

Final Plan Vivo Validation Report: Emiti Nibwo Burola Project Vi Agroforestry, Kagera



Ezra C. Neale
December 18, 2009

Final Plan Vivo Validation Report: Emiti Nibwo Burola Project

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Name of Reviewer: Ezra C. Neale

Date of Review: October 28, 2009 . November 7, 2009

Project Name: Emiti Nibwo Burola Project

Location: Kagera, Tanzania

Project Description

The miti Nibwo Burola project involves small scale farmers for mitigation of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and climate change in Kagera region in western Tanzania. The project is being undertaken by Vi Agroforestry, under the Lake Victoria Regional Environmental and Sustainable Agricultural Productivity Programme (RESAPP). The programme supports small scale farmers to learn about and engage in tree planting and other agroforestry activities which contribute to increased soil carbon storage, carbon sequestration in biomass, and deliver other economic and social benefits. The agroforestry systems used are boundary planting, dispersed interplanting, fruit orchards and woodlots. Vi Agroforestry has completed a pilot stage of this program and now hopes to scale-up technical training and tree planting activities. To date they have selected twenty four landowners to participate in the pilot program, developed Plan Vivos (long-term land management plans), and established tree planting programs with each of these local producers.

Scope of Validation

Vi Agroforestry seeks to register this project with the Plan Vivo Foundation in order to begin selling Verified Emission Credits (VERs) and accessing carbon finance. The aim of the validation effort was to verify that the project documents accurately represent field conditions and ensure that the project was in line with the requirements outlined in the Plan Vivo Standards. An independent expert, Ezra C. Neale, completed a Plan Vivo validation of the Vi Agroforestry, Kagera Emiti Nibwo Burola Project. The validation consisted of a desk review of relevant documents and a field visit where projects activities are managed and being implemented. The desk review was completed between October 28, 2008 and October 31, 2009 and the field visit was completed between November 7, 2009 and November 11, 2009.

Final Validation Opinion

The evidence presented in project documents and during the field visit indicates that Vi Agroforestry has the capacity to plan, develop, and manage the Emiti Nibwo Burola project. Based on the Response to Plan Vivo Validation Report . Emiti Nibwo Burola dated December 9, 2009 the three (3) minor corrective actions identified in the Draft Validation Report dated November 16, 2009 have been addressed. The Response to the Plan Vivo Validation Report can be found in Appendix II. Please note that specific actions will be carried out from December 2009-January 2010 but there is no need to delay registration. The Plan Vivo Foundation will contact Vi Agroforestry at the end of January 2010 to verify that the activities have been completed. In addition Vi Agroforestry has addressed each of the recommendations presented in the Draft Validation Report. Based on these results, Vi Agroforestry has met all of the requirements of the Plan Vivo Standards and the Emiti Nibwo Burola project is qualified for registration with the Plan Vivo Foundation. If there are any further questions, please contact Ezra Neale at ezra.neale@brdt.org.

Table 1. Summary of major and minor Corrective Actions

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Theme	Major CARs	Minor CARs	Observations
Governance	0	0	See recommendations
Carbon	0	0	See recommendations
Ecosystem	0	0	See recommendations
Livelihoods	0	0	See recommendations

List of Documents Reviewed

Baseline Study:

1. Assessment of Net Carbon Benefit of VI Skogen Land Use Activities in Kagera, Tanzania
Author: Emmanuel E. Ekakoro
Consultancy: Camco

Technical Specifications:

1. Woodlot technical specification
 2. Dispersed Interplanting Technical Specification
 3. Boundary Planting Technical Specification
 4. Orchard Technical Specification
- Author: Geoffrey Onyango, Emmanuel Ekakoro and Joan Sang
Consultancy: Camco

Producer Agreement Template:

1. Vi Tree Planting Foundation Plan Vivo Agreement

Project Design Document:

1. Vi Agroforestry Plan Vivo Project Design Document, Karagwe District, Tanzania

Project Idea Note:

2. Vi Agroforestry Plan Vivo Project Idea Note, Kagera, Tanzania

Description of field visit (including list of sites visited and individuals/groups interviewed)

Meeting with Vi Agroforestry Staff

On Monday November 2, 2009 the project team met at the regional headquarters in Bukoba, Tanzania. This day was used to clear up questions that arose during the desk review.

Producer Site Visits

On Tuesday November 3, 2009 and Wednesday November 4, 2009 site visits were completed with five different producers. Each visit included a review of site conditions, recording GPS points of the site boundary, and conducting an interview with the producer to gauge his/her understanding of Plan Vivo project, technical specifications, and knowledge of the management and monitoring responsibilities. Table 2. Shows a list of the site visits completed during the validation exercise.

