



## ARR Common Application Document Guide



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## Background

### Related documents

[Common Application](#)

### Description

This Document Guide complements the [ARR Common Application](#), which are together designed as a standardized information-request template to help project developers provide the minimum necessary information for buyers to efficiently begin assessing projects. Developed in collaboration with leading buyers, this tool streamlines data collection in the voluntary carbon market (VCM), reducing redundancy and improving efficiency. While individual companies, including Beyond members, may add specific questions to address their own diligence priorities and commercial needs, the Common Application establishes a baseline framework for project information requests. The first edition is focused on Afforestation, Reforestation, and Revegetation (ARR) projects.

This document guide is closely aligned with the previously published Symbiosis [Reforestation & Agroforestry RFP Readiness Checklist](#), allowing for project developers to utilize documents submitted for the Symbiosis RFP.

This tool is intended for internal use by Beyond and its members but is also made available as an open-source resource for other companies looking to align their processes with best practices. It is designed to be used in conjunction with an accompanying Document Guide, which outlines additional documentation developers should be prepared to share with buyer.

The Common Application can be used by both pre- and post-validation projects. Specific document guidance for pre-validation and post-validation projects are listed below, along with document guidance for all projects.

## Document Checklist

Pre-Validation Projects
<input type="checkbox"/> Feasibility Study
<input type="checkbox"/> Impact Assessment
<input type="checkbox"/> Implementation Plan
Post-Validation Projects
<input type="checkbox"/> Project Design Document (PDD)
<input type="checkbox"/> Verification Reports
All Projects
<input type="checkbox"/> Project Boundary
<input type="checkbox"/> Baselining Data
<input type="checkbox"/> Geospatial Data
<input type="checkbox"/> Project Financial Model and Budget
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefit and Revenue Sharing Plan
<input type="checkbox"/> Stakeholder Mapping and Engagement
<input type="checkbox"/> Carbon Removal Projections
<input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification Plan

## Document Guide

Please upload the below (and any additional documents) as part of the submission

### Pre-Validation projects

Documentation	Description
Feasibility Study	<p>The Feasibility Study should contain the following key sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scope and project summary (including what standard(s) are being considered to develop the project)</li> <li>• Project goals and long-term vision</li> <li>• Proof of concept for the project or plan to achieve it</li> <li>• Description of project sites including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Boundaries and zoning</li> <li>○ Ecology and Geography</li> <li>○ Socioeconomic and demographic aspects</li> <li>○ Political and institutional environment (including a general description of land ownership and tenure, as well as carbon rights regulations)</li> <li>○ Relevant cultural characteristics</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Stakeholder mapping and engagement information (including any available information about land partnerships, expected landowner enrollment, and benefit sharing strategies)</li> <li>• Analysis of financial viability (including a draft version of carbon removal projections, and any additional revenue streams, if applicable)</li> <li>• Draft Impact Assessment (see impact assessment section below)</li> <li>• Implementation plan (see implementation plan section below)</li> <li>• MRV Plan (see MRV section below)</li> <li>• Non-permanence risk analysis and mitigation approach (including social, environmental, and economic risks)</li> <li>• Organizational summary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Key partnerships and their roles</li> <li>○ Technical capacity</li> <li>○ Experience</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Impact Assessment	<p>The Impact Assessment will allow Beyond members to evaluate the project's additionality along with its socioeconomic and ecological impacts. It should include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additionality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Clear theory of change for carbon additionality</li> <li>○ Common practice additionality</li> <li>○ Regulatory additionality</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Financial additionality</li> <li>○ Ecological additionality</li> </ul> <p>Socioeconomic additionality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity or ecosystem services uplift</li> <li>• Potential socioeconomic impacts over the full project lifetime</li> </ul>
Implementation Plan	<p>The Implementation Plan enables Beyond members to assess the project's viability, along with various aspects of its ecological integrity and the potential social and community benefits. The Implementation Plan should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timeline and scale of proposed activities: including planned number of hectares per year</li> <li>• Site preparation activities, including any application of herbicides, fertilizers, biomass removals, and/or subsoiling</li> <li>• Restoration and planting plan, including utilized species</li> <li>• If passive restoration approaches are used,               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Specific assisted natural regeneration methods used and how these tackle the barriers and limitations of natural recovery within the site and surrounding landscape</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Partners and their corresponding roles (e.g., planting partners, landowner engagement partners, biodiversity monitoring partners, etc.)</li> <li>• Strategies, goals, and maintenance activities that will confer the project long-term durability (i.e., during and beyond the crediting period)</li> <li>• <b>Note:</b> No more than 5 pages</li> </ul>

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## Post-Validation projects

Documentation	Description
Project design document (PDD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Draft, registered, or validated project design document from the methodology the project is being developed under</li></ul>
Verification reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Any existing verification reports according to the standard and methodology the project is developed under</li></ul>

