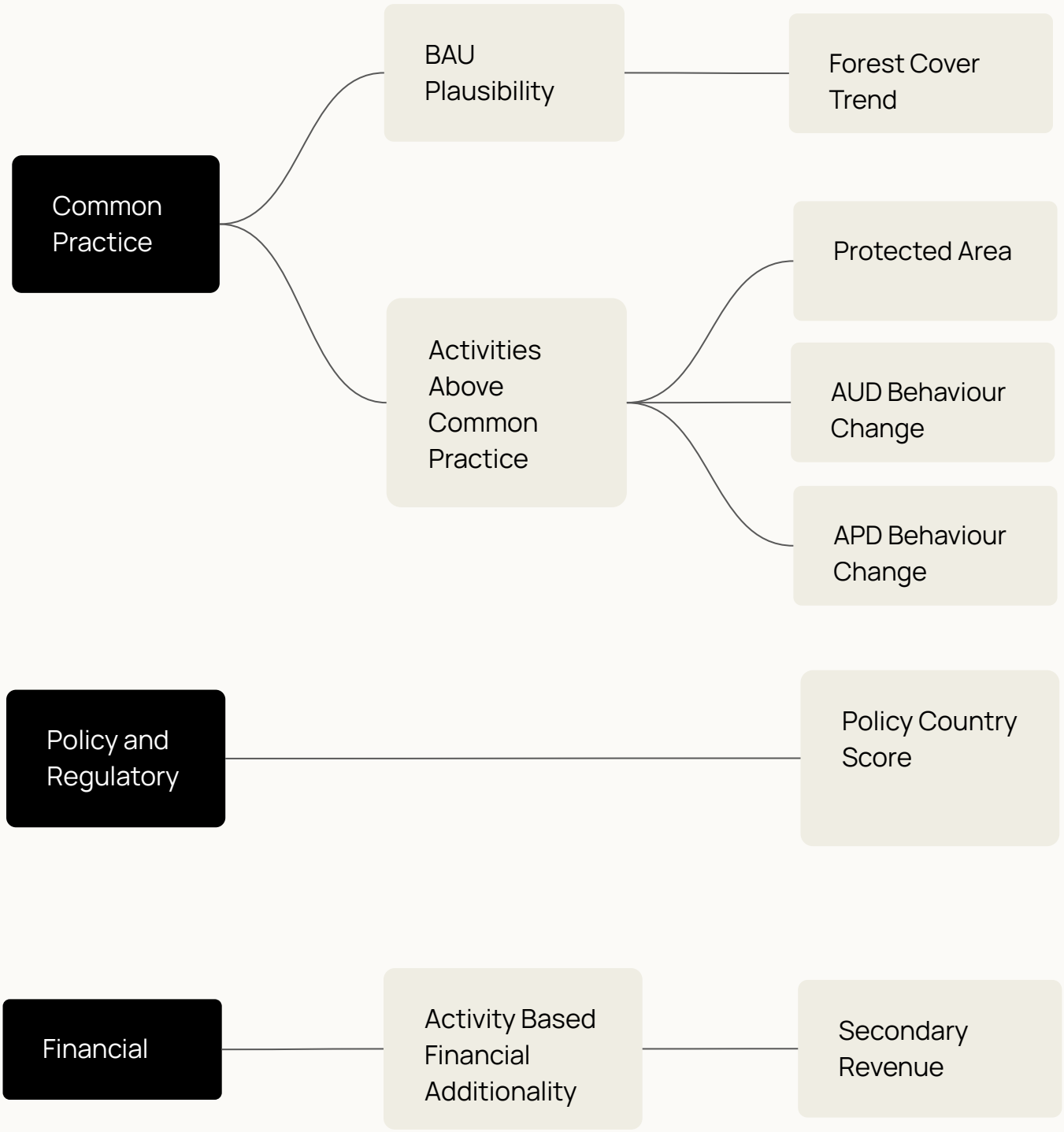
Description

The project's additionality reflects the likelihood that the emission removals/reductions are a direct consequence of the project activities and would not occur in the absence of the project. Assessing additionality involves examining the credibility of the difference between the project and baseline scenario by considering the financial viability of the project activities, policy and regulatory incentives/restrictions, as well as common practice in the project's region.

Scoring Logic

Take the average of the additionality components: **Financial**, **Common Practice** and **Policy & Regulatory**. If data for one factor is missing, the calculation uses the available factors only.

Additionality



Common Practice

ADDITIONALITY

Description

Examining whether the project or baseline activities are common practice in the project's region helps with identifying significant barriers or support for their implementation. This could highlight the necessity (or lack thereof) of the carbon project and undermine/support the project's additionality.

Scoring Logic

The Common Practice score is calculated by taking the sum of the **Business-as-Usual Scenario Plausibility** and **Activities Above Common Practice** components.

Business-as-Usual Scenario Plausibility

Description

Examining whether the claimed most-likely business-as-usual (BAU) scenario is plausible and likely to result in deforestation that requires mitigation.

Scoring Logic

The **Business-as-Usual Scenario Plausibility** score is based on the **Forest Cover Trend** component.

Forest Cover Trend

ADDITIONALITY – COMMON PRACTICE – BAU SCENARIO PLAUSIBILITY

Description

The forest cover trend shows if the percentage of forest cover has been increasing or decreasing in the country in the last few decades. Assessing the trend helps with understand if forest loss in the BAU scenario is plausible (forest cover is decreasing) or if BAU forest loss is less common (forest cover is decreasing or static). The more plausible the forest loss scenario, the more likely mitigations are needed to reduce deforestation compared to BAU.

Scoring Logic

The Forest Cover Trend Adjustment modifies the plausibility of deforestation in the BAU (business-as-usual) scenario based on observed trends in forest cover. If forest cover is significantly increasing or decreasing, this alters the likelihood of deforestation pressure in the project area.

- Plausible / higher risk: Forest cover is increasing. In this case, deforestation in the BAU scenario is less plausible, and there may be less need for mitigation.
- Uncertain/ neutral risk**:** Forest cover is stable. The plausibility of deforestation in the BAU scenario is uncertain, and the need for mitigation is unclear.
- Less plausible / lower risk: Forest cover is decreasing. In this case, deforestation in the BAU scenario is plausible and likely requires mitigation through project activities.

Data Inputs

Input name	Description	Dropdown Options
Forest cover trend	The trend in forest cover – this trend has to be statistically significant (RSQ ≥ 0.5) in order to be considered. Source: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/AG.LND.FRST.ZS	N/A

Activities Above Common Practice

Description

Examining whether the project activities are likely to exceed what would be common practice in the baseline scenario.