Table 2. List of producer site visits completed during Emiti Nibwo Burola Plan Vivo validation

Site Visit	Site Visit Date	Landowner	Land Use System	Plan Vivo
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				Area (ha)
1	November 3, 2009	Ashery Mungereza	Woodlot	1
2	November 3, 2009	Staiton J. Ntimba	Woodlot/Interplanting	1.75
3	November 4, 2009	Milton Katesigwa	Woodlot	1.5
4	November 4, 2009	Johansen Kahatano	Wood lot/Interplanting	1
5	November 4, 2009	Chrizostom Nyamhanzik	Dispersed Interplanting	2.5

Producer Community Meeting

On November 5, 2009 the Field Officer organized a community meeting in Nyakayanja, Tanzania. The goal of this meeting was to assess the type of training received, the participation process utilized, and the community's thoughts and perspectives on the program. A total of twelve farmers participated in this meeting, see Appendix 1 for a sign-in sheet of participants.

Close-out meeting with Vi Agroforestry staff

On November 6, 2009 a wrap-up meeting was held with a group of staff to discuss the findings from the validation exercise. The validation expert provided a review of findings and fielded questions from each of the participants.

Theme	1. Effective and Transparent Project Governance
Requirement	<p>1.1 Administrative capabilities</p> <p>The project has set up a legal and organisational framework with the ability and capacity to aggregate carbon from multiple land-owners and transact to purchasers, and monitor progress across all project operations, including:</p> <p>1.1.1 A legal entity (project coordinator) able to enter into sale agreements with multiple producers or producer groups for carbon services;</p> <p>1.1.2 Standard sale agreement templates for the provision of carbon services;</p> <p>1.1.3 Transparent and audited financial accounts able to the secure receipt, holding and disbursement of payments to producers;</p> <p>1.1.4 All necessary legal permissions to carry out the intended activities;</p> <p>1.1.5 Mechanisms for participants to discuss issues associated with the design and running of the project.</p>
Findings	<p>The review indicates that institutional arrangements and legal agreements are in place and Vi Agroforestry has the capacity to manage the fiscal and programmatic elements of a Plan Vivo program.</p> <p>The project is managed and coordinated by Vi Skogen, an international Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) based in Sweden with NGO offices that are registered in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda. The international arm provides oversight and fundraising support for these field offices. The Kagera project is being managed and implemented by the Kagera office of Vi Agroforestry located in Bukoba, Tanzania under the Lake Victoria Regional Environmental and Sustainable Agricultural Productivity Programme (RESAPP). A review of Annex 8.2 Articles of association and Annex 8.4 Certificate of registration incorporated in the PDD indicate that Vi Agroforestry is a legal registered entity in Tanzania.</p>

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	<p>The desk review also indicates that the organization can manage large quantities of funds from diverse public and private sources. The annual budget of Vi Skogen in 2008 was 76,098,000 SEK and the auditors review reports for the years 2006-2008 (Annex 8.4), provide evidence of VI Agroforestry's ability to manage the fiscal aspects of PES payments.</p> <p>The sales agreement template clearly lays out management, monitoring, and reporting responsibilities for the producer as well as development support, capacity building and extension services for Vi Agroforestry. In addition the template provides a matrix for calculating the carbon benefit for each producer as well as a requirement for a 20% producer contribution to a Risk Buffer fund. See section 4.3 for a more thorough description of the sales agreement and recommended improvements.</p> <p>With the assistance of Vi Agroforestry, the producers have organized themselves into a producer group with a constitution, bylaws, and elected representatives i.e. president, secretary, and treasurer. The group meets on a regular basis and provides an excellent forum for resolving issues associated with the design and management of the project.</p>			
Conformance	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; padding: 5px;">Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="width: 33%; padding: 5px;">No <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="width: 33%; padding: 5px;">N/A <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>		
CAR/REC	None			
Requirement	<p>1.2 Technical capabilities</p> <p>The project, through its participants, is able to provide assistance to producers in planning and implementing productive, sustainable and economically viable forestry and agroforestry systems, and provide support for silvicultural and other management operations.</p>			
Findings	<p>Vi Agroforestry has the capacity to provide technical assistance to producers and overall technical support needed to implement the Plan Vivo Program. The Vi Agroforestry Programme started in 1983 in West Pokot District in Kenya with the aim of halting desertification by planting trees and shrubs. Over the years the program has expanded to include seven projects: Kitale and Kisumu in Kenya, Masaka in Uganda, Kigali in Rwanda and Mara, Mwanza and Kagera in Tanzania. In total Vi Agroforestry has had a presence in the region for 25 years, facilitating communities to plant trees as a way of improving their livelihoods and the local environment by increasing tree cover.</p> <p>The Plan Vivo project is being managed by the Climate Change and Environment Division at the Bukoba office. This team is composed of John Mahaba, Grace Eustace, and Abubakari Munga. Each team member demonstrated knowledge of agroforestry and land management techniques as well as a competency administering the technical assistance activities occurring at the field sites.</p> <p>Most of the technical training activities are being carried out by two Field</p>			

