**Topic 4 – Instructions for the Interactive Exercise**

1. **Background**

This document provides guidance for conducting the interactive exercise for *Topic 4 – Afforestation / Reforestation*.

The purpose of the exercise is to engage the participants on the contents contained within the three modules of *Topic 4 – Afforestation / Reforestation*. This includes thinking about the certification and implementation of Gold Standard afforestation / reforestation projects, project development and Sustainable Development Goals impacts.

The objective is for participants to weigh up the pros and cons of different options and ask questions on topics they do not understand. The instructor should be alert for any options that do not align with Gold Standard requirements, or contents of the Topic presentations. This this case, during the group report back, the instructor should ask spokespeople to explain their choices.

The MS PowerPoint for the interactive exercise can be found in the relevant topic folder. This should be displayed on screen during the exercise. The interactive exercise should take around 30 minutes, depending on the size of the group.

1. **To do before running the exercise**

* Groups
  + Decide on the group size beforehand. Change all relevant text market in Yellow in the Annex and PowerPoint presentation. Ideally there will be 4 breakout groups. These can be randomly selected and create diversity in order to give diversity in input. However, social constructs must be considered as these may prevent certain groups from speaking in front of other certain groups – for example, senior executives and junior staff.
  + If the presentation is in-person, then the breakout groups can move in the room to sit together. If it is online, then they should be sent to breakout rooms.
  + Each breakout group must nominate a lead, who will report their findings back to the main group. The breakout groups must note down their answers and explain their reasonings.
* Timings
  + Decide on how long the groups will have to discuss the exercise. This should be a minimum of 10 minutes, ideally 15 minutes.
* Handout
  + [Optional] Create a separate Word version of the annexed document, containing the exercise context and task. If in person, a printout can be distributed to participants. If online, this can be sent as a Word document before participants are send to breakout rooms.

1. **Running the exercise**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Instruction** |
| **How the exercise will run**  **(5 minutes)** | **Present Slide 2 (‘Exercise instructions’)**  Explain the following:   * The objective of the exercise is for participants to think through some of the different practical elements of project development covered in Topic 4. * In the exercise, the participants will play the role of a fictional project developer. * The facilitator has an option of two exercises – establish feasibility; or an SDG exercise. Before beginning the exercise, the facilitator should delete the option that they will not deliver.   Establish feasibility:   * The developer must consider a project development scenario, discuss feasibility, impacts and outcomes of the project.   SDG exercise:   * The groups will consider the SDG impacts of the example project   Instructions:   * Participants will be split into groups of [4-6] to discuss their approach. * Each group will have [15] minutes to discuss. * At the end, the one person from each group will briefly report back and explain their answers. |
| **Introduction to the content**  **(5 minutes)** | **Present Slide 3 or 4 (feasibility OR SDGs)**  Explain the following:   * Shown on the screen and read out the scenario. * The groups will consider the questions and discuss their thoughts. * A note takes should write down the main points of discussion and the conclusion to the discussions.   SDGs  The facilitator must ask the group which SDGs they think the project will impact, including SDG 13 – Climate Action. There must be enough SDGs to discuss per group. For example, if there are 4 groups, 4 SDGs should be selected. Randomly assign an SDG to each group. If not enough unique SDGs can be selected, then the same SDG can be assigned to more than one group. |
| **Exercise**  **(10-15 minutes)** | Keep the content slide visible for the exercise so the participants and remind themselves of the scenario and questions.  The facilitator should walk around the groups (in-person) or enter the breakout rooms (online) to check progress and answer questions. There is a list of suggested prompts in section 4.  **If in-person**   * Distribute the handout in the annex, containing the exercise scenario and task. * Divide the participants into groups of 4-6, depending on the number of total participants. Aim for 4-5 groups. * Give groups [15] minutes to complete the exercise. * Ask them to nominate a spokesperson to report back to the group.   **If online**   * As above, but divide into virtual breakout rooms. * Send the Annexed document in the chat before dividing into breakout rooms, so participants have it to hand. |
| **Report back**  **(5-10 minutes)** | * Give each group around [2] minutes to feedback. * Ask them to explain why they came to the conclusions they did. * Note any similarities and differences between the groups. * Note any decisions that are inconsistent with the assumptions – and ask the group spokesperson to explain why they chose that option. |
| **Reflections (5-10 minutes)** | The final slide allows for the participants to reflect on and discuss what they have learnt.  The groups may want to discuss why they made a certain conclusion which may be different to another group.  Ask open questions to the participants and ask for their thoughts. Example questions and are set out in section 4. |

