LIFE TECHNICAL GUIDE – 02

LIFE-BR-TG02-3.1-English

Version 3.1 – Brazil - English

(MAY/2018)

OBJECTIVE

To guide organizations in the elaboration of their Action Plan for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (APBE), through a hierarchy of priority and effective actions.

APPLICATION

This document applies to organizations interested in assessing the performance of their actions for biodiversity and ecosystem services compliant with national priorities and their effectiveness for conservation; in establishing programs and goals for biodiversity conservation; and in the LIFE Certification process. It also applies to certification bodies accredited by the LIFE Institute for the evaluation of third parties of organizations interested in the Certification process and other interested parties. For LIFE certified organizations in previous versions, this document becomes effective from the first follow-up audit after its publication. For other organizations/producers this document applies automatically from the date of its publication.

APPROVAL

Document approved by LIFE Institute's Board of Directors.

LIFE Institute Headquarters
Rua Victor Benato, 210 Bosque Zaninelli, UNILIVRE,
Pilarzinho CEP: 82120-110 – Curitiba – PR, Brazil
Tel: +55 41 3253-7884
www.institutolife.org

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AFS – Agro-Forestry System

BCA – Performance in Biodiversity Conservation Actions

BCA_{min} – Minimum score to be achieved for an organization regarding its Biodiversity Impact Index (BII) and size (gross income)

BII – Biodiversity Impact Index

BZ – Buffer Zone

CB – Certifying Body

CITES – Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

CNPJ – Brazilian National Register of Legal Entities

CU – Conservation Unit

DOU – Union Official Journal

GECV – Guide for Evidence and Content for Verification

IUCN – International Union for Conservation of Nature

LR – Legal Reserve

MP – Management Plan

NGO – Non-Governmental Organization

OI – Opportunity for Improvement

OSCIP – Civil Society Organization of Public Interest

PA – Protected Area

APBE – Action Plan for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

PES – Payment for Environmental Services

PPA – Permanently Preserved Area

PPE – Personal Protective Equipment

PRNH – Private Reserve of Natural Heritage

RAAFS – Regenerative analog agro-forestry system

REDD – Reduction of Emissions by Deforestation and Degradation

RER– Rural Environmental Record

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1. INTRODUCTION

The LIFE Certification Methodology considers, as a presupposition, that real engagement with biodiversity conservation can be evaluated in complementary ways, considering the inclusion of biodiversity all over the organizations´ environmental management and the undertaking of direct and effective actions for conservation, through defining an Action Plan for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (APBE).

An organization can obtain LIFE Certification whenever the score obtained for the APBE meets the minimum performance required. This minimum performance is calculated considering the size of the organization and its impacts on biodiversity and on ecosystem services, as described in the LIFE Technical Guide 01 (LIFE-BR-TG01).

The LIFE-BR-TG02 is the technical guide for the LIFE Certification Methodology used to describe the Biodiversity Conservation Actions ($BCA_{achieved}$) which make up the APBE and the scoring system which evaluates their performance. The value of the $BCA_{achieved}$ refers to the total score achieved by the APBE of the organization, taking into account all of the actions for conservation of biodiversity and of the ecosystem services.

Highlighting, publicizing and recognizing the priorities in biodiversity conservation, LIFE Certification encourages the maintenance of the values associated with the composition, structure and function of the ecosystem services, contributing to the promotion of the well-being of humanity as a whole, and in particular to that of those communities which depend directly on these resources for their survival.

2. THE LIFE DIRECTIVE FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

The classification and scoring of conservation actions and/or the sustainable use of biodiversity presented in this Guide are based on the LIFE Directive:

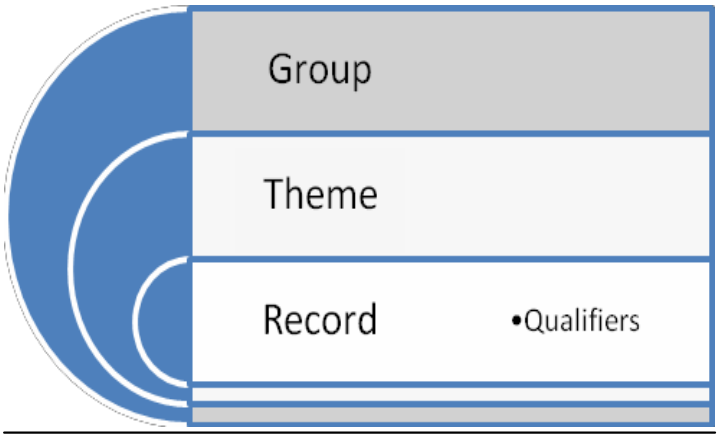
"Maintenance of ecosystems, composition, structure and function."

The scoring hierarchy of the APBE was established with a view to prioritizing initiatives with greater potential for meeting this Directive in a shorter time period.

3. STRUCTURE OF THIS DOCUMENT

3.1 Categories of analysis

Each unitary action for conservation is classified and scored using a record, linked to a specified Group and Theme, and associated with different qualifiers.



Group (G): each Group in the LIFE Certification Methodology's structure for scoring actions represents a strategic line of the LIFE Institute for the conservation and/or sustainable use of biodiversity.

Theme (C, P, I): each Theme in the scoring structure represents a phase of implementation of conservation actions:

- Creation or adoption of areas (C)*;
- Planning of actions for biodiversity conservation (P);
- Implementation of actions for biodiversity conservation (I).

* *The phase of Creation/Adoption of Areas only applies to Groups 1 and 2.*

Record (R): this is the description of the unitary action, classified within a Group and a Theme, linked to specific conservation qualifiers.

Qualifiers (Q): information which qualifies an action's priority and/or importance for conservation, these being reflected in the score.

3.1 1 Groups

The Groups, structured in a descending hierarchy, represent the priority strategic lines for conservation, considering their potential to generate effective results:

G1 – Conservation and management of formally protected areas

Actions directly associated with the creation and protection of natural areas, linked to official mechanisms of protection. For Brazil, the categories of the National System for Conservation Units (SNUC, in Portuguese) and their classification according to the criteria of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) are considered, ensuring a direct return for the maintenance of the ecosystems' composition, structure and function.

The following are classified in this strategic line: direct or supporting actions for the creation of officially protected areas; the elaboration of their management plans; the operationalization of protected areas; and actions for the conservation and management of biodiversity in officially protected areas, recognized in the country in question.

Actions which exceed the requirements of legislation and which are undertaken in permanent preservation areas (PPA) and in Legal Reserves (LR) are also classified in Group 1, as these are considered to be areas protected by law in the case of Brazil (Brazilian Forest Code), even when they are not conservation units.

G2 – Conservation and management of areas which are not formally protected

Actions directly associated with the voluntary creation and protection of natural areas, not linked to official protective measures.

In general, the same type of actions as the previous Group are classified in this strategic line, except that the same occur in areas which are not recognized by the country's official protection system.

G3 – Conservation and management of species and/or ecosystems

Actions aimed at the conservation and/or management of one or more species, undertaken within or outside their natural ecosystems; or which are aimed at the conservation and management of ecosystems located outside of protected areas.

G4 – Initiatives associated with conservation strategies, policies and/or programs

Actions with a strategic scope, which exercise a relevant role in the generation and publicizing of good practices related to biodiversity.

The following are classified in this strategic line: actions encouraging public policies with benefits for conservation; educational actions for biodiversity conservation; research and monitoring projects; REDD and PES projects and other indirect actions for biodiversity conservation.

For the complete list of records which can be scored in LIFE Methodology, in each one of the strategic lines for conservation, consult item 3.1.3.