Scoring Logic

The score reflects whether land was already protected and whether the project introduces behaviour change beyond common practice, using the relevant subcomponents for the project type.\

- For **Avoided Unplanned Deforestation (AUD)** projects, take the **average of Protected Area and Behaviour Change (AUD)**.
- For **Avoided Planned Deforestation (APD)** projects, take the **average of Protected Area and Behaviour Change (APD)**.
- For **Mixed (AUD & APD)** projects, take the **average of Protected Area and the mean of Behaviour Change (AUD) and Behaviour Change (APD)**. If any subcomponent is missing, the calculation uses the **available factors only**.

Protected Area

Pt.1

ADDITIONALITY – COMMON PRACTICE – ACTIVITIES ABOVE COMMON PRACTICE

Description

Whether the project area was under protected status prior to project implementation can indicate whether protection exceeds existing common practice.

Scoring Logic

The Protected Area score evaluates whether land was already under protection before the project began. Existing protection reduces the likelihood that the project delivers meaningful behavioural change. Scores are assigned as follows:

- Land was under high formal protection (e.g., strict nature reserve, national park) → very high risk
- Land was under less formal protection (e.g., sustainable-use zone, community or indigenous reserve, informal wildlife management area) → high risk
- It is unclear whether the land had protected status → neutral risk
- Land was not under protected status prior to the project → very low risk

Data Inputs

Input name	Description	Dropdown Options
Protected Areas Overlap Percentage	Percentage area overlapping with a protected area as per the World Database of Protected Areas	N/A
Protected Area	Whether there is any evidence that the project area is in an existing protected area .	Yes - high formal protection status (e.g., strict nature reserve, national park); Yes - less formal protection status (e.g., sustainable use zone, community/indigenous reserve, informal wildlife management area); No; Unclear

AUD Behaviour Change

Pt.1

ADDITIONALITY – COMMON PRACTICE – ACTIVITIES ABOVE COMMON PRACTICE

Description

Whether the project delivers a meaningful behavior change to increase actions to mitigate deforestation can indicate if the project activities exceed common practice.

Scoring Logic

This score assesses whether a project introduces new deforestation-mitigation activities beyond the business-as-usual (BAU) scenario, and whether patrols are strengthened. The Activities introduced and Patrol adjustment scores are combined.

Scores are tagged based on their likelihood of additionality.

Activities introduced:

- If no activities are reported, or if project activities are the same as BAU activities → score = low
- If 4 or more activities are introduced → score = very high
- If 3 activities are introduced → score = high
- If 1 or 2 activities are introduced → score = neutral

Patrol adjustments

- Significant patrol increase, evidenced → score = very high
- Significant increase (not evidenced) OR moderate increase (evidenced) → score = high
- Moderate increase (not evidenced), insignificant, or unknown → score = neutral
- Patrol frequency reduced → score = very low

AUD Behaviour Change

ADDITIONALITY – COMMON PRACTICE – ACTIVITIES ABOVE COMMON PRACTICE

Data Inputs

Input name	Description	Dropdown Options
(REDD) Project activities	Array of all deforestation mitigations conducted under the project.	See list of REDD activities in Annex
Historic activities	Any actions already undertaken pre-project according to project documentation.	See list of REDD activities in Annex
Proponent category	Type of project proponent.	Commercial Timber Company Commercial Agriculture Company (incl Palm oil / tree crops) NGO Private Company Independent Landowner Community Conservation agency State/ Government Educational Institution Other
Reported land use change plan (Y/N)	Does the documentation disclose plans to sell land to third parties (not involved in the project) or third party interest/plans in obtaining a commercial concession over the PA?	Yes No
Patrols increase	Level of increase of patrols	significant and evidenced, significant but not evidenced, moderate and evidenced, moderate and not evidenced, insignificant, reduced, unknown

APD Behaviour Change

Pt.1

ADDITIONALITY – COMMON PRACTICE – ACTIVITIES ABOVE COMMON PRACTICE

Description

Whether the project delivers a meaningful behavior change to increase actions to mitigate deforestation can indicate if the project activities exceed common practice.

Scoring Logic

This score evaluates whether an Avoided Planned Deforestation (APD) project plausibly introduces behaviour change beyond common practice by considering licensing, conversion rights, business-as-usual likelihood, and evidence of land-use change plans.

- Licensing scores are based on whether a conversion license or similar has been obtained for carrying out the BAU activities.
- Conversion legality tests for whether the BAU scenario is prohibited by laws or regulations.
- BAU likelihood tests for matches between the BAU activities and activities that the proponent has a history of carrying out.
- Land use change tests for whether the proponent can demonstrate that the land would have been sold to an external party who is likely to carry out BAU activities.

APD Behaviour Change

ADDITIONALITY – COMMON PRACTICE – ACTIVITIES ABOVE COMMON PRACTICE

Data Inputs

Input name	Description	Dropdown Options
Project type - APD vs. AUD	The kind of deforestation agents claimed for the project area.	AUD (Avoided Unplanned Deforestation); APD (Avoided Planned Deforestation); Mixed AUD and APD;
Claimed APD Conversion Legality	Assessment of legality of planned conversion.	Yes; Unclear; No; N/A
Baseline License (APD)	Whether the license for the claimed BAU scenario was obtained.	Yes; Unclear; No; N/A
Proponent category	Type of project proponent.	Commercial Timber Company Commercial Agriculture Company (incl Palm oil / tree crops) NGO Private Company Independent Landowner Community Conservation agency State/ Government Educational Institution Other

APD Behaviour Change

ADDITIONALITY – COMMON PRACTICE – ACTIVITIES ABOVE COMMON PRACTICE

Data Inputs

Input name	Description	Dropdown Options
Proponent commercial experience	Select all commercial activities applicable to one of the project team members.	Agriculture Tree-crop plantation Mining Infrastructure development Urbanization Timber Logging Energy production Conservation Ecotourism Other None/Unclear
APD BAU scenario	The project's claimed commercial conversion scenario.	Agriculture Tree-crop plantation Mining Infrastructure development Urbanization Timber Logging Energy production Other None N/A
Reported land use change plan (Y/N)	Does the documentation disclose plans to sell land to third parties (not involved in the project) or third party interest/plans in obtaining a commercial concession over the PA?	Yes No

Financial Additionality

ADDITIONALITY

Description

Examining the project's financial additionality involves assessing whether the carbon credit revenue is crucial for implementing the project activities. If there is a material financial incentive to implement the project activities regardless of the carbon market support, this could undermine the project's additionality claim.

Scoring Logic

Using the project's secondary sources of revenue and changes in scale to project activities to determine the additionality for the project. The **Financial** score is based on the **Activity-Based Financial Additionality** sub-component score.

Activity Based Financial Additionality

Description

The scale of the project activities and their commercialization potential could indicate the availability and extent of alternative revenue streams outside the carbon market, which could incentivize the project's implementation even without VCM support and undermine the project's additionality claims.

Scoring Logic

Scoring Logic: The **Activity-Based Financial Additionality** score is based on the **Secondary Revenues** component.

