

Project Screening Report — Illustrative Sample

Project X: a fictional rice methane project under Verra's VM0051 methodology

ILLUSTRATIVE · FICTIONAL PROJECT · EACH FINDING FOLLOWS A PATTERN SEEN IN PUBLIC VM0051 DOCUMENTS · TERRAVO · OCTOBER 2026 · SUMMARY + APPENDICES A–E

Read this first. Project X does not exist. Its figures, quotations and page numbers are invented. What is real is the pattern behind each check: every flag and gap in this sample is one we found in at least one public VM0051 project document in October 2026, and the rules cited are quoted from the methodology and the VCS Standard. Market figures in section 5 and Appendix D are real public values. A commissioned report on a real project has this structure, with exact figures and page references to that project's documents.

5
FLAGS

2
NOT EVIDENCED PASS

2
NOTES

What this means for a buyer. The risk is in delivery and eligibility, not in whether the fields exist. The draft uses the simplified approach, which is capped at 60,000 tCO₂e a year per instance and per cluster of instances within 1 km. It tests clusters only by the distance between instance centres, while fields of two instances lie within 1 km of each other; together those two exceed the cap from year 3. The nitrous oxide deduction is missing, one of the three boundary files is unusable, and the full-enrolment volume is about 7.6 tCO₂e per hectare, above the published range. Our recalculation under the default factors comes to about a third of the full-enrolment claim (Appendix B). Put the questions in section 6 to the developer before committing.

PASS consistent with the methodology or with independent data **FLAG** the public record conflicts with a rule or with itself **NOT EVIDENCED** required item not found in the public draft **NOTE** context for the buyer. A flag is a question for the developer or the validation body, not a finding of non-compliance.

1. The project as stated in its draft description

Developer	Fictional	Validation body	Fictional
Methodology	VM0051, grouped project	Status	Under validation; 0 credits issued
Claimed area	21,600 ha in three instances (I-1 7,600; I-2 7,000; I-3 7,000)	Crediting period	7 years
Estimated reductions	121,357 tCO ₂ e a year on average; 164,200 at full enrolment (years 4–7)	Total over period	849,500 tCO ₂ e

2. Document audit against VM0051

CHECK	WHAT THE PUBLIC DRAFT SHOWS	PAGE	STATUS
Quantification approach and the 60,000 t limit	The simplified approach (IPCC default factors) is named. The project total passes 60,000 t a year in year 2, which on its own settles nothing: the limit applies to each instance and each cluster. No per-instance estimates are given. Clusters are tested by the distance between instance centres (16 to 41 km), but fields of I-1 and I-2 lie 0.4 km apart across a canal. Read field to field, I-1 and I-2 form one cluster above the limit from year 3 (App. A, B1).	8, 9, 21	FLAG
Nitrous oxide deduction	Nitrous oxide appears only as a co-benefit. The deduction VM0051 requires for the increase caused by drying fields is not calculated.	6, 22	FLAG
Baseline	Baseline is stated as continuous flooding, 'the common practice in the region'. The three-year look-back for enrolled fields and the choice of the most conservative regime are not shown.	15	NOT EVIDENCED
Uncertainty deduction	No uncertainty deduction is described.	—	NOT EVIDENCED
Warming potential values	IPCC AR5 values are stated (CH ₄ 28, N ₂ O 265), as the VCS Standard requires.	21	PASS
Internal arithmetic	The year-by-year table sums to the stated total and averages the stated annual figure.	10	PASS
Registry record	The registry overview shows 849,500 tCO ₂ e a year, which is the draft's seven-year total, and 30,000 ha, the area at listing. The draft is consistent; the registry entry is not.	10	FLAG

3. Area, boundary and volume

CHECK	RESULT	STATUS
Claimed area against cropland	Inside the I-1 and I-2 boundaries, mapped cropland (ESA WorldCover) is about 2.4 times the area claimed for them; the claim is about 41% of that cropland (Appendix C). I-3 could not be tested.	PASS
Boundary file	The registry file named .kml is a zipped KMZ, and its I-3 layer is not valid XML (an undeclared namespace prefix). After repair, the I-3 polygon runs about 380 km beyond the districts named in the draft and takes in open sea. I-1 and I-2 fall where the draft says. None of the files identifies enrolled fields.	FLAG
Volume per hectare	On the seven-year average, about 5.6 tCO ₂ e per hectare a year, inside the 4 to 6 benchmark for newer rice methodologies (RMI; Quantum Commodity Intelligence, 2024). At full enrolment, about 7.6, above the benchmark on the stated area.	FLAG