3.1.2 Themes

The themes indicate the phase of implantation of actions, and are represented by the letters "C", "P" and "I", after the abbreviation of the groups in each record. For example: G1.P – planning actions in Group 1.

The theme of Creation or adoption of areas (C) is applicable to Groups 1 and 2, while that of

Planning of conservation actions (P) and that of Implementation of conservation actions (I) are applicable to all the Groups (1, 2, 3 and 4).

Valuing the creation and maintenance of natural areas aims to differentiate these actions from the others, due to their importance and their direct effects in the ensuring of the maintenance of the ecosystems' composition, structure and function.

The differentiation between the planning and implementation phases of actions, in its turn, aims to value those actions which were previously structured in the elaboration of projects/programs, and which because of this, present a better grounding and possibilities of generating results and monitoring over time. Hence, all planning of actions score the action independently and accumulatively, as long as it meets the minimum content stipulated in item 5.

3.1.3 Records

The records in which the actions must be classified, in order to obtain the $BCA_{achieved}$, and the respective qualifiers applicable to each one, are listed below. The qualifiers, their weights, and their classes, are presented in item 3.1.4. The guidance for the interpretation of each record may be consulted in item 3.2.3 of this document.

G1 – Conservation and management of formally protected areas

G1.C – Creation or adoption of protected areas

Record	Action	Qualifier(s)
G1.C1	Create or adopt protected areas.	1, 3, 6, 10, 16

G1.P - Planning of actions for the conservation of biodiversity in protected areas

Record	Action	Qualifier(s)
G1.P1	Elaborate a management plan and/or planning of actions for biodiversity conservation in the protected area.	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 15, 16

G1.I – Implementation of conservation actions and management in the protected area

Record	Action	Qualifier(s)
G1.I1	Implement actions of conservation and management of the biodiversity in the protected area.	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16
G1.I2	Implement actions of operationalization of the area for biodiversity conservation.	10, 13, 15, 16

G2 – Conservation and management of areas which are not formally protected

G2.C - Creation or adoption of protected areas

Record	Action	Qualifier(s)
G2.C1	Create or adopt protected areas.	1, 3, 6, 10, 16

G2.P - Planning of actions for biodiversity conservation in protected areas

Record	Action	Qualifier(s)
G2.P1	Elaborate a management plan and/or planning of actions for biodiversity conservation in the protected area.	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 15, 16

G2.I - Implementation of conservation areas and management in protected areas

Record	Action	Qualifier(s)
G2.I1	Implement actions for conservation and management of biodiversity in the protected area.	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16
G2.I2	Implement actions of operationalization of the area for biodiversity conservation.	10, 13, 15, 16

G3 - Conservation and management of species and/or ecosystems

G3.P - Planning of actions for conservation and management of species and/or ecosystems

Record	Action	Qualifier(s)
G3.P1	Elaborate planning of actions for conservation and management of species and/or ecosystems.	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 15, 16

G3.I – Implementation of actions for conservation and management of species and/or ecosystems

Record	Action	Qualifier(s)
G3.I1	Implement actions for conservation and management of species and/or ecosystems.	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 14, 16

G4 – Initiatives associated with strategies, policies and/or programs for conservation

G4.P - Planning of strategic and political actions for the conservation and/or sustainable use of biodiversity

Record	Action	Qualifier(s)
G4.P1	Elaborate planning of strategic political initiatives for the conservation and/or sustainable use of biodiversity.	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 16

G4.I - Implementation of strategic and political actions for the conservation and/or sustainable use of biodiversity

Record	Action	Qualifier(s)
G4.I1	Implement/support strategic projects/programs and/or public policies which contribute to the conservation and/or sustainable use of biodiversity.[1]	2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 16
G4.I2	Implement/support communication and/or social mobilization campaigns which contribute to the conservation and/or sustainable use of biodiversity.	2, 11
G4.I3	Establish/maintain partnerships, agreements and/or similar with research institutions, governmental bodies and/or NGOs which contribute to the conservation and/or sustainable use of biodiversity.	2, 11
G4.I4	Implement/support and/or make available information for databases, technical and/or scientific collections referent to the conservation and/or sustainable use of biodiversity.	2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 16
G4.I5	Undertake/support actions involving mapping, the elaboration and updating of cartographic bases, and the registering of areas allocated for conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity.	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 16
G4.I6	Implement/support conservation projects/programs *ex situ*.	2, 4, 5
G4.I7	Implement/support educational projects/programs for the conservation and/or sustainable use of biodiversity.	2, 12
G4.I8	Undertake/support studies and/or research which contribute to the conservation, sustainable use and/or mitigation of impacts on native biodiversity.	2, 3, 4, 5, 7,10, 11,16
G4.I9	Implement/support alternative systems of production, which minimize impacts on biodiversity when compared to the traditional systems of production.[2]	2

[1] Institutional and/or governmental initiatives which aim to allow the conservation actions on a larger scale. E.g. REDD projects; Payment for Environmental Services projects (PES); etc.

[2] Agro-Forestry Systems (AFSs), Regenerative analog agro-forestry system (RAAFSs), organic systems, permaculture, on-farm conservation and agro-ecological projects in general.

3.1.4 Qualifiers

Each record has specific qualifiers[1] related to an action's priorities and/or importance for conservation. However, the same must only be applied when there is consistency in their application, always taking into account the objective of the action. This analysis and decision, of which qualifiers shall be applied to the action, falls to the specialist auditor in biodiversity conservation.

All the qualifiers which are applicable to the LIFE Methodology score, described in item 3.2.4, are presented below, with their respective weights (w) and classes (j) used in the BCA scoring equations, presented in item 4.

Q01 – Coverage of native vegetation in good state of conservation[2] (Weight 2,0)

Percentage classes of re-covering with native vegetation in good state of conservation	j
>90% or ≤100%	2,0
>80% or ≤90%	1,8
>70% or ≤80%	1,6
>60% or ≤70%	1,4
>50% or ≤60%	1,2

Q02 - Coverage of the program or project (Weight 1,7)

Level at which functions	j
National	2,0
Regional	1,8
State	1,6
Local	1,4

[1]Links to obtain information necessary for applying some of the LIFE qualifiers can be found at: http://institutolife.org/tecnico/prioridades-life/

[2] Little-altered primary or secondary in an advanced stage of succession.

Q03 – The area's importance for conservation (Weight 1,3)

Areas indicated as important for conservation	j
Area located in a Priority Area for Biodiversity Conservation, of **"extremely high" biological importance** (Ministry of the Environment (MMA), Ministerial Ordinance 09/2007).	2,0
Area located in Priority Area for Biodiversity Conservation, of **"very high" biological importance** (MMA, Ministerial Ordinance 09/2007).	1,9
Area located in Priority Area for Biodiversity Conservation, of **"high biological importance"** (MMA, Ministerial Ordinance 09/2007).	1,8
Area located in Priority Area for Biodiversity Conservation, of **insufficiently known biological importance**, (MMA) Ministerial Ordinance 09/2007).	1,5

Q04 – Category of threatened species[3] (Weight 2,0)

Category	j
Extinct in the Wild (EW)	2,0
Critically Endangered (CR)	2,0
Endangered (EN)	1,8
Vulnerable (VU)	1,6
Data Deficient (DD)	1,6
Near Threatened (NT)	1,5
Least Concern (LC)	1,1

Q05 – CITES Appendices (2014) (Weight 1,5)

CITES Appendices	j
Appendix I	2,0
Appendix II	1,7
Appendix III	1,3

Q06 – Management category of the areas making up the mosaic (Weight 1,3)

Categories	j
Only fully-protected	2,0
Prioritarily fully-protected	1,7
Prioritarily sustainable use	1,5

[3] IUCN classification, or national and state lists. Use the most local information possible.