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	<p>officers, Simeo Kiburugutu and Badi Nkoba. Badi Nkoba was not available during the field validation exercise because she was on leave at that time. Simeo Kiburugutu directed each of the five producer site visits with farmers and helped facilitate the producer meeting. Simeo demonstrated both substantial technical knowledge in the area of agriculture and forestry and the capability to work with local producers/farmers</p>		
Conformance	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
CAR/REC	None		
Requirement	<p>1.3 Social capabilities</p> <p>1.3.1. Able to select appropriate target groups, inform groups about the Plan Vivo System and the nature of carbon and ecosystem services and establish effective participatory relationships with producers</p> <p>1.3.2. Able to establish land-tenure rights through engaging with producers and other relevant organisations</p> <p>1.3.3. Able to consult producers effectively on a sustained basis</p>		
Findings	<p>Vi Agroforestry successfully carried out a community engagement process to identify and developed long-term relationships with twenty four different producers. Their aptitude for site selection, producer organization development, and delivery of technical training Indicates their ability to scale-up these activities as the program grows.</p> <p>All of the producers visited during the site visits were able to provide documentation regarding land ownership as defined by the legal system in Tanzania. Most landowners received land ownership rights through inheritance while some purchased land from the village government. Vi Agroforrestry also collected signatures from each of the surrounding landowners, verifying that the land was owned by the producer.</p> <p>In order to deliver regular and sustained technical assistance to producers, Vi Agroforestry operates a well organized and coordinated system of Zone Coordinators and Field Officers. This system allows field officers to provide regular trainings and personalized consultations to producers. Both the zone coordinator as well as field officers demonstrated technical competencies in agriculture and forestry techniques and the capability to engage local producers.</p>		
Conformance	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
CAR/REC	<p>Recommendation:</p> <p>1. Ensure that the zone offices are sufficiently staffed with Field Officers as the Plan Vivo project expands.</p> <p>Response:</p>		

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	Vi Agroforestry puts effort into having qualified staff present in adequate numbers in all areas of operation so as to ensure that the technical skills and knowledge is present locally with support from technical competent staff. Thereby the organisation will always be in a position to guarantee that necessary skills and competences are available into areas of expansion.		
Requirement	1.4 Reporting Projects must on an annual basis, according to the reporting schedule agreed with the Plan Vivo Foundation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.4.1 Accurately report progress, achievements and problems experienced; 1.4.2 Transparently report sales figures and demonstrate resource allocation in the interest of target groups. 		
Findings	At the time of the validation, Vi Agroforestry had not yet entered into agreements with producers, completed any VER sales, or had any evidence of reporting. They did, however, demonstrate their capacity to develop and manage complex fiscal and programmatic reporting requirements as well as the infrastructure (sales agreements and database) required to track Plan Vivo activities. Based on this evidence, it is conclusive that they are capable of maintaining accurate and transparent reporting procedures and producing and submitting annual reports to Plan Vivo based on an agreed upon schedule.		
CAR/REC	Recommendation: 1. Establish reporting schedule and implement data management protocol to ensure reporting Quality Assurance/Quality Control. Response: Vi Agroforestry Kagera Project is of the opinion that a reporting and monitoring manual for involved personnel is developed that will set clear targets for the timing and quality of reports developed and forwarded to necessary stakeholders and beneficiaries.		
Conformance	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>

Theme	2. Carbon Benefits
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Requirement	<p>2.1. Accounting methodology</p> <p>Carbon benefits are calculated using recognised carbon accounting methodologies and conservative estimates of carbon uptake/storage that take into account risks of leakage and reversibility.</p>		
Findings	<p>The carbon accounting methodology is recognized as a credible approach in the industry. The methods used to assess the potential carbon sequestration by the four land use systems to be used as Plan Vivo activities by VI Skogen Kagera are described by Nick Berry (2008).</p> <p>The methodology relied on field measurements of trees of a known age made to help determine annual (stem) volume increments (m³/yr). The methodology was sound but lacked field data for many of the species recommended in the technical specifications. There is sufficient data for the commonly planted trees e.g. <i>Mesopsis</i> but as farmers begin to expand their tree planting operations and use additional species not covered in these initial estimates it is advisable (if possible) to acquire additional volume increment data for these species. These data would help more accurately model the carbon sequestration benefits of individual farming systems.</p> <p>The accounting methodology did account for leakage that may occur as a result of tree harvesting for construction poles, firewood needs, and charcoal production (displaced activities). Under CDM protocols it is credible to assume no leakage for small scale afforestation/reforestation activities. The potential for leakage will be addressed by the following management measures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All farmers should be assessed individually to demonstrate that they retain sufficient land to provide food for themselves and their families. 2. Signatories to Plan Vivo activities will be contractually obliged not to displace their activities as a result of the tree planting. 3. A plan to monitor leakage on specific other woodland areas to ensure leakage is not occurring. 4. Formation of community based policing to ensure that leakage resulting from displaced activities does not occur. 		
Conformance	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
CAR/REC	<p>Recommendation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acquire additional volume increment data for additional agroforestry tree species identified in the technical specifications to more accurately model the carbon sequestration benefits of individual farming systems. <p>Response:</p> <p>The Kagera Project together with the representative from Camco, developing the technical specifications tried to source proper reference data. However due to the rapid deforestation some data was difficult to obtain. Therefore Vi Agroforestry will source data from reliable sources coming from similar</p>		

