




**Validation report form for post-registration changes for  
CDM project activities  
(Version 02.0)**

*Complete this form in accordance with the instructions attached at the end of this form.*

**BASIC INFORMATION**

<b>Title and UNFCCC reference number of the project activity</b>	Ibi Batéké degraded savannah afforestation project for fuelwood production (Democratic Republic of Congo), number: 4176
<b>Process track</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prior approval <input type="checkbox"/> Issuance <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal of crediting period
<b>Version number of the validation report on PRCs</b>	1
<b>Completion date of the validation report on PRCs</b>	1/6/2018
<b>Type(s) of PRCs</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary deviations from the registered monitoring plan, applied methodologies or applied standardized baselines <input type="checkbox"/> Corrections <input type="checkbox"/> Changes to the start date of the crediting period <input type="checkbox"/> Inclusion of a monitoring plan <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent changes to the registered monitoring plan, or permanent deviation of monitoring from the applied methodologies, standardized baselines, or other applied standards or tools <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Changes to the project design <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Changes specific to afforestation and reforestation project activities
<b>Version number of PDD to which this report applies</b>	2
<b>Project participants</b>	NOVACEL sprl ORBEO
<b>Host Party</b>	Democratic Republic of Congo
<b>Applied methodologies and standardized baselines</b>	AR-ACM0001 ver.3
<b>Mandatory sectoral scopes linked to the applied methodology</b>	14: Afforestation and reforestation
<b>Conditional sectoral scopes linked to the applied methodologies</b>	-
<b>Name and UNFCCC reference number of</b>	AENOR INTERNACIONAL S.A.U Reference number: E-0021

the DOE	
<b>Name, position and signature of the approver of the validation report on PRCs</b>	Irene Carrascón Climate Change Manager 

## SECTION A. Executive summary

AENOR INTERNACIONAL S.A.U (AENOR) has performed the validation of the Post Registration Changes of the project “Ibi Batéké degraded savannah afforestation project for fuelwood production (Democratic Republic of Congo)” (Registration Ref. N° 4176).

The Batéké plateau is comprised of 90% grassland and shrubby savannah. This savannah is subjected to repeat annual burning as evidence provided demonstrates (see appendix 3). The area also has a 10 % forest gallery subjects to progressive degradation and deforestation for subsistence farming (maize, cassava) and charcoal production. Hence, the project aims to increase the removals of CO<sub>2</sub> through fast growing forest plantations on savannah grassland, the production of charcoal through sustainable fuelwood production, reduction of degradation and deforestation of remaining forest galleries and other issues such as reduce soil erosion and alleviate poverty through the introduction of long term income enhancement mechanisms for local communities.

The project considers forest plantation based on *Acacia* sp, *Eucalyptus* sp. and *Pinus* sp. intercropped with cassava. In addition, a mixture of local and exotic species intercropped with cassava will be established in areas without harvesting, but the project also will enhance the natural regeneration through the fire control.

The proposed project activity is being implemented on the Ibi estate, located North of national highway n°1 from Kinshasa to Kenge, in the village of Mbankana that belongs to the municipality of Maluku (Province of Kinshasa). R.D.C

Some changes to the project design have been proposed by the PPs to the audit team. Accordingly, the scope of the present validation report is to address these post registration changes and assess their validity.

AENOR validated that proposed changes comply with the relevant requirements of the CDM PS version 01.0, i.e, that in accordance with paragraphs 229 and 230 the project participant has identified and documented any actual or proposed changes to the operation, implementation and/or monitoring of the registered CDM project activity.

The project participant has prepared a revised PDD (in both track-change and clean versions) that reflects the actual or proposed changes, using the valid version of the applicable PDD form. The project participant has provided a summary of the changes, including the reasons for the changes and any additional information relating to the changes to the PDD.

In addition, the PP has described in the revised PDD the impacts of the proposed or actual changes to the registered CDM project on the issues included in paragraph 243 of the PS version 01.0.

Furthermore, AENOR, as it is demonstrated below has verified through evidence provided and cross-checks with registered information that the PPs have correctly revised the PDD and emission reductions calculations to reflect the proposed changes and they are in compliance with the requirements in the CDM PS version 01.0, applicable methodology and associated tools and guidelines.

According to the paragraph 248 of the PS version 01.0, the project participant has selected the option a), i.e, the PRC is carried out under the prior-approval track.

**SECTION B. Validation team, technical reviewer and approver**

&gt;&gt;

**B.1. Validation team member**

No.	Role	Type of resource	Last name	First name	Affiliation (e.g. name of central or other office of DOE or outsourced entity)	Involvement in			
						Desk/document review	On-site inspection	Interviews	Validation findings
1.	Team Leader, verifier and technical expert.	IR	Fuentes Pérez	José Luis	AENOR	Yes	n/a	Yes	Yes
2.	validator	IR	García Madero	Mercedes	AENOR	Yes	n/a	n/a	Yes

**B.2. Technical reviewer and approver of the validation report on PRCs**

No.	Role	Type of resource	Last name	First name	Affiliation (e.g. name of central or other office of DOE or outsourced entity)
1.	Technical reviewer	IR	LLorente	Elena	AENOR
2.	Technical expert	IR	Torres	Asier	AENOR
3.	Approver	IR	Carrascón	Irene	AENOR

**SECTION C. Means of validation****C.1. Desk/document review**

The scope of the desk review process is to assess all changes from the project activity as described in the revised project design document, including the impact on the estimates of the emissions reductions, the level of accuracy of the monitoring activity, the additionality and scale of the project and the applicability and application of approved methodologies.