Q07 – Category of invasive potential of exotic species (Weight 2,0)

Categories of invasiveness of exotic species	j
Invader: the species is found in the natural environment, already reproducing and in the process of expanding, whether this is in an initial or advanced stage, to other areas outside the place where it was introduced.	2,0
Established: the species is found in the natural environment, already with a viable population, reproducing, although only locally, without the capacity to disperse to other areas.	1,5
Present: when the species is found in the natural environment, in general, planted or cultivated, recently-introduced, although as yet without reproducing or spreading.	1,3
Contained: when its presence is restricted to structures of anthropic use, such as laboratories or cultivated areas which do not permit the escape of individuals to natural environments.	1,1

Q08 – Mean distance and width of the connection (Weight 1,5)

Corridor with:	Length		
	100 to 500 m	500 to 1.000 m	Over 1.000 m
Width greater than 200 m	1,6	1,8	2,0
Width between 100 and 199 m	1,4	1,6	1,8
Width between 60 and 99 m	1,3	1,4	1,6
Width between 30 and 59 m	1,1	1,2	1,3

Q09 - Stage of succession (Weight 1,1)

Stage of succession	j
Advanced stage of succession	2,0
Medium stage of succession	1,5
Initial stage of succession	1,1

Q10 - Management categories for the Protected Area (Weight 2,0)

Protected areas (SNUC 2000) and Indigenous Lands	IUCN Category (2008)	j
Ecological Station, Biological Reserve	Ia	2,0
Private Reserve of Natural Heritage (owned by organization undergoing LIFE Certification)	II or IV	2,0
National, State, or Municipal Park	II	2,0

Protected areas (SNUC 2000) and Indigenous Lands	IUCN Category (2008)	j
Natural Monument	III	1,8
Forest Life Refuge	IV	1,7
Private Reserve of Natural Heritage (third party)	II or IV	1,7
Area of Relevant Ecological Interest	IV	1,7
Area of Environmental Protection	V	1,6
Wildlife Reserve	VI	1,5
Sustainable Development Reserve	VI	1,5
Extractive Reserve, National Forest	VI	1,5
Indigenous Territory	VI	1,5
Permanent Preservation Area and Legal Reserve*	N/A	1,1
* Permanent Preservation Areas (PPA) and Legal Reserves (LR) are areas with legal protection in Brazil, although without equivalents and with objectives which are distinct from the IUCN categories.		

Q11 - Duration of the actions (Weight 1,5)

Duration (years)	j
>5	2,0
5	1,5
4	1,4
3	1,3
2	1,2
1	1,1

Q12 - Frequency and continuity of educational actions for conservation (Weight 1,3)

Frequency and continuity		j
Continuous programs >= 5 years	More than 50 events (visits to PAs) per year	2,0
Continuous programs >= 5 years	> 30 and < 50 events (visits to PAs) per year	1,9
Continuous programs >= 5 years	> 20 and < 30 events (visits to PAs) per year	1,8
Continuous programs >= 2 years	More than 50 events (visits to PAs) per year	1,7
Continuous programs >= 2 years	> 20 and < 30 events (visits to PAs) per year	1,6
Continuous programs >= 1 year	More than 50 events (visits to PAs) per year	1,4
Continuous programs >= 1 year	> 20 and < 30 events (visits to PAs) per year	1,3
Isolated actions	More than 4 events in 1 year (with visits to PAs)	1,2
Isolated actions	Fewer than 4 events in 1 year, or without visits to PAs	1,1

Q13 - Link to a management plan or equivalent (Weight 2,0)

Link	j
Action linked to an approved management plan	2,0
Action linked to a management plan or similar, or to a non-approved management plan	1,6

Q14 - Aim of the recovery (Weight 1,5)

Aim	j
Ecological restoration	2,0
Recovery for other purposes	1,1

Q15 - Size of the area* (Weight 1,1)

Area (hectares)	J
> 4 millions	2,000
> 1 to 4 millions	1,500
> 500 thousand to 1 million	1,300
> 200 thousand to 500 thousand	1,180
> 100 thousand to 200 thousand	1,120
> 50 thousand to 100 thousand	1,080
> 10 thousand to 50 thousand	1,040
> 1 thousand to 10 thousand	1,020
> 200 to 1 thousand	1,006
0 to 200	1,001
* Applicable to management plans for protected areas and/or equivalent; and operationalization actions (administration, contracting/training of HR, infrastructure, inspection and demarcation of areas).	

Q16 – The ecoregion's importance [Weight 2,0]

Ranking	Ecoregion A (Land)	j	Biome
1	Rio Negro Campinarana	1,981	Amazon Rainforest
2	Alto Paraná Atlantic forests	1,918	Atlantic Forest
3	Guianan savanna	1,917	Amazon Rainforest
4	Amazon-Orinoco-Southern Caribbean mangroves	1,891	Amazon Rainforest
5	Bahia coastal forests	1,881	Atlantic Forest
6	Araucaria moist forests	1,878	Atlantic Forest
7	Gurupa varzea	1,875	Amazon Rainforest
8	Bahia interior forests	1,852	Caatinga
9	Negro-Branco moist forests	1,835	Amazon Rainforest
10	Mato Grosso seasonal forests	1,798	Cerrado
11	Humid Chaco	1,797	Pantanal
12	Campos Rupestres montane savanna	1,792	Cerrado
13	Southern Atlantic mangroves	1,772	Atlantic Forest
14	Chiquitano dry forests	1,763	Cerrado
15	Caatinga Enclaves moist forests	1,744	Caatinga
16	Pernambuco coastal forests	1,724	Atlantic Forest
17	Serra do Mar coastal forests	1,709	Atlantic Forest
18	Atlantic Coast restingas	1,698	Atlantic Forest
19	Japura-Solimoes-Negro moist forests	1,662	Amazon Rainforest
20	Pernambuco interior forests	1,662	Caatinga
21	Uruguayan savanna	1,644	Pampa
22	Tocantins/Pindare moist forests	1,631	Cerrado
23	Caqueta moist forests	1,494	Amazon Rainforest
24	Marajó varzea	1,492	Amazon Rainforest
25	Cerrado	1,490	Cerrado
26	Caatinga	1,429	Caatinga
27	Pantepui	1,400	Amazon Rainforest
28	Maranhão Babaçu forests	1,391	Caatinga
29	Monte Alegre varzea	1,375	Amazon Rainforest
30	Xingu-Tocantins-Araguaia moist forests	1,372	Amazon Rainforest
31	Atlantic dry forests	1,335	Atlantic Forest
32	Solimões-Japura moist forests	1,329	Amazon Rainforest
33	Madeira-Tapajós moist forests	1,296	Amazon Rainforest
34	Guianan piedmont and lowland moist forests	1,266	Amazon Rainforest
35	Guianan Highlands moist forests	1,263	Amazon Rainforest
36	Purus-Madeira moist forests	1,251	Amazon Rainforest
37	Uatuma-Trombetas moist forests	1,234	Amazon Rainforest
38	Northeastern Brazil restingas	1,210	Caatinga

39	Iquitos varzea	1,196	Amazon Rainforest
40	Pantanal	1,189	Pantanal
41	Purus varzea	1,149	Amazon Rainforest
42	Tapajós-Xingu moist forests	1,140	Amazon Rainforest
43	Guianan moist forests	1,106	Amazon Rainforest
44	Southwest Amazon moist forests	1,101	Amazon Rainforest
45	Jurua-Purus moist forests	1,042	Amazon Rainforest

