Gold Standard
for the Global Goals

TEMPLATE

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION REPORT

PUBLICATION DATE **05.05.2022**

VERSION **v. 2.0**

RELATED SUPPORT

TEMPLATE GUIDE Stakeholder Consultation Report v.2.0

This is a report template to be used for filling the information pertaining to Local Stakeholder Consultation and Stakeholder Feedback Round conducted in line with the Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements.

This document contains the following Sections

Key Project Information
Grouped Consultation Information
SECTION A - Information made available to Stakeholders
SECTION B - Invitations made to Stakeholders
SECTION C - Report of the Consultation Process
SECTION D - Continuous input / Grievance mechanism
SECTION E - Stakeholder Feedback Round

This template has been revised to aid a consistent interpretation and to better support project developers submitting documentation for certification. Please read the accompanying guide to understand how to complete this template accurately.- **TEMPLATE GUIDE Stakeholder Consultation Report v. 1.2**

Please delete blue text boxes upon completion

KEY PROJECT INFORMATION

GS ID of Project	GS23685
Title of Project	GS13053- Transforming Coffee Production Systems in Brazil with Agroforestry to Store Carbon, Regenerate Ecosystems, and Improve Farmer Livelihoods in Mantiqueira de Minas
Version number of this Report	0.1
Completion date of version	
Time of First Submission Date	
Start Date of the Project	01.10.2026
Date of Meeting (s)	12.03.2026
Project Cycle:	☒ Regular ☐ Retroactive

GROUPED CONSULTATION INFORMATION

GS ID of Real Case VPA	GS23685
Title of Real Case VPA	GS13053-Transforming Coffee Production Systems in Brazil with Agroforestry to Store Carbon, Regenerate Ecosystems, and Improve Farmer Livelihoods in Mantiqueira de Minas
Geographical Boundary of Grouped Consultation	Municipalities of Carmo de Minas, Baependi, Natércia, Cristina, Dom Viçoso, Santa Rita do Sapucaí, Heliodora, Lambari, Jesuânia, Conceição das Pedras, Campanha, Cambuquira, in the state of Minas Gerais, South-East Brazil
Technology covered by the Grouped Consultation	Conversion of existing coffee monoculture plantations under full sun towards an agroforestry system Conversion of pasture into silvopastoral systems and small woodlots

	Soil Organic Carbon sequestered through changed management practices
Validity Period	2 years
Anticipated number of VPAs	3

SECTION A. INFORMATION MADE AVAILABLE TO STAKEHOLDERS

A.1. Preliminary agenda for the meeting

AGENDA – English version

- Reception – Participant registration (14:30)
- Introduction and project presentation (15:00)
- Questions and comments on the project (15:45)
- Project safeguarding principles (16:30)
- Project sustainability assessment (16:45)
- Discussion on the grievance mechanism and monitoring of sustainable development impacts (17:30)
- Evaluation forms and closing of the meeting (18:00)

AGENDA – Portuguese version

- Recepção – Registro de participantes (14h30)
- Introdução e apresentação do projeto (15h00)
- Perguntas e comentários sobre o projeto (15h45)
- Princípios de salvaguarda do projeto (16h30)
- Avaliação de sustentabilidade do projeto (16h45)
- Discussão sobre mecanismo de reclamação e monitoramento dos impactos do desenvolvimento sustentável (17h30)
- Formulários de avaliação e encerramento da reunião (18h00)

A.2. A non–technical summary of the project

English version

February 11th, 2026

Non-Technical Summary
Gold Standard for the Global Goals (GS4GG) Voluntary Project Activity (VPA) "Transforming Coffee Production Systems in Brazil with Agroforestry to Store Carbon, Regenerate Ecosystems, and Improve Farmer Livelihoods in Mantiqueira de Minas" under the PoA "Global Syntropic Agroforestry Program"

A.2.1. Context

Forests are of great importance for biodiversity, climate, healthy soils, water retention, and food production. However, only in the State of Minas Gerais, Brazil, 3.10 million ha of tree cover was lost from 2001 to 2023, equivalent to a 17% decrease in tree cover since 2000 and

1.66 Gigaton of CO2e emissions.[1] Deforestation linked to agriculture is a major driver of climate change. Commodity-driven deforestation (including cattle pastureland, cocoa, coffee, soy, oil palm, etc.) contributes to 25% of the total tree cover loss worldwide.[2]
The economic impact on society is enormous. In terms of coffee, drier and hotter conditions are jeopardizing Arabica coffee production in Minas Gerais, with climate change and deforestation being the main causes. Since 2010, temperatures in coffee-producing municipalities have risen by 1.2° Celsius during the flowering period; projections indicate more days of extreme temperatures (above 34°C) by 2050.[3]
Many coffee producers in Minas Gerais have widely reported growing concern about water scarcity, extreme heat, and longer dry spells, which are consistent with observed climate variability and are increasingly undermining the resilience of coffee plants. These stressors matter because drought and unfavorable temperatures are among the major climatic limitations for coffee physiology and production, affecting growth and yield.[4] At the same time, the resilience of Arabica coffee is challenged when production landscapes lose conditions closer to its ecological origin. Coffea arabica is native to the shaded understory of Ethiopia's moist evergreen montane forests, where milder microclimates and intact forest-soil processes support plant performance. In simplified, full-sun systems with degraded soils, coffee can lose key supporting functions, such as microclimate buffering and healthy soil biological processes, that help maintain soil structure and water availability.[5]
Coffee in Minas Gerais is widely grown in full-sun systems, often in monoculture compared with agroforestry approaches. Farmers report that plantations are therefore increasingly exposed to pest and disease pressure, including bicho mineiro (Leucoptera coffeella), broca-do-café (Hypothenemus hampei) and ferrugem (Hemileia vastatrix)[6]. Conventional management commonly responds with higher reliance on chemical control (pesticides and fungicides) and other external inputs, and conventional systems are often characterized by greater dependence on agrochemicals and chemical fertilizers. Glyphosate is among the herbicides used in conventional weed management, and research indicates glyphosate can modify soil microbial communities and biochemical processes, potentially affect soil health and long-term crop productivity when used intensively. Such practices, combined with recurrent heat and water stress, have been associated with gradual declines in coffee productivity in several producing regions of Minas Gerais.[7]

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[1] https://www.globalforestwatch.org/dashboards/country/BRA/13/?category=forest-change&location=WyJjb3VudHJ5IiwiQlJBIiwiMTMiXQ%3D%3D
[2] Curtis et al. (2018), Classifying drivers of global forest loss, https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aau3445.
[3] https://news.mongabay.com/2023/10/how-climate-change-could-jeopardize-brazilian-coffee/
[4] DaMattaI & Cochicho (2006), Impacts of drought and temperature stress on coffee physiology and production: a review, https://doi.org/10.1590/S1677-04202006000100006
[5] Senbeta & Denich (2006), Effects of wild coffee management on species diversity in the Afromontane rainforests of Ethiopia, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foreco.2006.05.064.
[6] Venzon (2021), Agro-Ecological Management of Coffee Pests in Brazil, https://doi.org/10.3389/fsufs.2021.721117.
[7] Mancini et al. (2021), Impact of agroecological management on plant diversity and soil-based ecosystem services in pasture and coffee systems in the Atlantic forest of Brazil, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.agee.2020.107171.

This is where the project "Transforming Coffee Production Systems in Brazil with Agroforestry to Store Carbon, Regenerate Ecosystems, and Improve Farmer Livelihoods in Mantiqueira de Minas" comes in to change that situation.

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2">Photos below: Long dry spell in winter causes the coffee to suffer and can even cause the coffee to die. Bare, uncovered soil results in soil erosion, lack of retention of water, no micro-biological life, and soil compaction.</td></tr>
<tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr>
<tr><td>Photo below: Leucoptera coffeella (bicho mineiro)</td><td>Photo below: Hemileia vastatrix (ferrugem) causing early leaf fall and drying out of branches.</td></tr>
<tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr>
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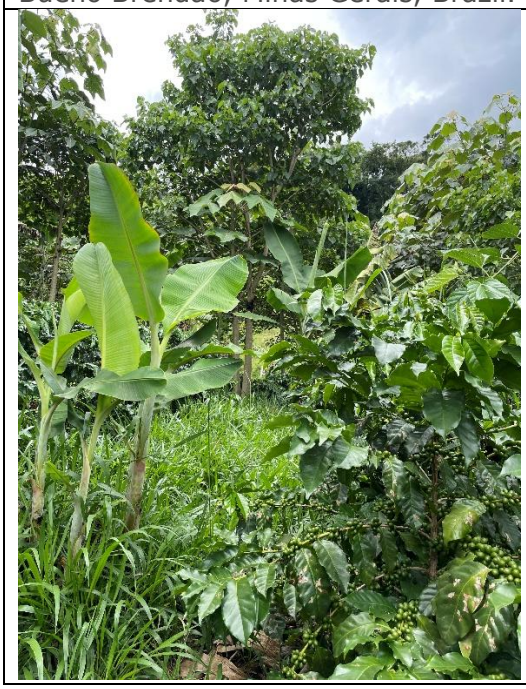
A.2.2. Applied Approach, Objectives, and Location of the Project

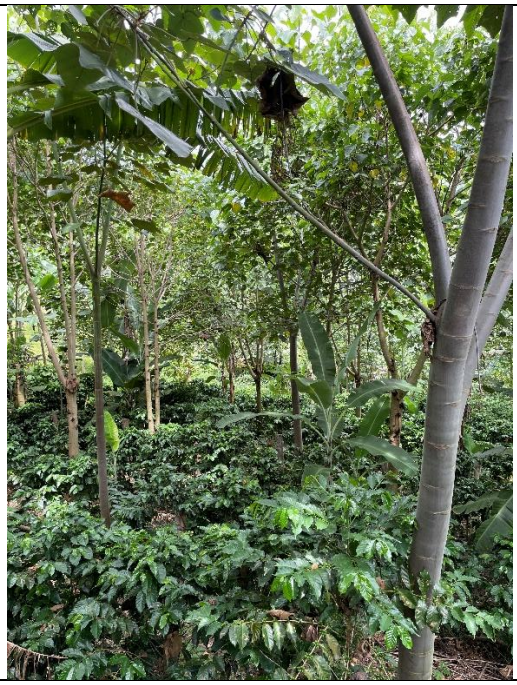
The implementation of agroforestry systems in coffee, pasture, and degraded areas is structured as an integrated and context specific strategy to promote productive sustainability and environmental regeneration. The project is organized around three complementary lines of action: sustainable coffee production under agroforestry systems, the establishment of silvopastoral systems, and the establishment of smallholder woodlots. Field technicians assess each rural property individually to determine the most appropriate technical approach, recognizing that ecological effectiveness must be aligned with the farmer's operational capacity and long-term maintenance potential.

In coffee production systems, the foundation of sustainability lies in proper soil structuring and conservation. Core practices include soil conservation measures, maintenance and improvement of soil fertility, reduction of degrading practices, and the replacement of inefficient or environmentally harmful inputs with lower impact alternatives. Agroforestry systems are designed to remain ecologically balanced while economically viable, maintaining coffee as the central productive component. A basic model establishes minimum sustainability standards, including low complexity and high efficiency agroforestry arrangements that facilitate farmer management, alongside good harvest and post-harvest practices. An advanced model may incorporate greater tree species diversification, intercropping, partial shading, biological control, efficient microorganisms, organic compost production, green

manuring, and the development of multi strata succession models. For agroforestry coffee establishment, recommended tree densities range from 150 to 200 trees per hectare. Silvopastoral systems similarly place soil health at the center of animal production. Five principal models are considered: dispersed or isolated trees, tree clusters within pasture, trees planted in strips, timber or fruit plantations, and windbreaks or live fences. Each model may prioritize productive, economic, or ecological functions, including thermal comfort for animals, soil protection, and system resilience. Livestock and pasture remain the protagonists of the production system, while ecological practices function as supportive elements that enhance long term stability. Tree densities in silvopastoral arrangements are estimated at 150 to 200 trees per hectare, subject to adjustment following in situ technical evaluation.
In degraded area restoration, the focus shifts toward reestablishing ecological balance and environmental resilience. These systems may incorporate higher species diversity and require careful planning of soil conservation strategies, species protection, and ecological succession management. Initial fertilization, pest and disease control, and management of competitive vegetation are monitored to ensure successful establishment, addressing factors that are often neglected in restoration efforts. Recommended densities range from 600 to 800 trees per hectare, depending on field assessments, seedling availability, and regional adaptation.
Across all three lines of action, agroforestry systems enhance biodiversity by creating habitats for natural pest enemies, improve microclimatic conditions through shading and wind protection, support soil regeneration and erosion control, and increase carbon sequestration in both biomass and soils. By integrating ecological principles with productive objectives, the project strengthens the resilience of rural production systems while promoting long term environmental and economic sustainability.

Photos below from the diversified smallholder agroforestry farm Campo Mistico in Bueno Brendão, Minas Gerais, Brazil.



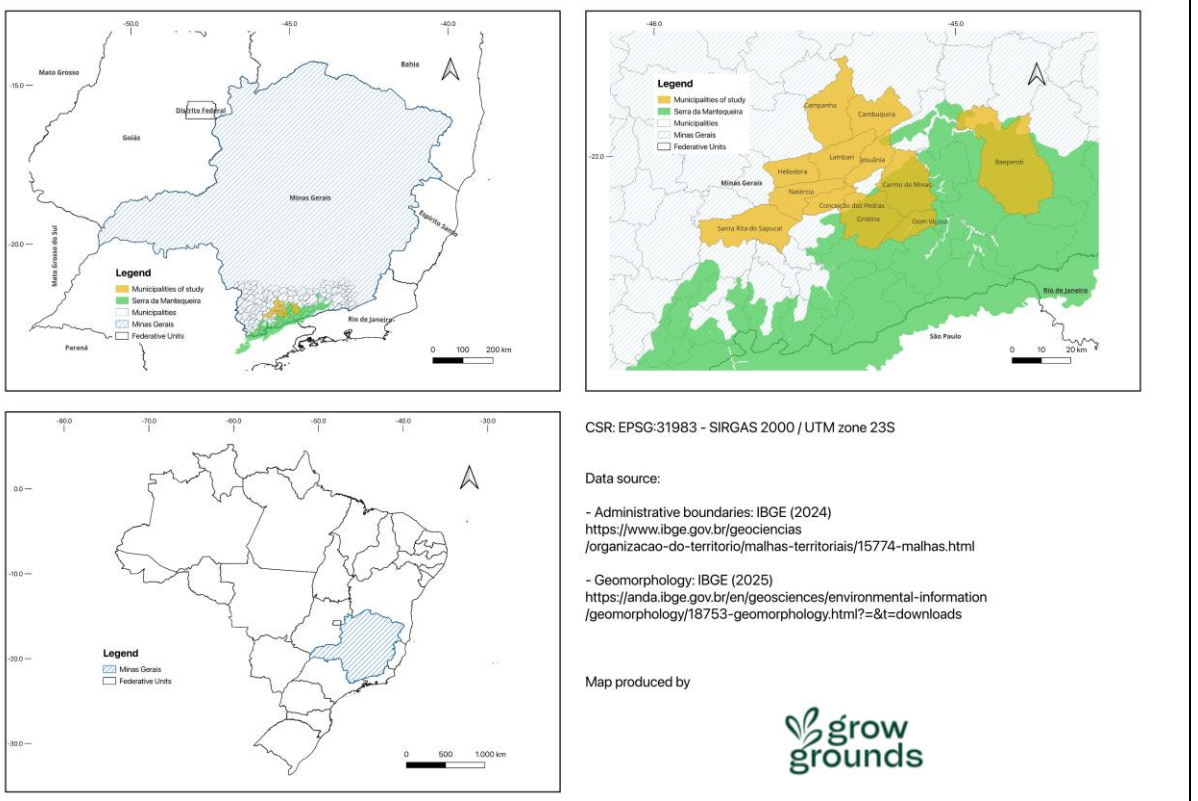


A.2.3. Objectives

The project aims to support coffee farmers in transitioning from full-sun monoculture to an agroforestry approach in order to restore soils, stabilize or potentially increase coffee productivity and farmers' income, enhance food security, strengthen the resilience of coffee production, and remove carbon dioxide (CO_2) from the atmosphere through carbon sequestration.
To achieve this, the project's key objectives are to: (i) generate high-quality carbon credits through Gold Standard certification under the PoA; (ii) improve soil health, water regulation and farm resilience through diversified tree-based systems; (iii) strengthen biodiversity outcomes and habitat connectivity in a landscape adjacent to Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs),

including through riparian restoration and increased tree cover; and (iv) promote inclusive participation, with targets for women's participation in training and leadership roles.
The project will focus on non-mechanised coffee plantations being in the municipalities of Carmo de Minas, Baependi, Natércia, Cristina, Dom Viçoso, Santa Rita do Sapucaí, Heliodora, Lambari, Jesuânia, Conceição das Pedras, Campanha, Cambuquira, in the state of Minas Gerais, South-East Brazil (see map in the following).