Secondary Revenues

Pt.1

ADDITIONALITY – FINANCIAL ADDITIONALITY – ACTIVITY BASED FINANCIAL ADDITIONALITY

Description

Secondary sources of revenue is used to determine the likelihood of significant alternate revenue streams as an indicator of financial additionality.

Scoring Logic

This score evaluates the risk that a project relies on substantial non-carbon revenue streams, which could undermine claims of financial additionality. Each reported revenue source is assigned a penalty value, with the project's score calculated by deducting the maximum penalty value from a starting value of 5.

Very high risk – Timber harvesting

High risk – (Eco)Tourism, Commercial agriculture, Commercial agroforestry, Hunting tourism

Low risk – Non-timber forest products, Recreation/ticket sales, Sale of non-forestry products, Handicrafts, Beekeeping, Hunting by local community

Very low risk – None mentioned

Secondary Revenues

Pt.2

Data Inputs

Input name	Description	Dropdown Options
Secondary sources of revenue in the project	Is the party receiving carbon revenue, also receiving any other form of revenue?	Timber harvesting; (Eco)Tourism; Agriculture (commercial); Agroforestry (commercial); Non-timber forest products; Recreation/ticket sale; None mentioned; Sale of non-forestry related products; Handicrafts; Beekeeping; Hunting tourism; Hunting by local community

Policy and Regulatory

ADDITIONALITY

Description

Examining the policy and regulatory environment includes identifying the policies that could impact/incentivize the baseline and/or project scenarios. The evidence of policies restricting the baseline scenario activities and/or incentivizing the project activities could undermine the project's additionality claim.

Scoring Logic

Using our Rated project data for policy & regulatory within the same country, for the same activities if possible. The **Policy & Regulatory** score is based on the **Policy Country Score** component.

Policy Country Score

ADDITIONALITY – POLICY AND REGULATORY

Description

All relevant policies that could apply to the project or baseline activities in the project's country are taken into account, as their extensiveness and effectiveness (or lack thereof) can undermine/support the project's additionality.

Scoring Logic

This components filters a database of policies that we have assessed while rating REDD projects. The test filters policies on applicability, based on whether they are in the same jurisdiction and are relevant to the project activities, taking the maximum (highest risk) applicable policy.

Data Inputs

Input name	Description	Dropdown Options
Policies	List of all policies extracted, marked as incentive or regulation (same database as Estimated Ratings)	N/A

Permanence

Description

The project's permanence reflects the likelihood of carbon being successfully sequestered for an atmospherically significant time (i.e. 100 years) as a result of the project activities. Assessing permanence involves examining potential risks that could prevent long-term sequestration of carbon.

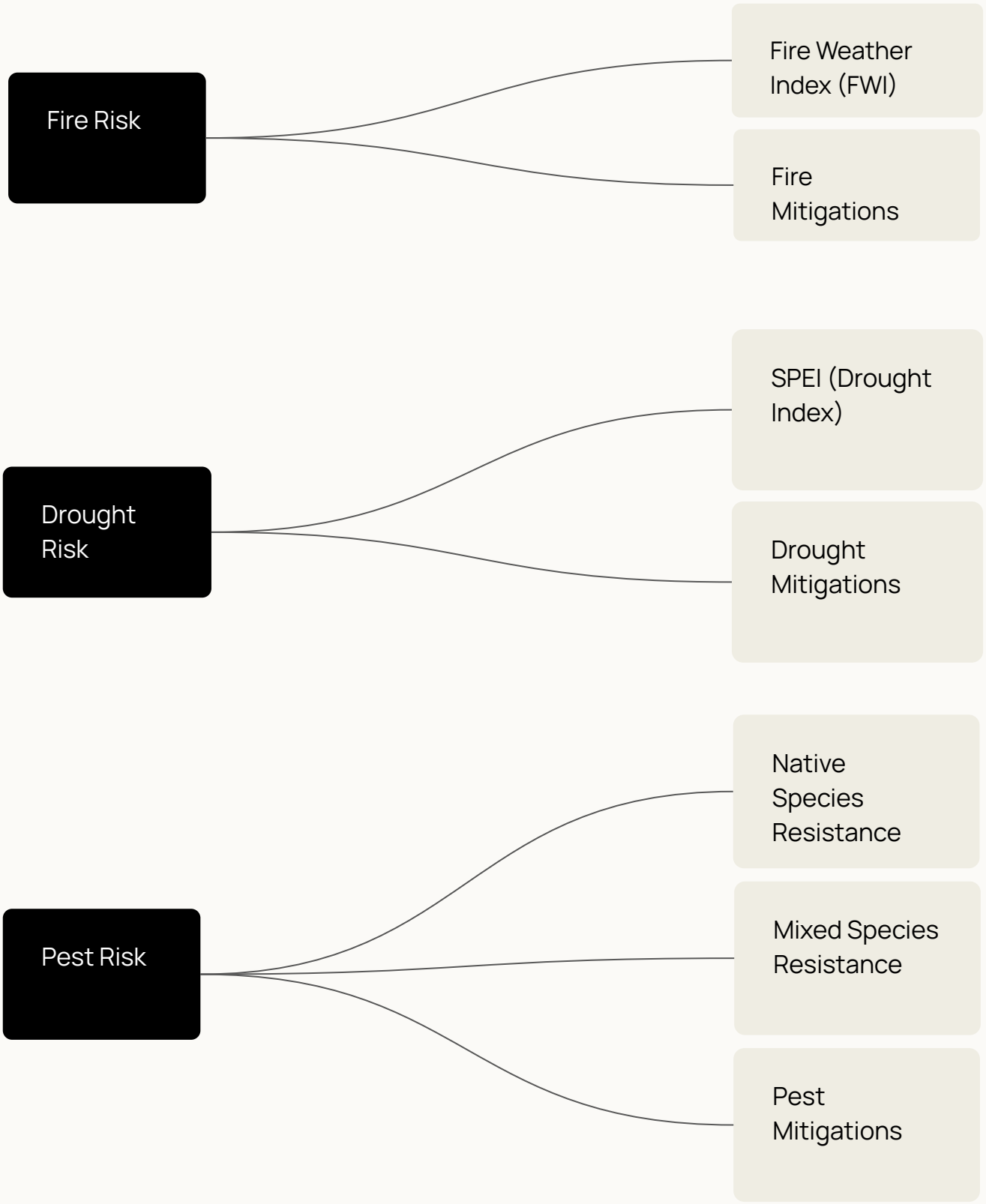
Scoring Logic

Using a combination of project-specific info on design and mitigations, pre-computed geospatial statistics and country risk profile data we are able to approximate the permanence risk for each project.

The **Permanence** score reflects the project's exposure to non-permanence risks such as **Pests**, **Drought**, **Fire**, or **Anthropogenic** threats. The score is calculated by taking the highest individual risk score among these four categories.