Ranking	Ecoregion B (Marine)	j	Biome
1	Brazilian Amazon	2,000	N/A
2	East of Brazil	1,871	N/A
3	Southeast of Brazil	1,743	N/A
4	Northeast of Brazil	1,614	N/A
5	Rio Grande	1,486	N/A
6	Island (or Archipelago) of São Pedro and São Paulo	1,357	N/A
7	Fernando de Noronha and Atol das Rocas	1,229	N/A
8	Islands of Trindade and Martim Vaz	1,100	N/A

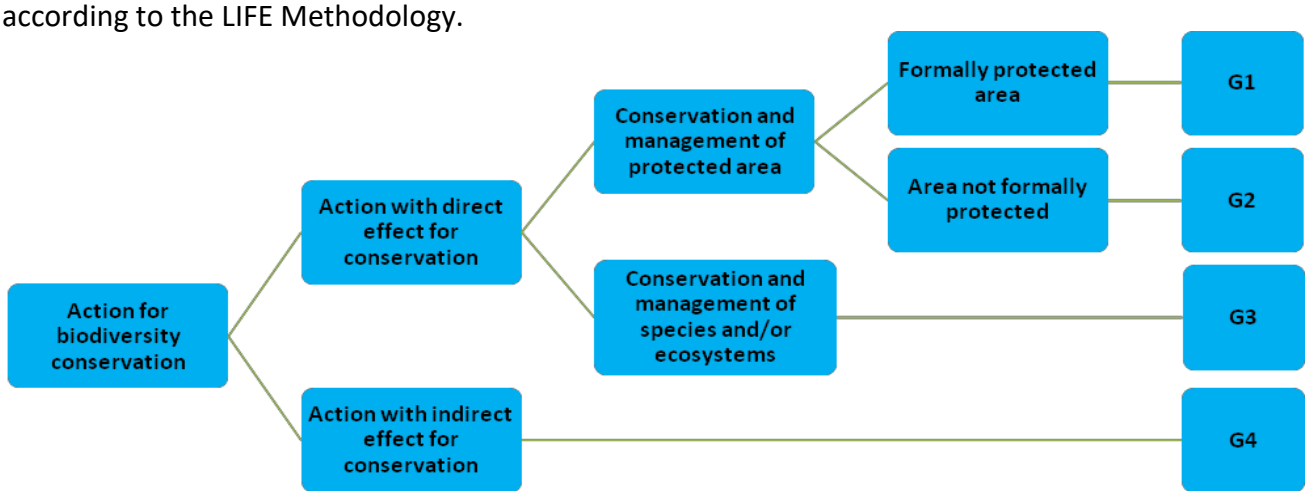
Fonte: Instituto LIFE/Universidade Federal de Goiás, 2014. Adaptado de: MMA (2005); WWF (2014).

* N/A – Not applicable.

3.2 Classification of the actions

3.2.1 Flowchart

The flowchart below represents the rule for the classification of the biodiversity classification actions, according to the LIFE Methodology.



3.2.2 General rules for classification

a) The classification of each action must consider its general objective, even when the action is linked to a larger project with a different objective. One must identify only the action's main objective, even if it has different aspects, consequences and effects;
b) Whenever the characteristics of an action allow it to be classified in more than one record, one can choose the classification in the record with the highest score;
c) The planning or elaboration of a project/program for biodiversity conservation which contains various actions are scored only once, in accordance with its objective, in G1.P1; G2.P1; G3.P1 or G4.P1. However, each action stipulated and undertaken is scored individually in the records for implementation (G1.I1; G2.I1; G3.I1 or G4.I1).
d) Actions which are not undertaken in a localized way and/or localized actions which have an indirect effect for conservation are classified in G4.

3.2.3 Interpretation of Records

The actions which can be classified in each record are presented below.

Actions which are not mentioned in this item can be classified in accordance with the auditor's interpretation.

a) **G1.C1 and G2.C1:** Actions of creating and adopting protected areas; support for the creation of public conservation units (CU's); and the creation of mosaics of protected areas.

b) **G1.P1 and G2.P1**: Elaboration of a management plan (MP) for the protected area or financial support for its elaboration; and planning of actions for conservation and management in the protected area[4].

[4] The approval of the plan by the official body (G1) is scored using qualifier 13 (item 3.1.4).

c) **G1.I1 and G2.I1:** Actions of conservation and/or management of biodiversity, implemented in the protected area in its buffer zone (BZ).

Generally speaking, these are actions stipulated in the area's management plan, or similar document (Management Plan, in the case of G2). Examples:

- Reintroduction of species;
- Ecological restoration;
- Recovery of degraded areas;
- Removal and control of exotic invasive species;
- Interventions in the habitat in order to viabilize species' reproduction and survival;
- Implantation of green corridors, management of countryside involving protected areas.

Actions undertaken in the surroundings of protected areas are scored in G1.I1 or G2.I1 only when they are considered part of the area's buffer zone. Otherwise, they must be scored in G3.I1.

Conservation actions, which go beyond the needs established by legislation, undertaken in permanent preservation areas (PPA) and Legal Reserves (LR) must be classified in G1, as they are considered to be areas protected by law in the case of Brazil (Forest Code), even if they are not conservation units.

d) **G1.I2 and G2.I2:** Actions of operationalization of the protected area for biodiversity conservation. Examples:

- Actions of inspection/patrolling;
- Actions of protection against fire;
- Actions of delimitation and the demarcation of the area;
- Signposting of the area;
- Implementation and maintenance of trails and fire breaks;
- Actions of implementation and maintenance of infrastructure;
- Actions of contracting/training human resources.

e) **G3.P1:** Elaborate planning of actions for conservation and management of species and/or ecosystems. Examples:

- Elaboration of projects/programs for the management and conservation of threatened, endemic vulnerable taxa;
- Elaboration of projects/programs for the reduction of accidental capture during fishing activities;
- Elaboration of projects/programs for prevention and control of biological invasion;
- Elaboration of projects/programs for the ecological restoration of ecosystems;
- Elaboration of projects/programs for the implantation of green corridors and/or countryside management.

f) **G3.I1:** Implement actions for the conservation and management of species and/or ecosystems. This record also considers the actions stipulated in G1.I1 and G2.I1, but which, however, do not occur in protected areas. Examples:

- Reintroduction of species;
- Restoration of ecological interactions;
- Recovery of degraded areas;
- Interventions in the habitat, in rural or urban areas, in order to viabilize the reproduction and survival of species;
- Removal and control of exotic species;
- Fishways;
- Rescuing flora and fauna;
- Implantation of green corridors/countryside management, involving non-protected areas.

Conservation actions in mosaics and/or involving protected areas must be classified as G1.I1 or G2.I1.

g) **G4.P1:** Elaborate planning of strategic or political initiatives for the conservation and/or sustainable use of biodiversity, such as:

- Elaborate projects/programs of Payment for Environmental Services (PES)/Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)/Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD)
- Elaborate projects which may be institutionalized as public policies for biodiversity conservation;
- Elaborate/support public policies which result in biodiversity conservation;
- Elaborate research projects/programs related to biodiversity conservation;
- Elaborate environmental education projects/programs;
- Elaborate projects/programs for the management of impacts on biodiversity.

Within G4P1, one classifies all elaborations of other programs/projects, whose implementation functions as an instrument for the spreading of practices for biodiversity conservation. Only those Plans/projects/programs which meet the minimum content stipulated in item 5 may be scored.

h) **G4.I1:** Implement/support projects/programs and/or public policies which contribute to the conservation and/or sustainable use of biodiversity, such as:

- Implementation of REDD projects;
- Implementation of Payment for Environmental/Ecosystem Services (PES) Projects;
- Participation and support in the implementation of public policies.