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	ecological conditions in the region so as to compensate for lacking data on volume increments.		
Requirement	2.2. Baseline Carbon benefits are measured against a clear and credible carbon baseline .		
Findings	<p>The methodologies for developing a baseline are clear and credible and sufficient for afforestation/reforestation projects as outlined under CDM protocols. The assumed static baseline is sufficient as long as projects are not developed in areas considered forest for Tanzania under the CDM. The sampling methodologies were clearly described and amount of data collected was sufficient to characterize the static baseline.</p> <p>This model, CO2FIX-V3 (Mohren et al 2004), used to calculate carbon storage is recognized within the industry and used to calculate carbon storage in other registered Plan Vivo projects. All of the parameters used (basic woodcarbon content; timber production; total tree increment relative to timber production; product allocation for thinnings, expected lifetime of products etc.) for each tree planting system listed in Appendix II were reasonable and/or conservative estimates.</p>		
Conformance	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
CAR/REC	None		
Requirement	2.3. Additionality Carbon benefits are additional , i.e. the project and activities supported by the project could not have happened were it not for the availability of carbon finance. Specifically this means demonstrating, as a minimum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.3.1. The project does not owe its existence to legislative decrees or to commercial land-use initiatives likely to have been economically viable in their own right without payments for ecosystem services; and 2.3.2. In the absence of project development funding and carbon finance, financial, social, cultural, technical, ecological or institutional barriers would have prevented the project activity. 		
Findings	The Plan Vivo activities are additional and meet all of the requirements listed above. Although Vi Agroforestry is engaged in providing technical assistance for tree planting activities, there are no legislative decrees or economically viable land initiatives involved in this program. All activities are funded by public dollars and private charitable contributions.		

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	Without the technical training and capacity building efforts, producers in the Karagwe region lack the knowledge and financial capacity to implement the agroforestry and tree planting activities. Carbon finance will help Vi Agroforestry expand its efforts to include additional landowners, systematize agroforestry implementation methodologies, and achieve social, economic, and climate change benefits that would not be possible in the absence of project activities.		
Conformance	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
CAR/REC	None		
Requirement	<p>2.4. Permanence</p> <p>2.4.1. Potential risks to permanence of carbon stocks are identified in project technical specifications and effective mitigation measures implemented into project design, management and reporting procedures.</p> <p>2.4.2. Producers enter into sale agreements with the project coordinator agreeing to maintain activities, comply with the monitoring, implement management requirements and re-plant trees felled or lost.</p> <p>2.4.3. As a minimum, a 10% risk buffer is deducted from the saleable carbon of each producer, where the level of buffer is recommended in the technical specifications according to the level of risk identified, and subsequently reviewed annually following annual reporting.</p>		
Findings	<p>The technical specifications clearly outline management and monitoring procedures and specific targets that producers must meet to be eligible for carbon payments. Monitoring targets include the survivorship of individual trees as well as the growth rates measured in dbh. In the case where tree survival does not meet the targets outlined in the technical specification, farmers will be directed to replant until the targets are met. Payments will also be withheld when growth rates are not achieved. Based on the discussions and field visits with producers they are knowledgeable about the requirements of the technical specifications and their tree planting activities mirror the planting prescriptions.</p> <p>The technical specification clearly identifies permanence issues that may arise from natural or man induced disasters such as fire, drought and grazing as well as a list of management measures outlined in Table D1 on page 15 of the PDD. Although these management measures meet the requirements of the Plan Vivo Standards it is recommended that they be developed so that they can be used guide land management activities and further reduce the risk of permanence.</p> <p>At the time of this review, Vi Agroforestry had not yet entered into sales agreements with producers. They do however have an excellent land-owner agreement template and technical guidance system in place to help guide</p>		