4. Monitoring and satellite observations

TOPIC	OBSERVATION	STATUS
How water management is recorded	Farmers photograph the field water tube through a mobile app; field staff check a sample of fields 'periodically' (p. 14). The evidence of practice is self-reported. The share of fields checked and how they are chosen are not stated.	NOTE
Before and after the project start	Sentinel-1 radar, three years before the start against the first year after, inside I-1 and I-2 and in a 30 km control ring. The flooding index rose by about the same amount inside and outside, so the change is regional. No change attributable to the project is visible at this scale (Appendix C). This neither confirms nor contradicts implementation; a field list is needed (question 9).	NOTE

5. Position among the nine listed VM0051 projects (real, October 2026)

MEASURE	PROJECT X (FICTIONAL)	THE NINE LISTED PROJECTS
Estimated reductions a year	121,357 on average; would rank fifth of ten	Median 109,251; range 46,461 to 590,682 tCO ₂ e
Claimed area	21,600 ha; would rank third of ten	3,000 to 116,000 ha
Volume per hectare	About 5.6 on average; 7.6 at full enrolment	Five of nine are far outside 4 to 6 (11 to 189)
Simplified-approach limit	Instances under it; one possible cluster above it from year 3	Five of nine are above it in total; it binds only the simplified approach, per instance and cluster; on reading the drafts one flag stands
Stage	Under validation	Five under validation; first VM0051 issuance 12 October 2026

6. Questions to put to the developer

1. What is the estimated annual volume of each instance in each year? Split by area, I-1 reaches about 57,774 tCO₂e a year at full enrolment, close to the 60,000 t limit.
2. How were clusters determined? Fields of I-1 and I-2 lie within 1 km of each other; if they form one cluster, it exceeds the limit from year 3. Which factors and uncertainty method apply above the limit?
3. Where is the nitrous oxide deduction calculated, and which nitrogen rates and emission factor does it use?
4. How was the baseline set? Please show the three-year look-back for enrolled fields and why the chosen regime is the most conservative. Were any fields already draining before enrolment?
5. What uncertainty deduction is applied, and how is it derived?
6. Can you provide a corrected boundary file for I-3?
7. What enrolled area does each year assume? Full enrolment implies about 7.6 tCO₂e per hectare on the stated area.
8. How are the app photographs checked independently, on what share of fields, and how are those fields chosen?
9. Can you share the list of enrolled fields with their boundaries, under a confidentiality agreement, so that implementation and clustering can be checked field by field?
10. Has a correction of the registry overview (annual figure and area) been requested?

Appendix A. Methodology clause cross-reference

Each check in section 2 rests on a requirement in VM0051 v1.1 (effective 14 July 2026) or the VCS Standard. The requirement column paraphrases or quotes the rule; it is real. The draft column summarises Project X's fictional draft. Clause numbers follow Terravo's transcription and should be confirmed against the current published version before formal use.