The following documents were reviewed as part of the scope of the activity:

- Registered PDD
- Revised PDD version 02.0 dated on 21/02/2018
- The applicable methodology: AR-ACM0001 V.3
- CDM Validation and Verification Standard for project activities, version 01.0
- Clean Development Mechanism Project Cycle Procedure for project activities, version 01.0
- Clean Development Mechanism Project Standard for project activities, version 01.0
- Tool for estimation of GHG emissions due to clearing, burning and decay of existing vegetation attributable to a CDM A/R project activity (Version 3).

- Calculation of the number of sample plots for measurements within A/R CDM project activities (Version 2);
- Guidelines on conditions under which GHG emissions from removals of existing vegetation due to site preparation are insignificant version 01 (EB 50 annex 21).
- Guidelines on application of specified versions of AR CDM methodologies in verification of registered AR CDM project activities. Version 01.1 (EB 68 annex 31)
- “Guidelines on accounting of specified types of changes in A/R CDM project activities from the description in registered project design document” version 02.0.
- Relevant decisions, clarifications and guidance from the CMP and the CDM Executive Board.
- The influence of data management and the quality assurance and quality control system on the generation and reporting of emission reductions.

A complete list of all documents reviewed is attached in Appendix 3 of this report.

## C.2. On-site inspection

Duration of on-site inspection: DD/MM/YYYY to DD/MM/YYYY				
No.	Activity performed on-site	Site location	Date	Team member
1.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
...				

For the present PRC, AENOR did not carried out an onsite visit. The audit team used other means of validation.

For all changes, AENOR carried out documents review including cross-checking of information and calculations when applicable as well as cross checks between the information provided in the registered PDD and information from other sources provided by the PPs and World Bank.

Likewise, AENOR held telephones calls and e-mail interviews with personnel from the World Bank with knowledge of the project design and technicians of the project.

**C.3. Interviews**

No.	Interviewee			Date	Subject	Team member
	Last name	First name	Affiliation			
1.	Syiem	Evanshainia	World Bank	11/04/2018	<p>Cross checks between information provided in the registered PDD and evidence by Bwebwe and Walters.</p> <p>Check of the updated TARAM calculations.</p> <p>Updating of monitoring parameters, sample size and others.</p>	JFP/MGM
2.	Espejo	Andrés	World Bank	11/04/2018	<p>Cross checks between information provided in the registered PDD and evidence by Bwebwe and Walters.</p> <p>Check of the updated TARAM calculations.</p> <p>Updating of monitoring parameters, sample size and others.</p>	JFP/MGM
3.	Dufour	Thomas	Consultant	11/04/2018	<p>Cross checks between information provided in the registered PDD and evidence by Bwebwe and Walters.</p> <p>Check of the updated TARAM calculations.</p> <p>Updating of monitoring parameters, sample size and others.</p>	JFP/MGM

#### C.4. Sampling approach

Appendix 3 states the main documents checked during the validation of the PRC.

AENOR paid close attention to the review of the revised PDD compared with the registered PDD, the update of the ex-ante calculation of the net anthropogenic GHG removals, the update of the sample size calculation for monitoring, the applicable approved methodology AR-ACM0001 (version 03), associated tools and guidelines.

AENOR reproduced the calculations in affected formulas using the approaches from the CDM guidelines. Values in section B.6.4 of the revised PDD were validated considering the assumptions in the revised PDD as well as the sampling size in section B.7.2 of the revised PDD. AENOR read the studies provided by the PPs and World Bank related to the fires in Savannahs.

During the desk review, AENOR cross checked all parameters in sections B.6.2 and B.7.1 of the revised PDD with the registered PDD and found the information complete and consistent with requested changes and CDM requirements. AENOR reproduced all affected parameters and formulas of the spreadsheet calculations affected by requested changes, verified equations and values fixed ex ante. 100% of the calculations in table of section B.6.4 of the revised PDD were reproduced in order to check the value of the "Ebiomassloss" in the updated TARAM calculations compared with ones validated. The updated TARAM package provided was composed of the following spreadsheets: TARAM V1.3\_BATEKE\_R.D CONGO\_200709\_1 rev1; TARAM V1.3\_BATEKE\_R.D CONGO\_200709\_2 rev1; TARAM V1.3\_BATEKE\_R.D CONGO\_200709\_3 rev1; TARAM V1.3\_BATEKE\_R.D CONGO\_200709\_4 rev1; CERS\_TOTAL\_200709 rev1.

Likewise, the same assessment was carried out for data sampling size in table 8 of the revised PDD considering a confidence level of 90%.

As commented above no on site visit was carried out, then, no sampling approach was followed on site.