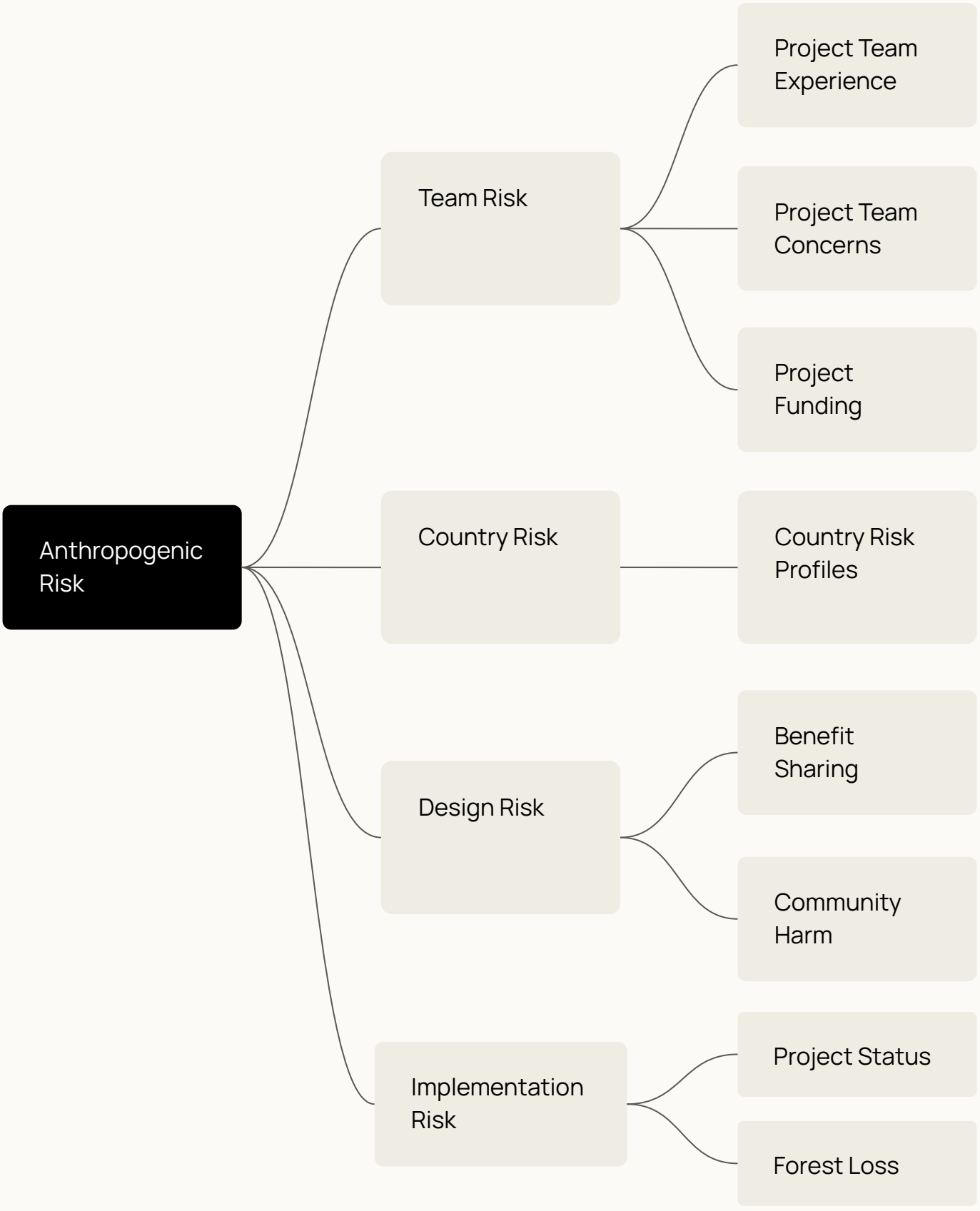
Permanence

Pt.1



Permanence

Pt.2



Fire Risk

PERMANENCE

Description

Fire is one of the main physical drivers of carbon stock losses in projects that involve biological storage, which can ultimately lead to credit reversal events. Assessing fire risk is essential for understanding the likelihood of the project's impact being reversed by a natural hazard.

Scoring Logic

The Fire Risk score evaluates the project's vulnerability to fire, using fire weather index (FWI) data when available and adjusting for mitigation measures.

If FWI data is available:

- For mangrove projects: the fire risk is calculated as the fire weather index plus mitigation, but capped so it cannot be higher than 3 and never lower than 1.
- For all other projects: the score is calculated as the fire weather index plus mitigation, with a lower limit of 1.

If FWI data is not available:

- The score is based on the average rating of project-specific fire risk assessments.

Fire Weather Index (FWI)

Pt.1

PERMANENCE – FIRE RISK

Description

The (FWI) is a numerical scale indicating wildfire risk based on weather conditions. It ranges from 0 to 100 with higher values signifying a greater likelihood and intensity of potential fires. The FWI is calculated using temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, and rainfall data to assess and quantify fire risk conditions.

Scoring Logic

The Fire Weather Index (FWI) score estimates long-term fire risk over the next 100 years based on projected FWI values. The Fire Weather Index (FWI) quantifies meteorological conditions that contribute to fire ignition and spread, providing a clear assessment of fire danger for emergency management and the public. As a unitless scale, higher values indicate increased fire risk. It is calculated using key weather factors, including temperature, precipitation, relative humidity, and wind speed.

The calculation uses the average FWI at the country level; if no country-level data is available, the average FWI across all rated projects is used instead.

- If $100 \geq X \geq 38 \rightarrow$ very high risk
- If $38 > X \geq 21.3 \rightarrow$ high risk
- If $21.3 > X \geq 11.2 \rightarrow$ moderate risk
- If $11.2 > X \geq 5.2 \rightarrow$ low risk
- If $5.2 > X \geq 0 \rightarrow$ very low risk

Fire Weather Index (FWI)

Pt.2

PERMANENCE – FIRE RISK

Data Inputs

Input name	Description	Dropdown Options
Average Fire Weather Index	Average Fire Weather Index (over time) for the project or region of interest	N/A
Fire Weather Index	Fire Weather Index (over time) for the specific project boundary	N/A

Fire Risk Mitigations

Description

The project developers could implement various activities to mitigate potential natural hazards. This could reduce the potential permanence risks to the project.

Scoring Logic

Scoring Logic: The Fire Risk Mitigations score is determined by whether the project undertakes activities that directly reduce fire risk. If at least one of these activities is implemented, the project's fire risk score is increased by one, lowering risk. If none of these activities are present, no adjustment is applied.

Data Inputs

Input name	Description	Dropdown Options
Natural risks mitigations	The present or planned (claimed) project natural risk mitigations.	Activities list and mapping contained in Annex

Drought Risk

PERMANENCE

Description

Drought is one of the main physical drivers of carbon stock losses in projects that involve biological storage, which can ultimately lead to credit reversal events. Assessing drought risk is essential for understanding the likelihood of the project's impact being reversed by a natural hazard.