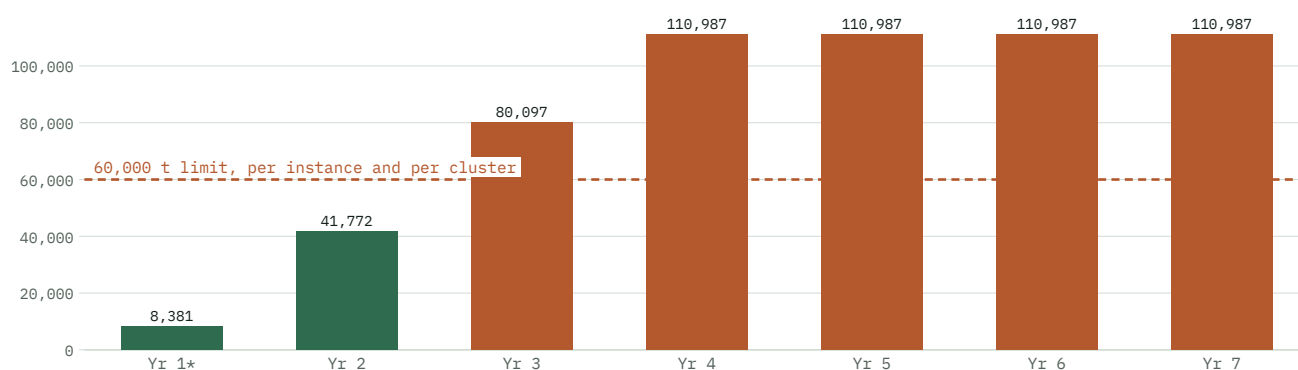
CHECK	REQUIREMENT (VM0051 v1.1 / VCS STANDARD)	WHAT THE DRAFT SAYS	GAP
Quantification approach and scale	VM0051 §8.1: IPCC Tier 1 default factors only at or below 60,000 tCO ₂ e a year. VCS Standard v4.7 §3.6.4: grouped and non-grouped projects can both have several instances. §3.6.9: 'no project activity instance shall exceed such limit', nor any cluster in which 'each instance is within one kilometer of at least one other instance'; instances above 1% of the limit are counted. The text does not say how the distance is measured.	Simplified approach with regional factors (p. 21). Three instances (p. 8). 'The centroids of the instances are 16 to 41 km apart; no clusters are formed' (p. 9).	No per-instance estimates. Cluster test by centres only.
Nitrous oxide	§8.2.6 and Appendix 3, equation 25: the increase in N ₂ O caused by drying must be deducted: sum of nitrogen applied × area × CF_N ₂ O × 10 ⁻³ × GWP_N ₂ O.	'AWD also reduces N ₂ O and improves water productivity' (p. 6). No nitrogen rates, factor or deduction.	Deduction absent; claimed volume is CH ₄ -only.
Baseline	§3 and §6: a look-back of at least three years builds a field-level baseline schedule; footnote 15: where any look-back year shows drainage, that regime is the baseline (most conservative).	'Continuous flooding is the common practice in the region' (p. 15).	No field-level look-back. Fields that already drained would earn little or nothing (App. B, S3).
Uncertainty	§8.6.3: at or below 60,000 tCO ₂ e a year with Tier 1 factors, a flat 15% deduction. §8.6.4: above that, error propagation or Monte Carlo.	No uncertainty text.	Deduction absent.
Warming potentials	VCS Standard v5.0 §3.14.4 and Table 9: reductions after 1 January 2021 use IPCC AR5 GWP100 (CH ₄ 28, N ₂ O 265).	'GWP100 values from IPCC AR5: CH ₄ 28, N ₂ O 265' (p. 21).	None.
Evidence of water management	Box 1 data-sourcing hierarchy and Appendix 4 (digital MRV): sensor data and remote sensing are acceptable where the required information can be reliably determined.	App photographs of the water tube; sample checks 'periodically' (p. 14).	Self-reported; checking share and method not stated.
Boundary	VCS Standard: project location and boundary must be stated and geodetically referenced. Verra's Geolocation File Requirements v5.0 set what the file must contain.	'KML files for each instance are available on the registry' (p. 8).	I-3 layer unreadable as published and, once repaired, implausible.

Appendix B. Volume at risk

B1. The claim, by instance and cluster

The draft gives only project totals. Split in proportion to instance area, each instance stays under the 60,000 t limit, but I-1 and I-2 together pass it from year 3. Whether they form a cluster depends on how 'within one kilometer' is measured (Appendix A).

tCO₂e a year, I-1 + I-2 split by area from the draft p. 10 (red = above the limit) · *partial first year



YEAR	PROJECT TOTAL (DRAFT)	I-1	I-2	I-3	I-1 + I-2
Yr 1*	12,400	4,363	4,019	4,019	8,381
Yr 2	61,800	21,744	20,028	20,028	41,772
Yr 3	118,500	41,694	38,403	38,403	80,097
Yr 4	164,200	57,774	53,213	53,213	110,987
Yr 5	164,200	57,774	53,213	53,213	110,987
Yr 6	164,200	57,774	53,213	53,213	110,987
Yr 7	164,200	57,774	53,213	53,213	110,987

B2. The claim against an independent recalculation

We recalculated what the methodology's simplified approach (Quantification Approach 3, IPCC 2019 Refinement factors) would credit on the stated 21,600 ha, using Terravo's VM0051 engine on Project X's invented inputs. Inputs the draft does not give are set as scenarios; nothing in the engine is fitted.