#### C.5. Clarification requests (CLs), corrective action requests (CARs) and forward action requests (FARs) raised

Areas of validation findings	No. of CL	No. of CAR	No. of FAR
Compliance with PDD form		1	
Temporary deviations from the registered monitoring plan, applied methodologies or applied standardized baselines			
Corrections			
Changes to the start date of the crediting period			
Inclusion of a monitoring plan			
Permanent changes to the registered monitoring plan, or permanent deviation of monitoring from the applied methodologies, standardized baselines, or other applied standards or tools			
Changes to the project design	2	1	
Changes specific to afforestation and reforestation project activities			
Others (please specify)			
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	

### SECTION D. Validation findings

#### D.1. Compliance with PDD form

<b>Means of validation</b>	<p>During the desk review process, AENOR checked the compliance of the revised PDD (both in tracked-changes and clean version) with the valid version of the applicable PDD form and the Instructions for filling out the PDD form.</p> <p>The project participant has used the latest version of the PDD form for the revised PDD according to the new regulatory documents. All sections, titles, tables have</p>
----------------------------	---

	been revised and crosschecked against the Instructions for filling out the PDD and they were correct.
<b>Findings</b>	<p>Regarding the PDD form a <b>CAR nº 1</b> was raised to the PPs due to the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The initial revised PDD provided was not in the valid version of the applicable PDD form.</li> <li>• A track version and a clean version of the PDD were not provided.</li> <li>• The initial revised PDD did not identify the proposed changes accordingly to the items 8.2 and 8.3 of the PS version 01.0.</li> </ul> <p>Finally, this CAR was closed since all above issues were correctly addressed as explained in appendix 4 of the present report.</p>
<b>Conclusion</b>	<p>The proposed revised PDD has adopted the Project Design Document Form for Afforestation or Reforestation CDM Project of Activities (CDM-AR-PDD-FORM) Version 10.0, hence a later version of the PDD form as the registered PDD was carried out in the F-CDM-AR-PDD version 04.0</p> <p>Once both versions were compared, it is AENOR opinion that the information included in the new form is materially the same as the information in the registered PDD. The changes that are the subject of the request for approval have been highlighted.</p> <p>The PPs have provided a summary of changes, including reasons for the changes and additional information if applicable.</p>

## D.2. Temporary deviations from the registered monitoring plan, applied methodologies or applied standardized baselines

<b>Means of validation</b>	N/A
<b>Findings</b>	N/A
<b>Conclusion</b>	N/A

## D.3. Corrections

<b>Means of validation</b>	N/A
<b>Findings</b>	N/A
<b>Conclusion</b>	N/A

## D.4. Changes to the start date of the crediting period

<b>Means of validation</b>	N/A
<b>Findings</b>	N/A
<b>Conclusion</b>	N/A

## D.5. Inclusion of a monitoring plan

<b>Means of validation</b>	N/A
<b>Findings</b>	N/A
<b>Conclusion</b>	N/A

## D.6. Permanent changes to the registered monitoring plan, or permanent deviation of monitoring from the applied methodologies, standardized baselines, or other applied standards or tools

<b>Means of validation</b>	N/A
<b>Findings</b>	N/A
<b>Conclusion</b>	N/A

## D.7. Changes to the project design

<b>Means of validation</b>	<p><b>Change nº 1:</b> The proposed first change refers to the estimation of GHG emissions attributable to the site preparation.</p> <p>At validation, they were considered and ex ante quantified. However, the proposed</p>
----------------------------	---



change considers insignificant the GHG emissions from site preparation.

At validation, the PP incorrectly applied the AR methodological tool (Estimation of GHG emissions due to clearing, burning, and decay of existing vegetation attributable to a CDM A/R project activity. EB50 annex 22). The assessment detailed in table 11 of the registered PDD for the occurrence of fires within the last ten years was not realistic neither accurate, then leading to an inaccurate description of the baseline scenario and underestimation of the actual net GHG removals.

AENOR deems that proposed change intends to correct the significant underestimation of GHG removals, it is in compliance with the CDM requirements and searches consistency between description of the real baseline scenario and assumptions to estimate the GHG removals applying the CDM tools and guidelines.

In fact and despite the assessment described in table 11 of the registered PDD, the own registered PDD mentions in several sections (A.4, A.5, B.2, B.4...) that fires due to natural and anthropogenic causes are common practice in the project area. Section B.2 of the registered PDD states "the project activity will be implemented on savannah grassland that is subject to repeated annual wildfires. More than 50 fires, with an impact on at least 100 ha of savannah, were recorded between 2001 and 2005 at the Ibi station.....".

Furthermore, the PPs and World Bank have provided to AENOR the study by Bwebwe 2006 (Bwebwe J., 2006. Nature et effets des feux de brousse dans la zone entre les rivières Bombo et Lufimi au plateau des Batéké, Mémoire Faculté des Sciences Agronomiques, Université de Kinshasa.) and the research by Walters (Walters, G., Touladjan, S., Savanna burning yesterday and today in Gabon's Batéké Plateaux: foraging-fires and ecosystem effects.). Both documents point out that project area is affected by continuous fires and that they have occurred during the last 10 years.

Moreover, AENOR cross-checked this assumption against the validation report of the registered PDD. This confirms the occurrence of fires as common practice in the project area and states that assessment was even confirmed by local interviews.

Accordingly, the GHG emissions due to site preparation can be considered as insignificant and may be accounted as zero in virtue of the applicability condition 2a) of the guideline on conditions under which GHG emissions from removal of existing vegetation due to the site preparation are insignificant (EB50 annex21).

The condition 2a) states: "It can be demonstrated (e.g., as a part of developing the baseline scenario) that fire due to natural or anthropogenic causes is a common occurrence in the proposed A/R CDM project area and also that such fire has occurred at least once in the last 10 years.". The evidence provided demonstrate the fulfilment of this condition, then, the use of the methodological tool (EB50, annex 22) is not further required.