Scoring Logic

The project's overall drought risk is assessed using the Standardized Precipitation–Evapotranspiration Index (SPEI) combined with the presence of any planned or implemented drought-mitigation activities.

If SPEI data is available:

- The score is based on the SPEI (Drought Risk Index) adjusted by any drought mitigation measures, which if present reduce the score by 1.

If SPEI data is not available:

- The score is based on the average drought risk of rated projects in comparable regions.

Standardised Precipitation and Evapotranspiration Index

Pt.1

PERMANENCE – DROUGHT RISK

Description

The Standardised Precipitation and Evapotranspiration Index (SPEI) metric is a relative measure of surface water surplus (for positive values) or deficit (negative SPEI values) with respect to the climate of the reference period, and it is based on a global initiative of standardised simulations of climate change.

Scoring Logic

The Standardized Precipitation–Evapotranspiration Index (SPEI) is a multi-scale drought indicator derived from climatic data. It measures anomalies in water balance and helps assess the onset, duration, and severity of drought conditions relative to normal patterns across natural and managed systems, including agriculture, ecosystems, rivers, and water resources (Vicente-Serrano et al. 2010).

The drought risk score is calculated using the average SPEI for the project's country. If no country-level data is available, the average drought risk across all rated projects is used instead.

- If SPEI ≤ −3 → very high risk
- If −3 < SPEI ≤ −2 → high risk
- If −2 < SPEI ≤ −1 → moderate risk
- If −1 < SPEI ≤ −0.5 → low risk
- If SPEI > −0.5 → very low risk

Standardised Precipitation and Evapotranspiration Index

PERMANENCE – DROUGHT RISK

Data Inputs

Input name	Description	Dropdown Options
Average Drought Risk Index	Average Drought Severity (over time) for the project or region of interest	N/A

Drought Risk Mitigations

Description

The project developers could implement various activities to mitigate potential natural hazards. This could reduce the potential permanence risks to the project.

Scoring Logic

The Drought Risk Mitigations score is based on whether the project takes action to reduce vulnerability to drought. If at least one of these activities is present, the drought risk score is increased by one, lowering risk. If no such activities are present, no adjustment is applied.

Data Inputs

Input name	Description	Dropdown Options
Natural risks mitigations	The present or planned (claimed) project natural risk mitigations.	Activities list and mapping contained in Annex

Pest Risk

PERMANENCE

Description

Pests are one of the main physical drivers of carbon stock losses in projects that involve biological storage, which can ultimately lead to credit reversal events. Assessing pest risk is essential for understanding the likelihood of the project's impact being reversed by a natural hazard.

Scoring Logic

REDD projects tend to be exposed to relatively low pest risk as native forests are less susceptible to pest outbreaks. Therefore, the default risk for REDD projects is low, however mitigative activities can improve this score further.

Note: Pest-driven forest mortality is highly location-specific. Geospatial data for the project boundary has not been evaluated within the Estimated Rating, so project-specific context, as reflected in Sylvera's Ratings, must be considered to fully understand the extent of pest risk

Pest Risk Mitigations

Description

The project developers could implement various activities to mitigate potential natural hazards. This could reduce the potential permanence risks to the project.

Scoring Logic

The Pest Risk Mitigations score evaluates whether the project undertakes activities that reduce pest and disease threats. If at least one of these activities is present, the pest risk score is increased by one, lowering risk. If none of these activities are present, no adjustment is applied.

Data Inputs

Input name	Description	Dropdown Options
Natural risks mitigations	The present or planned (claimed) project natural risk mitigations.	Activities list and mapping contained in Annex

Anthropogenic Risk

PERMANENCE

Description

The project's impact could be reversed or hindered due to human-driven factors. Assessing potential internal and external anthropogenic risks is crucial for understanding the likelihood of the project being interrupted and/or its impact reversed due to human interference.

Scoring Logic

If **Implementation Risk** is present:

- The overall **Anthropogenic Risk** score is set equal to the **Implementation Risk** score.

If **Implementation Risk** is not present:

- The score is the highest risk of the **Country Risk**, **Design Risk**, and **Team Risk** scores.

Country Risk

PERMANENCE – ANTHROPOGENIC RISK

Description

External factors associated with the geopolitical context of the project's country could interrupt or reverse the impact of the project's activities. Assessing potential geopolitical risks is crucial for understanding the likelihood of the project's impact being reversed.

Scoring Logic

The **Country Risk** score is based on the **Country Risk Profiles** component.

Country Risk Profiles

Description

Country risk score reflects the risk levels associated with a variety of factors that could hinder the project's implementation, including the country's political stability, government effectiveness and reputation, corruption levels etc.

Scoring Logic

Countries are scored on:

- Government reputation
- Political stability and
- Track record with human rights

to infer the inherent risk to operations in that country.

See more with Country Profiles.

Data Inputs

Input name	Description	Dropdown Options
Sylvera Country Profiles Product	Risk profiles for carbon credit projects across key countries.	N/A

Team Risk

PERMANENCE – ANTHROPOGENIC RISK

Description

Internal factors associated with the project's team could interrupt or reverse the impact of the project's activities. Assessing the project's team reputation and experience is crucial for understanding the likelihood of the project's impact being reversed.

Scoring Logic

The **Team Risk** score evaluates internal risks to project operations, drawing on three factors: the amount of available project funding, the experience of the project team, and any concerns flagged by compliance checks such as ComplyAdvantage. The score is calculated as the average of: **Project Team Concerns**, **Project Funding**, and **Project Team Experience**. If one or more factors are missing, the calculation uses only the data that is available.

Project Team Experience

Description

The project's team experience (or lack thereof) could affect the way in which the project activities are implemented. This could potentially limit or ensure the long-term effectiveness of the activities, affecting the project's permanence.

Scoring Logic

Projects are scored on the basis of the proponents track record in developing carbon projects.

Data Inputs

Input name	Description	Dropdown Options
Entities	The entities involved with the project.	N/A

Project Team Concerns

PERMANENCE – ANTHROPOGENIC RISK – TEAM RISK

Description

The project's team reputation could point to potential mismanagement risks, which could limit the long-term effectiveness of the project activities or interrupt their implementation.

Scoring Logic

The Project Team Concerns score evaluates potential risks associated with the project team using compliance checks (e.g., ComplyAdvantage). It assumes that links with nefarious activities could undermine the effectiveness of project operations.

- If there are no ComplyAdvantage results of concern → very low risk.
- If there is one ComplyAdvantage result of concern → moderate risk.
- If there are multiple ComplyAdvantage results of concern → very high risk.