SCENAR IO	ASSUMPTIONS	GROSS CH ₄ ER	N ₂ O INCREASE	NET (~15%)	CLAIM / RECALC.
S1	Two seasons a year, 102 days each (IPCC regional default); baseline continuously flooded; project multiple drainage; 200 kg N/ha/yr	67,735	3,595	54,519	2.2× average; 3.0× full enrolment
S2	Three seasons a year, 90 days each; otherwise as S1; 300 kg N/ha/yr	89,650	5,392	71,619	1.7× average; 2.3× full enrolment
S3	As S1, but one of the three look-back years already shows multiple drainage, so the conservative baseline is the drained regime (§6 footnote 15)	0	3,595	0 (negative before floor)	no credit

Reading the table. Under the default factors (1.22 kg CH₄/ha/day for the region, scaling factor 1.00 for continuous flooding against 0.55 for multiple drainage, GWP 28), two seasons of AWD on 21,600 ha reduce about 67,735 tCO₂e a year. After the nitrous oxide increase and a 15% uncertainty deduction, 54,519. The draft's seven-year average is 2.2 times that and its full-enrolment year 3.0 times. A third season (S2) narrows the gap to 1.7 and 2.3 times. If enrolled fields were already draining before the project (S3), the methodology's conservative baseline leaves them with no creditable reduction.

What the recalculation is and is not. It is an independent screening estimate, not a registration calculation. Recalculated per instance, each instance stays well under 60,000 t, so the flat 15% deduction applies; if I-1 and I-2 are one cluster above the limit, country-specific factors and a derived uncertainty deduction would be required for it (§8.1, §8.6.4). Assumptions not in the draft: cultivation days, pre-season flooding under 180 days, no organic amendments, the nitrogen rates shown, and a CF_N₂O of 0.00314 kg N₂O per kg N, the value used in a real VM0051 project's public draft. Factors: IPCC 2019 Refinement Tables 5.11 to 5.14; GWP per VCS Standard v5.0 §3.14.4.

Appendix C. Satellite evidence (illustrative values)

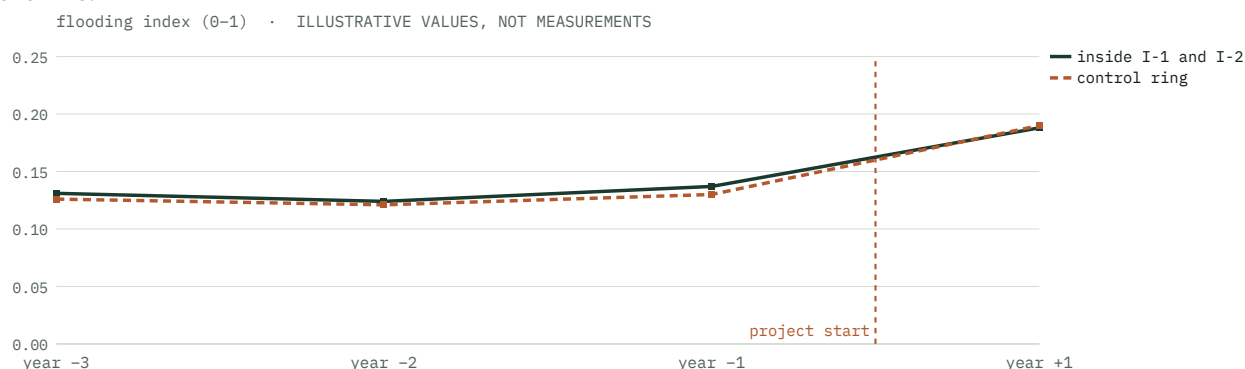
The values on this page are synthetic, made up to show the form of the check. In a commissioned report they come from ESA WorldCover and Copernicus Sentinel-1 over the project's published boundary, with a map.

C1. Boundary and mapped cropland

AREA CHECK	I-1	I-2	I-3
Boundary polygon	19,800 ha	21,300 ha	About 2.9 million ha after repair; includes open sea
Mapped cropland inside (WorldCover class 40)	16,100 ha	19,500 ha	Not tested
Claimed area as a share of that cropland	47%	36%	—

C2. Before and after the project start, with a control

Index: the share of Sentinel-1 passes on which a cropland pixel returned VV backscatter below -16 dB, a proxy for standing water or very wet soil, averaged over cropland inside I-1 and I-2 and in a 30 km control ring. Same satellite and orbit, so the comparison is like for like.