AENOR verified that revised PDD has been appropriately updated in sections affected by the proposed change. The ex-ante calculations of the emissions removals were updated. Hence, AENOR confirms that information is consistent and complete in the revised PDD. This describes the nature and extent of the proposed change (**paragraph 241 of the PS version 01.0**) and addresses correctly provisions in **paragraph 243 of the PS version 01.0**.

Section B.6.3 of the revised PDD was updated along with ex ante estimation of the GHG removals.

As per assessment above, the term "Ebiomassloss" = increase in CO2 emissions from loss of existing woody biomass due to site preparation (including burning) and or competition from forest or other vegetation is zero.

	$\Delta C_P = \sum_{t=1}^{t^*} \Delta C_t * \frac{44}{12} * 1year - E_{BiomassLoss}$ <p>As a result, the value of</p> $\Delta C_{ACTUAL} = \Delta C_P - GHG_E$ <p>has been also updated.</p> <p>AENOR reproduced and verified that calculations in section B.6.3 of the revised PDD are correct for the 30 years of crediting period considering the proposed change and values in table of section B.6.4 are also correct and they are consistent with the updated excel spreadsheet calculations and the assumption considered <math>E_{biomassloss}=0</math>.</p>
<b>Findings</b>	<p>A <b>CAR n° 2</b> was raised to the PPs requesting it to provide reliable sources to confirm fulfilment with item 2 (a) of the guidelines on conditions under which GHG emissions from removal of existing vegetation due to site preparation are insignificant version 01.</p> <p>As explained in appendix 4 of the present report, the CAR was closed, since reliable and consistent evidence were provided and confirmed the description in the revised PDD.</p> <p>Likewise, two clarifications were raised to the PPs.</p> <p>The <b>CL 1</b> with two items was raised to the PPs. The first item was to provide the ex ante estimation of the GHG removals at validation and compare with the updated calculations as a result to the exclusion of GHG emissions due to site preparation.</p> <p>The first item of the CL 1 was closed since the calculations at validation and the revised calculation for the revised PDD were provided to cross-check them.</p> <p><b>A second CL2</b> was raised to the PPs with two issues. The second issue was to clarify how the proposed changes affected to the level of accuracy of the monitoring compared with registered monitoring plan as required by the PS and if they lead if they lead to a reduction in the accuracy of the calculation of GHG removals.</p> <p>This second issue of the clarification CL2 was closed. The PPs included an explanation in the revised PDD on how the level of accuracy of monitoring compared to the monitoring plan registered is not reduced and that changes do not affect to the accuracy of the calculation of GHG removals.</p>
<b>Conclusion</b>	<p>AENOR determines that proposed change complies with the relevant requirements in the “CDM PS for project activities version 01.0” (<b>paragraph 300 VVS version 01.0</b>) and the requirements in the PS related to changes to the project design of a registered project activity (<b>paragraph 308 of VVS v01.0</b>) as well as the revised PDD complies with all requirements in the applied methodology, tools and guidelines (<b>paragraph 306 of VVS v 01.0</b>).</p> <p>On the other hand, AENOR reviewed the revised PDD against the applicable additionality and methodological requirements and determines that proposed change does not adversely affect to the conclusions of the validation report of the registered PDD with regard to (<b>Paragraph 303 of VVS 01.0</b>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additionality of the project.</li> </ul> <p>The additionality was based on barriers and common practice analysis. The barriers and common practice have not changed in the host country. Investment, technological and institutional barriers remain in the Republic Democratic of Congo, hence, the proposed change does not impact adversely on the additionality conclusions of the validation report of the registered PDD.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scale of the project.</li> </ul> <p>The scale remains the same at validation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicability and application of the methodology.</li> </ul>

	<p>The proposed change does not affect to the applicability conditions of the applicable methodology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The compliance of the monitoring plan with the applied methodology. As demonstrated above the proposed change is allowed by applied methodology and associated tools and guidelines, then, the proposed change does not affect the compliance of the monitoring plan with the methodology.</li> </ul> <p>It is the opinion of the AENOR validation team (<b>paragraph 309 of the VVS 01.0</b>) that :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A description of the proposed change compared to description in the registered PDD is correctly provided. Change is well explained and affected information (formulas, calculations, etc) have appropriately updated to be consistent with the assumption.</li> <li>• The change has been proposed after registration and prior to the verification event and as commented above, the registered PDD already point out the common occurrence of fires in the project area. The reason for requesting the proposed change is that assessment of the step 1 of the tool EB50 annex 22 was not correct then leading to an inaccurate description of the baseline scenario and underestimation of the actual net GHG removals. The proposed change would not negatively impact in the operation and/or ability of the project to deliver the emission reductions as stated in the PDD.</li> <li>• The proposed change does not adversely affect to the conclusions of the validation report of the registered PDD with regard to additionality of the project, the Scale of the project, the applicability and application of the methodology, the compliance of the monitoring plan with the applied methodology and the level of accuracy and completeness of the monitoring compared with requirements in the monitoring plan of registered PDD.</li> </ul> <p>The proposed revision ensures that the level of accuracy and completeness in the monitoring and verification process will not be reduced as a result of the change. In fact, the change is proposed to provide a more realistic description of the baseline scenario and to be more correct and realistic application of the A/R methodological tool "Estimation of emissions from clearing, burning and decay of existing vegetation due to implementation of an A/R CDM project activity" and "A/R CDM Guidance on conditions under which GHG emissions from removal of existing vegetation due to site preparation are insignificant." and leading to an ex ante and ex post measurement more realistic, reliable and accurate of baseline scenario and project scenario.</p> <p>The proposed change does not affect to the quality of monitoring equipment, frequency of measurements and QC/QA procedures and, proposed revision complies with all requirements in the applied methodology which has not been updated to a later valid version.</p> <p>No findings from previous verifications affect, since there have not been verifications yet.</p>
--	--