Data Inputs

Input name	Description	Dropdown Options
Known proponent legal flags	Whether there any ComplyAdvantage hits of concern related to the project proponents.	There is one ComplyAdvantage result of concern; There are multiple ComplyAdvantage results of concern; There are no ComplyAdvantage results of concern
Adverse media review	Is there any adverse media evidence on the project proponent/developer/other entities?	No adverse media Yes - minor Yes - significant red flags

Project Funding

PERMANENCE – ANTHROPOGENIC RISK – TEAM RISK

Description

Assessing the availability of funding to conduct the project activities is crucial for understanding potential implementation risks, as the lack of necessary funding could lead to reversing the project's impact.

Scoring Logic

The Project Funding score assesses the level of financial security available to support the project.

- If the project has secured some funding and/or offtake agreements → very low risk.
- If the project has not disclosed whether funding or offtake agreements have been secured → moderate risk.
- If the project has disclosed that neither funding nor offtake agreements have been secured → very high risk.

Data Inputs

Input name	Description	Dropdown Options
Funding	The extent of the funding secured by the project.	The project claims to have secured some funding and/or offtake agreements; The project has not disclosed whether funding or offtake agreements have been secured; The project has disclosed that neither funding nor offtake agreements have been secured;

Design Risk

PERMANENCE – ANTHROPOGENIC RISK

Description

Community buy-in is necessary for successful project operations. The presence of benefit-sharing mechanisms, or public evidence of community harm, are used as proxies for community buy-in to evaluate project design risk to longer term operations.

Scoring Logic

The **Design Risk** score evaluates whether the project's design supports long-term operations, using benefit-sharing plans and disclosures as a proxy for community buy-in. The logic assumes that strong community support is essential for project success and that evidence of community harm increases risk.

- If evidence of **Community Harm** is present → the score is set equal to the community harm score (lower, reflecting higher risk).
- Otherwise → the score is calculated as the average of the **Community Harm** and **Benefit Sharing** scores.
- If one factor is missing → the calculation uses the data that is available.

Benefit Sharing

Pt.1

PERMANENCE – ANTHROPOGENIC RISK – DESIGN RISK

Description

Mechanisms ensuring that the benefits (e.g., revenue, resources, capacity-building) derived from the project are equitably distributed among stakeholders, including local communities and project partners. Benefit-sharing is one of the key ways in which a community can ultimately benefit from a project, and therefore positive implementation can be used as a proxy for engagement and long-term success operating the project.

Scoring Logic

The Benefit-sharing score assesses whether project revenues are shared fairly and transparently with local communities, which is a key determinant of community support and long-term project success.

- Very low risk:
  - Benefit-sharing is not disclosed.
- Low risk:
  - Benefit-sharing is minor but not well evidenced.
- Moderate risk:
  - Benefit-sharing is minor and well evidenced.
  - Benefit-sharing is moderate but not well evidenced.
  - Benefit-sharing is unclear.
- High risk:
  - Benefit-sharing is significant but not well evidenced.
  - Benefit-sharing is moderate and well evidenced.
- Very high risk:
  - Benefit-sharing is significant and well evidenced.
  - By default, where the community is the project proponent and directly receives carbon revenue.

Benefit Sharing

Pt.2

PERMANENCE – ANTHROPOGENIC RISK – DESIGN RISK

Data Inputs

Input name	Description	Dropdown Options
Benefit-sharing disclosure	Whether any benefit-sharing mechanisms have been disclosed, their scale and the level of evidence to back them up.	Yes - significant and well evidenced; Yes - significant but not well evidenced; Yes - moderate and well evidenced; Yes - minor and well evidenced; Yes - moderate but not well evidenced; Yes - minor but not well evidenced; Yes - by default, community is the proponent and in direct receipt of carbon revenue; No - not disclosed; Unclear

Community Harm

Pt.1

PERMANENCE – ANTHROPOGENIC RISK – DESIGN RISK

Description

Potential negative impacts on local communities—such as land conflicts or reduced access to resources—arising from project activities. Evidence of community harm suggests a lack of successful and/or positive engagement locally, which could threaten the long-term success operating the project.

Scoring Logic

The Community Harm score evaluates whether the project is associated with harm to local communities, and the extent to which that harm is being addressed.

- Very low risk:
  - No evidence or unknown whether community harm has occurred.
- Low risk:
  - Harm is plausible but evidence is minimal.
- Moderate risk:
  - Harm is evidenced, but its extent is not significant.
- High risk:
  - Harm is evidenced, significant in extent, but work is being done to address it.
- Very high risk:
  - Harm is evidenced, significant in extent, and no work is being done to address it.

Community Harm

Pt.2

PERMANENCE – ANTHROPOGENIC RISK – DESIGN RISK

Data Inputs

Input name	Description	Dropdown Options
Community Harm	Whether there is any evidence through research and in the public domain that there has been some harm to the community, if so the significance of the claims, evidence and whether there is any claims of work being done to counteract the concerns.	No / unknown; Yes - plausible/minimal evidence; Yes - evidenced, extent not significant; Yes - evidenced, extent significant, work being done; Yes - evidenced, extent significant, no work being done

Implementation Risk

PERMANENCE – ANTHROPOGENIC RISK

Description

Internal factors associated with the management and implementation of the project could interrupt or reverse the impact of the project's activities and issuance of credits. The project's status with its associated registry is a key point to consider current and future risk of activities or credit issuance being ceased or reversed.

Scoring Logic

The **Implementation Risk** score reflects the likelihood that a project can successfully deliver its planned activities, based on project status and evidence of forest loss.

- If both **Project Status** score and **Forest Loss** are high risk → very high risk.
- If the **Project Status** score is high risk → the **Implementation Risk** score is set equal to the **Project Status** score.
- If the **Project Status** score is null → the **Implementation Risk** score is set equal to the **Forest Loss** score.

Project Status

Description

The registry-listed status indicates the project's ability to issue credits, with withdrawn projects' issuance being at the highest risk and projects placed on hold being temporarily disabled from issuing due to registry investigations, indicating a delivery risk.

Scoring Logic

The Project Status score reflects the standing of the project in its registry.

- If the registry status is "Withdrawn" → very high risk.
- If the registry status is "On Hold" (including "On Hold – see notification letter") → high risk.
- Otherwise → Project Status is not scored (null).

Data Inputs

Input name	Description	Dropdown Options
Registry status	The project status listed on the registry.	N/A

Forest Loss

PERMANENCE – ANTHROPOGENIC RISK – IMPLEMENTATION RISK

Description

Significant levels of reported forest loss in the Project Area are an indicator of increasing pressure on the project's forests that is not mitigated by the project's activities.

Scoring Logic

This score evaluates how much deforestation has occurred within the project area and the implications for carbon stock permanence.