	3-YR PRE → POST	CHANGE
Inside I-1 and I-2	0.131 → 0.188	+0.057
Control ring	0.126 → 0.190	+0.064
Difference of changes		-0.007

Both areas moved by about the same amount, so the change is regional (that year's weather and water supply), not a project effect. The difference of changes is inside the year-to-year spread of the inside-versus-control gap before the project (0.003 to 0.007). It is also what we found when we ran this check on a real project: at boundary scale, open radar data does not separate a project's fields from the region around them. A list of enrolled fields (question 9) lets the comparison be run field against neighbouring field. Terravo does not estimate methane from satellite data; tested on fields with ground measurements, such models did not hold up on fields they had not seen.

Appendix D. The nine listed VM0051 projects (real)

These are the real projects from our free two-page market screen, identified by country only. Project X is not one of them.

PROJECT	COUNTRY	ANNUAL ER (t)	AREA (ha)	ER / ha	60k LIMIT	STATUS
A	Viet Nam	590,682	116,000	5.1	FLAG	Validation
B	India	566,547	3,000*	189	REVIEW	Development
C	Philippines	359,146	18,835*	19 / 2.6**	OK	Validation
D	India	178,820	16,000	11	NOTE	Validation
E	Myanmar	59,738	29,202	2.0	REVIEW	Paused by registry
F	Thailand	54,645	14,277	3.8	OK	Validation
G	Indonesia	53,142	3,000*	18	OK	Development
H	Brazil	46,461	3,226	14	OK	Validation
I***	India	109,251	17,422	6.3	OK	Issued 12 Oct 2026

* Area appears to be a placeholder or geographic scope. ** 19 uses the registry's annual figure, which is close to the draft's crediting-period total; the draft's own average, 48,512 t a year, gives 2.6 on the same area (6.1 in its peak year). The limit column reads each draft against the 60,000 t limit, which binds only the simplified approach and applies per instance and per cluster (VCS Standard v4.7 §3.6.4, §3.6.9). *** Verified 2024 values; four instances, each under the limit. Sources: Berkeley Carbon Trading Project database v2026-06, the Verra registry and the projects' public drafts, October 2026.

Appendix E. Evidence excerpts (fictional)

In a commissioned report this appendix quotes the project's own documents, so every statement can be checked against the source. The excerpts below are invented for Project X; each is written to show the kind of passage a finding rests on.

PAGE	EXCERPT (FICTIONAL)	USED FOR
6	'AWD also reduces N2O and improves water productivity.'	N2O mentioned as co-benefit only
8	'The project comprises three project activity instances, one per district. KML files for each instance are available on the registry.'	Instance design; boundary source
9	'The centroids of the instances are 16 to 41 km apart; no clusters are formed under VCS Standard 3.6.9.'	Cluster test by centres only
10	'Total estimated GHG emission reductions over the crediting period: 849,500 tCO ₂ e' and a year-by-year table rising from a partial first year to full enrolment in year 4	Claimed volumes; registry shows the total as an annual figure
14	'Farmers upload a photograph of the water tube twice a week through the project app. Field staff verify a sample of fields periodically.'	Monitoring method
15	'Continuous flooding is the common practice in the region and is taken as the baseline.'	Baseline stated without field-level look-back
21	'Quantification Approach 3 is applied with IPCC 2019 regional default factors. GWP100 values from IPCC AR5: CH ₄ 28, N ₂ O 265.'	Approach; warming potentials
—	Searched the full text for 'uncertainty', 'look-back', 'N2O deduction': no relevant occurrences.	Items marked not evidenced in section 2

About this sample. Project X is fictional. Its figures, quotations and page numbers are invented, and no project figure in sections 1 to 4 or Appendices B, C and E belongs to a real project. Each check result follows a pattern we found in public VM0051 documents in October 2026. The rules quoted, the recalculation engine and the market figures in section 5 and Appendix D are real. **Sources for the real parts.** VM0051 v1.1; VCS Standard v4.7 and v5.0; IPCC 2019 Refinement, Vol. 4, Ch. 5; Berkeley Carbon Trading Project offsets database v2026-06; the Verra registry. **Limits of a real screening.** It covers public material only. Without enrolled-field boundaries, monitoring data or a site visit, it cannot confirm implementation or measure emissions. Flags are questions for the developer or the validation body, not findings of non-compliance. Terravo is independent of project developers, validation bodies and Verra.