SalvaTerra	FEASIBILITY STUDY OF A CARBON PROJECT BACKED BY SOLAR SALT PRODUCTION	Ref. 50

Expert(s)	Country	Volume (md)	Amount* (€)	Beneficiary	Funding	Start date	End date	Partner(s)	Reference
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Detailed description of the project	Services provided
UNIVERS-SEL is a French NGO created by the salt producers of the Guérande region whose objective is the transfer of solar salt production and water management know-how to populations living in mangrove areas. In Guinea, the fuel-based evaporation technique requires 3 tons of wood to produce 1 ton of salt by the evaporation of the brine, a process that contributes to both poverty and deforestation. UNIVERS-SEL brings to the population its know-how in solar salt production in order to replace this fuel-based evaporation technique. With the CDC Climat's financial support, UNIVERS-SEL commissioned a feasibility study of a carbon project in order to support its solar salt production programme. This study had five objectives: 1/ To analyze the project's conformity with the VCS, Gold standard, CDM and REDD+ methodologies, 2/ In the absence of an applicable methodology, to identify the most suitable standard and evaluate the relevance of initiating the process of writing and submitting a methodology, 3/ To estimate the amount of reduced emissions if a methodology was found to be applicable, 4/ To estimate the cost and time of the methodology's drafting and submission process, in case there is no applicable methodology, 5/ To prepare a methodology to be submitted to the most suitable standard for the project.	The expert conducted the feasibility study by consulting all the useful documents about the project area, all the methodologies (CDM, Gold Standard, REDD+) *a priori* available as well as carrying out interviews and measurements in the field. The following conclusions were made: This activity for avoiding deforestation is eligible for the CDM and for other voluntary carbon standards. The project uses solar energy and as it operates on a small-scale level, it is compatible with the AMS-IE methodology and the micro-Gold standard, which both appear to be the most suitable. Additionality can be demonstrated by identifying the barriers relating to technology or existing practices, but not those which are related to investments. The biomass "non-renewability" rate ranges between 36% ("conservative" hypothesis) and 62% ("realistic" hypothesis). With "conservative" or "realistic" hypotheses, the promotion of solar salt production with 400 family units would avoid the emission of 21 ktCO2e or 37 ktCO2e respectively in 10 years with the CDM methodology. With the micro-GS methodology, the figures would increase to 27 ktCO2e and 46 ktCO2e. Accumulated net gains over 10 years would be €34,000 and €187,000 respectively depending on a number of technical and economic assumptions discussed and validated with UNIVERS-SEL and CDC Climat. In addition, procedures for monitoring leakages (fish-smokers' activities and fuel-based evaporation salt producers' activities, conservation of former brine tanks) were accurately identified (risks assessment, acceptable levels of error, and sample size determination according to statistical rules). A micro-Gold Standard project was thus considered feasible (humanly, technically and economically) by the end of the study, but UNIVERS-SEL decided finally not to go ahead as it considered the use of carbon credits as unethical.