Study area of the VPA "Transforming Coffee Production Systems in Brazil with Agroforestry to Store Carbon, Regenerate Ecosystems, and Improve Farmer Livelihoods in Mantiqueira de Minas"



The project will be certified as Gold Standard carbon project under a broader framework, known in the carbon market as 'Programme of Activities (PoA)'. A PoA establishes the guidelines for any project that will make part of the PoA.
This first voluntary project activity (called real case VPA) as well as several possible follow up projects (called regular VPAs) make part of a grouped local stakeholder consultation (LSC) . Any future projects under this group LSC would be located in any or all of those twelve municipalities and can cover both non-mechanised as well as mechanised coffee plantations.

A.2.4. Involved Parties

GrowGrounds ApS (GG), being the Coordinating and Managing Entity (CME) of the PoA and at the same time project developer of the given first real case VPA, is a Danish-based impact-driven start-up that is focused to decrease coffee's negative CO2 impact and helps farmers to move away from monoculture coffee farming to syntropic agroforestry systems, while giving farmers access to the global carbon market.

Hanns R. Neumann Stiftung (HRNS) is a private non-profit foundation established in 2005 pursuing three main goals: (1) improving the social and economic situation of smallholder farming families in tropical countries, (2) protecting the environment and nature, and (3) promoting youth perspectives. HRNS has been active in

Brazil since 2009 and will be the local project implementer on the ground for the project in Minas Gerais.

A.2.5. Carbon Credits

Greenhouse gas (GHG) sequestration achieved through the plantation or assisted natural regeneration of trees will result in carbon credits following Gold Standard certification rules and procedures. The PoA will apply the Gold Standard methodology "Afforestation/Reforestation GHG Emissions Reduction & Sequestration Methodology".
The first project implemented by GrowGrounds aims to pay back at least 65% (cash and/or in kind) of revenues from the sale of carbon credits to the farmers. The remaining portion of the revenues are used to finance the carbon certification related costs and to cover costs incurred by the project developer/implementer.

A.2.6. Duration, Scale and Time-schedule

The duration of the project is 30 years, in line with Gold Standard long-term requirements for afforestation/reforestation activities.
The project start date is 01 October 2026, with planting of the first trees.
The PoA, along with the first real case VPA (pilot) being implemented in Minas Gerais, Brazil received the Design Certification in December 2025. This is a regular VPA and is expected to reach key certification milestones with submission of the Project Design Document (PDD) in Q3 2026 and Gold Standard registration in Q4 2026, subject to successful validation and completion of required legal, technical and stakeholder processes.
The project is planned to be implemented across approximately 500 hectares of coffee and pasture landscapes through phased enrollment and farmer onboarding.
Local stakeholder engagement and farmer enrollment has already started.

A.2.7. Compliance with the Safeguarding Principles

Any VPA to be implemented guarantees to follow all safeguards as defined in the Gold Standard requirements, which are as per the following.
Principle 1 - Human Rights
The project respects internationally proclaimed human rights and is not complicit in violence or human rights abuses of any kind, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It does not discriminate on the basis of gender, religion or sexual orientation.
Principle 2 - Gender Equality and Women's Rights
The project activity does not support any form of discrimination based on gender. The project will take into account the gender roles and capacities of women and men to participate equally in the design and consultation activities of the project activity.
Principle 3 - Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions
The project will not expose the community to increased health risks and will not adversely affect the health of workers and the community. Workers involved in the project activity are not exposed to unhealthy working environments, as the project activity will not involve hazardous chemicals or other hazardous materials. It will be ensured that youth/farmers involved in tree management practices activities will be properly trained and equipped with protective equipment as and when necessary.
Principle 4 - Cultural Heritage, Indigenous Peoples, Displacement and Resettlement
The project activity will not negatively impact cultural heritage, indigenous peoples or displace or resettle people. The project is not located on lands/territories claimed by indigenous people.
Principle 5 – Corruption
The project does not involve, complicit in, or inadvertently contribute to corruption or corrupt projects. The project is implemented on farmers lands who have full control over their land.
Principle 6 -Economic Impacts
No negative economic consequences are expected from the project activity. On the contrary, the project is expected to contribute to sustainable economic growth. The project will respect all labor rights and follow the respective national laws.
Principle 7 - Climate and Energy
The project will sequester CO2, which will be monitored and verified in accordance with Gold Standard carbon requirements.

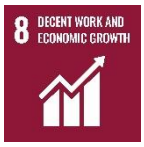
Principle 8 - Water
The project will not have any negative impact on natural water patterns/flows or cause further erosion and/or instability of water bodies. On the contrary, increased vegetation through trees and other plants allows for better water retention and infiltration, which has a positive impact on groundwater availability.
Principle 9 - Environment, Ecology and Land Use
The project will not have any negative impact on the environment and ecology. The project does not adversely affect or alter intact high conservation value (HCV) ecosystems, critical habitats, landscapes and key biodiversity areas.

A.2.8. Contribution to Sustainable Development

The project aims to contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):
SDG 2 – Zero Hunger

The project activity will implement resilient agricultural practices, hence create better soil conditions and sustainable food production systems, which will benefit farmers in form of stable incomes and food for subsistence. The project activity expects to reduce or even eliminate the use of external inputs (chemical or organic fertilizer, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides) resulting in cost savings for the farmers. The farmers will benefit from the carbon project in form of cash and/or in-kind payments.
SDG 4 – Quality Education

The project activity will provide training/workshops to farmers and technicians in agroforestry practices following syntropic farming principles, thereby enhancing their skills and knowledge of sustainable agriculture. This will make their work more efficient, effective and sustainable for soils and the environment.
SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth



The project activity expects to create jobs for technicians, service providers for conducting pollarding activities, for staff carrying out monitoring activities and others. Hence, the project activity will increase business and income opportunities in the municipalities where the project will be implemented.
SDG 13 – Climate Action

The project activities result in carbon removals through planted trees as well as from trees of assisted natural regeneration. Soil Organic Carbon will also be enriched.

SDG 15 – Life on Land

The project activity expects to convert up to 500 ha of full-sun monoculture coffee plantations with different coffee farmers scattered across the 12 municipalities into diverse agroforestry systems following syntropic farming principles. This will provide new habitats for flora and fauna.

A.2.9. Contact

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Portuguese version

11de fevereiro de 2026

Resumo Não Técnico
Atividade Voluntária de Projeto (VPA) "Transformando os Sistemas de Produção de Café no Brasil com Agrofloresta para Armazenar Carbono, Regenerar Ecossistemas e Melhorar os Meios

de Vida dos Agricultores na Mantiqueira de Minas", sob o Programa de Atividades (PoA) "Programa Global de Agrofloresta Sintrópica", certificada pelo Gold Standard para os Objetivos Globais (GS4GG)

A.2.10. Contexto

As florestas são de grande importância para a biodiversidade, o clima, solos saudáveis, retenção de água e produção de alimentos. No entanto, apenas no Estado de Minas Gerais, Brasil, 3,10 milhões de hectares de cobertura arbórea foram perdidos entre 2001 e 2023, o que equivale a uma redução de 17% da cobertura arbórea desde 2000 e a emissões de 1,66 Gigatoneladas de CO2e. [8] O desmatamento associado à agricultura é um dos principais motores das mudanças climáticas. O desmatamento impulsionado por commodities (incluindo pecuária, cacau, café, soja, palma de óleo, etc.) contribui para 25% da perda total de cobertura arbórea no mundo. [9]

O impacto econômico para a sociedade é enorme. No caso do café, condições mais secas e quentes estão colocando em risco a produção de café Arábica em Minas Gerais, sendo as mudanças climáticas e o desmatamento as principais causas. Desde 2010, as temperaturas nos municípios produtores de café aumentaram 1,2°C durante o período de floração; projeções indicam mais dias com temperaturas extremas (acima de 34°C) até 2050.[10]

Muitos produtores de café em Minas Gerais relatam crescente preocupação com a escassez hídrica, calor extremo e períodos de seca mais prolongados, fatores consistentes com a variabilidade climática observada e que vêm comprometendo a resiliência das lavouras. Esses estressores são relevantes porque a seca e temperaturas desfavoráveis estão entre as principais limitações climáticas para a fisiologia e produção do café, afetando crescimento e produtividade.[11] Ao mesmo tempo, a resiliência do café Arábica é desafiada quando as paisagens produtivas perdem condições mais próximas de sua origem ecológica. Coffea arabica é nativa do sub-bosque sombreado das florestas montanas úmidas sempre-verdes da Etiópia, onde microclimas mais amenos e processos florestais intactos de solo sustentam o desempenho da planta. Em sistemas simplificados a pleno sol, com solos degradados, o café pode perder funções de suporte essenciais, como a regulação microclimática e processos biológicos saudáveis do solo, que ajudam a manter a estrutura do solo e a disponibilidade de água.[12]

Em Minas Gerais, o café é amplamente cultivado em sistemas a pleno sol, frequentemente em monocultura, em comparação com abordagens agroflorestais. Agricultores relatam que as lavouras estão cada vez mais expostas à pressão de pragas e doenças, incluindo bicho mineiro (Leucoptera coffeella), broca-do-café (Hypothenemus hampei) e ferrugem (Hemileia

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[8] https://www.globalforestwatch.org/dashboards/country/BRA/13/?category=forest-change&location=WyJjb3VudHJ5IiwiQlJBIiwiMTMiXQ%3D%3D

[9] Curtis et al. (2018), Classifying drivers of global forest loss, https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aau3445.

[10] https://news.mongabay.com/2023/10/how-climate-change-could-jeopardize-brazilian-coffee/

[11] DaMattaI & Cochicho (2006), Impacts of drought and temperature stress on coffee physiology and production: a review, https://doi.org/10.1590/S1677-04202006000100006

[12] Senbeta & Denich (2006), Effects of wild coffee management on species diversity in the Afromontane rainforests of Ethiopia, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foreco.2006.05.064.

vastatrix).[13] O manejo convencional normalmente responde com maior dependência de controle químico (pesticidas e fungicidas) e outros insumos externos, sendo os sistemas convencionais caracterizados por maior uso de agroquímicos e fertilizantes químicos. O glifosato está entre os herbicidas utilizados no manejo convencional de plantas daninhas, e pesquisas indicam que ele pode modificar comunidades microbianas do solo e processos bioquímicos, podendo afetar a saúde do solo e a produtividade agrícola de longo prazo quando usado intensivamente. Tais práticas, combinadas com recorrentes estresses térmicos e hídricos, têm sido associadas a declínios graduais na produtividade do café em diversas regiões produtoras de Minas Gerais.[14]

É nesse contexto que surge o projeto "Transformando os Sistemas de Produção de Café no Brasil com Agrofloresta para Armazenar Carbono, Regenerar Ecossistemas e Melhorar os Meios de Vida dos Agricultores na Mantiqueira de Minas".

Fotos abaixo: Período prolongado de seca no inverno faz com que o café sofra e pode até levar à morte das plantas. Solo exposto e sem cobertura resulta em erosão do solo, baixa retenção de água, ausência de vida microbiológica e compactação do solo.

Foto abaixo: *Leucoptera coffeella* (bicho mineiro)

Foto abaixo: *Hemileia vastatrix* (ferrugem), causando queda precoce das folhas e secamento dos ramos.

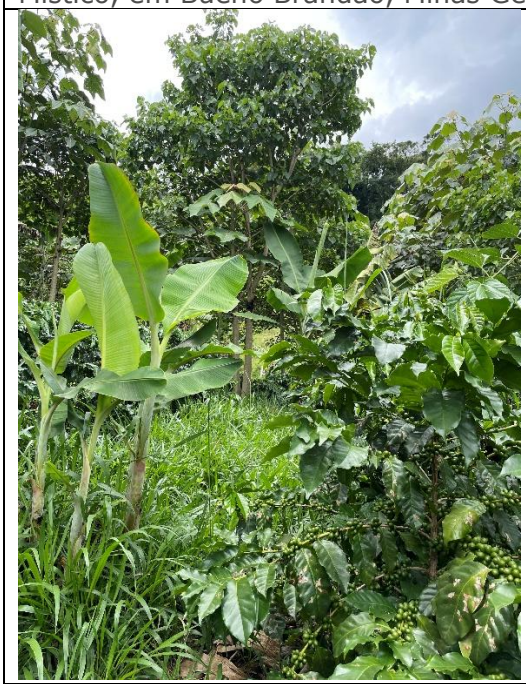
A.2.11. Abordagem Aplicada, Objetivos e Localização do Projeto

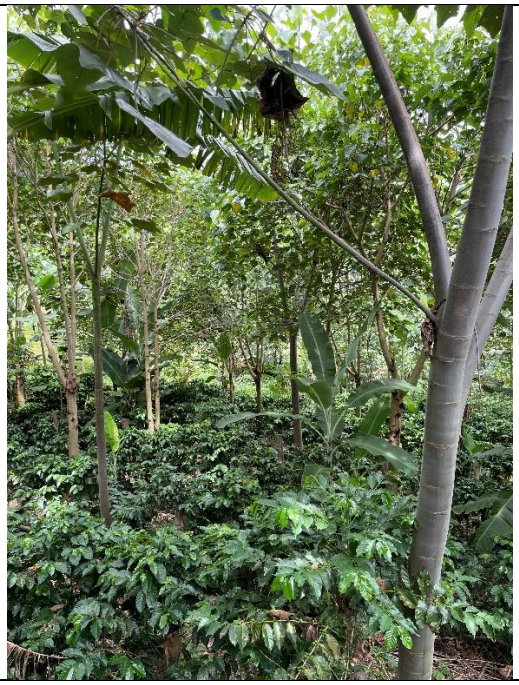
[13] Venzon (2021), Agro-Ecological Management of Coffee Pests in Brazil, https://doi.org/10.3389/fsufs.2021.721117.

[14] Mancini et al. (2021), Impact of agroecological management on plant diversity and soil-based ecosystem services in pasture and coffee systems in the Atlantic forest of Brazil, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.agee.2020.107171.

A implementação de sistemas agroflorestais em áreas de café, pastagem e áreas degradadas é estruturada como uma estratégia integrada e específica ao contexto para promover sustentabilidade produtiva e regeneração ambiental. O projeto está organizado em três linhas complementares de ação: produção sustentável de café em sistemas agroflorestais, estabelecimento de sistemas silvipastoris e implantação de pequenos bosques em propriedades familiares. Técnicos de campo avaliam individualmente cada propriedade rural para determinar a abordagem técnica mais adequada, reconhecendo que a eficácia ecológica deve estar alinhada à capacidade operacional do agricultor e ao potencial de manutenção a longo prazo.
Nos sistemas de produção de café, a base da sustentabilidade reside na adequada estruturação e conservação do solo. As práticas centrais incluem medidas de conservação do solo, manutenção e melhoria da fertilidade, redução de práticas degradantes e substituição de insumos ineficientes ou ambientalmente prejudiciais por alternativas de menor impacto. Os sistemas agroflorestais são concebidos para permanecer ecologicamente equilibrados e economicamente viáveis, mantendo o café como componente produtivo central.
Um modelo básico estabelece padrões mínimos de sustentabilidade, incluindo arranjos agroflorestais de baixa complexidade e alta eficiência que facilitam o manejo pelo agricultor, além de boas práticas de colheita e pós-colheita. Um modelo avançado pode incorporar maior diversificação de espécies arbóreas, consórcios, sombreamento parcial, controle biológico, microrganismos eficientes, produção de composto orgânico, adubação verde e desenvolvimento de modelos de sucessão em múltiplos estratos. Para o estabelecimento de café agroflorestal, recomenda-se densidade de 150 a 200 árvores por hectare.
Nos sistemas silvipastoris, a saúde do solo também ocupa posição central. Cinco modelos principais são considerados: árvores dispersas ou isoladas, agrupamentos de árvores na pastagem, plantio em faixas, plantações de madeira ou frutíferas e quebra-ventos ou cercas vivas. As densidades estimadas variam de 150 a 200 árvores por hectare, ajustáveis conforme avaliação técnica in loco.
Na restauração de áreas degradadas, o foco é restabelecer o equilíbrio ecológico e a resiliência ambiental. Esses sistemas podem incorporar maior diversidade de espécies e exigem planejamento cuidadoso das estratégias de conservação do solo, proteção das espécies e manejo da sucessão ecológica. Recomenda-se densidade de 600 a 800 árvores por hectare, dependendo das avaliações de campo, disponibilidade de mudas e adaptação regional.
Em todas as linhas de ação, os sistemas agroflorestais promovem biodiversidade, melhoram condições microclimáticas, favorecem regeneração do solo e aumentam o sequestro de carbono na biomassa e no solo.