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	<p>producers in management and monitoring activities.</p> <p>The PDD and technical specifications indicate that producers will contribute 20% of the carbon finance generated by land use activities to a risk buffer fund. This risk buffer far exceeds the required 10%. This fund will be used to pay for replanting activities when tree cover is lost as a result of unpredictable events such as fire. Vi Agroforestry should articulate how the risk buffer fund will be used to compensate for lost forest cover as a result of unpredictable events. Based on this analysis it may be possible to reduce the risk buffer freeing up carbon finance for producers.</p>		
Conformance	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
CAR/REC	<p>Recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Further develop management measures so that they can be used guide land management activities and further reduce the risk of permanence. 2. Clearly articulate how the risk buffer fund will be used to compensate for lost forest cover as a result of unpredictable events. <p>Response: Vi Agroforestry will in association to the PDD develop field guidance sheets on land management approaches that are to be used by technical field staff and farmers holding Plan Vivo so as to ensure that risk and threats to the Plan Vivo Systems are minimised. Risk buffer will be 10% as per Plan Vivo standard. This risk buffer will be used to compensate for tree loss due to unpredictable events such as drought, diseases and flood.</p>		
Requirement	<p>2.5 Leakage</p> <p>Potential sources of leakage have been identified and effective mitigation measures implemented.</p>		
Findings	<p>Vi Agroforestry effectively considers the displacement of activities and plans to minimise the risk of negative leakage through the following measures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All farmers should be assessed individually to demonstrate that they retain sufficient land to provide food for themselves and their families. 2. Signatories to Plan Vivo activities will be contractually obliged not to displace their activities as a result of the tree planting. 3. A plan to monitor leakage on specific other woodland areas to ensure leakage is not occurring. 4. Formation of community based policing to ensure that leakage resulting from displaced activities does not occur. 		
Conformance	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
CAR/REC	None		

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Requirement	<p>2.6. Traceability and double-counting</p> <p>Carbon sales are traceable and recorded in a database.</p>		
Findings	<p>A Plan Vivo access database was developed by Camco to track, store, and manage carbon sales. The database is a sufficient tool for carrying out accurate tracking of carbon sales. It should be noted that at the time of the field evaluation the database was not yet in use. As data is incorporated into the database, Vi Agroforestry should closely monitor database functionalities to ensure that it performs as anticipated.</p> <p>One must also consider how best to avoid issues related to human error. It is recommended to establish a coherent and thorough data management protocol. This protocol will help ensure that all of the monitoring data collected from the field is stored in hard and electronic copy and data entered into the database is cross checked by at least two people to ensure data Quality Assurance and Quality Control.</p>		
Conformance	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
CAR/REC	<p>Recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Closely monitor database functionalities to ensure that it performs as anticipated. 2. Establish a coherent and thorough data management protocol for storing field data and entering information related to carbon sales. <p>Response:</p> <p>Since the database has not been used for real data entry, we have only been testing for potential errors. Once real data will be entered, a record of observations should be maintained, which will guide the programmer to make the necessary corrections if such needs arise. The Data Management Protocol shall describe the processes of counterchecking entries and clearly describe the frequency, process and storage of backup taken. The M&E officer in the project will have the responsibility of counterchecking procedures are carried out, as it will be described in the Protocol.</p> <p>Forms to collect data from the field by Field Officers will be developed, data collected will be stored and maintained in the database.</p>		
Requirement	<p>2.7. Monitoring</p> <p>Project has an effective process for monitoring the continued delivery of the ecosystem services, where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.7.1. Monitoring is carried out against targets specified in technical specifications; 2.7.2. Monitoring is carried out accurately using indicators specified in technical specifications; 2.7.3. Monitoring is accurately documented and reported to the entity responsible for disbursing payments to producers; 		

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	2.7.4. Corrective actions are prescribed and recorded where targets are not met, and followed up in subsequent monitoring.		
Findings	<p>The technical specifications outline a clear and comprehensible approach to monitoring that includes specific targets and corrective measures. Monitoring targets include the percentage survival of individual trees as well as the growth rates measured in dbh. In the case that tree survival does not meet the targets outlined in the technical specification, farmers will be directed to replant until the targets are met. Payments will also be withheld when growth rates are not achieved.</p> <p>At the time of validation, Vi Agroforestry had not undergone any monitoring activities and there was no monitoring evidence available. Most of the producers interviewed had some sense of the purpose of monitoring but few of them knew what or how they would carry out the monitoring activities. Prior to entering into agreements with producers, Vi Agroforestry must ensure that producers receive adequate monitoring training and have the competency to draw the connection between monitoring results and carbon payments.</p>		
Conformance	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
CAR/REC	<p>Recommendation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure that producers receive adequate monitoring training and have the competency to draw the connection between monitoring results and carbon payments prior to entering into agreements with producers. <p>Response:</p> <p>Training and capacity building of producers and relevant staff will be planned and organised so as to ensure there is clear understanding of the expectations and purpose.</p>		
Requirement	<p>2.8. Plan Vivos</p> <p>Producers draw up Plan Vivos as part of a participatory process that ensures proposed land-use activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are clear, appropriate and consistent with approved technical specifications for the project; Will not cause producers' overall agricultural production or revenue potential to become unsustainable or unviable. 		
Findings	<p>Plan Vivos were drawn up as part of a participatory process and on site consultations with Field Officer. The Plan Vivos currently show the site boundary and pre-project vegetation cover but do not provide any details related to proposed land management practices. The Plan Vivos need to be updated so that they detail these practices. Also, producers had a difficult time articulating the purpose of a Plan Vivo. This should be emphasized in upcoming training activities.</p> <p>At each of the five sites, tree planting activities are situated on degraded land or set aside from primary food and cash crop production and will not have any</p>		