- The cumulative reported deforestation is lower than 5% of the project area, indicating no material risk to carbon stock permanence has yet materialized → very low risk.
- The cumulative reported deforestation is greater than 5% of the project area, posing a significant risk to carbon stock permanence → moderate risk.
- The cumulative reported deforestation is greater than 10% of the project area, posing an extreme risk to carbon stock permanence → very high risk.

Data Inputs

Input name	Description	Dropdown Options
Total Ex-Post Project Emissions	nan	N/A
Total deforestation (ha) reported	The reported total deforestation experienced in the project area to date (in the monitoring period)	N/A
Project Area Size (ha) - Measured	The measured project area size (per the latest report) in hectares.	N/A

Safeguarding and Co-Benefits

Description

Ensuring that the necessary community and environmental safeguards are in place for a project, where relevant, is critical to ensure the project's successful on-going operations (captured within the Permanence Score) as well as reputation (see Reputational Risk for more information) and ensuring No Net Harm principle is met. The extent to which the project goes above and beyond carbon impact to contribute to the local community and biodiversity is measured as "Co-benefits" considering the type of project activities and benefit-sharing mechanisms as place, which can be used as a quality differentiator dependent on the user's priorities.

Scoring Logic

The **Safeguarding and Co-Benefits** score provides a blended view of a project's local impact beyond carbon, considering both community and biodiversity outcomes. It assumes that significant community harm prevents any net positive co-benefits from being claimed.

If **Community Harm** is present:

- The score is the minimum of the **Biodiversity** score and the **Community** score.
- This ensures that positive biodiversity outcomes cannot override evidence of community harm.

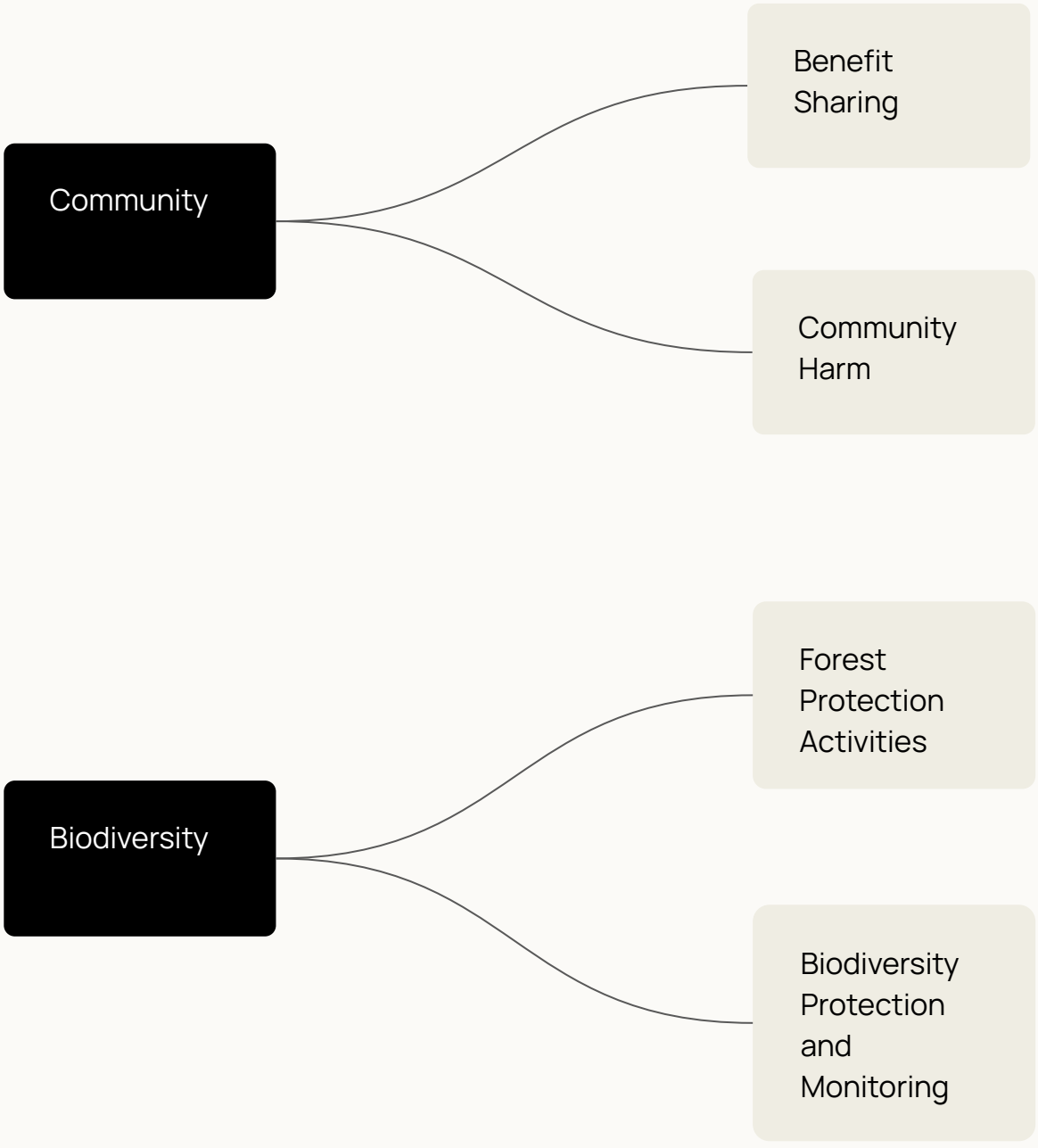
If **Community Harm** is not present:

- The score is the average of the **Biodiversity** score and the **Community** score.

Note: A project-specific analysis of species and biodiversity, as well as due diligence on community engagement processes, is necessary to establish the true extent of risks or potential co-benefits.

Safeguarding and Co-Benefits

Description



Biodiversity

SAFEGUARDING AND CO-BENEFITS

Description

REDD forest management activities are generally expected to support biodiversity because they focus on preventing deforestation, which protects and conserves ecosystems. As long as forests are genuinely at risk and protection measures are additional, REDD projects typically deliver biodiversity benefits. Even if forest protection underperforms, this does not create net harm compared to business-as-usual practices.

Scoring Logic

The **Biodiversity** score takes the average of the **Forest Protection Activities** and **Biodiversity Protection and Monitoring** components.

Forest Protection Activities

Description

It is assumed that REDD project activities to avoid deforestation of native forests has inherently low safeguarding risks for forest biodiversity. It can be assumed that conservation of native ecosystems is likely to meet the No Net Harm principle for biodiversity conservation and are likely to bring biodiversity co-benefits through protecting native forest ecosystems. Implementing projects that fail to deliver additional, successful protection may not provide meaningful net-benefits but do not result in net-harm compared to BAU.

Scoring Logic

For REDD projects, the score is set to very low risk.

Biodiversity Protection and Monitoring

Description

Examining if the project conducts any dedicated biodiversity conservation actions. Higher biodiversity co-benefits are associated with active biodiversity protection and monitoring.