#### D.8. Changes specific to afforestation and reforestation project activities

Means of validation	<p><b>Change nº 2</b>  <b>The second change refers to the confidence level to calculate the number of sample plots for measurements of A/R CDM projects.</b></p> <p>This type of change is identified as specific for A/R project activities according to the "Guidelines on accounting of specified types of changes in A/R CDM project activities from the description in registered project design document" version 02.0. (EB 66 annex 24). The change refers to item m) of the guideline: Change in number of sample plots.</p> <p>At validation, the PPs used the methodological tool "Calculation of the number of sample plots for measurements within A/R CDM project activities" (version 02). In accordance with the tool, the confidence level was set to 95%.</p>
---------------------	--

	<p>However, according to the Guidelines on application of specified versions of A/R CDM methodologies in verification of registered A/R CDM project activities (EB68 Annex 31) for requirements related to “sampling design, sample plot lay-out and marking of permanent sample plots” a maximum allowable relative margin of error of the mean, for estimation of aboveground tree biomass, of <math>\pm 10\%</math> at 90% confidence level is allowed. Thus, the confidence level was changed to 90% and sections B.6.2 and B.7.2 of the revised PDD were updated. The number of sample plots changes from 127 calculated in the registered PDD to 75 in the revised PDD at <math>\pm 10\%</math> at 90% confidence level.</p> <p>The change directly affects to the number of sampling plots. The ex ante calculation of sampling plots was also updated. Table 8 of the revised PDD shows the number of sample plots for measuring changes in living tree biomass.</p> <p>AENOR reproduced and verified the updated calculations for sampling plots “sample plots 070809_90_confidence level” with one at validation “sample plots 070809.xls” and found the updating correct.</p> <p>In addition to these supporting documents, AENOR held interviews with the World Bank technicians and consultants to corroborate the information.</p> <p>Hence, AENOR confirms that information is consistent and complete in the revised PDD. This describes the nature and extent of the proposed change (<b>paragraph 241 of the PS version 01.0</b>) and addresses correctly provisions in <b>paragraph 243 of the PS version 01.0</b>.</p>
<b>Findings</b>	<p><b>A CL1</b> was raised to the PPs. The second item was raised to provide the ex ante calculation of sample plots at validation.</p> <p>This clarification was completely. As commented above, the first item was closed and this second time as well since the sample calculations at validation were provided and allowed to the AENOR team to compare with the updated sample size calculations as a result of change in the confidence level.</p> <p><b>A CL 2</b> was raised with two issues as commented above. The first one was raised to request further information regarding 90% confidence level affected to the sample size of 127 PSP determined in the registered PDD and the second bullet of the CL 2 was raised to the PPs to provide further explanations regarding this change reduce the level of accuracy of the monitoring compared with the requirements in the registered monitoring plan as required by the PS and if they lead to a reduction in the accuracy of the calculation of GHG removals.</p> <p>The clarification nº 2 was closed, since sample size was updated and included in the revised PDD and explanations regarding the level of accuracy were also provided.</p>
<b>Conclusion</b>	<p>AENOR confirms that the specific change for A/R project activities applied to the present project activity comply with the requirements in the CDM Project Standard version 01.0 (<b>paragraph 311 VVS v01.0</b>). Likewise, the proposed change complies with the relevant requirements of the PS version 01.0 related to changes to the project design of a registered project activity (<b>paragraph 308 of VV v01.0</b>) and applied methodology, tools and guidelines (<b>paragraph 306 of VVS v 01.0</b>).</p> <p>On the other hand, AENOR reviewed the revised PDD against the applicable additionality and methodological requirements and determines that proposed change does not adversely affect to the conclusions of the validation report of the registered PDD with regard to (<b>Paragraph 303 of VVS 01.0</b>) additionality of the project, scale of the project, applicability and application of the methodology, the compliance of the monitoring plan with the applied methodology.</p> <p>It is the opinion of the AENOR validation team (<b>paragraph 309 of the VVS 01.0</b>) that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A description of the proposed change compared to description in the registered PDD is correctly provided.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The change has been proposed after registration and prior to the verification event. The reason for requesting the proposed change is to use the guideline from EB68 annex 31. This change does not impact in the operation and/or ability of the project to deliver the emission reductions as stated in the PDD.</li> <li>• The proposed change does not adversely affect to the conclusions of the validation report of the registered PDD with regard to additionality of the project, the Scale of the project, the applicability and application of the methodology, the compliance of the monitoring plan with the applied methodology and the level of accuracy and completeness of the monitoring compared with requirements in the monitoring plan of registered PDD.</li> </ul> <p>The proposed revision ensures that the level of accuracy and completeness in the monitoring and verification process will not be reduced as a result of the change. The proposed change changes the number of sample plots of the sampling plan. This decrease of the confidence level allows reducing the number of sample plots and preserving the level of accuracy.</p> <p>The proposed change does not affect to the quality of monitoring equipment, frequency of measurements and QC/QA procedures and, proposed revision complies with all requirements in the applied methodology which has not been updated to a later valid version.</p> <p>No findings from previous verifications affect, since there have not been verifications yet.</p>
--	--

## SECTION E. Internal quality control

Following the completion of the assessment process by the validation team, all documentation undergoes an internal quality control through a technical review before submission to the CDM-EB. The technical reviewer is a qualified member of AENOR, independent from the team that carried out the validation of the post registration changes. The technical review team has collectively all the competence required including the technical area(s).