The implementation of PES projects/programs is considered to include their institutionalization by the body responsible, in accordance with the evidence listed in item 5 (e.g.: routine for payment of environmental services implemented). Once the institutionalization of the project/program generates concrete actions in the field (e.g.: recovery of area, undertaken by the producer registered in the Payment for Environmental Services (PES), each one of these actions may be classified individually as actions of conservation and management, depending on their characteristics (in G1, G2 or G3), scoring cumulatively, besides the score for the planning of the strategic project/program which led to them.

Other strategic projects, besides those mentioned, can be scored in this record, as long as: a) the same functions as an instrument (economic; political or similar) for disseminating biodiversity

conservation actions; b) it does not fit in any of the record G4.I.

i) **G4.I2:** Implement/support communication campaigns and/or social mobilization campaigns which contribute to the conservation and/or sustainable use of biodiversity.

Communication campaigns differ from environmental educational programs as they are specific actions, with emphasis on specific groups, transmitting specific concepts for raising peoples' awareness. Campaigns do not measure qualitative results, as they cannot monitor the groups which the campaign was aimed at. The following are considered to be actions of communication and/or social mobilization campaigns:

- Campaigns for publicity for, and explanation of, impacts on biodiversity;
- Social mobilization campaigns for biodiversity conservation;
- Campaigns encouraging the protection of physical areas, encouraging the creation of new protected areas and the strengthening of those already existing;
- Campaigns for encouraging the reduction of pressure on natural environments and the reduction of various impacts on biodiversity, through lectures, videos, pamphlets, books, and television and Internet campaigns;
- Campaigns for education on themes relating to biodiversity conservation.

j) **G4.I3:** Establish/maintain partnerships, agreements and/or similar with research institutions, governmental bodies, or NGOs which contribute to the conservation and/or sustainable use of biodiversity. Examples:

- Partnership with a university for conservation research;
- Agreements with NGOs for development of conservation projects.

k) **G4.I4:** Implement/support and/or make available information for databases, technical or scientific collections referent to conservation and/or sustainable use of biodiversity, such as:

- The collecting, researching, and systematization of general information on biodiversity (primary

or secondary data related to biological and ecological information; environmental impacts and their relationship with biodiversity; data on conservation of biodiversity; instruments and initiatives related tobiodiversity);

- Transference of general information on biodiversity between institutions and/or the management of this information in networks;
- Making information on biodiversity available to the public.

- **G4.I5:** Undertake/support actions of mapping or of elaborating and updating cartographic bases, and registering areas set aside for conservation and/or the sustainable use of biodiversity.

- Mapping of natural areas for the elaboration of countryside management projects;
- Mapping of legal reserves in rural properties in order to update government records.

l) **G4.I6:** Implement/support *ex-situ* conservation programs/projects.

Ex -situ conservation is understood as any actions for the maintenance of biodiversity which occur outside the natural habitat. The following are considered *ex-situ* conservation actions:

- Maintenance of genetic resources in conservation chambers;
- Tissue cultures (conservation in vitro);
- Cryogenics;
- Conservation of microorganisms in laboratories;
- Maintenance of genetic resources in the field (conservation in vivo);
- Germoplasm banks (vegetablespecies);
- Conservation nuclei (animalspecies);
- Cultivation and conservation of resources in greenhouses and nurseries.

m) **G4.I7:** Implement/support educational actions for the conservation and/or sustainable use of biodiversity.

Educational programs with technical consistency for conceptualizing, explaining and raising the

awareness of their publics of interest in relation to the importance of biodiversity conservation are scored as actions of environmental education. They measure qualitative results. The following are considered educational actions for the conservation and/or sustainable use of biodiversity:

- The implementing of a program of environmental education in schools, covering the formation of a new social and environmental ethics related to biodiversity conservation;
- Creating a museum, or similar, aimed at education for biodiversity conservation;
- Undertake workshops and lectures for different groups, in which it is possible to monitor the results of the same.

n) **G4.I8:** Undertake/support studies and/or research contributing to conservation, sustainable use, and/or the mitigation of impacts on native biodiversity.

The objective of the study and/or research to be scored must obligatorily be related to the direct or indirect contribution to biodiversity conservation. Generic studies and/or research involving various species are scored only once. However, if the content is refined for each species, the studies/research may be scored individually.

o) **G4.I9:** Implement/support alternative production systems which minimize the impacts on biodiversity, in comparison with traditional production systems.

As with the previous records, the actions of this record must also contribute to the conservation of biodiversity, minimizing the impacts generated by the traditional systems of production. However, if the action's objective is only the commercialization of a specific species, the same must not be scored as a conservation action. The following projects are considered alternative systems of production:

- Agroecological;
- Organic;
- Permaculture;
- AFSs and/or RAAFSs;
- On-farm conservation and/orsimilar.

On-farm conservation is one of the forms of genetic conservation *in situ* of agrobiodiversity.

3.2.4 General guidance for the application of the qualifiers

For each record, specific qualifiers are applied, such that the same may aggregate scores for the action as a result of qualitative and quantitative characteristics, indicating its importance for conservation. When the information referring to the qualifier is not provided by the company, the same must not be applied. Information and guidance for its use is presented below.

a) Q01 – Coverage of native vegetation in a good state of conservation:

This qualifier refers to the state of conservation of what remains of the area's coverage of vegetation.

b) Q02 – Coverage of the program or project:

This qualifier applies exclusively to the G4 records, elaboration and implementation of strategic or political actions for conservation, and has the following categories:

- National: various States in more than one Region;
- Regional: more than one State in the same Region;
- State: more than one municipality in the same State;
- Local: one municipality, or neighboring municipalities.

c) Q03 – The area's importance for conservation:

This refers to the classification of the area's importance for biodiversity conservation, taking into account national benchmarks. In the case of Brazil, the Ministry of the Environment's classification (Ministerial Ordinance 009/2007) is used.

d) Q04 – Category of species threatened:

It is necessary to consider the category of threat defined in the state, national or international (IUCN) lists, in that order, as relevant. If the information is available in the state database or in another, refined database, this information must be taken into account. When no local databases are available,

one must use the national information. Information from international databases must be used in cases where there is no other database refined to a more regionalized level.

This qualifier must be used whenever a project for an action is geared towards a particular species. For an action whose objective is not directly related to one species (e.g.: the restoration of degraded areas), but which provides a list of species used, the auditor can use the category of the most threatened species in the scoring process. Nevertheless, in this case, the application of the qualifier depends on the judgment of the auditor in relation to the possibility of the action contributing to the conservation of the species in question.

e) Q05 – CITES Appendices:

The CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) is a multilateral agreement, in which one country can propose environmental regulations for other countries, without prejudicing the concept of sovereignty. The Appendices are defined below:

- Appendix I – species threatened with extinction: international commerce in it is prohibited, except for scientific conservation;
- Appendix II – species which may become extinct if their exploitation and sale is not regulated: this commerce is only permitted when it does not threaten their continued survival; and
- Appendix III – species living in countries which are members, which already regulate trade in said species, and to this end request the collaboration of the other members.

This qualifier must be applied following the same system as the previous qualifier.