Fotos abaixo da propriedade agroflorestal diversificada de agricultura familiar Campo Místico, em Bueno Brandão, Minas Gerais, Brasil.

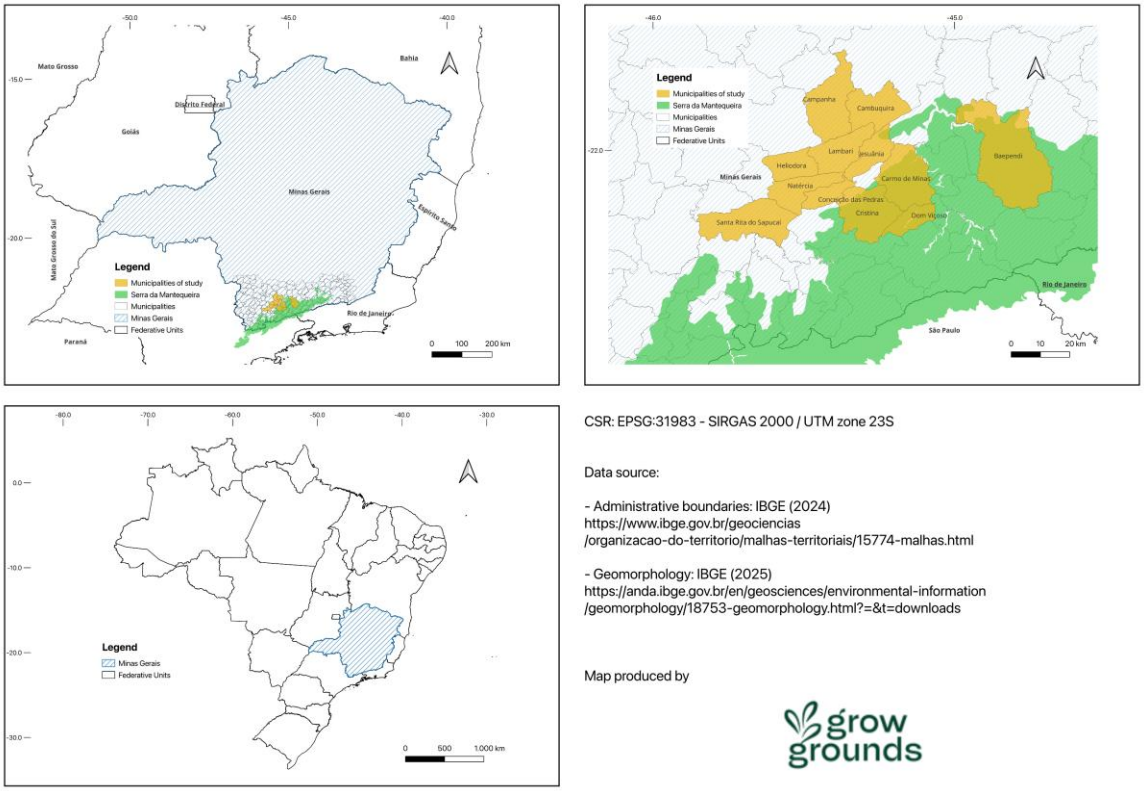




A.2.12. Objetivos

O projeto busca apoiar produtores na transição da monocultura a pleno sol para sistemas agroflorestais, restaurando solos, estabilizando ou aumentando a produtividade do café e a renda dos agricultores, fortalecendo a segurança alimentar e removendo CO2 da atmosfera por meio do sequestro de carbono.
Objetivos principais:
i) Gerar créditos de carbono de alta qualidade via certificação Gold Standard sob o PoA;
ii) Melhorar saúde do solo, regulação hídrica e resiliência produtiva;
iii) Fortalecer resultados de biodiversidade e conectividade de habitats em paisagens adjacentes a Áreas-Chave para a Biodiversidade (KBAs);
iv) Promover participação inclusiva, com metas para mulheres em treinamentos e liderança.
O projeto abrangerá municípios de Carmo de Minas, Baependi, Natércia, Cristina, Dom Viçoso, Santa Rita do Sapucaí, Heliodora, Lambari, Jesuânia, Conceição das Pedras, Campanha e Cambuquira, em Minas Gerais.

Área de estudo da VPA "Transformando os Sistemas de Produção de Café no Brasil com Agrofloresta para Armazenar Carbono, Regenerar Ecossistemas e Melhorar os Meios de Vida dos Agricultores na Mantiqueira de Minas"



O projeto será certificado como projeto de carbono Gold Standard sob uma estrutura mais ampla, conhecida no mercado de carbono como "Programa de Atividades (PoA)". Um PoA estabelece as diretrizes para qualquer projeto que faça parte do programa.
Esta primeira atividade voluntária de projeto (denominada VPA de caso real), bem como possíveis projetos subsequentes (denominados VPAs regulares), fazem parte de uma consulta agrupada de partes interessadas locais (LSC). Quaisquer projetos futuros sob essa LSC agrupada estarão localizados em qualquer um ou em todos aqueles doze municípios e poderão abranger tanto plantações de café não mecanizadas quanto mecanizadas..

A.2.13. Partes Envolvidas

GrowGrounds ApS (GG), GrowGrounds ApS (GG), Entidade Coordenadora e Gestora (CME) do PoA e desenvolvedora do primeiro VPA, é uma startup dinamarquesa orientada a impacto, focada na redução da pegada de CO2 do café e na transição para sistemas agroflorestais sintrópicos.

Hanns R. Neumann Stiftung (HRNS) é uma fundação privada sem fins lucrativos estabelecida em 2005, ativa no Brasil desde 2009, e atuará como implementadora local do projeto.

A.2.14. Créditos de Carbono

O sequestro de GEE por plantio ou regeneração natural assistida resultará em créditos de carbono conforme metodologia Gold Standard "Afforestation/Reforestation GHG Emissions Reduction & Sequestration Methodology".
Pelo menos 65% das receitas da venda de créditos (em dinheiro e/ou em espécie) serão destinados aos agricultores. O restante cobre custos de certificação e implementação.

A.2.15. Duração e Escala

A duração do projeto é de 30 anos, em conformidade com os requisitos de longo prazo do Gold Standard para atividades de florestamento/reflorestamento.
A data de início do projeto é 01 de outubro de 2026, com o plantio das primeiras árvores.
O PoA, juntamente com a primeira VPA de caso real (piloto) implementada em Minas Gerais, Brasil, recebeu a Certificação de Design em dezembro de 2025. Trata-se de uma VPA regular e espera-se que alcance marcos importantes de certificação com a submissão do Documento de Concepção do Projeto (PDD) no terceiro trimestre de 2026 e o registro no Gold Standard no quarto trimestre de 2026, sujeito à validação bem-sucedida e à conclusão dos processos legais, técnicos e de engajamento das partes interessadas exigidos.
O projeto está planejado para ser implementado em aproximadamente 500 hectares de áreas de café e pastagens, por meio de adesão faseada e integração progressiva de agricultores.
O engajamento das partes interessadas locais e a adesão de agricultores já foram iniciados.

A.2.16. Conformidade com os Princípios de Salvaguarda

Qualquer VPA a ser implementada garante o cumprimento de todas as salvaguardas conforme definidas nos requisitos do Gold Standard, conforme descrito a seguir.
Princípio 1 – Direitos Humanos
O projeto respeita os direitos humanos internacionalmente proclamados e não é cúmplice de violência ou abusos de direitos humanos de qualquer natureza, conforme definido na Declaração Universal dos Direitos Humanos. Não há discriminação com base em gênero, religião ou orientação sexual.
Princípio 2 – Igualdade de Gênero e Direitos das Mulheres
A atividade do projeto não apoia qualquer forma de discriminação com base em gênero. O projeto considerará os papéis de gênero e as capacidades de mulheres e homens para participarem de forma igualitária nas atividades de concepção e consulta do projeto.
Princípio 3 – Saúde, Segurança da Comunidade e Condições de Trabalho
O projeto não exporá a comunidade a riscos adicionais à saúde e não afetará negativamente a saúde dos trabalhadores e da comunidade. Os trabalhadores envolvidos na atividade do projeto não serão expostos a ambientes de trabalho insalubres, uma vez que a atividade não envolverá produtos químicos perigosos ou outros materiais perigosos. Será garantido que jovens/agricultores envolvidos nas atividades de manejo de árvores sejam devidamente capacitados e equipados com equipamentos de proteção sempre que necessário.
Princípio 4 – Patrimônio Cultural, Povos Indígenas, Deslocamento e Reassentamento
A atividade do projeto não impactará negativamente o patrimônio cultural ou povos indígenas, nem promoverá deslocamento ou reassentamento de pessoas. O projeto não está localizado em terras ou territórios reivindicados por povos indígenas.
Princípio 5 – Corrupção
O projeto não envolve, não é cúmplice nem contribui inadvertidamente para corrupção ou projetos corruptos. O projeto é implementado em terras de agricultores que possuem pleno controle sobre suas propriedades.
Princípio 6 – Impactos Econômicos
Não são esperadas consequências econômicas negativas decorrentes da atividade do projeto. Pelo contrário, espera-se que o projeto contribua para o crescimento econômico sustentável. O projeto respeitará todos os direitos trabalhistas e seguirá as legislações nacionais aplicáveis.

Princípio 7 – Clima e Energia
O projeto realizará o sequestro de CO2, que será monitorado e verificado de acordo com os requisitos de carbono do Gold Standard.
Princípio 8 – Água
O projeto não terá impactos negativos sobre os padrões ou fluxos naturais de água, nem causará erosão adicional ou instabilidade de corpos hídricos. Pelo contrário, o aumento da vegetação por meio de árvores e outras plantas permitirá maior retenção e infiltração de água, impactando positivamente a disponibilidade de águas subterrâneas.
Princípio 9 – Meio Ambiente, Ecologia e Uso da Terra
O projeto não terá impactos negativos sobre o meio ambiente e a ecologia. Não afetará adversamente nem alterará ecossistemas intactos de alto valor de conservação (HCV), habitats críticos, paisagens e áreas-chave para a biodiversidade.

A.2.17. Contribuição para o Desenvolvimento Sustentável

O projeto visa contribuir para os seguintes Objetivos de Desenvolvimento Sustentável (ODS):
ODS 2 – Fome Zero

A atividade do projeto implementará práticas agrícolas resilientes, criando melhores condições de solo e sistemas sustentáveis de produção de alimentos, beneficiando os agricultores por meio de renda estável e alimentos para subsistência. Espera-se reduzir ou até eliminar o uso de insumos externos (fertilizantes químicos ou orgânicos, pesticidas, herbicidas, fungicidas), resultando em economia de custos para os agricultores. Os agricultores também se beneficiarão do projeto de carbono por meio de pagamentos em dinheiro e/ou em espécie.
ODS 4 – Educação de Qualidade

A atividade do projeto oferecerá treinamentos e oficinas a agricultores e técnicos em práticas agroflorestais baseadas nos princípios da agricultura sintrópica, fortalecendo suas competências e conhecimentos em agricultura sustentável. Isso tornará seu trabalho mais eficiente, eficaz e sustentável para os solos e o meio ambiente.
ODS 8 – Trabalho Decente e Crescimento Econômico

A atividade do projeto prevê a criação de empregos para técnicos, prestadores de serviços para realização de podas, equipes de monitoramento e outros. Dessa forma, o projeto ampliará oportunidades de negócios e geração de renda nos municípios onde será implementado.
ODS 13 – Ação Climática

As atividades do projeto resultarão em remoções de carbono por meio das árvores plantadas e da regeneração natural assistida. O Carbono Orgânico do Solo também será enriquecido.

ODS 15 – Vida Terrestre

A atividade do projeto prevê converter até 500 hectares de plantações de café em monocultura a pleno sol, distribuídas entre diferentes agricultores nos 12 municípios, em sistemas agroflorestais diversificados baseados nos princípios da agricultura sintrópica. Isso proporcionará novos habitats para a flora e a fauna.

A.2.18. Contato

Christina Singh
Chief Operations Officer
Email: christina@growgrounds.org
Telefone: +45 4176 0744
Francyelly Lasmar Balduino
Gerente de Projeto e Ponto Focal Local
Email: fran.lasmar@hrnstiftung.org

A.3. Contact details to get further technical detail and project information

Christina Singh

Chief Operations Officer

Email: christina@growgrounds.org

Phone: +45 41760744 (WhatsApp)

A.1. Summary of economic, social and environmental impacts of the Project

Economic impacts:

1. **Improved farm productivity and profitability:** The project supports coffee farmers in transitioning from full-sun monoculture systems and pastures to diversified agroforestry systems designed to improve soil health, water regulation, and long-term farm resilience. Improved growing conditions are expected to stabilize and potentially increase coffee productivity while reducing dependence on costly external inputs such as chemical fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, and fungicides.
2. **Diversification of income sources:** The introduction of fruit trees, timber species, and other productive plant species, as well as the carbon revenue share creates opportunities for diversified farm production and additional income streams beyond coffee, while also improving household self-sufficiency.
3. **Carbon revenue generation:** Participating farmers will benefit from carbon finance generated through Gold Standard-certified carbon removals. Under the project's benefit-sharing mechanism, at least 65% of the carbon credit value will be transferred to farmers through cash payments and/or in-kind support such as seedlings, tools, training, and technical assistance.
4. **Increased resilience to climate change:** Agroforestry systems improve resilience to drought, extreme temperatures, and climate variability through increased shade, improved water retention, and enhanced soil structure. This helps safeguard coffee production and farmer livelihoods against climate-related risks.
5. **Reduced pest and disease pressure:** Diversified agroforestry systems create more balanced ecosystems that support natural pest control and improve plant health. This can reduce vulnerability to common coffee pests and diseases, including Leucoptera coffeella (coffee leaf miner), Hypothenemus hampei (coffee berry borer), and Hemileia vastatrix (coffee leaf rust), helping to protect farm productivity and income.

Social Impacts

1. **Capacity building and knowledge transfer:** The project provides training and technical assistance to farmers and technicians on agroforestry management, soil conservation, syntropic agriculture principles, biological pest management, compost production, and other regenerative agricultural practices. This strengthens local knowledge and technical capacity.
2. **Employment creation:** Project implementation is expected to generate local employment opportunities for field technicians, nursery operators, monitoring staff, service providers, and workers involved in tree establishment and maintenance activities.
3. **Improved food security:** The integration of fruit trees and other productive species into farming systems increases the availability of food for household consumption and contributes to more diversified and resilient food production systems.
4. **Inclusive participation and gender empowerment:** The project promotes inclusive stakeholder participation and seeks to increase women's participation in training activities and leadership roles within project implementation and decision-making processes.
5. **Strengthened rural livelihoods:** Through increased resilience, diversified production, technical support, and access to carbon revenues, the project contributes to improving the long-term livelihoods and economic security of participating farming households.

Environmental Impacts

1. **Carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation:** The establishment of agroforestry systems, silvopastoral systems, and restoration plantings will remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and increase carbon storage in aboveground biomass, belowground biomass, and soils, generating verified carbon removals under the Gold Standard.
2. **Soil restoration and increased soil organic carbon:** Agroforestry practices such as permanent soil cover, mulching from regular pruning, green manure, diversified root systems, and reduced soil disturbance contribute to improved soil fertility, increased soil organic carbon, enhanced microbial activity, reduced erosion, and greater water retention capacity.
3. **Biodiversity enhancement and habitat connectivity:** The integration of diverse tree and crop species creates new habitats for flora and fauna, supports ecological restoration, and improves landscape connectivity in areas adjacent to Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs).
4. **Improved water regulation:** Increased vegetation cover enhances water infiltration, groundwater recharge, and moisture retention while reducing surface runoff and erosion, contributing to greater resilience to drought conditions.
5. **Reduced environmental impacts from agricultural inputs:** By promoting regenerative farming practices and reducing reliance on synthetic agrochemicals, the project contributes to improved soil and ecosystem health while lowering environmental pressures associated with conventional coffee production systems.
6. **Enhanced landscape resilience:** At scale, the project is expected to contribute to more resilient agricultural landscapes through increased tree cover, improved microclimatic conditions, restoration of ecological functions, and strengthened adaptation to climate change.