1. **Facilitator answers and prompt questions**

This section contains:

* suggested prompts for the breakout groups
* the answers as to what the instructor should be looking for in each of the questions

**Project Feasibility**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Question** | **Answer** | **Prompts** |
| 1. **How should the project balance the need for maximising planting with the needs of local cattle herders?** | Carbon First must decide if they want to maximise the potential CO2 sequestration of the project area or balance it with the needs of local farmers.    The more agriculture is allowed, the less CO2 sequestration may be realised.    Carbon First must recognise that forced evictions from land is not compatible with GS4GG. If the herders have traditional rights to the land then the rights must be respected.    Carbon First must ensure Free, Prior and Informed consent when implementing a land use project. Therefore, the project must be designed with the input of local stakeholders. Therefore, if the local stakeholders want the land to be used for grazing and herding cattle, then the requests must be accommodated. The project must be designed to allow for continued use, and may insist on conditions that the herders must meet to ensure the forest is protected and the trees can grown. | * What would the local cattle herders want out of the project? * What traditional rights may they have? * How can Carbon First balance the needs of the herders with the need to reforest the project area? * What conditions may they put in place? * Why are rights of the local people important? |
| 1. **What are the intended impacts and benefits of the project?** | The project must reduce greenhouse gas emissions and be eligible for GSVERs.  The project will reduce GHG emissions by providing electricity generated from a renewable source. The project will replace electricity generated from a more GHG-intensive source.  The project will help the transition to clean energy and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.  The project may improve electricity reliability and help electricity connections being expanded in the host country.  The project will create local jobs and training opportunities. It will improve technical knowledge in the host country. | * What is essential for the project developer to achieve? * What does the project developer hope to achieve from the project? * Do they have a drive for certain SDG impacts such as gender, health, or rural electrification? * How will the project effect the local population? * How will the project effect the local economy? * Will the project create opportunities for local people? |
| 1. **What do the investor (Singapore Renewable Investment Group) and host country (Gov of Rwanda) hope to achieve from the project? Explain your answers.** | The investor will want:   * A return on investment from the sale of GSVERs * They may need a certain rate of return * They may want the GSVERs for their nationally determined contributions   The host country will want:   * The investment * The technology * Capacity building * Cleaner energy * Jobs for local people * Share of proceeds from the sale of GSVERs | * What is the motivation of both parties to engage in the project? * What risks are there, and is the project worth the risks? * Who will pay for the project? * What benefits will the investor want? * What benefits will the host country want? * What will the host country want to get from negotiations? |

**Sustainable Development Goals**

There are no right or wrong answers here. The groups should discuss their thoughts on the relevant SDGs.

Here are some SDGs which they may choose and prompts for the discussions:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Question** | **Prompts** |
| SDG 13 Climate Action | * *The groups may want to look at the SDG targets and indicators.* * What are the potential benefits of the project? * How can the benefits be maximised? * How does this affect the chosen SDG? * What risks does the project pose? * Are there any safeguarding issues? * What can the project do to create more benefits relating to the SDG? * How practical is it to monitor the impact of this SDG? |
| SDG 15 Life on Land |
| SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth |
| SDG 5 Gender Equality |
| SDG 3 Good Health and Wellbeing |

**Reflections**

Take the remaining time to reflect on what has been learnt. Ask open questions to the participants and ask for their thoughts. Questions such as:

What do you think is important when developing an A/R project?

Why is stakeholder inclusion important?

What do the various stakeholders want to achieve from the project?

What are the risks in project implementation?

What is important for your organisation if you were to implement a project?

What would your organisation hope to achieve by implementing a project?