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## All Projects

Documentation	Description
Project boundary	<p>Project boundary documentation should consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project boundary for the area supporting the commercial offtake proposal</li> <li>• Internal zoning areas if available (e.g., passive vs active restoration areas, public vs. private ownership areas, land already enrolled/acquired versus under negotiation or identified, etc.)</li> <li>• <b>Note 1:</b> Ensure consistency in the names of zones between the attribute table of the file and the rest of the documentation presented</li> <li>• <b>Note 2:</b> If this is a grouped project, and participants and plots will be added over time, please indicate as much</li> </ul>
Baselining data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For Dynamic baselines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Donor pool area (polygon) for control plots (KML)</li> <li>○ Draft or outline of control-point statistical matching approach</li> <li>○ Procedure to establish control areas</li> </ul> </li> <li>• For Non-dynamic baselines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Description of baseline calculations / approach</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Geospatial data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upload a shapefile of your project area. Provide a brief description of the data, for example, whether it is the area where carbon rights have been secured, or, if it is the area determined to be eligible and feasible but specific crediting areas have not yet been determined.</li> </ul>
Project financial model and budget	<p>The financial model and budget is critical to understanding the project's additionality, durability, and benefit sharing approach, as well as assessing your commercial proposal. While this is not a required document at this time, it is highly encouraged for suppliers to provide to support initial assessments. Note this will be a requirement by Beyond member companies who perform their own diligence. Information should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget including all relevant implementation, maintenance, land, financing costs, and carbon development costs</li> <li>• Sources of financing and funding amounts over the project lifetime (note what is secured and not yet secured)</li> <li>• Annual projected profit and loss and cash flow <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ For costs, please include capital expenditures vs. operational expenditures along with cost per hectare</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Note:</b> The project financial model and budget should be submitted in .xls format. Please clearly provide and label</li> </ul>



	all key inputs/assumptions, and where possible, include formulas rather than hardcodes.
Benefit and revenue sharing plan	<p>The project's benefit and revenue sharing plan should include information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How this plan was designed and agreed upon</li> <li>• Allocation of the different types of benefits</li> <li>• What percentage of total revenue is going back to local communities</li> <li>• Plans for monitoring and evaluation, and reporting the revenue transparently</li> </ul>
Stakeholder mapping and engagement	<p>Information around stakeholder mapping and engagement will allow us to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the project's governance and social safeguards, as well as evaluate claims made around socioeconomic benefits and the project's long-term viability. Documentation should include information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholder mapping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Including landowners, local communities, governments, civil society organizations, and any other relevant parties</li> <li>○ Explanation of the mapping process</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Stakeholder engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Communication strategy and channels</li> <li>○ Description of the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process, feedback mechanisms and grievance redressal</li> <li>○ Information about the specific roles of every stakeholder involved in the project design, development, implementation, and governance</li> <li>○ Specific activities and timelines, and any supporting evidence of this process</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Landowner Rights Evaluation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Contracts with landowners (if applicable)</li> <li>○ Evidence of how the project evaluates landowner rights</li> <li>○ How the accepted documentation imparts tenure security</li> <li>○ (If the project relies on undocumented customary revenue) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Description of any participatory land tenure</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ If the project includes Indigenous communities directly or indirectly) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Clear details about the engagement process, including any past collaborations, shared or intermediary partners</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Carbon removal projections	<p>Credit yield projections will allow Beyond members to understand the overall climate mitigation potential of the project and should include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carbon removal projections</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Credit delivery schedule</li> <li>• All data sources and applicable deductions (risk, uncertainty, leakage, and baseline) and the assumptions behind these deductions</li> <li>• Estimated average annual pre- and post-deduction carbon accumulation chart</li> <li>• Key parameters for growth model</li> <li>• Key inputs and assumptions for reversal risk reduction</li> <li>• Key inputs and assumptions for uncertainty deduction</li> <li>• Key inputs and assumptions for leakage deduction (e.g., list of activities that could induce leakage, list of agricultural commodities produced in the project area)</li> <li>• # of hectares planted per year</li> <li>• Field sampling protocols, justification of field plot selection, sample sizes and incorporation local ecological variability, handling of outliers</li> <li>• <b>Note:</b> projections should also contemplate any planned harvests during and after the crediting period.</li> </ul>
Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) Plan	<p>The project's MRV plan is essential to evaluate the proposed monitoring and verification of its climate impact, along with all other claims or metrics detailed in its Impact Assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carbon Inventory methodology: Provide a brief description of sampling design, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How it is representative of the project area,</li> <li>○ If values from literature are used and where limitations are to the sampling design</li> <li>○ The average carbon stock/ha value, reported with confidence interval and standard error results</li> <li>○ Key variables contributing to model and/or sampling error and/or uncertainty, and the uncertainty discount applied</li> <li>○ Carbon inventory methodology (remote sensing and field based, as applicable)</li> <li>○ Carbon stocks monitoring methodology</li> <li>○ Reporting and verification (MRV) plan</li> <li>○ Please include data sources, key partners (if any), and how the plan will be implemented. If the project will scale significantly, please indicate how the MRV plan will change over time.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Carbon Monitoring methodology: Describe the activities and carbon pools being monitored, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Monitoring frequency and scale (i.e. forest cover change, carbon stocks, field plots, etc.)</li> <li>○ Monitoring methods (i.e. remote sensing, direct measurement, community patrol, etc.)</li> <li>○ The processes and resources are in place to perform ongoing project monitoring, including the</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>period of monitoring and how this will contribute to long term durability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Monitoring social and community benefits and ecological impact</li> <li>○ <b>Note:</b> Should be based on a site risk assessment using peer-reviewed, site-specific data from the last ten years to categorize the project area's non-permanence risk profile (current and future). Include information (where available) on climate change projections, natural disaster frequency, socio-economic and demographic factors, and land-use change trends associated with the project's claimed durability.</li> </ul>
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