A.2. Other relevant information to help stakeholders understand the project

Not applicable

SECTION B. INVITATIONS MADE TO STAKEHOLDERS

B.1. Invitation tracking table

Please complete the table below

Category Code	Stakeholder Type/Organisation (if relevant)	Name of invitee	Male/ Female	Method of invitation	Date of invitation (>30 days before Meeting)
D	DNA Brazil, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change	[redacted]	F	Email	
D	DNA Brazil, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change		F	Email	10 February 2026
D	DNA Brazil, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change		M	Email	10 February 2026
C	Minas Gerais State Environment Secretariat (SEMAD)		F	Email	10 February 2026
C	State Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply of the State of Minas Gerais		M	Email	10 February 2026
C	State Superintendency of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply of the State of Minas Gerais		M	Email	10 February 2026
C	City Hall of Carmo de Minas	N/A	N/A	Email	10 February 2026
C	City Hall of Lambari	N/A	N/A	Email	10 February 2026
C	City Hall of Conceição do Rio Verde	N/A	N/A	Email	10 February 2026

C	Chamber of Councilors of Baependi	N/A	N/A	Email	10 February 2026
C	City Hall of Conceição do Rio Verde	N/A	N/A	Email	10 February 2026
C	City Hall of Dom Viçoso	N/A	N/A	Email	10 February 2026
A	Southpole/co2logic	[redacted]	M	Email	10 February 2026
A	Belterra Agroflorestas		M	Email	10 February 2026
A	Uba Sustainability Institute		F	Email	10 February 2026
A	Re.green Participações S.A.		M	Email	10 February 2026
A	Klabin S/A		M	Email	10 February 2026
A	Biofilica Ambipar Environmental Investments		M	Email	10 February 2026
C	Instituto de Pesquisas Ecológicas – IPÊ		F	Email	10 February 2026
A	Amazon Reforestation Consortium		M	Email	10 February 2026
A	CARBON CREDITS CONSULTING S.r.L.		F	Email	10 February 2026
A	AGROBUSINESS FLORESTAS E PECUARIA Ltda		F	Email	10 February 2026
A	Suzano S.A.		M	Email	10 February 2026
A	WAYCARBON SOLUÇÕES AMBIENTAIS E PROJETOS DE CARBONO LTDA		M	Email	10 February 2026
A	ReforestAction / ReforesTerra – Restauração de		M	Email	10 February 2026

	Ecossistemas Florestais Ltda				
A	Centro de Estudos da Cultura e do Meio Ambiente da Amazônia Rioterra	[redacted]	M	Email	10 February 2026
A	The Green Branch		M	Email	10 February 2026
A	E2 carbon		M	Email	10 February 2026
A	E2 carbon		F	Email	10 February 2026
A	Cooxupe		F	Email	10 February 2026
A	Sancoffee		F	Email	10 February 2026
A	Eco Farm Santa Bárbara Coffee		F	Email	10 February 2026
A	Agropecuária Aruanã Ltda		M	Email	10 February 2026
A	Working Trees, Inc.		N/A	Email	10 February 2026
A	INOCAS		M	Email	10 February 2026
A	AgroCP		N/A	Email	10 February 2026
A	EPAMIG		N/A	Email	10 February 2026
A	Clima Agroambiental		M	Email	10 February 2026
A	EMATER-MG	N/A	N/A	What's app	10 February 2026
E	Cocarive Café	N/A	N/A	What's app	10 February 2026
E	ASSOCIAÇÃO DE PRODUTORES DE CAFÉS ESPECIAIS DE CRISTINA	N/A	N/A	What's app	10 February 2026
E	CAPEC – COOPERATIVA	N/A	N/A	What's app	10 February 2026

	AGROPECUARIA DE CRISTINA				
E	Ascarive- Associação dos Cafeicultores do Vale do Rio Verde	N/A	N/A	Email/ what's app	10 February 2026
E	SOF Sempreviva Organização Feminista	N/A	N/A	Email	10 February 2026
E	Aliança Internacional das Mulheres do Café - IWCA Brasil	N/A	N/A	Email	10 February 2026
E	Mulheres do Café	N/A	N/A	Email	10 February 2026
E	Articulação Nacional de Agroecologia (ANA)	N/A	N/A	Email	10 February 2026
E	Associação das Organizações de Produtores Fairtrade do Brasil – BRFAIR	N/A	N/A	Email	10 February 2026
E	The International Women's Coffee Alliance (IWCA) Brazilian Chapter	[redacted]	F	Email/ What's app	10 February 2026
F	Gold Standard representative		N/A	Email	10 February 2026
D	Instituto Brasileiro de Recursos Naturais e Renováveis - IBAMA		M	Email	10 February 2026
D	EMBRAPA		F	Email	10 February 2026
D	EMBRAPA		M	Email	10 February 2026
D	EMBRAPA Coffee		F	Email	10 February 2026

D	EMBRAPA Coffee	[redacted]	F	Email	10 February 2026
D	EMBRAPA Forestry		F	Email	10 February 2026
D	EMBRAPA (Brasília)		F	Email	10 February 2026
D	EMBRAPA Agroindustria Tropical		M	Email	10 February 2026
D	EMBRAPA Clima Temperado - CPACT		M	Email	10 February 2026
D	EMATER		N/A	Email	10 February 2026
D	IPÊ - Instituto de Pesquisas Ecológicas		N/A	Email	10 February 2026
D	IPEF - Instituto de Pesquisas e Estudos Florestais		M	Email	10 February 2026
D	IPEF - Instituto de Pesquisas e Estudos Florestais		M	Email	10 February 2026
D	GIZ Brazil		M	Email	10 February 2026
D	GIZ Brazil		M	Email	10 February 2026
D	Agricultural Research and Rural Extension Company of Santa Catarina (Epagri), Experimental Station of Canoinhas, Santa Catarina, Brazil		F	Email	10 February 2026
D	Global Coffee Platform		M	Email	10 February 2026
D	Instituto Mineiro de Agropecuária (IMA)	N/A	N/A	Email	10 February 2026

D	SENAR – Serviço Nacional de Aprendizagem Rural	N/A	N/A	Email	10 February 2026
E	Sindicato de produtores de Conceição do Rio Verde	[redacted]	M	Email/What's App	10 February 2026
E	Sindicato Rural De Cristina		N/A	What's App	10 February 2026
D	SICOOB		N/A	What's App	10 February 2026
F	Learn Management Systems Promotion Society		M	Email	10 February 2026
F	Asociación para la Promoción de Nuevas Alternativas de Desarrollo (APRONAD)		M	Email	10 February 2026
F	Fundacion de Initiativas de Cambio Climatico de Honduras (Fundacion MDL de Honduras)		F	Email	10 February 2026
F	Myclimate		M	Email	10 February 2026
F	HIVOS		M	Email	10 February 2026
E	APROCAM		F	Personal Invitation	12 February 2026
E	Associação de Artesanães Cristina		F	Personal Invitation	12 February 2026
E	Associação dos Caficultores do Vale do Rio Verde (ASCARIVE)		F	Personal Invitation	12 February 2026
E	Café Seval		M	Personal Invitation	12 February 2026

E	CAPEC	N/A	N/A	Printed Invitation	12 February 2026
E	COCARIVE	N/A	N/A	Printed Invitation	12 February 2026
E	EMATER Baependi	[redacted]	F	Personal Invitation	12 February 2026
E	EMATER Cristina		F	Personal Invitation	12 February 2026
E	IMA Cristina		M	Personal Invitation	12 February 2026
D	Instituto Federal Ed. C. Tecnologia Campus Carmo de Minas		F	Personal Invitation	12 February 2026
C	City Hall of Baependi		F	Personal Invitation	12 February 2026
C	City Hall of Cristina		M	Personal Invitation	12 February 2026
C	City Hall of São Lourenço de Minas		M	Personal Invitation	12 February 2026
E	Sindicato Rural CRV		M	Personal Invitation	12 February 2026
E	Sindicato Rural de Baependi		M	Personal Invitation	12 February 2026
A	Farmers	Varios	M/F	What's App	12 February 2026

B.1.1. Appropriateness of methods

Invitation methods have been chosen according to the respective stakeholder group. Project partners, international NGOs, national officials, national authorities, local NGOs, policy makers and the Brazilian DNA were invited by email. While the City Halls, associations and some farmer representatives were invited personally or by WhatsApp. The general public (broader range of farmers, any other stakeholders) were invited through public invitations (posters placed at representative locations, church announcements and word of mouth). Further, an announcement was made on GrowGround's website and Linkedin page.

The table below shows how people from each stakeholder category were invited.

Code	Category	Mode

A	Local people, communities and or representatives who are directly or indirectly affected by the project	Verbal, WhatsApp, Emails, church announcement, posters
B	Stakeholders with land-tenure rights within or adjacent to the project must be contacted	Verbal, church announcement, posters
C	Local policy makers and representatives of local authorities	Email, personal invitation letters, church announcement, posters
D	National government officials or National focal bodies responsible for the project in the host country, for example, Designated National Authority4 (DNA)	Email
E	Local non-governmental organisations (NGOs), Women Groups working on topics relevant to the project or working with communities who are likely to be affected by the project	Verbal, Email, WhatsApp, church announcement, posters
G	Relevant international NGO Supporters	Email

Posters were placed at the following locations:

- Association of Handcrafts Cristina
- Cooperative Ascarive Carmo de Minas
- Cooperative Cocarive Café
- Cooperative CooperCris Cristina
- Federal Institute Sul de Minas Carmo de Minas
- EMATER Cristina
- IMA Cristina
- City Hall of Conceição do Rio Verde
- City Hall of Cristina
- Sindicate of Rural Producers of Conceição do Rio Verde

Invitations were sent at least 30 days before the physical meeting date of 12 March 2026.

B.1.2. Gender Sensitivity

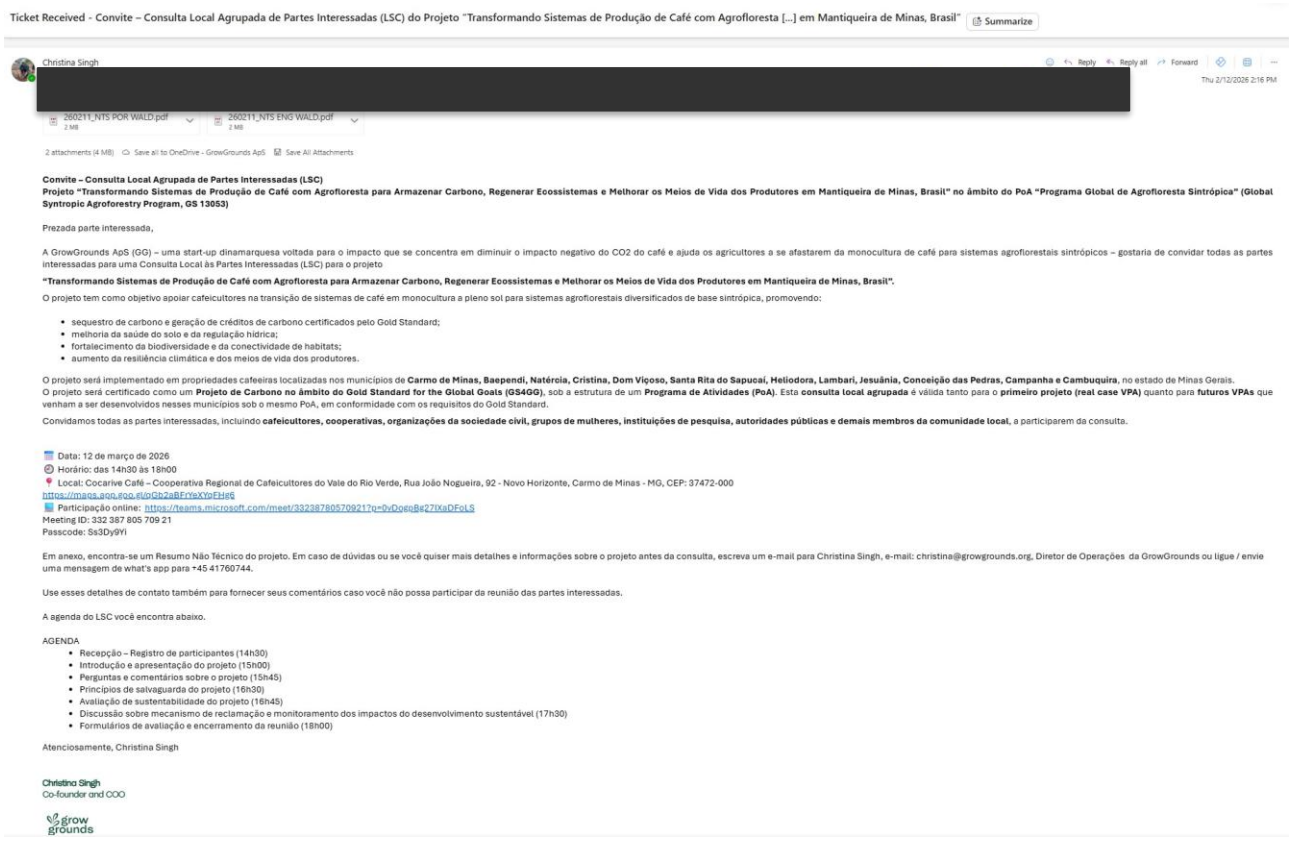
While invitations were not limited to a specific gender, they were explicitly sent to women's organisations and gender-focused groups, including the SOF Sempreviva Organização Feminista, Aliança Internacional das Mulheres do Café (IWCA Brasil), Mulheres do Café, and the IWCA Brazilian Chapter. The meeting was held at a central, accessible location (Cocarive Café headquarters in Carmo de Minas) at an afternoon time slot (14:30–18:00) to reduce barriers to participation. The invitation list was reviewed to ensure women representatives were included across categories. The participant list confirms the attendance of several women across farmer, technical, and organisational roles.

B.1.3. Evidence proving invites took place as stated

Email invitations were sent from the project developer's and implementer's official email accounts (GrowGrounds ApS). Copies of the sent emails and WhatsApp messages, including timestamps confirming dispatch at least 30 days before 12 March 2026 and the photo evidence of posters placed, are available and can be provided to the VVB upon request.

B.1.4. Sample content of invites (for each Method above)

Email sample:



Ticket Received - Convite – Consulta Local Agrupada de Partes Interessadas (LSC) do Projeto "Transformando Sistemas de Produção de Café com Agrofloresta [...] em Mantiqueira de Minas, Brasil" Summarize

Christina Singh [redacted]

Reply Reply all Forward

Thu 2/12/2026 2:16 PM

260211_NTS POR WALD.pdf 2 MB 260211_NTS ENG WALD.pdf 2 MB

2 attachments (4 MB) Save all to OneDrive - GrowGrounds ApS Save All Attachments

Convite – Consulta Local Agrupada de Partes Interessadas (LSC)
Projeto "Transformando Sistemas de Produção de Café com Agroflorestа para Armazenar Carbono, Regenerar Ecossistemas e Melhorar os Meios de Vida dos Produtores em Mantiqueira de Minas, Brasil" no âmbito do PoA "Programa Global de Agrofloresta Sintrópica" (Global Syntropic Agroforestry Program, GS 13053)

Prezada parte interessada,

A GrowGrounds ApS (GG) – uma start-up dinamarquesa voltada para o impacto que se concentra em diminuir o impacto negativo do CO2 do café e ajuda os agricultores a se afastarem da monocultura de café para sistemas agroflorestais sintrópicos – gostaria de convidar todas as partes interessadas para uma Consulta Local às Partes Interessadas (LSC) para o projeto

"Transformando Sistemas de Produção de Café com Agrofloresta para Armazenar Carbono, Regenerar Ecossistemas e Melhorar os Meios de Vida dos Produtores em Mantiqueira de Minas, Brasil".

O projeto tem como objetivo apoiar cafeicultores na transição de sistemas de café em monocultura a pleno sol para sistemas agroflorestais diversificados de base sintrópica, promovendo:

- sequestro de carbono e geração de créditos de carbono certificados pelo Gold Standard;
- melhoria da saúde do solo e da regulação hídrica;
- fortalecimento da biodiversidade e da conectividade de habitats;
- aumento da resiliência climática e dos meios de vida dos produtores.

O projeto será implementado em propriedades cafeeiras localizadas nos municípios de **Carmo de Minas, Baependi, Natércia, Cristina, Dom Viçoso, Santa Rita do Sapucaí, Heliodora, Lambari, Jesuânia, Conceição das Pedras, Campanha e Cambuquira**, no estado de Minas Gerais.
O projeto será certificado como um **Projeto de Carbono no âmbito do Gold Standard for the Global Goals (GS4GG)**, sob a estrutura de um **Programa de Atividades (PoA)**. Esta **consulta local agrupada** é válida tanto para o **primeiro projeto (real case VPA)** quanto para **futuros VPAs** que venham a ser desenvolvidos nesses municípios sob o mesmo PoA, em conformidade com os requisitos do Gold Standard.

Convidamos todas as partes interessadas, incluindo **cafeicultores, cooperativas, organizações da sociedade civil, grupos de mulheres, instituições de pesquisa, autoridades públicas e demais membros da comunidade local**, a participarem da consulta.