## SECTION F. Validation opinion

AENOR was contracted to perform the validation of the PRC for the A/R CDM project activity: "Ibi Batéké degraded savannah afforestation project for fuelwood production (Democratic Republic of Congo)" (Registration Ref. No. 4176).

AENOR has performed the validation of the proposed PRC according to the approved methodology AR-ACM0001 version 03 "Afforestation and reforestation of degraded land", the VVS (Version 01.0), the PS (version 01.0) and PCP (Version 01.0).

AENOR planned and performed its work to obtain the information and explanations considered necessary to provide sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the level of accuracy of GHG emission reductions, prepared on the basis of the monitoring plan included in the revised PDD compared with registered monitoring plan of the project activity is not adversely affect. This assessment included:

- Collection of evidence supporting the reported data.
- Checking whether the provisions of the revised PDD, were consistently and appropriately applied.

This revision improves the accuracy of information provided and consistency in the revised PDD and the monitoring plan with the baseline scenario, project scenario and CDM requirements.

Furthermore, AENOR confirms that:

- The transfer of information from the old form of the PDD registered (F-CDM-A/R-PDD version 04.0) to the new form under prior-approval track (CDM-AR-PDD FORM version 10.0) is totally correct and materially the same as the information in the PDD registered on 18/02/2011.
- The proposed revision points have been described, and an assessment has been provided

to substantiate the reason for each of the proposed revision points of the revised PDD using objective evidences.

- The permanent changes proposed do not affect in any case to the correct fulfilment of the monitoring plan. Those changes are necessary to be more accurate and consistent between the project description and the ex-ante estimation of the GHG removals.
- The Project has correctly updated all affected sections of the revised PDD and the ex ante estimation of the GHG removals in the spreadsheet calculations according to the new assumptions (proposed changes), applied methodology and tools in a realistic and accurate way and the proposed changes occurred do not have impact on the applicability and application of the applied methodology under which the project activity has been registered, the additionality of the project activity and the scale of the project activity and the compliance of the monitoring plan with the applied methodology.

For all the reasons stated above, AENOR is submitting a request for approval of the proposed changes by the prior-approval track as chosen by the project participants according to the paragraph 130 of the CDM Project Cycle Procedure version 01.0.

The proposed changes affecting to the project design are in accordance with the approved methodologies and associated tools and guidelines and would not negatively impact on the overall operation/ability of the CDM project to deliver the removals as stated in the revised PDD.

The proposed specific change to AR project activities neither impact the applicability conditions of the methodology and baseline, nor impact the additionality and the scale of the project and the accuracy is not reduced.

Madrid 1 June 2018

Jose Luis Fuentes  
Team Leader



Irene Carrascón  
Approver



## Appendix 1. Abbreviations

Abbreviations	Full texts
AENOR	AENOR INTERNACIONAL S.A.U
AR-ACM0001	Afforestation And reforestation of degraded land
CAR	Corrective action request
CDM	Clean development mechanism
CDM-EB	CDM Executive Board
CER	Certified emission reduction
CL	Clarification request
CMP	Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol
CO <sub>2</sub>	Carbon dioxide
CO <sub>2</sub> e	Carbon dioxide equivalent
DNA	Designated national authority
DOE	Designated operational entity
ER	Emission reduction
FAR	Forward action request
GHG	Greenhouse gas(es)
MoV	Means of verification
MP	Monitoring Plan
MR	Monitoring report
PCP	Clean Development Mechanism Project Cycle Procedure for project activities (Version 01.0)
PDD	Project Design Document
PP	Project participants
PS	Clean Development Mechanism Project Standard for project activities (Version 01.0)
tC	Carbon tonnes

tCO <sub>2</sub> eq	Carbon dioxide equivalent tonnes
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VVS	CDM Validation and Verification Standard for project activities version 01.0

## Appendix 2. Competence of team members and technical reviewers

Necessary skills and competences to undertake the verification are confirmed by the qualification certificate of all team involved in the process.

### CERTIFICATE OF QUALIFICATION

Subject: Validation of the PRC and Technical Review for the project “Ibi Batéké degraded savannah afforestation project for fuelwood production (Democratic Republic of Congo)”.

Madrid, 1/05/2018

Hereby I confirm the following records of qualification, according with AENOR internal instruction “Validation, Verification and Certification of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) project activities” IE-DTC-039, and in relation with the verification process of the above mentioned project activity:

Name: Jose Luis Fuentes  
 CDM Team Leader: Yes  
 CDM Validator: Yes  
 CDM Technical Reviewer: N/A  
 External Technical Expert: N/A  
 Technical areas related with the project activity:  
 TA 14.1. Afforestation/Reforestation

Irene Carrascón  
 Authorised person





## CERTIFICATE OF QUALIFICATION

Subject: Validation of the PRC and Technical Review for the project "Ibi Batéké degraded savannah afforestation project for fuelwood production (Democratic Republic of Congo)".

