



## Basic eligibility checklist for an envisaged Plan Vivo project

### 1. Start date

Projects will typically use the Plan Vivo Standards from the outset. However, it is also possible for a project that is already operational to become an approved Plan Vivo Project provided it can meet the Plan Vivo Standards. No retroactive crediting is possible for activities already implemented.

### 2. Project participants

#### 2.1. Producers

- Must be small-scale farmers, land-users or forest dwellers in developing countries with recognised land tenure or user rights (see below)
- Must be organised into cooperatives, associations, community-based organisations or other organisational forms able to contribute to the social and economic development of their members and communities and democratically controlled by the members
- Must be able to use existing forest/ woodland or other land for project activities without undermining livelihood needs
- Must have a registered Plan Vivo for their own piece of land or be part of a group with a Plan Vivo for a piece of community-owned or managed land. Producers should not be structurally dependent on permanent hired labour, and should manage their land mainly with their own and their family's labour force

#### 2.2. Project coordinators

- Must have a strong in-country presence and the respect and experience required to work effectively with local communities and partners
- Must be focused and have the organisational capability and an ability to mobilise the necessary resources to develop the project
- Must have the capability to negotiate and deal with government, local organisations & institutions, and buyers of ecosystem services
- Must have the ability to mobilise and train participants, implement and monitor project activities, carry out technical functions
- Must recognise that the decision of producers to participate in project activities is entirely voluntary
- Must recognise that producers own the carbon benefits of the project activities they choose to undertake
- Must ensure that the PES producers receive are fair and equitable and that payments are made in a transparent and traceable manner

### 3. Land tenure/ use rights

- Must be secure (land tenure or use rights) so that there can be clear ownership, traceability and accountability for carbon reduction or sequestration benefits

#### **4. Project activities**

- ☑ Must enable communities to plan and take control of their resources in a sustainable way that promotes rural livelihoods and other environmental and social co-benefits
- ☑ Must be eligible to receive payments for ecosystem services (PES) under the Plan Vivo System, i.e.
  - Afforestation / reforestation
  - Agroforestry
  - Forest restoration
  - Avoided deforestation
- ☑ Must be additional, not liable to cause leakage, and provide foundations for permanence, as described in the Plan Vivo Standards
- ☑ Must involve the planting and/or promote the restoration or protection of native or naturalised tree species. The use of naturalised (i.e. non-invasive) species is acceptable only where such species can be shown to have compelling livelihood benefits and:
  1. Communities have clearly expressed a wish to use such species;
  2. The areas involved are not in immediate proximity to conservation areas or likely to have any significant negative effect on biodiversity;
  3. The activity is still additional;
  4. The activity will have no harmful effects on the water-table.
- ☑ Must encourage the development of local capacity and minimise dependency on external support

#### **5. Project landscape**

- ☑ Must have clear boundaries that can be mapped
- ☑ Must be suited to the replication and expansion of project activities into new areas

#### **6. Expansion ambitions**

- ☑ Must be based on an commitment to initiating activities on a pilot basis, gaining experience, and identifying improvements ('learning by doing')
- ☑ Must be based on practical capabilities 'on the ground', not on high level targets imposed from above ('plant x no. of trees in y years')