Data: 12 de março de 2026
Horário: das 14h30 às 18h00
Local: Cocarive Café – Cooperativa Regional de Cafeicultores do Vale do Rio Verde, Rua João Nogueira, 92 - Novo Horizonte, Carmo de Minas - MG, CEP: 37472-000
https://maps.app.goo.gl/pGb2aBFrYeXYpFHg6
Participação online: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/332387805709217?p=DvDqeqBg27IXaDFoLS
Meeting ID: 332 387 805 709 21
Passcode: Ss3Dy9Yi

Em anexo, encontra-se um Resumo Não Técnico do projeto. Em caso de dúvidas ou se você quiser mais detalhes e informações sobre o projeto antes da consulta, escreva um e-mail para Christina Singh, e-mail: christina@growgrounds.org, Diretor de Operações da GrowGrounds ou ligue / envie uma mensagem de what's app para +45 41760744.

Use esses detalhes de contato também para fornecer seus comentários caso você não possa participar da reunião das partes interessadas.

A agenda do LSC você encontra abaixo.

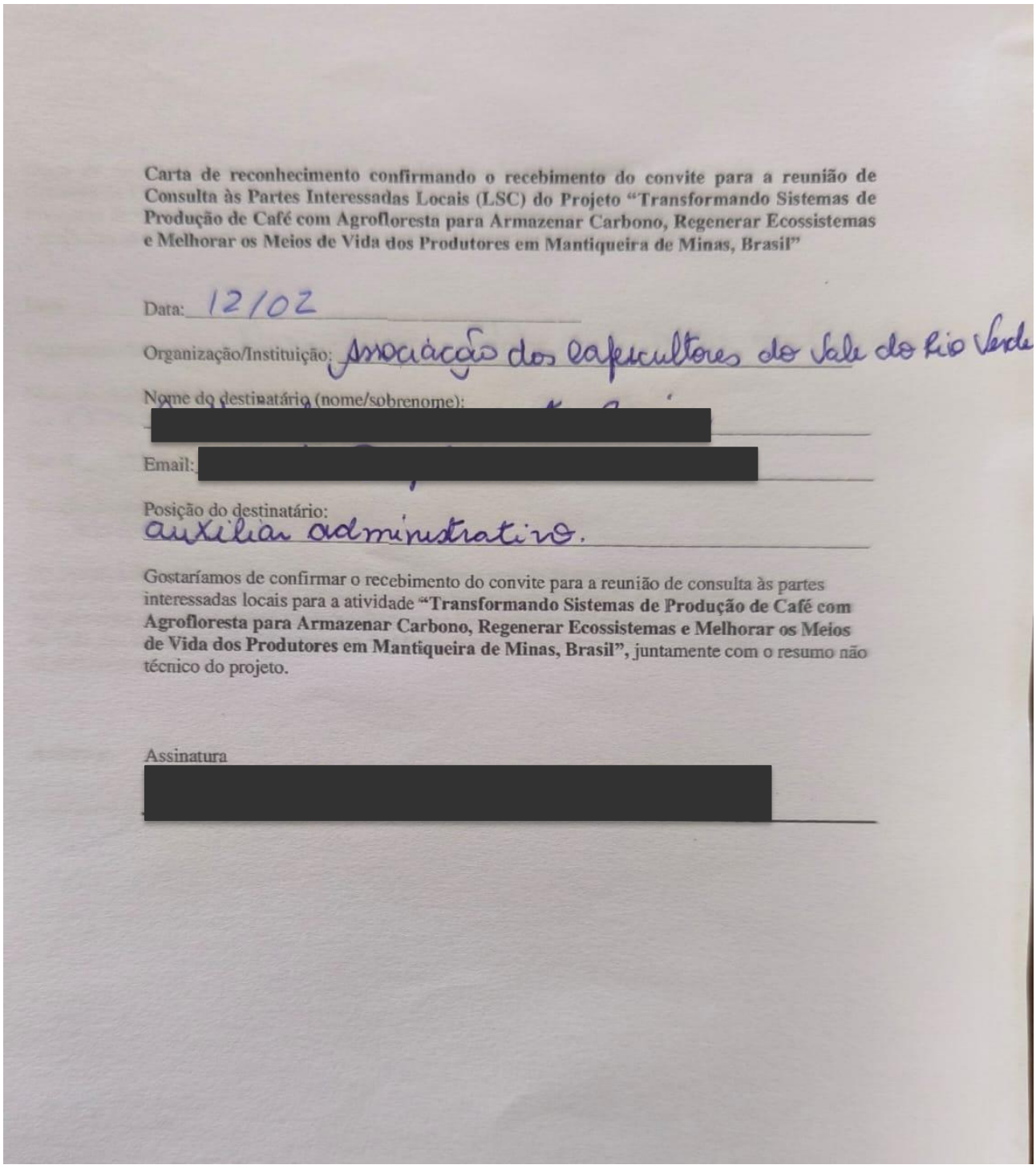
AGENDA
- Recepção – Registro de participantes (14h30)
- Introdução e apresentação do projeto (15h00)
- Perguntas e comentários sobre o projeto (15h45)
- Princípios de salvaguarda do projeto (16h30)
- Avaliação de sustentabilidade do projeto (16h45)
- Discussão sobre mecanismo de reclamação e monitoramento dos impactos do desenvolvimento sustentável (17h30)
- Formulários de avaliação e encerramento da reunião (18h00)

Atenciosamente, Christina Singh

Christina Singh
Co-founder and COO

grow grounds

Personal invitation (acknowledgement letter – sample)



Carta de reconhecimento confirmando o recebimento do convite para a reunião de Consulta às Partes Interessadas Locais (LSC) do Projeto "Transformando Sistemas de Produção de Café com Agrofloresta para Armazenar Carbono, Regenerar Ecossistemas e Melhorar os Meios de Vida dos Produtores em Mantiqueira de Minas, Brasil"

Data: 12/02

Organização/Instituição: Associação dos cafeicultores do Vale do Rio Verde

Nome do destinatário (nome/sobrenome): [redacted]

Email: [redacted]

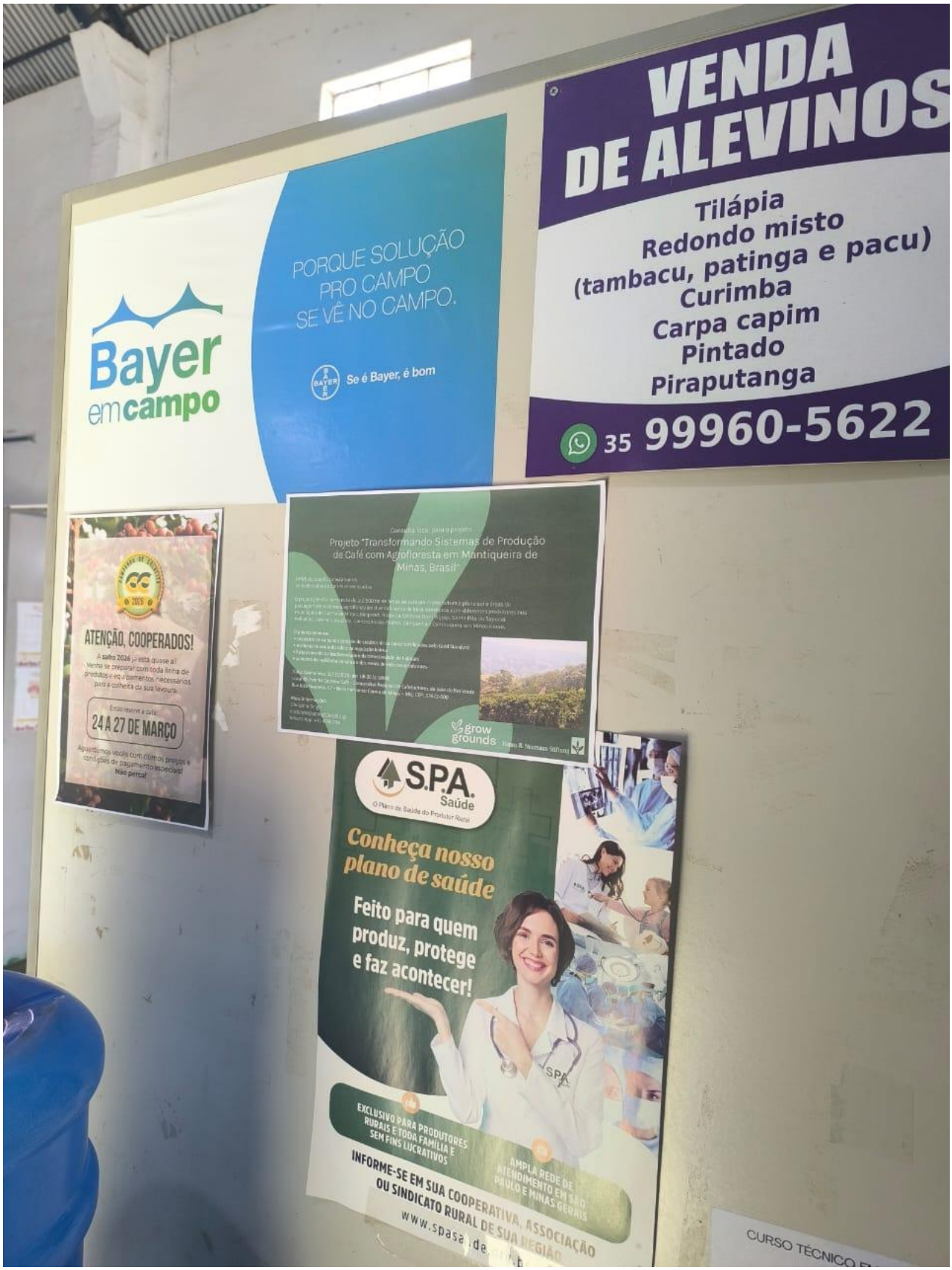
Posição do destinatário: auxiliar administrativo.

Gostaríamos de confirmar o recebimento do convite para a reunião de consulta às partes interessadas locais para a atividade **"Transformando Sistemas de Produção de Café com Agrofloresta para Armazenar Carbono, Regenerar Ecossistemas e Melhorar os Meios de Vida dos Produtores em Mantiqueira de Minas, Brasil"**, juntamente com o resumo não técnico do projeto.

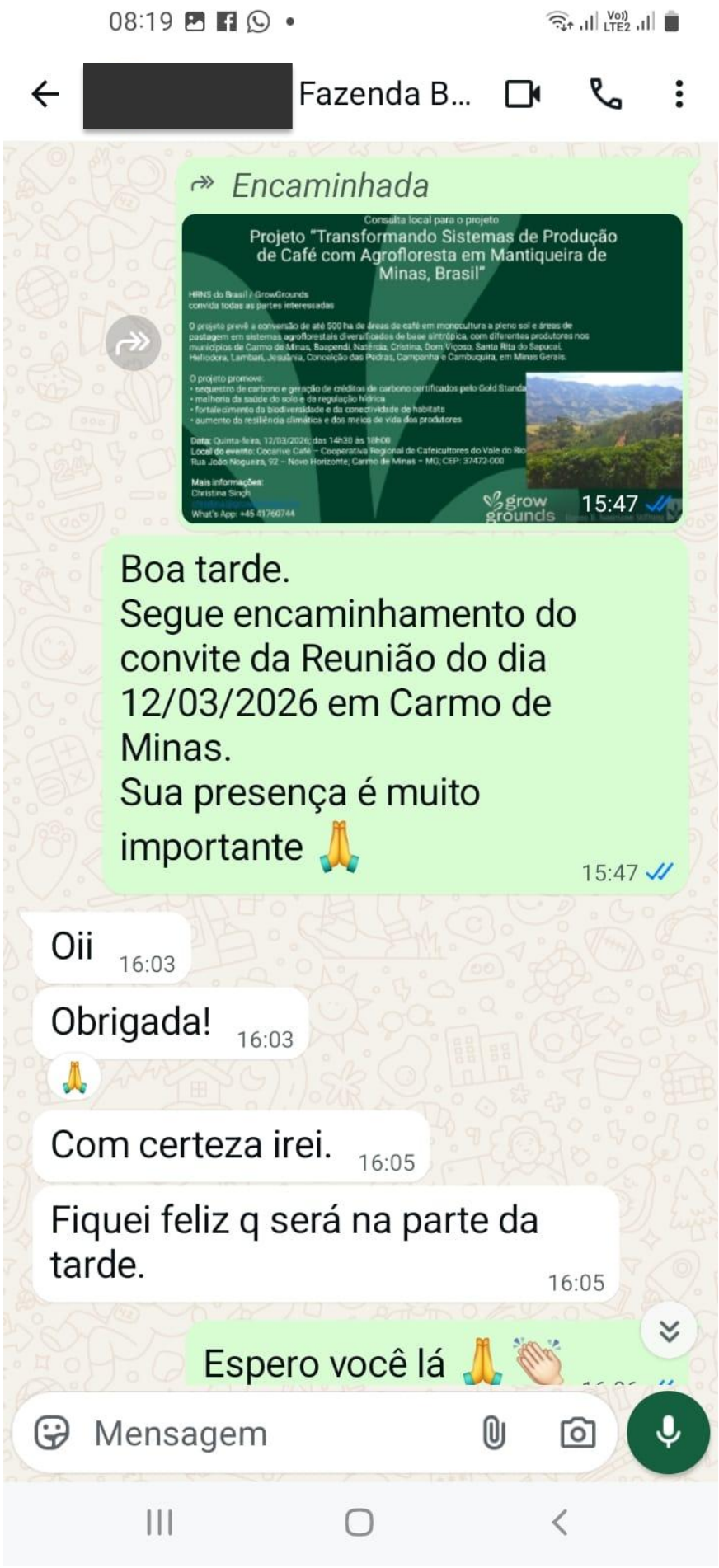
Assinatura [redacted]

Posters:

Vindo!
Ascariva


VENDA DE ALEVINOS
Tilápia
Redondo misto
(tambacu, patinga e pacu)
Curimba
Carpa capim
Pintado
Piraputanga
35 99960-5622
Bayer em campo
PORQUE SOLUÇÃO PRO CAMPO SE VÊ NO CAMPO.
Se é Bayer, é bom
ATENÇÃO, COOPERADOS!
24 A 27 DE MARÇO
Projeto "Transformando Sistemas de Produção de Café com Agrofloresta em Mantiqueira de Minas, Brasil"
grow grounds
S.P.A. Saúde
Conheça nosso plano de saúde
Feito para quem produz, protege e faz acontecer!
EXCLUSIVO PARA PRODUTORES RURAIS E TODA FAMÍLIA E SEM FINS LUCRATIVOS
AMPLA REDE DE ATENDIMENTO EM SÃO PAULO E MINAS GERAIS
INFORME-SE EM SUA COOPERATIVA, ASSOCIAÇÃO OU SINDICATO RURAL DE SUA REGIÃO
www.spasaude.com.br
CURSO TÉCNICO

What's App Invites (sample)


08:19
Fazenda B...
Encaminhada
Consulta local para o projeto
Projeto "Transformando Sistemas de Produção de Café com Agrofloresta em Mantiqueira de Minas, Brasil"
HRNS do Brasil / GrowGrounds
convida todas as partes interessadas
O projeto prevê a conversão de até 500 ha de áreas de café em monocultura a pleno sol e áreas de pastagem em sistemas agroflorestais diversificados de base sintrópica, com diferentes produtores nos municípios de Carmo de Minas, Baependi, Natércia, Cristina, Dom Viçoso, Santa Rita do Sapucaí, Heliodora, Lambari, Jesuânia, Conceição das Pedras, Campanha e Cambuquira, em Minas Gerais.
O projeto promove:
• sequestro de carbono e geração de créditos de carbono certificados pelo Gold Standard
• melhoria da saúde do solo e da regulação hídrica
• fortalecimento da biodiversidade e da conectividade de habitats
• aumento da resiliência climática e dos meios de vida dos produtores
Data: Quinta-feira, 12/03/2026; das 14h30 às 18h00
Local do evento: Cocarive Café – Cooperativa Regional de Cafeicultores do Vale do Rio
Rua João Nogueira, 92 – Novo Horizonte, Carmo de Minas – MG, CEP: 37472-000
Mais informações:
Christina Singh
What's App: +45 41760744
grow grounds
15:47
Boa tarde.
Segue encaminhamento do convite da Reunião do dia 12/03/2026 em Carmo de Minas.
Sua presença é muito importante
15:47
Oii
16:03
Obrigada!
16:03
Com certeza irei.
16:05
Fiquei feliz q será na parte da tarde.
16:05
Espero você lá
Mensagem