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	negative impacts on local livelihoods.		
Conformance	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
CAR/REC	<p>Minor Corrective Action noted in Draft Validation Report</p> <p>1. Prior to entering into agreements, update Plan Vivos so that they detail management practices planned for each site.</p> <p>Response: These actions will be carried out from December 2009-January 2010 as noted in the Response to Plan Vivo Validation Report . Emiti Nibwo Burola dated December 9, 2009. The Plan Vivo Foundation will contact Vi Agroforestry at the end of January 2010 to verify that the activities have been completed.</p>		

Theme	3. Ecosystem benefits		
Requirement	<p>3.1. Planting native and naturalised species</p> <p>3.1.1. Planting activities are restricted to native and naturalised species.</p> <p>3.1.2. Naturalised (i.e. non-invasive) species are eligible only where they can be shown to have compelling livelihood benefits and: Producers have clearly expressed a wish to use this species; The areas involve are not in immediate proximity to conservation areas or likely to have any significant negative effect on biodiversity; The activity is still additional i.e. the producers in the area are not doing this activity or able to do this activity without the intervention and support of the project; The activity will have no harmful effects on the water-table.</p>		
Findings	The technical specifications used use only native and naturalized species and are in conformance with the requirements listed above.		
Conformance	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
CAR/REC	None		
Requirement	<p>3.2. Ecological impacts</p> <p>Wider ecological impacts have been identified and considered expressly including impacts on local and regional biodiversity and impacts on watersheds.</p>		
Findings	<p>Ecological impacts have been generally considered in the project documents.</p> <p>Two of the five sites were established within a landscape composed of relatively</p>		

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	<p>intact forest that supports abundant bird life. If these woodlots expand, they may negatively affect adjacent vegetation. A protocol should be developed to ensure that potential impacts on adjacent vegetation are carefully considered when expanding the spatial extent of land use systems.</p> <p>The program would also benefit from a technical specification for forest management and restoration so that landowners with forest cover may be included in the program and additional environmental benefits can be generated from the restoration and management of these sites.</p>		
Conformance	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
CAR/REC	<p>Recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a protocol to ensure that potential impacts on adjacent vegetation are carefully considered when expanding the spatial extent of land use systems. 2. Develop a technical specification for forest management and restoration so that landowners with forest cover may be included in the program and additional environmental benefits can be generated from the restoration and management of these sites. <p>Response:</p> <p><i>Recommendation no. 1:</i> As part of the monitoring requirements Vi Agroforestry, Kagera Project will ensure that monitoring will include the observation and guidance on potential unwanted impacts are taken into account.</p> <p><i>Recommendation no. 2:</i> Vi Agroforestry will consider the recommendation to add an technical specification for forest management. We however will have to consider that our organizational objectives are not related to forest management but to that of small-holder farmers land use management and agroforestry not exceeding 2 hectares.</p>		

Theme	4. Livelihood Benefits		
Requirement	4.1. Community-led planning		
	Project has undergone a producer/community-led planning process aimed at identifying and defining sustainable land-use activities that serve the community's needs and priorities.		
Findings	Vi Agroforestry actively solicited all the communities in and around the pilot study to identify willing landowners, worked with landowners to developed technical specifications that are appropriate for producer needs, and helped organize a producer lead organization to guide the planning process at the community level. Based on this evidence, Vi Agroforestry meets the requirements outlined above.		
Conformance	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>