The list with the appendices can be obtained through consulting the CITES or LIFE Institute websites.

f) Q06 – Category of management of the areas which make up mosaics:

This qualifier applies only to actions related to mosaics, considering the highest-priority category of management of the areas which make up the mosaics. In the case of actions related to mosaics of

natural areas without formal protection, one must consider the equivalence of the management applied to the areas in question. When this qualifier is applied, qualifier 10 must not be applied.

g) Q07 – Category of invasive potential of exotic species:

This qualifier considers the classes established by I3N – Invasive Species Informations Network, which is the thematic network of the IABIN – Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network – for Exotic Invasive Species, and which brings together information from countries of the Americas to give support to the detection and management of exotic invasive species. The application of this qualifier depends on the presentation of a technical/scientific document by the certified organization, or organization applying for certification, which substantiates the classification of the category of invasiveness in which the species is found.

h) Q08 – Mean distance and width of the connection:

This qualifier is only applied to actions related to wildlife corridors. As with the other qualifiers, when the mean length and width of the corridor are not provided, this qualifier must not be applied.

i) Q09 – Stage of succession:

This qualifier is applied only in records for conservation and management of protected and non-protected areas; for example, in areas of forest restoration, the qualifier must be applied only when the action has already been implemented and it is possible to analyze the stage of succession of the restored area.

j) Q10 – Categories of Management of Protected Areas:

This qualifier applies to records in which the actions are undertaken in protected areas. In relation to the PPAs, the following are considered: mangrove swamps, restingas, hilltops, riparian forest, and areas around artificial water reservoirs, among others (See: Brazilian Forest Code, Law N. 12.651/12). In the case of actions in mosaics, this qualifier must not be applied.

k) Q11 – Duration of the action:

This qualifier must be applied only when the duration of the action affects its result. It falls to the auditor to interpret the application of the same.

l) Q12 – Frequency and continuity of the action:

This qualifier is applied only to actions which are related to education for biodiversity conservation.

m) Q13 – Link to a Management Plan or equivalent:

The management plan does not necessarily need to be approved by the body responsible. However, if the same is approved, this will result in higher scoring to the qualifier.

n) Q14 – Purpose of the recovery:

This qualifier considers both actions of ecological restoration, and actions aimed at the ecological recovery of areas.

- Restoration: The term restoration refers obligatorily to the return to the area's original state, as it was prior to degradation. By 'return to the original state', it is understood that all of the aspects related to the topography, the vegetation, the fauna, the soil, the hydrology, etc. present the same characteristics as they did prior to the degradation.
- Recovery: this is the return of the degraded site to a form of use, according to a pre-established plan for the use of the land, with a view to obtaining stability of the environment.

o) Q15 – Size of the area:

For the cases of planning of actions (G1.P1; G2.P1 and G3.P1) and operationalization of protected areas (G1.I2 and G2.I2) this qualifier refers to the estimate for the area which will be covered in the management plan and/or in the planning of actions for the conservation and management of the biodiversity and in the actions of operationalization of the area, when applicable. This qualifier does not apply to records for implementation of the conservation actions and management actions, as

when the size of the area directly influences the result of the action implemented, this information is already inserted in the equation used for these types of actions (item 4.1 c).

p) Q16 – Importance of the Ecoregion:

This qualifier is considered to be of extreme importance, as it considers the size of the area, and the ecoregion in which the action is undertaken. Ecoregion is defined as a geographical unit defined by similarity of flora and fauna, and reflects the remaining proportion of the geographical space's native vegetation.

In the case of Brazil, 45 terrestrial ecoregions and eight marine ecoregions were located.

When an action covers more than one ecoregion, one should consider the ecoregion which covers the largest area.

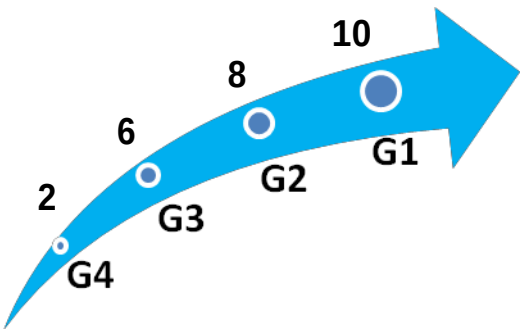
This qualifier can be applied directly in three distinct equations (item 4, sub-items a, b, c) according to the type of action. The qualifier's j values were obtained through the proportion of each ecoregion remaining in its original condition.

4. SCORING THE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACTIONS

The information presented in this document is only a description of the calculations used. Obtaining the $BCA_{achieved}$ is facilitated through the use of an automated calculation tool provided by the LIFE Institute, upon consultation.

4.1 Calculation of the score

Each Group and Theme has a weight, according to its importance. The groups' weight is presented below:



The weight of the Themes varies according to the contribution of the phase in which each fits:

Phase	Importance for biodiversity conservation	Weight
Creation of protected area (C)	Direct maintenance, in the short term, of the ecosystem	100
Planning of actions (P)	Increase in the chance of obtaining efficacy from the actions to be undertaken	60
Implementation of actions (I)	Guarantee that the actions for biodiversity conservation have been undertaken	40

Group	Theme	Weight
1	C	100
	P	60
	I	40

Group	Theme	Weight
2	C	100
	P	60
	I	40

Group	Theme	Weight
3	P	60
	I	40

Group	Theme	Weight
4	P	60
	I	40

The standard equation used by the LIFE Methodology for scoring conservation actions is as follows:

$$C = G \times T \times \left(\sum_{q=1}^{n} w_q * j_q \right)$$

In which:

C = the score for the Conservation Action

G =theweightoftheGroupinwhichtheactionisclassified

T =theweightoftheThemeinwhichtheactionisclassified

q = the identification of the qualifiers applicable to the action (1 ≤ q ≤ 16)

n = the number of qualifiers applicable to the action (1 ≤ n ≤ 16)

w_q = the weight of each qualifier (1,1 ≤ w ≤ 2,0)

j_q = the value of the class within the qualifier (1,001 ≤ j ≤ 2,0)

This equation has variations, as a result of the influence which the size of the area and its location (ecoregion) exercise in specific actions:

a) Records C_P/C_I: Planning actions and the other actions of Implementation, present in all the groups, are called C_P/C_I, records, respectively. They are scored in accordance with the standard equation:

$$C_P/C_I = G \times T \times \left(\sum_{q=1}^{n} w_q * j_q \right)$$

In which:

C_P/C_I =ScoringofthePlanningandImplementationActions

G =weightoftheGroupinwhichtheactionisclassified

T =weightoftheThemeinwhichtheactionisclassified

q = identification of the Qualifier (1 ≤ q ≤ 16)

n = number of qualifiers applicable to the action (1 ≤ n ≤ 16)

w_q = weight of the Qualifier (1,1 ≤ w ≤ 2,0)

j_q = class of the Qualifier (1,001 ≤ j ≤ 2,0)

b) C_C Records: the actions of Creating or adopting areas, which are influenced directly by the ecoregion and size of the area, present in Groups 1 and 2 are called C_C Records, and are scored in accordance with the following variation of the standard equation:

$$C_C = G \times T \times \left(\sum_{q=1}^{n} w_q * j_q\right) \times \left(\frac{j_{q16}}{150}\right) \times S$$

In which:

C_C = Scoring of the Action of Creation/Adoption of an area

G =weightoftheGroupinwhichtheactionisclassified

T =weightoftheThemeinwhichtheactionisclassified

q = identification of the qualifiers applicable to the action (1 ≤ q ≤ 15)

n = number of qualifiers applicable to the action (1 ≤ n ≤ 15)

w_q= weight of each qualifier (1,1 ≤ w ≤ 2,0)

j_q = value of the class within the qualifier (1,042 ≤ j ≤ 2,0)

j_{q16} = value of the class in the qualifier of importance of the ecoregion

S = area created or adopted (in hectares)

c) C_I Records: the actions of conservation and management which are also directly influenced by the ecoregion and size of the area, present in Groups 1, 2 and 3, and called C_I Records, are scored in accordance with the following variation of the standard equation:

$$C_I = G \times T \times \left(\sum_{q=1}^{n} w_q * j_q\right) \times \left(\frac{j_{q16}}{150}\right) \times \sqrt{S}$$

In which:

C_I = Scoring of the Action of Conservation and Management

G =weightoftheGroupinwhichtheactionisclassified

T =weightoftheThemeinwhichtheactionisclassified

q = identification of the qualifiers applicable to the action (1 ≤ q ≤ 15)

n = number of qualifiers applicable to the action (1 ≤ n ≤ 15)

w_q = weight of each qualifier (1,1 ≤ w ≤ 2,0)

j_q = value of the class within the qualifier (1,042 ≤ j ≤ 2,0)

j_{q16} = value of the class in the qualifier of importance of the ecoregion

S = size of the area under conservation or management (in hectares)

After the individual scoring of each action record, the $BCA_{achieved}$ is calculated:

$$BCA_{achieved} = \sum_{k=1}^{n} C_k$$

In which:

C_k=Scoreforeachrecordk(1≤k≤n)

n = number of records scored

4.2 General rules for scoring

a) Each conservation and/or sustainable use of biodiversity action must be classified in only one record (Group and Theme) of this document. All records must be scored in two ways by the auditor:

- **Full score:** the total score expected for the record, taking into account the qualifiers considered applicable and essential for the action, due to its specific characteristics. This occurs when the action is considered complete and satisfactory by the auditor.
- **Partial score (50%)**: actions subject to opportunities for improvement (OI). This occurs when there is an opportunity considered by the auditor as significant due to the specific characteristics of the action and of the information presented as evidence and content (item 5). The discounting of 50% is applied to the total value of the score of the record, including the application of the qualifiers relating to the action. The actions which are partially scored will obligatorily appear linked to the Opportunities for Improvement (OI) in the audit report, such that the action may be scored fully in a future opportunity.

b) A minimum of 70% of the BCA_{min} calculated must be achieved in year zero of LIFE Certification.

c) At least 30% of the score must arise from actions undertaken in the same ecoregion and state as the one in which the organization is established. This rule aims to ensure a minimum compensation in the locality where the organization's main direct impacts occur.

4.3 Credits of the score for certification purposes

a) The score obtained through the application of this document will be credited to the Business/Industrial Unit (unique business identification number) applying for certification, or to the manager of the LIFE Certification.

b) In the case of a Holding, the group must define which unit (unique business identification number) is to receive the points in actions for conservation, specifying that the other units are in accordance with the credit, aware that this cannot be used by them. Obligatorily, this unit will be used as a reference for the calculation of the Biodiversity Impact Index – BII (in accordance with LIFE-TG01).

c) In exceptional circumstances, the group can choose to certify the entire Holding, so long as it can substantiate to the Certifying Body (CB) all the information for the calculation of the Action Plan for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (APBE) of all the units, which will be summed for defining the BCA_{min}. In addition to this, all the units must satisfy the LIFE Certification Standards. In this case, the APBE score can be used for the group as a whole.

d) Should the certified organization or organization applying for certification support conservation actions undertaken by independent institutions (NGOs, OSCIP, Governmental Bodies, etc.) through the passing on of resources, established by agreements or other modes of partnership:

- The certified organization or organization applying for certification must inform the Certifying Body which of these actions will be the object of the evaluation;

- The institution which is directly responsible for the application of the resources in the

undertaking of the actions must provide a certificate that the actions indicated by the certified organization or organization applying for certification can be the object of scoring for the same. In this case, the scoring of the actions linked to the certificate cannot be used by another organization. This rule aims to regulate the form of distribution of credits of scores relating to the actions undertaken or financed by Foundations or other institutions.

4.4 The duration of the validity of the score

LIFE Certification is valid for five years from the date that the Certificate is issued. As actions with different characteristics may be scored, the evaluation methodology and score establish criteria of duration, that is to say, the validity of the score attributed to each action during the certification cycle, as shown in the table below:

Actions Characteristics	Duration of Validity of the Score
Creation/adoption of protected areas	The score is given for the creation or adoption of the PA. The score is maintained from one auditing to the next, without an expiration date, as long as the area is maintained under conservation.
Donation of area	The score is given to the donator, regardless of when the donation was made, as long as the conservation of the natural area is proven at the time of the audit. The score is maintained from one audit to the next, without an expiration date, as long as the area is maintained under conservation.
Plans for management and/or equivalent; Planning actions	The score is given regardless of when the documents were prepared, as long as the same are approved by a competent environmental body, when applicable. The score is maintained from one audit to the next while the documents are valid. The planning keeps its score in the monitoring audits as long as the same is implemented or in an implementation phase. Only in their first evaluation can the planning actions be scored without the actions stipulated being implemented. In the case of the implementation of the action(s) stipulated not having been initiated within the period of one year, the score is discounted.
Conservation and management actions	The score is given regardless of when the actions occurred (they may be finalized or in progress), as long as the state of conservation of the area and/or species in question is substantiated. The score is maintained from one audit to the next, without an expiration date, as long as the quality of the actions is substantiated.

Infrastructure and inspection of the protected area	The score is given regardless of when the protected area's infrastructure was installed, or when the inspection actions were initiated, as long as it can be proven that they are being maintained in a functioning condition. The score can be maintained from one audit to the next. However, should the infrastructure or inspection actions change (quality, quantity, etc.), the score may be increased, reduced (50%) or annulled.
Human resources for management and maintenance of the protected area	The score is given for the existence of human resources for management and maintenance of the protected area. The score may be maintained from one audit to the next. However, should changes be detected in the human resources (quantity, level of training, etc.), the score may be increased, reduced (50%) or annulled.
Operationalization of protected area	The score is given for the existence of the actions of operationalization in general of the protected area, regardless of when the same were initiated. The score may be maintained from one audit to the next. However, should changes be detected in the actions (quantity, quality, adequacy, etc.) between one audit and the next, the score may be increased, reduced (50%), or annulled.
Studies and research projects	The score is given for ongoing actions or actions which are finalized in a period of up to one year prior to the audit. The score may be maintained from one audit to the next, as long as it is proven that the action is ongoing. In this case, it is necessary to prove the progress of the works during the intervals between audits. The score can be annulled, increased or reduced (50%) from one audit to the next, should there be changes in its status and/or quality.
Integration; environmental education; actions with communities	
Strategic programs and projects	
Support for the development and implementation of public policies	
Databases; technical and/or scientific collections	
Mapping; Cartographic bases; Registering of areas	
Alternative systems of production for minimizing impacts	The score is given for the implementation and maintenance of the system. The score can be maintained from one audit to the next. However, should changes be detected between one audit and the next, the score can be increased, reduced (50%), or annulled.
Partnership, agreements and/or similar with research institutions, governmental bodies and/or NGOs	The score is given for the existence of a formal agreement between the certified organization or candidate for certification and the NGO(s), governmental bodies and research institutions regardless of when the action was undertaken. The score can be maintained as long as the agreement exists, as long as the results of the agreement can be demonstrated and proven, considering its specific objectives over time.

The duration of the validity of the action aims to link the maintaining of the credits of the score with the period in which the same is undertaken. However, some actions are more strongly influenced by the continuity and durability of the action. In these cases, qualifier 11 applies.

5. GUIDE FOR EVIDENCE AND CONTENT FOR VERIFICATION (GECV)

This part of the document lists the evidence of action and the content for verification and scoring of each Record by the auditor. The evidence is the records and other documents which validate the undertaking of the conservation action, while the ***content for verification*** lists the information which can validate its quality.

The full score does not depend on the presentation of all the evidence and content listed, as not all are applicable in all situations. The auditor must evaluate which are applicable and/or essential in order to score each action in relation to its specific characteristics. This information must guide the auditor in defining the **Opportunities for Improvement (OI)**, as set out in the Auditing Guide.