08:21
[redacted] Café...
Encaminhada
Consulta local para o projeto
Projeto "Transformando Sistemas de Produção de Café com Agrofloresta em Mantiqueira de Minas, Brasil"
HRNS do Brasil / GrowGrounds convida todas as partes interessadas
O projeto prevê a conversão de até 500 ha de áreas de café em monocultura a pleno sol e áreas de pastagem em sistemas agroflorestais diversificados de base sintrópica, com diferentes produtores nos municípios de Carmo de Minas, Baependi, Natércia, Cristina, Dom Viçoso, Santa Rita do Sapucaí, Heliodora, Lambari, Jesuânia, Conceição das Pedras, Campanha e Camburaia, em Minas Gerais.
O projeto promove:
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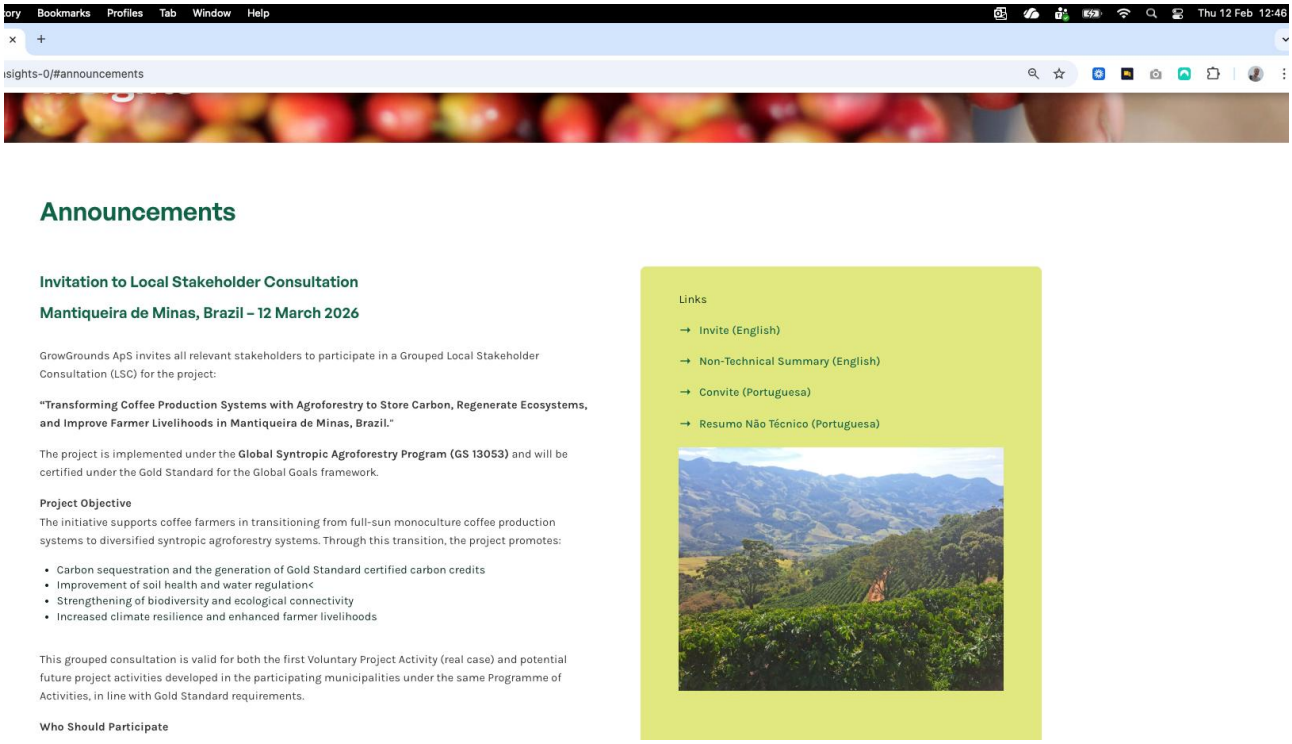
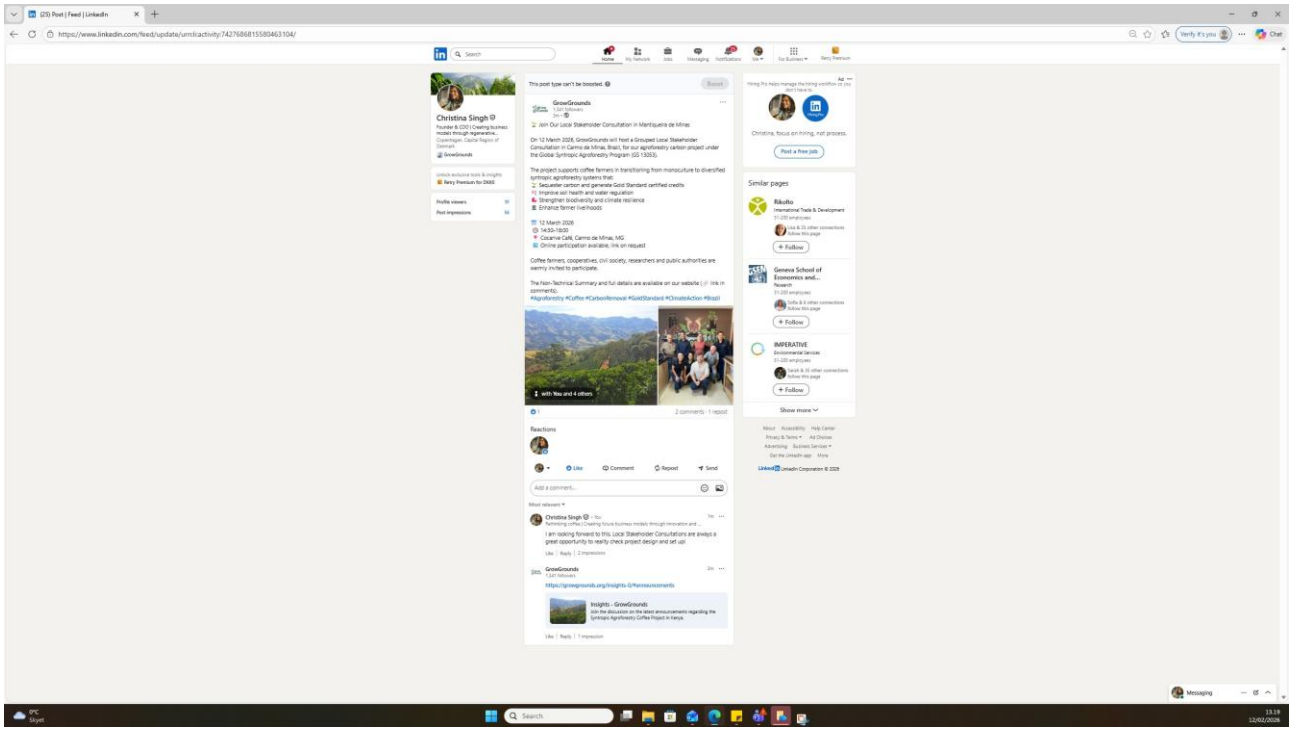
Local do evento: Cocarive Café – Cooperativa Regional de Cafeicultores do Vale do Rio
Rua João Nogueira, 92 – Novo Horizonte, Carmo de Minas – MG, CEP: 37472-000
Mais informações:
Christina Singh
What's App: +45 41760744
grow grounds
15:01
Boa tarde.
Segue encaminhamento do convite da Reunião do dia 12/03/2026 em Carmo de Minas.
Sua presença é muito importante 🙏
15:01
Boa tarde 15:01
Tudo bem? 15:01
[redacted]
0:07
15:05
0:25
15:06
[redacted]
Maravilha, muito obrigada 16:04
Mensagem

GrowGrounds website:



GrowGrounds LinkedIn



B.1.1. Description of other Means and methods to provide feedback for those who are not able to join the consultation meeting

Stakeholders who were unable to attend the physical meeting were invited to provide written feedback by email to the project focal points: christina@growgrounds.org

(GrowGrounds) and fran.lasmar@hrnstiftung.org (HRNS). This was communicated in the invitation and in the Non-Technical Summary shared in advance.

SECTION C. REPORT OF THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

C.1. Date of Meeting

12 March 2026, 14:30–18:00. Location: Cocarive Café – Cooperativa Regional de Cafeicultores do Vale do Rio Verde, Rua João Nogueira, 92 – Novo Horizonte, Carmo de Minas – MG, CEP: 37472-000, Brazil.

C.1.1. Justification of why consultation took place after the project start date (retroactive projects only)

Not applicable.

C.1.2. List of participants

81 participants attended. The full signed participant list is provided as a separate annex (Lista_de_participantes_LSC_filled.docx). Participants included coffee farmers, agricultural technicians, cooperative members, representatives of local government (Vice-Mayor and Mayor of Carmo de Minas), researchers (IAC, UFLA), EMATER-MG agronomists, HRNS and GrowGrounds staff, and representatives of farmer associations (APROCCES, APROCES, Cocarive, APROCAM).

Please complete the table below

Date and Time	12 March 2026, 14:30–18:00	Location	Cocarive Café – Cooperativa Regional de Cafeicultores do Vale do Rio Verde, Rua João Nogueira, 92 – Novo Horizonte, Carmo de Minas – MG, CEP: 37472-000, Brazil

Category Code	Name of the participant, job / position in the community		Male / Female	Contact details	Organisation (if relevant)	Signature
E	[redacted]	Pesquisador	M	[redacted]	IAC	
A		Produtor	M		-	
A		Produtor	M		Cocarive	

G	[redacted]	MEL Manager	F	[redacted]	HRNS Hamburg
A		Eng. Agrônomo	M		EMATER
A		Analista Gênero	F		HRNS do Brasil
A		COO	F		HRNS do Brasil
A		Analista Comunicação	F		HRNS do Brasil
A		Agente de Sustentabilidade	M		HRNS do Brasil
A		Produtor	M		Recanto de Fereira
A		Produtor	F		Produtor
A		Med Vet.	M		Sindicato Rural de Carmo de Minas
A		Produtor	F		Produtor
A		Produtor	M		Lagoa Seca
A		Produtor	M		Sitio Cantagalo
E		Eng. Agrônomo	M		EMATER – MG
A		Produtor	F		Hans

A	[redacted]	Produtor	M	[redacted]	Hans
A		Produtor	M		APROCES & Cocarive
A		Produtor	M		Cocarive & APROCES
A		Produtor	M		Produtor
A		Tec. Agricola	M		Autonomo
C		Vice Prefeito	M		Prefeitura
A					
C		Prefeito	M		Prefeitura
A		Produtor	F		Emater
E		Técnica	F		Emater
A		Produtor	M		Associação Comunitaria Dom Viçoso
A		Produtor	F		APROCESS
A		Agronomo	M		Fazenda Santa Rita
A		Produtor	M		Sitío Unaivilha
E		Agrônomo	M		IMA
A		Cafecultor	M		Centro do Café
A		Agricultor	M		Produtor

A	[redacted]	Agricultor	M	[redacted]	G. Sertão
E		Agricultora	F		Emater
E		Agricultora	F		Emater
A		Agriculora	F		APROCCES
A		Caficultora	F		APROCCES
A		Agricultor	M		-
A		Agrônomo/ Produtor	M		APROCCES
G		Consultor	M		Ecodharmethic
C		Economista	M		@ Federal
C		Caixa economica	M		@ Economica
A		Técnico Agronomo	M		Cocarive
A		Agronomo	M		Cocarive
A		Produtora	F		Cocarive
A		Produtor	M		Cocarive
A		Produtor	M		Cocarive
A		Eng. Agr.	M		Cocarive
A		Dir. Adm.	M		Cocarive
A		Técnico	M		Hans

A	[redacted]	Coord. Projeto	M	[redacted]	HRNS
A		Produtor	M		-
A		Produtora	F		-
A		Produtor	M		Recanto de Pedra Bra
E		Postdoc	F		UFLA
E		Emater	F		Associação
A		Produtor	M		
A		Productor	M		-
A		Produtor	M		
A		Produtora	F		Particular
A		Produtor	M		
E		Agente de Sustentabilidade	M		HRNS
A		Produtor	M		Espaço Vivência
A		Produtora	F		Espaço Vivência
A		Produtor	M		
A		Produtor	M		Fazenda da Pedra
A		Produtora	F		Rancho 4x4

A	[redacted]	Produtor	M	[redacted]	Rancho 4x4
A		Produtor	M		Produtor
A		Produtor	M		-
A		Caficultor	M		-
A		Produtor	M		
E		Professor	M		UFLA
A		Produtor	F		Fazenda Pouso Alegre
A		Produtor	M		Fazenda Pouso Alegre
A			M		
E		Gerente Administrativo	F		APROCAM
E		Analista	F		Faemg/ Senar
G		COO	F		GrowGrounds

C.1.3. Pictures from the physical meeting(s) (best practice)

CAFÉS DO
BRASIL

grow
grounds

C.2. Minutes of physical meeting(s)

DATE, TIME AND VENUE

12 March 2026, 14:30–18:00. Cocarive Café – Cooperativa Regional de Cafeicultores do Vale do Rio Verde, Rua João Nogueira, 92 – Novo Horizonte, Carmo de Minas – MG, CEP: 37472-000, Brazil. 81 participants attended. The full signed attendance list is provided as a separate annex (Lista_de_participantes_LSC_filled.docx). Participants included coffee farmers and farm owners; agricultural technicians and agronomists; cooperative and association representatives (Cocarive, APROCES/APROCCES, APROCAM); representatives of local government (Vice-Mayor and Mayor of Carmo de Minas); researchers from IAC and UFLA; EMATER-MG field technicians; a researcher from IMA; HRNS do Brasil staff; GrowGrounds staff; and independent consultants. The meeting was facilitated by Christina Singh (GrowGrounds COO), Francyelly Lasmar Balduino (HRNS Country Director) and Leonardo Costa (HRNS Project Coordinator) and was conducted in Portuguese.

C.2.1. RECEPTION AND REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS (14:30)

Participants were received and registered at the venue from 14:30. The attendance list was circulated and signed by all participants.

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C.2.2. INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT PRESENTATION (15:00) – GrowGrounds, HRNS and consultants

Christina Singh (GrowGrounds) and Francyelly Lasmar Balduino (HRNS) opened the meeting by introducing the two partner organisations and the purpose of the consultation. GrowGrounds ApS was presented as a Danish impact-driven start-up serving as the Coordinating and Managing Entity (CME) of the PoA "Global Syntropic Agroforestry Program" (GS13053). HRNS (Hanns R. Neumann Stiftung) was introduced as the local project implementer in Brazil, active in the country since 2009.

C.2.2.1. Regional context

The presentation outlined the importance and challenges of coffee production in the Mantiqueira de Minas region. The region is one of Brazil's leading origins for specialty coffee, cultivated at altitudes above 1,040 m, and received a Denomination of Origin (DO) designation from INPI in 2020. Approximately 8,200 coffee farmers cultivate the crop across some 56,000 ha, with 82% being small family producers, producing around 1.2–1.3 million 60-kg bags per year. The presentation highlighted that most plantations are currently full-sun monocultures, and described the consequences of this model: exposure to pests and diseases (bicho-mineiro, broca-do-café, ferrugem); high dependence on agrochemicals and synthetic fertilisers; and potential long-term degradation of soil health and productivity. Climate pressures were also described: temperatures in coffee-producing municipalities have risen by approximately 1.2°C since 2010 during the flowering period, with projections of more extreme heat days above 34°C by 2050. Farmers across the region already report water scarcity, longer dry spells, and increased heat stress.

C.2.2.2. Project objectives and overview

The project "Transforming Coffee Production Systems in Brazil with Agroforestry to Store Carbon, Regenerate Ecosystems and Improve Farmer Livelihoods in Mantiqueira de Minas" was presented as the second real case Voluntary Project Activity (VPA) under the PoA in Brazil. The project is structured around three complementary lines of action: (i) sustainable coffee production in agroforestry systems (SAFs); (ii) silvopastoral systems (SSPs); and (iii) restoration of degraded areas (RAD). The project covers the municipalities of Carmo de Minas, Baependi, Natércia, Cristina, Dom Viçoso, Santa Rita do Sapucaí, Heliodora, Lambari, Jesusânia, Conceição das Pedras, Campanha and Cambuquira in Minas Gerais, with a target of approximately 500 ha under agroforestry. The project start date is 1 October 2026; total project duration is 30 years. Certification is sought under the Gold Standard for the Global

Goals (GS4GG) and the GS Afforestation/Reforestation GHG Emissions Reduction and Sequestration Methodology. The 2025 pilot was also presented: 81.9 ha enrolled across 14 producers, with 15,411 trees planted (approx. 188 trees/ha) and an estimated sequestration of 1,479 tCO_2e, with BRL 222,986 returned to producers (approx. BRL 2,721/ha) together with the cooperatives cooxupé and expocacer.