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CAR/REC	None		
Requirement	<p>4.2. Continued participation and training</p> <p>Mechanisms are in place for continued training of producers and participation by producers in project development.</p>		
Findings	<p>Vi Agroforestry regularly engages producers in one-on-one consultation and provides continued organization development and technical training activities. Based on this evidence all of the requirements have been met.</p>		
Conformance	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
CAR/REC	None		
Requirement	<p>4.3. Sale agreements</p> <p>Project has procedures for entering into sale agreements with producers based on saleable carbon from Plan Vivos, where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.3.1. Producers have recognised carbon ownership via tenure or land-use rights; 4.3.2. Agreements specify quantity, price, buyer, payment conditions, risk buffer, and monitoring milestones; 4.3.3. An equitable system is in place to determine the share of the total price which is allocated to the producer; 4.3.4. Producers enter into sale agreements voluntarily. 		
Findings	<p>All of the producers visited during the site visits were able to provide documentation regarding land ownership as defined by the legal system in Tanzania. Most landowners received land ownership rights through inheritance while some purchased land from the village government. In addition, Vi Agroforestry collected signatures from each of the surrounding landowner verifying that the land on which the Plan Vivo was developed was in fact owned by the producer.</p> <p>The sales agreement template clearly lays out management, monitoring, and reporting responsibilities for the producer as well as development support, capacity building and extension services for Vi Agroforestry. In addition the template provides a matrix for calculating the carbon benefit for each producer as well as a requirement for a 20% producer contribution to a Risk Buffer fund.</p> <p>At the time that the validation exercise took place, the project developer had not entered into any agreements with producers and had not undergone a participatory process with the producers to define the price of carbon and well as the manner in which carbon finance would be distributed. This was</p>		

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	<p>discussed with the project staff and they are planning to implement such activities before entering into agreements.</p> <p>At the time that the validation exercise took place, the project developer had not entered into any agreements with producers and had not undergone a participatory process with the producers to define the price of carbon and well as the manner in which carbon finance would be distributed. This was discussed with the project staff and they are planning to implement such activities before entering into agreements.</p> <p>It is recommended that a participatory process be carried out with all producers to reach a consensus based decision on the payment scheme. It is necessary to update the agreement to include the percentage of carbon to be contributed to Vi Skogen for Advertising, Vi Agroforestry for project management, the percentage that producer will ultimately receive, as well as the price of carbon that will be paid to the producer.</p>			
Conformance	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">No <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">N/A <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>		
CAR/REC	<p>Minor Corrective Actions noted in Draft Validation Report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carry out a participatory process with all producers to reach a consensus based decision on the carbon payment scheme. 2. Update the sales agreement to include the percentage of carbon to be contributed to Vi Skogen for Advertising, Vi Agroforestry for project management, the percentage that producer will ultimately receive, as well as the price of carbon that will be paid to the producer. <p>Response: These actions will be carried out from December 2009-January 2010 as noted in the Response to Plan Vivo Validation Report . Emiti Nibwo Burola dated December 9, 2009. The Plan Vivo Foundation will contact Vi Agroforestry at the end of January 2010 to verify that the activities have been completed.</p>			
Requirement	<p>4.4. Payments to producers</p> <p>Project has an effective and transparent process for the timely administration and recording of payments to producers, where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4.4.1. Payments are delivered in full when monitoring is successfully completed against targets in sale agreements; 4.4.2. Payments are recorded in the project database to ensure traceability of sales. 			
Findings	<p>At the time of the validation Vi Agroforestry had not yet entered into agreements with producers, completed any VER sales, or had any evidence of reporting. They did however demonstrate their capacity to develop and manage complex fiscal and programmatic reporting requirements with existing grant funded programs as well as the infrastructure (sales agreements and database) required to track Plan Vivo activities. Based on this evidence, it is conclusive that they are capable of collecting and storing monitoring information and delivering payments based on this information.</p>			

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Conformance	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
CAR/REC	<p>Recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Establish monitoring reporting plan with producers and data management protocol for storing data and dispersing payments. <p>Response:</p> <p>Will be incorporated into the reporting and monitoring manual</p>		

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Appendix I . List of participants of the producer meeting held on November 5, 2009 in Nyakayanja, Tanzania

Plan Vivo Meeting
5/11/2009
Nyakayanja, Tanzania
Vi Agroforestry

Present.

1. SADOCKI MZAROMBI	KIKONI	SAD Zombi
2. APLOMARY KALABAGIWA	KIKONI	AP Kalabagwa
3. MILITONI KATESIWA	KISHANSHAMUZI	M Katesiwa
4. DAWSONI MASHANI	CHAKAHOYA	D Mashani
5. YAKUBU AMUR	KATINDE	Y Amur
6. PHIASON KATOTO	KIKUBI	P Katoto
7. CHRIZESTON NYAMUHANZI	CHAKAHOYA	C Nyamuhanzi
8. EMANURY BAGOKA	KISHANSHAMUZI	E Bagoka
9. PHILIP RWEZAUWA	KAINA/KIKUNGILI	P Rwezauwa
10. STATION JOHN	MUGABA	S John
11. BENEDICTO ITAGULANA	MUGABA	B Itagulana
12. THORIAS BEINEGULA	CHAKAHOYA	T Beinegula
13. ANSON LOTAYO	Kaito - Kikungili	A Lotayo
14. GRAVE EUSTACE	SCC-VI-AFP	G Eustace
15. SIMEO KIBURUGUTO	SCC-VI-AFP	S Kiburuguto
16. Abubakar Munga	SCC-VI-AFP	A Munga