Scoring Logic

The Biodiversity score reflects whether the project undertakes dedicated activities to protect or enhance biodiversity, in addition to the indirect benefits of reducing deforestation.

The score increases with the number of biodiversity activities reported (such as monitoring, patrols, research partnerships, or snare removal). Projects with multiple activities are considered to deliver very high-impact co-benefits, those with at least one activity provide high-impact co-benefits, and those with none are still expected to generate some biodiversity benefits through REDD-related forest protection.

Data Inputs

Input name	Description	Dropdown Options
(REDD) Project activities	Array of all deforestation mitigations conducted under the project.	See list of REDD activities in Annex
Biodiversity protection	Dedicated activities for biodiversity protection and monitoring - beyond just forest protection for emission reductions.	Biodiversity monitoring; Biodiversity patrols (e.g., poaching control); Academic research partnerships; Snare removal; None;

Community

SAFEGUARDING AND CO-BENEFITS

Description

The potential impact of a project on the local community must meet the No Net Harm principle such that all minimum expected safeguards are met, and any benefits above and beyond must be evidenced. Benefit-sharing mechanisms are used as a proxy to measure this as one of the most popular ways that carbon projects engage with local communities.

Scoring Logic

The **Community** score evaluates co-benefits for local people, using benefit-sharing as a proxy while applying a cap where there is evidence of community harm. This reflects the assumption that significant net positive impacts cannot be claimed where harm is present.

If no evidence of **Community Harm** is available:

- The score is set equal to the **Benefit Sharing** score.

If evidence of **Community Harm** is available:

- The score is the lower of the **Benefit Sharing** score and the community harm score.

This ensures that evidence of harm always limits the community co-benefits score, meaning benefit-sharing cannot override identified risks.

Benefit Sharing

Pt.1

SAFEGUARDING AND CO-BENEFITS – COMMUNITY

Description

Mechanisms ensuring that the benefits (e.g., revenue, resources, capacity-building) derived from the project are equitably distributed among stakeholders, including local communities and project partners. Benefit-sharing is one of the key ways in which a community can ultimately benefit from a project, and therefore positive implementation can be used as a proxy for engagement and long-term success operating the project.

Scoring Logic

The Benefit-sharing score assesses whether project revenues are shared fairly and transparently with local communities, which is a key determinant of community support and long-term project success.

- Very low risk:
  - Benefit-sharing is not disclosed.
- Low risk:
  - Benefit-sharing is minor but not well evidenced.
- Moderate risk:
  - Benefit-sharing is minor and well evidenced.
  - Benefit-sharing is moderate but not well evidenced.
  - Benefit-sharing is unclear.
- High risk:
  - Benefit-sharing is significant but not well evidenced.
  - Benefit-sharing is moderate and well evidenced.
- Very high risk:
  - Benefit-sharing is significant and well evidenced.
  - By default, where the community is the project proponent and directly receives carbon revenue.

Benefit Sharing

Pt.2

SAFEGUARDING AND CO-BENEFITS – COMMUNITY

Data Inputs

Input name	Description	Dropdown Options
Benefit-sharing disclosure	Whether any benefit-sharing mechanisms have been disclosed, their scale and the level of evidence to back them up.	Yes - significant and well evidenced; Yes - significant but not well evidenced; Yes - moderate and well evidenced; Yes - minor and well evidenced; Yes - moderate but not well evidenced; Yes - minor but not well evidenced; Yes - by default, community is the proponent and in direct receipt of carbon revenue; No - not disclosed; Unclear

Community Harm

Pt.1

SAFEGUARDING AND CO-BENEFITS – COMMUNITY

Description

Potential negative impacts on local communities—such as land conflicts or reduced access to resources—arising from project activities. Evidence of community harm suggests a lack of successful and/or positive engagement locally, which could threaten the long-term success operating the project.

Scoring Logic

The Community Harm score evaluates whether the project is associated with harm to local communities, and the extent to which that harm is being addressed.

- Very low risk:
  - No evidence or unknown whether community harm has occurred.
- Low risk:
  - Harm is plausible but evidence is minimal.
- Moderate risk:
  - Harm is evidenced, but its extent is not significant.
- High risk:
  - Harm is evidenced, significant in extent, but work is being done to address it.
- Very high risk:
  - Harm is evidenced, significant in extent, and no work is being done to address it.

Community Harm

Pt.2

SAFEGUARDING AND CO-BENEFITS – COMMUNITY

Data Inputs

Input name	Description	Dropdown Options
Community Harm	Whether there is any evidence through research and in the public domain that there has been some harm to the community, if so the significance of the claims, evidence and whether there is any claims of work being done to counteract the concerns.	No / unknown; Yes - plausible/minimal evidence; Yes - evidenced, extent not significant; Yes - evidenced, extent significant, work being done; Yes - evidenced, extent significant, no work being done

Community Activities

Pt.1

SAFEGUARDING AND CO-BENEFITS – COMMUNITY

Description

Projects may provide further activities that can bring co-benefits to local communities and aid in deforestation reduction.

Scoring Logic

Each reported activity (e.g., land tenure regularization, employment, training, cookstove distribution, microfinance, etc.) increases the score.

If the project reports no additional community-focused activities → very high risk.

Otherwise, the score is determined by summing all reported activities and mapping the total to the score, where the larger the variety of activities implemented, the lower the risk.

Community Activities

Pt.2

SAFEGUARDING AND CO-BENEFITS – COMMUNITY

Data Inputs

Input name	Description	Dropdown Options
Community benefits	The list of additional activities that the project undertakes to positively impact the local communities.	land tenure regularization/land titling; employment opportunities; agricultural training programmes; other additional community-focused activities (e.g. health initiatives, activities targeting women, education initiatives, etc.); alternative livelihood support (e.g., handicrafts, non-timber forest products, bee-keeping); cookstove distribution; alternative resources (e.g., tree nurseries); microfinance programmes; The project appears not to undertake any additional community-focused activities

Data Inputs

Input name	Description	Dropdown Options
REDD Activities	List of REDD activities.	[Reducing deforestation through alternate income provision (benefit-sharing); Reducing deforestation through alternate income provision (livelihood activities); Monitoring the forest with on the ground technology; Monitoring the forest with remote sensing; Protecting the forest through patrols; Reforesting; Land titling; Improved cookstoves; None mentioned]
Natural risks mitigations	The present or planned (claimed) project natural risk mitigations.	Fire patrols I A Satellite monitoring I A, B Fuel breaks I A Drought-resistant species I B, C Polyculture and/or diverse species planting I B, C Thinning I A, B Fire brigades I A Other fire monitoring system I A Dispersed project area I A, B, C Fire-fighting equipment I A Fire-resistant species I A Deadwood and litter clearing I A Irrigation I B, C Natural pest control training I C Pesticides I C Disease-infected tree extraction I C A = Fire, B = Drought, C = Pests

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