Madrid, 1/05/2018

Hereby I confirm the following records of qualification, according with AENOR internal instruction "Validation, Verification and Certification of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) project activities" IE-DTC-039, and in relation with the verification process of the above mentioned project activity:

Name: Mercedes García  
CDM Team Leader: N/A  
CDM Validator: Yes  
CDM Technical Reviewer: N/A  
External Technical Expert: N/A  
Technical areas related with the project activity: N/A

Irene Carrascón  
Authorised person

## CERTIFICATE OF QUALIFICATION

Subject: Validation of the PRC and Technical Review for the project "Ibi Batéké degraded savannah afforestation project for fuelwood production (Democratic Republic of Congo)".

Madrid, 1/05/2018

Hereby I confirm the following records of qualification, according with AENOR internal instruction "Validation, Verification and Certification of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) project activities" IE-DTC-039, and in relation with the verification process of the above mentioned project activity:

Name: Elena Llorente  
CDM Team Leader: N/A  
CDM Validator: N/A  
CDM Technical Reviewer: Yes  
External Technical Expert: N/A  
Technical areas related with the project activity: N/A

Irene Carrascón  
Authorised person

CERTIFICATE OF QUALIFICATION

Subject: Validation of the PRC and Technical Review for the project "Ibi Batéké degraded savannah afforestation project for fuelwood production (Democratic Republic of Congo)".

Madrid, 1/05/2018

Hereby I confirm the following records of qualification, according with AENOR internal instruction "Validation, Verification and Certification of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) project activities" IE-DTC-039, and in relation with the verification process of the above mentioned project activity:

Name: Asier Torres

CDM Team Leader: N/A

CDM Validator: N/A

CDM Technical Reviewer: Yes

External Technical Expert: N/A

Technical areas related with the project activity:

TA 14.1. Afforestation/Reforestation

Irene Carrascón  
Authorised person



### Appendix 3. Documents reviewed or referenced

No	Author	Title	References to the document	Provider
1	PP	PDD registered	Version : PCI-B#1.1, dated on December 1st, 2010	UNFCCC
2	PP	PDD revised	Version 02, dated on 21/02/2018	PP
3	UNFCCC	Consolidated afforestation and reforestation baseline and monitoring methodology (AR-ACM0001/version 03) "Afforestation and reforestation of degraded land".	Version 03	UNFCCC
4	UNFCCC	CDM Validation and Verification Standard for project activities.	Version 01.0	UNFCCC
5	UNFCCC	Clean Development Mechanism Project Cycle Procedure for project activities (Version 01.0).	Version 01.0	UNFCCC
6	UNFCCC	Clean Development Mechanism Project Standard for project activities (Version 01.0).	Version 01.0	UNFCCC
7	UNFCCC	Calculation of the number of sample plots for measurements within A/R CDM project activities.	Version 02	UNFCCC
8	UNFCCC	"Guidelines on accounting of specified types of changes in A/R CDM project activities from the description in registered project design document".	Version 02.0.	UNFCCC
9	UNFCCC	Guidelines on conditions under which GHG emissions from removal of existing vegetation due to site preparation are insignificant.	Version 01.	UNFCCC
9	UNFCCC	Estimation of GHG emissions due to clearing, burning, and decay of existing vegetation attributable to a CDM A/R project activity.	Version 03	UNFCCC
10	UNFCCC	Guidelines on application of specified versions of A/R CDM methodologies in verification of registered A/R CDM project activities (EB68 Annex 31)	Version 01.1	UNFCCC
11	AENOR	Interviews with World Bank and technicians of the project	-	AENOR
12	World Bank	The original spreadsheet calculation for the net anthropogenic GHG removals mentioned in the registered PDD	TARAM package	World Bank
13	World Bank	The updated spreadsheet calculation for the net anthropogenic GHG removals as a result of the proposed changes: TARAM V1.3_BATEKE_R.D CONGO_200709_1 rev1 TARAM V1.3_BATEKE_R.D CONGO_200709_2 rev1 TARAM V1.3_BATEKE_R.D CONGO_200709_3 rev1 TARAM V1.3_BATEKE_R.D CONGO_200709_4 rev1 CERs_TOTAL_200709 rev1	Updated TARAM package	World Bank
14	World Bank	The original sample size calculation (excel called "sample plots 070809.xls")		World Bank
15	World Bank	The updated sample size calculation as a result of the		World Bank

		proposed change (excel called "sample plots 070809_90_confidence_level.xls")		Bank
16	Bwebwe	Bwebwe J., 2006. Nature et effets des feux de brousse dans la zone entre les rivières Bombo et Lufimi au plateau des Batéké, Mémoire Faculté des Sciences Agronomiques, Université de Kinshasa, pp 29.		World Bank
17	Walters G. and Touladjan S.,	Walters G. and Touladjan S., 2009. Savannah burning yesterday and today in Gabon's Bateke Plateaux: foraging-fires and ecosystem effects.		World Bank
18	Ernst and Young et Associates	Validation report dated on 1 December 2010		UNFCCC

## Appendix 4. Clarification requests, corrective action requests and forward action requests

Table 1. CLs from this validation

CL ID	01	Section no.	Date: 12/04/2018
<b>Description of CL</b>			
Spreadsheet calculations shall be provided for the ex ante estimation of the removals identified in the registered PDD as well as the file "sample plots 070809.xls" related to the sample size calculation.			
<b>Project participant response</b>			<b>Date: 17/05/2018</b>
The original spreadsheet calculation has been provided to the DOE through the file "sample plots 070809.xls"			
<b>Documentation provided by project participant</b>			
Excel file "sample plots 070809.xls"			
<b>DOE assessment</b>			<b>Date: 28/05/2018</b>
The original spreadsheet calculations for the ex ante estimation of GHG removals were not provided. The sample sheet was provided and information is consistent with revised PDD.			
<b>Project participant response</b>			<b>Date: 11/06/2018</b>
The original spreadsheet calculation has been provided to the DOE through the files of the tool TARAM used at project validation.			
<b>DOE assessment</b>			<b>Date: 19/06/2018</b>
The original sheets were provided and calculations checked and they are ok, then issue is closed and CL is completely closed.			