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Appendix II . Vi Agroforestry Response to Plan Vivo Validation Report - Emit Nibwo Project

9th December 2009

Our Ref. No.: PD/08/2009



Vi AGROFORESTRY

Bo Lager, Programme Director
Grace Eustace, Head of Environment & Climate
Change Unit, PV Coordinator

Alexa Morrison
Plan Vivo Foundation
Edinburgh, Scotland

Cc: Henrik Brundin, Stockholm
Damas Masologo, Bukoba
Grace Eustace, Bukoba

Re: Response to Plan Vivo Validation Report – Emiti Nibwo Burola

Dear Alexa,

In general terms Vi Agroforestry in Kagera accepts the report, its findings and recommendations. The first table shows a more descriptive response to recommendations and required corrective actions according to the validation report. The second part is general comments on the recommendations in the report.

Part 1. Minor corrective measures

Theme	Minor corrective action according to validation report	Measures to be taken by Vi Agroforestry
2. Climate Benefits 2.8 Plan Vivo's	1. Prior to entering into agreements, update Plan Vivos so that they detail management practices planned for each site.	New Plan Vivos that will include required information about the proposed land management practices for each site will be sketched/drawn. Implementation December 2009-January 2010.
4. Livelihood Benefits 4.3 Sale Agreement	1. Carry out a participatory process with all producers to reach a consensus based decision on the carbon payment scheme.	Vi Agroforestry, Kagera Project will hold a stakeholder meeting with the producers so as to clarify the expectations and opportunities available. and together will establish a carbon payment scheme. Implementation December 2009-January 2010.
	2. Update the sales agreement to include the percentage of carbon	The percent distribution of carbon fund will be shown in the

Vi Skogen/Vi Agroforestry

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Theme	Minor corrective action according to validation report	Measures to be taken by Vi Agroforestry
	to be contributed to Vi Skogen for Advertising, Vi Agroforestry for project management, the percentage that producer will ultimately receive, as well as the price of carbon that will be paid to the producer.	sale agreement as follows; 10% risk buffer, 5% advertisement, 20% administration and implementation, 65% producer. (The price for tCO2 is not yet known). Implementation December 2009-January 2010.

Part 2. General comments:

1.3 Social capabilities:

Vi Agroforestry puts effort into having qualified staff present in adequate numbers in all areas of operation so as to ensure that the technical skills and knowledge is present locally with support from technical competent staff. Thereby the organisation will always be in a position to guarantee that necessary skills and competences are available into areas of expansion.

1.4 Reporting

Vi Agroforestry Kagera Project is of the opinion that a reporting and monitoring manual for involved personnel is developed that will set clear targets for the timing and quality of reports developed and forwarded to necessary stakeholders and beneficiaries.

2.1 Carbon Benefits

The Kagera Project together with the representative from Camco, developing the technical specifications tried to source proper reference data. However due to the rapid deforestation some data was difficult to obtain. Therefore Vi Agroforestry will source data from reliable sources coming from similar ecological conditions in the region so as to compensate for lacking data on volume increments.

2.4 Permanence

Vi Agroforestry will in association to the PDD develop field guidance sheets on land management approaches that are to be used by technical field staff and farmers holding Plan Vivo's so as to ensure that risk and threats to the Plan Vivo Systems are minimised. Risk buffer will be 10% as per Plan Vivo standard. This risk buffer will be used to compensate for tree loss due to unpredictable events such as drought, diseases and flood.

2.6 Traceability and double counting

Since the database has not been used for real data entry, we have only been testing for potential errors. Once real data will be entered, a record of observations should be maintained, which will guide the programmer to make the necessary corrections if such needs arise.

The Data Management Protocol shall describe the processes of counterchecking entries and clearly describe the frequency, process and storage of backup taken. The M&E officer in the project will have the responsibility of counterchecking procedures are carried out, as it will be described in the Protocol.

Forms to collect data from the field by Field Officers will be developed, data collected will be stored and maintained in the database.

Vi Skogen/Vi Agroforestry

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2.7 Monitoring

Training and capacity building of producers and relevant staff will be planned and organised so as to ensure there is clear understanding of the expectations and purpose.

3.2 Ecological impacts

Recommendation no. 1: As part of the monitoring requirements Vi Agroforestry, Kagera Project will ensure that monitoring will include the observation and guidance on potential unwanted impacts are taken into account.

Recommendation no. 2: Vi Agroforestry will consider the recommendation to add a technical specification for forest management. We however will have to consider that our organisational objectives are not related to forest management but to that of small-holder farmers land use management and agroforestry not exceeding 2 hectares.

4.4 Payments to procedures

Will be incorporated into the reporting and monitoring manual

Yours Faithfully,



Bo Lager, Programme Director