C.2.2.3. Climate change, carbon credits and revenue sharing

The presentation explained how agroforestry systems function as nature-based climate solutions, with trees capturing CO_2 from the atmosphere and storing carbon in biomass and soils. A step-by-step explanation of how carbon credit value is calculated was provided: starting with the agroforestry planting design (species, density, spacing, survival rate), through growth modelling using allometric equations, to calculation of Emission Reductions (ERs) against the baseline scenario, independent verification by a VVB every five years, and final issuance of Gold Standard credits (1 credit = 1 tCO_2e). Indicative carbon sequestration values for key species were shared (e.g. Guapuruvu: 0.48 tCO_2/tree/year; Ingá Vera: 0.34 tCO_2/tree/year), with an estimated average of 12.4 tCO_2/ha/year across a mixed system at 150 trees/ha, translating to approximately BRL 2,366/ha/year for producers at a reference price of BRL 182/tCO_2. Revenue distribution was presented as: 65% to producers (in cash and/or in-kind contributions such as seedlings, tools, training); 15% to implementation and technical support; 20% to project management and certification costs. GrowGrounds explained that the carbon credits belong exclusively to each producer's enrolled area, and that a producer wishing to work with another carbon company can do so on a different parcel.

C.2.2.4. Agroforestry systems and soil organic carbon – technical presentations (Jonas Leme Ferraresso, Agricultural Engineer and Sebastian Meyr, Environmental Economist)

Agronomist Jonas Leme Ferraresso delivered a technical presentation on the three production systems. For silvopastoral systems (SSPs), he described five main models (dispersed/isolated trees, tree clusters, strip planting, timber/fruit plantations, windbreaks/live fences) and their benefits for animal welfare, pasture quality, soil conservation, and income diversification. Challenges including management complexity, initial investment, resource competition, and risk of soil compaction under shade trees were also outlined. For degraded area restoration (RAD), the focus on reestablishing ecological balance was described, covering pasture restoration, riparian forest restoration (APP protection), and erosion management, with recommended densities of 600–800 trees/ha. For agroforestry coffee systems (SAFs), Jonas

presented an ecological succession model with four functional layers: temporary cover crops, temporary primary species, secondary (permanent) tree species, and the coffee crop itself. He explained that the design begins with soil protection and fertility management as the foundation, with agroforestry species selected for compatibility with coffee. Key practices discussed included: maintenance of soil fertility; reduction of degrading inputs; integration of leguminous intercrops (e.g. feijão do andu) in interrow gaps without displacing coffee; use of fast-growing temporary species for early shade and windbreak (e.g. guapuruvu, fedegoso); and gradual opening of the canopy as the system matures. Comparative photographs from ongoing SAF sites (Fazenda Pinheirense, Nova Resende/MG and frost mitigation trials in Serra Negra/SP) illustrated the benefits of shading in extreme weather conditions.

Sebastian Meyr explained the dynamics of soil organic carbon (SOC) in agroforestry systems and how we are working towards including SOC into the considered carbon pools for carbon credit generation.

C.2.3. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS ON THE PROJECT (15:45) – Open Q&A

Following the presentation, the floor was opened for questions and comments. Key exchanges are summarised below.

Q: Agroforestry coffee productivity – what can farmers realistically expect?

A participant asked Jonas about expected coffee productivity in an agroforestry system in the Mantiqueira region, and whether 60 bags/ha was achievable. Jonas responded that scientifically validated baseline data for Brazil is scarce; most research comes from Colombia, Nicaragua, Tanzania and Ethiopia with different varieties, soils and climates. He referenced the most advanced SAF site he works with, in Nova Resende (variety PR98), which is producing its first proper harvest: estimated at 20–25 bags from a system that had an earlier insignificant safrinha of 2–3 bags. For a well-managed system with a standard tree density (12–15 m triangulation), a realistic long-term average is 30–35 bags/ha. 60 bags/ha is not achievable under shade. Areas with high temperatures, frost or cold wind will perform better relative to unshaded equivalents; shade improves thermal comfort, maturation quality, and reduces disease pressure. He noted that floral induction – which occurs mainly between January and March – depends on receiving at least 50–60% of full sunlight. Excessive shade suppresses flowering and vegetative growth dominates. For this reason, ongoing pruning and canopy management are essential. Coffee in the early establishment phase (up to approximately year 3) actually benefits from partial shade – Jonas compared this to the traditional practice of planting maize rows as temporary shade during establishment in hot or dry years, which significantly improves seedling

survival.

Q: Pruning and light management

A participant asked whether tree pruning was planned as part of the management system. Jonas confirmed that regular pruning is an indispensable management practice without which the SAF cannot function: as tree canopies close, they must be progressively opened through de-branching (desgalhe) and eventually thinning, to maintain at least 50–60% light transmission to the coffee. He advised working in a goblet-shape (copo) pruning system for some species to develop a high, open canopy. A farmer training and capacity-building programme to teach these techniques is planned as part of the project.

Q: Species selection – ecological function, biodiversity, and compatibility with coffee

A female participant – noting that the Cristina region is adjacent to important biodiversity areas – asked specifically about ecologically functional species: engazeiro (which has extrafloral nectaries attracting wasps that control bicho-mineiro); guapuruvu (fast-growing, good windbreak and early canopy shade); fedegoso (fast-growing); jussara palm (food for birds including toucans and parakeets); and araucaria (producing pine nuts for wildlife, notably paca). She also mentioned interest in small fruit species (amora, framboesa, goiaba) for rural tourism and diversification, and asked about the planning approach. Jonas responded that approximately 60 tree species have been identified as compatible with coffee in the system, though not all have been scientifically tested in this context. He emphasised that the sole management concern with greater species diversity is compatibility with coffee as the central productive component. He noted specific risks to avoid: species with urticating leaves or root systems that produce resins inhibiting coffee growth; fast-growing species such as guapuruvu that, in windy areas at altitude, are prone to branch breakage and can damage the coffee below. Araucaria is of interest but has no field data on coffee compatibility at this time – it has been observed growing as isolated trees in coffee areas but has not been systematically monitored. GrowGrounds confirmed that producers will not be given a single fixed model, but will have a menu of species to choose from in collaboration with field technicians who will design the system suited to each farm's specific conditions (altitude, frost risk, wind exposure, slope). The training programme will support farmers in making these decisions. For fruit species (avocado, mango), Jonas cautioned that commercial fruit production requires its own agronomic management and market-grade standards, which can conflict with a farmer's capacity if they are also managing coffee. Small-scale fruit for diversification or rural tourism (as in the case of one Cristina producer growing small

red fruits) is more practical.

Q: Carbon credit contracts – process, cooperative involvement, and exclusivity

A participant asked how the carbon credit contract works and how a farmer formally associates with GrowGrounds. It was explained that the first step is registration: the technical team (HRNS field agents) visits the property, carries out a cadastral survey, identifies suitable areas, and designs the agroforestry plan with the farmer. The contract – which is between GrowGrounds and the individual producer – specifies that carbon credits from the enrolled area are exclusive to that agreement (double-selling the same carbon to two parties is not possible under Gold Standard rules). Producers can work with other carbon companies on a different parcel of land. GrowGrounds committed to involving Cocarive and APROCES/APROCCES in the contract review process so that farmers can analyse the terms jointly before signing. The range of tree density per hectare will depend on the system type (coffee SAF, silvopastoral, degraded area restoration), and farmers can choose within the range. The payment per producer is linked to the carbon calculated for their specific planting design, not a fixed flat rate.

Q: Additionality – why can existing coffee plantations not generate carbon credits?

A participant noted that existing coffee plantations already sequester significant carbon and asked why they do not qualify for credits. GrowGrounds explained the "additionality" or "additional effort" principle, which is a fundamental requirement of the Gold Standard certification: carbon credits can only be issued for carbon sequestration that would not have occurred without the project – i.e. only for the trees newly planted under the project. The existing coffee crop is the "baseline": the region is already recognised as a coffee-growing area, and existing coffee cannot be credited. Credits are awarded solely for the additional trees. A participant commented that this seems commercially unfavourable since the cost of production (labour, inputs) is entirely the farmer's, while the carbon accounting credits only the trees. Jonas offered a nuance: while coffee does sequester carbon, its net carbon balance when accounting for the full production chain – including imported agrochemicals whose manufacture is highly carbon-intensive – is less favourable. The additional trees represent a genuinely new carbon sink that did not previously exist and do not require the same level of inputs. A farmer asked whether an existing agroforestry system with trees already in place could qualify. The response was that pre-existing agroforestry is not eligible – only newly planted trees are credited. Replanting from scratch after a draco receipt (recepa) was discussed but noted as generating immediate emissions that would undermine the carbon logic. The eligibility criterion is

a degraded baseline: existing full-sun coffee, pasture or abandoned land.

C.2.4. SAFEGUARDING PRINCIPLES AND PARTICIPANT COMMENTS (16:30)

GrowGrounds presented the nine Gold Standard Safeguarding Principles and the project's compliance assessment. Participants were invited to comment. The nine principles covered were: (1) Human Rights; (2) Gender Equality and Women's Rights; (3) Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions; (4) Cultural Heritage, Indigenous Peoples, Displacement and Resettlement; (5) Corruption; (6) Economic Impacts; (7) Climate and Energy; (8) Water; and (9) Environment, Ecology and Land Use. For each principle, the project's commitment was summarised. Key points included that the project does not affect indigenous territories; all farmers participate voluntarily on land they own and control; no hazardous chemicals or unsafe working conditions are anticipated (though protective equipment will be provided for pruning and management activities); the project is expected to improve water regulation through increased vegetation cover; and no negative impacts on high conservation value ecosystems or key biodiversity areas are anticipated. No participants raised objections to the safeguarding assessment. Participants engaged constructively and noted broad alignment with the principles.

C.2.5. SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT, SDGs AND RISKS (16:45) – Participant comments

GrowGrounds presented the SDG assessment methodology: a combined self-assessment by GrowGrounds and a live participant assessment. Each SDG was presented with keywords, the project's self-assessed positive impact, proposed monitoring indicators, and an invitation for stakeholders to confirm, question or add risks. The project explicitly targets SDGs 2 (Zero Hunger), 4 (Quality Education), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 13 (Climate Action), and 15 (Life on Land). Monitoring indicators presented for SDG 2 included soil fungal/bacterial ratios (before and after), reductions in external input expenditure, and cash/in-kind contributions to producers. For SDG 4: number of training workshops and farmers trained. For SDGs 8 and 15: jobs created and hectares converted. For SDG 13: tCO_2e removed.

Participant contributions on SDGs:

A participant strongly endorsed SDG 13 (Climate Action) in connection with coffee adaptation. He observed that unshaded, full-sun coffee in the region was visibly suffering from heat stress – leaf yellowing and cracking had been noticed in recent extreme heat events. He referenced Professor Carlos Nobre, Brazil's leading climate scientist, as a source for understanding the scale of the climate emergency, and expressed the view that the adaptation of coffee farming to climate change is already

urgent, not a long-term concern. The same participant also raised SDG 15 (Life on Land) as closely linked to SDG 13, and highlighted SDG 16 (Peaceful and Inclusive Societies) in the context of strengthening community cohesion and reviving rural culture. He argued that planting fruit orchards (jabuticaba, mango, pamonha corn) alongside coffee reinforces the campesina culture, keeps younger generations on the land, and promotes subsistence food security – connecting diversified agroforestry to SDG 2 as well. He drew attention to what he described as the environmental and health costs of urban diets and water treatment (chlorine, fluoride, synthetic hormone residues in treated water) as a counterpoint to the benefits of rural self-sufficiency.

A second participant (Pedro) elaborated on SDG 16, emphasising the historical strength of neighbourhood and producer associations (associativismo) in the region – collective planting, pruning brigades, and joint marketing – and calling for these networks to be revived and reinforced as part of the project's social fabric. He noted that the agroforestry approach, by encouraging farmers to coordinate on species choices for co-planting and shared market access, is a natural vehicle for this. He also referenced a national water recovery award-winner (Rubinho, from Barra) who had argued that restoring spring sources should rely primarily on bird-dispersed natural regeneration rather than planting specific "legal" (protected) tree species alongside productive systems, because certain native trees under strict legal protection cannot be managed or cut once planted – a risk for coffee management.

A participant raised the issue of agrochemical input chains (SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption): many agrochemical inputs are imported, carrying high embodied carbon emissions in their production. He suggested the project consider how to support on-farm production of organic inputs and reduce dependence on synthetic products, contributing to broader decarbonisation goals beyond direct sequestration.

On project risks: Participants engaged with the risk matrix presented (slide 67), which covered climatic/environmental risks (drought, heat waves, pests, invasive species – rated High), operational risks (implementation delays, low farmer participation – Medium), certification and carbon market risks (Medium), MRV data quality risks (Medium), social/governance risks including low women's participation (Low–Medium), financial/partnership risks (Medium), and human resources risks (Medium).

Additional risk raised: legislative change affecting timber harvest rights. A participant (Túlio) raised the risk that legislation could change over the 30-year project horizon, preventing producers from harvesting timber they have invested in planting. GrowGrounds acknowledged this as a genuine risk. It was noted that current Brazilian jurisprudence generally applies the law in force at the time of an action rather than

retrospectively, but no absolute guarantee can be given. The risk is lower for exotic/non-native species than for native species, which may fall under stricter future protections. The project is designed to work primarily with fast-growing pioneer and secondary species, which are commercially available and carry less regulatory risk. The project will maintain a simple planting registration system, and the contract will address this risk to the extent possible. The participant agreed that while the economic value of timber extraction at scale requires a very large coffee area (the question was raised: how many hectares of coffee would be needed to make mahogany extraction commercially worthwhile?), the primary motivation for planting – climate resilience and the broader role of contributing to a better world – should not be reduced to timber value alone.

Additional risk raised: APP (Permanent Preservation Area) boundaries. A participant asked for clarification on the rules governing APPs and project eligibility within them. Leonardo Costa (HRNS) explained: under the Brazilian Forest Code, each APP requires a mandatory reforestation strip whose width depends on the size of the property (number of fiscal modules). For example, for a watercourse APP of 30 m, the mandatory recovery strip for small properties is 8 m. The producer is legally obliged to restore this 8 m over 20 years. The remaining area (between 8 m and 30 m) within a consolidated area (e.g. pasture in place before 2008) is considered consolidated land. If a producer voluntarily enrolls this area (8–30 m strip within a consolidated APP) in the project for restoration, this constitutes an additional environmental benefit above the legal baseline, and such areas are eligible as project land. This was well received by participants as a clarification of an important boundary condition.

C.2.6. GRIEVANCE MECHANISM DISCUSSION (17:30) – HRNS and participants

Francyelly Lasmar Balduino (HRNS COO) and Leonardo Costa presented the continuous input and grievance mechanism. The Gold Standard requirement for a formal, ongoing feedback and grievance process throughout the project lifetime was explained. Options discussed with participants included: a physical Continuous Input and Grievance Expression Process Book kept at an agreed, accessible location; telephone/WhatsApp access to HRNS staff; email channels; and the possibility of a nominated independent mediator if needed. Participants agreed that a physical process book at the Cocarive Café cooperative headquarters in Carmo de Minas and at the HRNS local project office would be the primary agreed mechanism, complemented by phone and email channels. The Gold Standard contact address (help@goldstandard.org) was also noted as a mandatory grievance channel available to all stakeholders. Participants were informed that they would receive written

acknowledgement for any non-anonymous submission.

C.2.7. EVALUATION FORMS AND CLOSING (18:00)

Evaluation forms were distributed to participants for written feedback on the meeting and the project. The facilitators thanked participants for their engagement and contributions. The Stakeholder Feedback Round was announced, during which all project documentation would be made publicly available for 30 days (13 March – 12 April 2026) and stakeholders invited to submit further written comments. Contact details for submitting feedback were confirmed: christina@growgrounds.org and fran.lasmar@hrnstiftung.org. The meeting was formally closed at approximately 18:00.

C.2.1. Minutes of other consultations

No other formal consultations were held beyond the physical meeting of 12 March 2026. The Stakeholder Feedback Round (Section E) constitutes the second round of consultation.

C.3. Assessment of comments from all consultations above

Please complete the table below

Gender of Stakeholder	Stakeholder comment	Was comment taken into account (Yes/ No)?	Explanation/ Justification (Why? How?)
M	What is the expected coffee productivity in an agroforestry system in the Mantiqueira region? Is 60 bags/ha achievable?	Yes	Addressed directly during the meeting. Expert agronomist Jonas explained that 30–35 bags/ha is a realistic average in agroforestry systems with proper shade management (12–15 m triangulation). 60 bags/ha is unachievable even under optimal conditions. Shade improves thermal comfort, disease resistance, and maturation quality. Information was incorporated into the project design parameters and farmer training curriculum.