CL ID	02	Section no.	Date: 12/04/2018
<b>Description of CL</b>			
Further information shall be provided regarding the 90% confidence level affect to the sample size of 127 PSP determined in the registered PDD. In addition, an explanation shall be provided for all requested changes regarding they reduce the level of accuracy of the monitoring compared with the requirements contained in the registered monitoring plan and, if they lead to a reduction in the accuracy of the calculation of GHG removals.			
<b>Project participant response</b>			<b>Date: 17/05/2018</b>
The same file mentioned in CL 01 but modified to reflect the post registration change related to the ex-ante calculation of the number of sample plots has been also transferred (file "sample plots 070809_90_confidence_level.xls")			

<b>Documentation provided by project participant</b>	
Excel file "sample plots 070809_90_confidence_level.xls"	
<b>DOE assessment</b>	<b>Date: 28/05/2018</b>
The first issue is closed. The sample size was affected and new calculation was provided. However, the assessment for the second issue has not been addressed.	
<b>Project participant response</b>	<b>Date: 11/06/2018</b>
Assessment of the accuracy of the post registration change was done in Appendix 7	
<b>DOE assessment</b>	<b>Date: 19/06/2018</b>
The CL is closed, the assessment about level of accuracy due to changes was provided in appendix 7 of the PDD, then, CL is completely closed.	

Table 2. CARs from this validation

<b>CAR ID</b>	01	<b>Section no.</b>		<b>Date: 12/04/2018</b>
<b>Description of CAR</b>				
The project participant has not provided a revised PDD in both track-change and clean versions that reflects the actual or proposed changes, using the valid version of the applicable PDD form as required by paragraph 230 of the PS version 01.0				
Likewise, the PP has not determined whether the proposed changes are temporary deviations or permanent changes as required by paragraph 231 of the PS version 01.0				
<b>Project participant response</b>				<b>Date: 17/05/2018</b>
The PDD has been modified by using the last version of PDD template to reflect the proposed post-registration changes (version 10) and transferred in track change version and in clean version.				
<b>Documentation provided by project participant</b>				
Two files:				
- PDD_lbi_Bateke_version_2_PDDformV10_track_change.docx				
- PDD_lbi_Bateke_version_2_PDDformV10_clean.docx				
<b>DOE assessment</b>				<b>Date: 28/05/2018</b>
The first issues is closed, however, the PP has not determine the types of changes according to the required information in paragraph 231 of the PS version 01.0				
<b>Project participant response</b>				<b>Date: 11/06/2018</b>
Additional information was given in Appendix 7 to determine that the proposed changes are permanent changes as required by paragraph 231 of the PS version 1.0				
<b>DOE assessment</b>				<b>Date: 19/06/2018</b>
Ok, the final issue of the CAR is closed. AENOR validated information provided in PDD is in compliance with the PS, then, the CAR is definitely closed.				

<b>CAR ID</b>	02	<b>Section no.</b>		<b>Date: 12/04/2018</b>
<b>Description of CAR</b>				
The project participants have not provided evidence that confirm fulfilment with item 2 (a) of the guidelines on conditions under which GHG emissions from removal of existing vegetation due to site preparation are insignificant version 01.				
<b>Project participant response</b>				<b>Date: 17/5/2018</b>
Evidences can be found in the two following publications transferred to the DOE:				
1) Bwebwe J., 2006. Nature et effets des feux de brousse dans la zone entre les rivières Bombo et Lufimi au plateau des Batéké, Mémoire Faculté des Sciences Agronomiques, Université de Kinshasa, pp 29.				
2) Walters G. and Touladjan S., 2009. Savannah burning yesterday and today in Gabon's Bateke Plateaux: foraging-fires and ecosystem effects.				
<b>Documentation provided by project participant</b>				
Two publications:				
1) Bwebwe J., 2006. Nature et effets des feux de brousse dans la zone entre les rivières Bombo et Lufimi au plateau des Batéké, Mémoire Faculté des Sciences Agronomiques, Université de Kinshasa, pp 29.				
2) Walters G. and Touladjan S., 2009. Savannah burning yesterday and today in Gabon's Bateke Plateaux: foraging-fires and ecosystem effects.				
<b>DOE assessment</b>				<b>Date: 28/05/2018</b>

The CAR is closed. Evidence were provided and information in the revised PDD is consistent with evidence and demonstrate the fulfilment with item 2a).

**Table 3. FARs from this validation**

<b>FAR ID</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Section no.</b>	<b>Date: DD/MM/YYYY</b>
<b>Description of FAR</b>			
<b>Project participant response</b>			<b>Date: DD/MM/YYYY</b>
<b>Documentation provided by project participant</b>			
<b>DOE assessment</b>			<b>Date: DD/MM/YYYY</b>