F	Which tree species are most appropriate for the Mantiqueira region? Participants specifically mentioned interest in ecologically functional species such as engazeiro, guapuruvu, fedegoso, jussara, and araucaria, and asked about species that can be harvested after 30 years.	Yes	Addressed in detail during the meeting. The project uses a curated list of approximately 60 compatible species. Fast-growing pioneer/secondary species are prioritised. Species with urticating leaves or root resins inhibiting coffee growth are excluded. Exotic species carry lower regulatory risk for future harvesting. A training programme for farmers on species selection, pruning, and light management is planned. Araucaria was noted as having limited data for coffee compatibility. Feedback was incorporated into the species selection guidance and technical support framework.
M	How does the carbon credit contract work? Can a farmer work with multiple carbon companies? What is the registration process and the role of the cooperative?	Yes	Explained in full during the meeting. Carbon credit contracts are area-specific and exclusive (no double-selling). The registration process involves a technical team visit, property cadastre, agroforestry plan design, and contract drafting in partnership with the local cooperative. GrowGrounds plans to involve Cocarive/APROCES to help farmers review and understand contracts before signing. The additionality principle was clarified: only newly planted trees after the project baseline generate carbon credits; existing coffee plants and pre-existing agroforestry are not credited. This information has been incorporated into the stakeholder communication and farmer onboarding materials.

M	Is there a risk that legislation changes over the 30-year project horizon and prevents farmers from harvesting timber they have planted? What is the minimum area required, and can non-contiguous parcels be aggregated?	Yes / Partially	Legislative risk was acknowledged as a real concern. It was noted that current jurisprudence generally applies the law in force at the time of action, but no absolute guarantee can be provided. Exotic species carry lower legislative risk than native species. The project will work with fast-growing pioneers and secondary species to reduce this risk. Minimum area requirements and parcel aggregation are being defined by the technical team; this topic will be covered in detail during farmer onboarding. The complaint/grievance mechanism was noted as a channel to raise this concern if regulations change. Further clarification to be provided in the project documentation and contract.
M/F	Multiple participants highlighted broader sustainability concerns: climate urgency and the need to adapt coffee farming; the need for diversified farming (cassava, pumpkin, fruit orchards) to support food security and rural culture; the importance of reviving neighbourhood associativism for collective planting	Yes	These observations strongly support the project's rationale and design. The project already explicitly targets SDGs 2, 4, 8, 13, and 15. The alignment with SDG 16 (associativism, community cohesion) and SDG 6 (water retention through increased vegetation) was noted and will be reflected in the project's sustainability assessment. The project's diversified agroforestry approach (coffee + pasture + degraded area restoration) supports food security and ecosystem services. Farmer training will include guidance on reducing agrochemical inputs. No project design changes are required,

	and marketing; and concerns about reducing dependence on agrochemical inputs. SDGs 2 (Zero Hunger), 6 (Clean Water), 13 (Climate Action), 15 (Life on Land), and 16 (Peaceful and Inclusive Societies) were explicitly referenced.	as these concerns are already addressed in the project structure.

C.3.1. Evaluation forms (best practice)

You may use the table format below to collect feedback on your consultation

A total of 36 stakeholders completed evaluation forms at the local stakeholder consultation held on 12 March 2026. The forms provided an important opportunity for local stakeholders to share their perspectives after the meeting.

C.3.1.1. Overall Reception

The overall response to the project was strongly positive. The vast majority of participants described the meeting as 'good', 'excellent', 'very clarifying' or 'enlightening', reflecting a high level of engagement and genuine interest in the project's approach. Several respondents noted they had been unaware of the concept of carbon credits and agroforestry integration before the meeting, underlining the importance of these consultation events.

C.3.1.2. What Participants Liked

The most frequently cited positive aspects were:

- The possibility of diversifying production by integrating fruit trees, native species, and agroforestry systems alongside coffee — specifically welcomed by multiple coffee producers.
- The financial opportunity offered by carbon credits as additional income, widely seen as a meaningful incentive to adopt more sustainable practices.

- The environmental dimension of the project: the role of reforestation in combating climate change, restoring degraded landscapes, improving soil moisture, and supporting biodiversity.
- The fact that the system is offered free of charge to producers, including the provision of seedlings, inputs, and technical assistance.
- The collaborative, multi-stakeholder nature of the initiative, which was described as bringing people together to find collective solutions.
- Sustainability and climate resilience as guiding principles, which several participants — including institutional stakeholders — highlighted as particularly relevant given the increasing frequency of extreme weather events.

C.3.1.3. Concerns and Criticisms

While the reception was broadly enthusiastic, several recurring concerns were raised:

- Potential reduction in coffee productivity: This was the most common concern among active coffee growers. Several participants worried that introducing shade trees and diversified planting would reduce their coffee yields and therefore their income. The financial trade-off was not always seen as sufficiently clear.
- Labour demands: Multiple respondents flagged the additional manual labour required for planting and maintaining agroforestry systems as a significant barrier, particularly given existing difficulties in sourcing rural labour.
- Implementation costs: Some participants felt that, beyond the free seedlings, the wider costs of site preparation and long-term system maintenance were not adequately covered or explained.
- Lack of clarity on carbon payment amounts: Several respondents noted that the financial return from carbon credits was not made sufficiently clear and, for some, did not appear to justify the extra work involved.
- The 30-year commitment period: One technical advisor raised concern about the legal and regulatory risks associated with committing land to a project over such a long timeframe, including the possibility of future legislative changes.
- Insufficient post-planting support: A few participants expressed uncertainty about what ongoing technical assistance would be available after planting, and what would happen in cases of failure or withdrawal.

C.3.1.4. Suggestions from Participants

The following suggestions were put forward by participants:

- Include existing coffee crops in carbon payment calculations, not only newly planted trees — a point raised by multiple coffee growers who felt the current focus undervalued their land's existing sequestration contribution.[15]
- Provide greater clarity and transparency on carbon credit values, payment timelines, and overall project economics.
- Show examples of similar projects that have already produced measurable results, to build confidence and provide practical reference points.
- Offer financial insurance or risk coverage mechanisms in the event of climate-related crop failure during the transition period.
- Expand eligibility to include smaller landholdings and areas that are already partially planted, which would widen access for smallholder producers.
- Provide more detailed information about ongoing support — in particular, what happens if a producer wishes to withdraw after planting has begun.
- Create flexibility within the 30-year commitment, for example through graduated exit clauses or periodic review points.
- Organise further information sessions to allow producers to compare notes and ask follow-up questions.

C.3.1.5. Interest in Participation

Among the coffee producers who answered the question on participation interest, a clear majority indicated they were interested in joining the project, some conditionally (e.g. pending approval from business partners or dependent on having sufficient land area). A small number expressed reservations primarily linked to concerns about productivity losses or insufficient financial return. The high rate of expressed interest is encouraging and suggests strong potential for producer uptake if the concerns above are adequately addressed.

C.3.1.6. Conclusions

The feedback froms revealed a highly receptive audience with genuine enthusiasm for the project's vision. The integration of carbon credits with agroforestry and coffee production is seen as a meaningful and timely initiative. To maximise uptake, the

[15] It was clarified during the consultation that this is against the Gold Standard A/R Methodology.

project team should prioritise: clearer communication of the financial model and carbon payment structure; strengthened post-planting technical support; a credible response to concerns about productivity and labour; and, where possible, broader eligibility criteria that allow smaller producers to participate.

Example 1 of 4

EVALUATION FORM — Stakeholder Consultation	
Project: Transforming Coffee Production Systems in Brazil with Agroforestry to Store Carbon, Regenerate Ecosystems and Improve Farmers' Livelihoods in Mantiqueira de Minas Location: Cocarive Café – Cooperativa Regional de Cafeicultores do Vale do Rio Verde, Novo Horizonte, Carmo de Minas – MG | Date: 12/03/2026	
Name	
Organization	Community Association of the People of Dom Viçoso
Contact	
Gender	Male
Impression of the meeting	Very good — an important action for remunerating the producer for ecosystem services provided.
What do you like about the project?	Breaking away from monoculture in the coffee sector through diversified planting, fostering restoration of degraded landscapes.
What don't you like about the project?	In Brazil there already exists a methodology that remunerates APP and Legal Reserve recovery.
Suggestions?	Without financial incentive it is harder to recover APP and Legal Reserve. The project could adopt an existing methodology to expand the restoration area (carbon sequestration) and contribute further to the climate agenda.
Questions relevant to coffee growers only	
Would you be interested in participating in the project as a producer?	Yes
Main advantages and disadvantages of the proposed concept?	Advantages: shade, moisture, diverse trees — increased natural pest control in crops. Other: Qualification/valorisation of carbon credits for bees.
What other factors should be taken into account?	Qualification/valorisation of carbon credits for bees.

Example 2 of 4

EVALUATION FORM — Stakeholder Consultation	
Project: Transforming Coffee Production Systems in Brazil with Agroforestry to Store Carbon, Regenerate Ecosystems and Improve Farmers' Livelihoods in Mantiqueira de Minas Location: Cocarive Café – Cooperativa Regional de Cafeicultores do Vale do Rio Verde, Novo Horizonte, Carmo de Minas – MG | Date: 12/03/2026	
Name	
Organization	Emater-MG
Contact	
Gender	Male
Impression of the meeting	Enlightening and motivating, as well as timely.
What do you like about the project?	Sustainability and security in relation to climate risks.
What don't you like about the project?	The 30-year term — risk of legislative change.
Suggestions?	Create flexibility within this timeframe.
Questions relevant to coffee growers only	
Would you be interested in participating in the project as a producer?	I am not a coffee grower.
Main advantages and disadvantages of the proposed concept?	Advantage: Creates a safer environment within farms (governance related to climate risks). Disadvantage: Risks related to legislation.
What other factors should be taken into account?	Family succession / 30-year term.

Example 3 of 4

EVALUATION FORM — Stakeholder Consultation	
Project: Transforming Coffee Production Systems in Brazil with Agroforestry to Store Carbon, Regenerate Ecosystems and Improve Farmers' Livelihoods in Mantiqueira de Minas Location: Cocarive Café – Cooperativa Regional de Cafeicultores do Vale do Rio Verde, Novo Horizonte, Carmo de Minas – MG | Date: 12/03/2026	
Name	
Organization	Private individual
Contact	
Gender	Female
Impression of the meeting	The meeting was very well presented, clarifying and open for questions.
What do you like about the project?	The environmental aspect.
What don't you like about the project?	Does not bring clear financial return and generates extra demand for the producer.
Suggestions?	Purchase the carbon already sequestered by existing coffee crops, not only from trees to be planted.
Questions relevant to coffee growers only	
Would you be interested in participating in the project as a producer?	Not interested — I see it generating work and little profit.
Main advantages and disadvantages of the proposed concept?	Advantage: environmental benefit only. Disadvantage: generates cost and labour for the producer; payment amount was unclear and apparently does not compensate.
What other factors should be taken into account?	Positive from an environmental standpoint.

Example 4 of 4

EVALUATION FORM — Stakeholder Consultation
Project: Transforming Coffee Production Systems in Brazil with Agroforestry to Store Carbon, Regenerate Ecosystems and Improve Farmers' Livelihoods in Mantiqueira de Minas Location: Cocarive Café – Cooperativa Regional de Cafeicultores do Vale do Rio Verde, Novo Horizonte, Carmo de Minas – MG | Date: 12/03/2026

Name	
Organization	HRNS Germany
Contact	
Gender	Female
Impression of the meeting	Very informative; a lot of questions were asked and could be answered. Good discussion about risks.
What do you like about the project?	Economic and environmental benefits go hand in hand.
What don't you like about the project?	The payment of carbon credits is still too low.
Suggestions?	Continue to guide and inform producers well.

C.4. Summary of alterations based on comments

No fundamental changes to the project design were required as a result of the stakeholder consultation. The project's core approach, objectives, and safeguarding commitments were broadly supported by participants. The following refinements and commitments were made in response to stakeholder feedback: (1) Species selection guidance – the technical team committed to providing farmers with a curated list of suitable tree species for the Mantiqueira region, prioritising fast-growing pioneers and secondary species with proven coffee compatibility, and providing guidance on ecologically functional species (e.g. engazeiro, guapuruvu); (2) Training programme – a structured farmer training and capacity-building programme on agroforestry design, species selection, pruning, light management, and legal requirements for planted species will be developed; (3) Cooperative integration – Cocarive and APROCES will be formally involved in the contract review process to ensure farmers can make informed decisions; (4) Legislative risk communication – further information on timber extraction rules, registration requirements for planted species, and legislative risk management will be incorporated into the project documentation and farmer onboarding materials; (5) SDG scope – the contributions of the project to SDG 6 (water regulation) and SDG 16 (community cohesion, associativism) will be more explicitly documented in the sustainability assessment.

SECTION D. CONTINUOUS INPUT / GRIEVANCE MECHANISM

Please use the table below to report on the methods agreed with stakeholders

	Method Chosen (include a known details e.g. location of the book, phone, number, identity of mediator)	Justification of Choice (best practice)
Continuous Input / Grievance Expression Process Book (mandatory	A physical Continuous Input and Grievance Expression Process Book will be kept at the HRNS d Brasil local project office and at the Cocarive Café cooperative headquarters (Rua João Nogueira, 92, Carmo de Minas, MG). Stakeholders can record written comments, concerns or grievances at any time. Farmers can also submit feedback verbal or by phone to the local project coordinator (Leonardo Costa, HRNS, Tel: +55 35 997195151) who will record it in the book. Written acknowledgements will be sent for all non-anonymous submissions.	The process book was agreed with stakeholders during the physical meeting on 12 March 2026 as the minimum mandatory mechanism. A central, easily accessible physical location ensures that all farmers, including those without internet acces can participate.
GS Contact (mandatory)	help@goldstandard.org	Mandatory. All stakeholders were informed of the Gold Standard contac address for raising concerns.
Telephone access (optional)	Feedback and grievances can be submitted by phone or WhatsAp to: Leonardo Costa (HRNS Proje Coordinator): +55 35 997195151; Christina Singh (GrowGrounds COO): +45 4176 0744.	Agreed with stakeholders during the meeting as an accessible option for rural farmers with limited internet connectivity.
Internet/email access (optional)	Feedback and grievances can al be submitted by email to: christina@growgrounds.org (GrowGrounds) and fran.lasmar@hrnstiftung.org (HRNS do Brasil).	Agreed with stakeholders. Provides ar accessible digital channel for stakeholders with internet access.
Nominated Independent Mediator (optional)	Not applicable at this stage. The project will consider appointing an independent mediator if unresolved grievances arise tha require neutral facilitation.	Not applicable at this stage.

Other

SECTION E. STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK ROUND

☐ Please check this box if the project is retroactive and has done only 1 consultation with a physical meeting integrated into the SFR.

E.1. Length of the Feedback Round

Stakeholder Feedback Round		Planned	Actual
Start Date	8 June 2026	☐	☒
End Date	8 July 2026	☒	☐

E.2. Summarise how all stakeholders were/will be invited to provide feedback

All stakeholders who were invited to the physical meeting of 12 March 2026 were also invited to participate in the Stakeholder Feedback Round. The redacted draft Stakeholder Consultation Report (including the Non-Technical Summary) was shared via the same channels used for the original invitations (email and WhatsApp). Stakeholders were provided with 30 days (8 June – 8 July 2026) to review the materials and submit written comments to: christina@growgrounds.org (GrowGrounds) and fran.lasmar@hrnstiftung.org (HRNS do Brasil). The Stakeholder Feedback Round was communicated as an open process; any interested parties not previously invited could also submit comments.

E.3. Summarise Feedback received, including if any changes in project design were made

[To be completed at the end of the Stakeholder Feedback Round on 8 July 2026.] The Stakeholder Feedback Round is planned to run from 8 June to 8 July (30 days). This section will be updated with: (a) a summary of all written comments received during the feedback round; (b) an assessment of how each comment has been considered; and (c) any resulting changes to the project design or documentation. Preliminary indication: no major design changes are anticipated, as the physical meeting did not reveal fundamental opposition to the project. The Stakeholder Feedback Round is being run in parallel with the validation process and all feedback will be provided to the VVB before the validation opinion is concluded.

Revision History

Version	Date	Remarks
1.2	5 May 2022	Addition of grouped consultation info, preliminary agenda and section to justify retroactive consultation took place. Minor edits to text.
1.1	14 October 2020	Inclusion of Key Project Information Restructure, new headings and reorder to better match the steps a developer will follow in consultations. Removal of some non-mandatory template tables (Blind Sustainable Development Assessment). Clarification of best practice steps that are non mandatory processes, clarification of mandatory discussion points. Clarification regarding publishing names and that original evaluation forms (optional) and attendance lists (mandatory) should be separate documents. Improved clarity on Stakeholder Feedback round section and procedures for retroactive projects Provision of an accompanying Guide to help the user understand detailed rules and requirements
1.0	14 August 2017	Initial adoption