Records	Actions
G1.C1	Create or adopt protected areas
G2.C1	

Creation of areas:

a) Evidence of action:

- Deeds of the area, or registering of the building;
- Legal proof referent to the creation of areas which are officially instituted;
- Covenant or equivalent in the case of areas which are not officially instituted;
- Note of transfer of funds for the creation of the area;
- Publication in the Union Official Journal (DOU) or the Official Press of the State in question (for PRNHs);
- Verification in loco of the area, or by remote sensing, comparing these with information from official documentation.

b) Content for verification:

- Date of the documents;
- Commitments undertaken;
- Legal validity;

- Size of the area;
- Specific indicators of the preliminary works referent to the creation of protected areas;
- Objectives and functionality of the area, in order to confirm the equivalency with the IUCN category scored in qualifier 10;
- Financial report, financial audit report and similar documents which evidence the application of the resource to the purpose to which it it is destined;
- Information on the contribution to the increasing of protected area in the country.

Adoption:

a) Evidence of theaction:

- Terms of Adoption, contract or equivalent;
- Protection and maintenance of the protected area in the field;
- Legal proof referent to the status of the area, in the case of an area which is officially instituted.

b) Content forverification:

- Objectives and functionality of the area in order to confirm the equivalence with the IUCN category scored for in qualifier 10;
- Meeting of the obligations taken on by both parties, documental and in the field;
- Period of validity of the adoption contract;
- Legality and validity of the Terms of Adoption or similar and their period of validity.

Records	Actions
G1.P1	Elaborate management plan and/or planning and conservation actions in the protected area
G2.P1	
G3.P1	Elaborate the planning of actions for conservation and management of species and/or ecosystems
G4.P1	Elaborate a strategic or political initiative project for the conservation and/or sustainable use of biodiversity

Elaboration of Management Plans (G1) and/or equivalents (G2):

a) Evidence of action:

- Management Plan (G1) or equivalent (G2) concluded;
- Management Plan approved by the competent body.

b) Content for verification:

- Characterization of the area;
- Diagnosis of protected area considering abiotic, biotic and socio-economic environments;
- Management objectives for the protected area, so as to guide and support its management, based on a preliminary diagnosis;
- Actions stipulated which contribute to meeting the objectives established in the creation of the area, in accordance with its conservation category;
- Differentiation and intensity of use defined through zoning, with a view to the protection of its natural and cultural resources;
- Emphasis on the representativeness of the protected area in the national scenario;
- Declaration of the significance of the protected area, based on the diagnosis;
- Guideline for the application of resources in the protected area;
- Schedule of activities and costs, considering the results expected;
- Analysis of connectivity with the other protected areas and remaining areas;
- Information in accordance with guidance from the environmental body responsible (e.g.: Methodological Procedure);
- Management programs structured based in planning for results.

General content of G1.P1, G2.P1 and G3.P1:

- Clear definition of the objective;
- Definition of target species or taxonomic group(s);
- Description of the interventions stipulated with references;
- Monitoring stages;
- Definition of the indicators to be monitored;
- Definition of the expected results;
- Rationale for the intervention technique used;
- Consistency between the technique used and the results expected;
- Meeting the legislation currently in force;
- Action Plan (activities stipulated, time periods, persons responsible).

Content of G3.P1, specific for:

Management programs/projects for the conservation of threatened, endemic or vulnerable taxa:

- Pre-adaptation/adaptation techniques;
- Monitoring of adaptation;

- Evaluation of risks prior to release in the case of reintroduction;
- Record of veterinary support;
- Area managed, planted or recovered (ha);
- Phytosociological analysis;
- Regeneration rates.

Programs/projects for reducing accidental capture during fishing activities (bycatch):

- Landing surveys;
- Definition and rationale for indicator taxa;
- Rates of accidental capture v. taxa captured v. fishing technique

Programs/projects for prevention and control of biological invasion:

- Identification of potentially invasive species in the environment, and threatened native species;
- Identification of the species' level of invasiveness;
- Biological control techniques and their rationale;
- Observation of legal restrictions in the choice and implementation of control methods;
- Legal permission;
- Controlled area (ha) and area eradicated (ha);
- Appropriate scale of application of the prevention techniques applied.

Ecological restoration programs/projects:

- Species selected, and the rationale behind this;
- Mapping of the size of the area being restored.
- Degraded area; restored area (ha); recovered area;
- Land/flora environment: number of saplings planted and spacing compatible with the effectiveness of the restoration; appropriate cultural and silvicultural treaties; rates of survival, adaptation and recruitment.
- Fauna: rates of survival and adaptation;
- Marine environment: artificial reefs; anti-trawl fishing devices;
- Techniques' compatibility with the natural ecosystem;
- Frequency and effectiveness of the actions of maintenance and monitoring of the area;
- Report from a qualified professional.

Programs/projects for Management of Impacts on Biodiversity:

- Delimitation of the area;
- Mapping;
- Identification of impacts and risks;
- Identification of emergencies and priorities for conservation;
- Definition of restrictions on activities, or use by zoning;
- Definition of strategies for mitigation and remediation of impacts;
- Definition of strategy for monitoring the main elements impacting the local biodiversity;
- Definition of strategies for monitoring the local biodiversity associated with monitoring of impacting elements;
- Being based in relevant previous references or studies (e.g.: Environmental Impact Study (EIS) – Environmental Impact Report (EIR);
- Present indicators of the actions and of the results of these on biodiversity, through plans for monitoring biodiversity.

Programs/projects for wildlife corridors and/or countryside management:

- Mapping of the natural environments;
- Mapping of areas with potential for connectivity;
- Rural properties registered;
- Satellite images or aerial photographs;
- Evaluation of the effects of fragmentation on the area;
- Evaluation of the area in the context and structure of the countryside;
- Corridor or mosaic planned in accordance with the principles of Landscape Ecology;
- Official documents;
- Methodological procedure and the relevant scientific bibliography for its planning and management;
- Border effects, presence of invasive species, etc.;
- Appropriate indices/metrics to assess composition and disposition.

Records	Actions
G1.I1	Implement actions for conservation and management of biodiversity in the protected area
G2.I1	
G3.I1	Implement actions of conservation and management of species and/or ecosystems

Evidence of action:

- Technical Reports;
- Photographic records;
- Reports of the actions and monitoring undertaken;
- Result reports;
- Legal permission required;
- Reports of independent audits;
- Invoices referent to the interventions in the field, when tertiarized;
- Technical and scientific articles and publications;
- Contract(s) with specialized consultancies or teaching and research institutions or with service companies.

a) Content for verification:

- Localization and classification of the ecoregion;
- Size of the area;
- Data from the documents and reports;
- Quality of the interventions evaluated in the field;
- Consistence with what was planned under the program/project (G.P1), when this has been scored;
- Rationale for the choice of the species, ecosystems and management techniques adopted.

Specific content for:

Restoration of fragments and implementation of buffer zone around protected areas:

a) Evidence:

- Mapping of natural vegetation;
- Planning of the restoration of buffer zones;
- Mapping of areas with potential for connectivity;
- Rural properties registered;
- Evaluation, Monitoring and/or Result reports.

b) Content for verification:

- Successional stage overtime;
- Distance of the protected areas from the buffer zone;
- Legal requirements applicable.

Conserve natural areas beyond the legal requirements:

c) Evidence:

- Mapping;
- Measuring of the additional area extending beyond the limits required by law.

a) Content for Verification:

- Size of the area;
- Updated official data;
- Successional stage of the additional area under conservation;
- Species and type of intervention used, in the case of restoration;
- Rates of development and survival of saplings, in the case of restoration;
- Minimum limits established by the applicable legislation.

Implementation of green corridors and/or mosaics:

d) Evidence:

- Diagnosis of the area;
- Evaluation of the corridor in the field;
- Maps/satellite images;
- Monitoring and progress reports.

a) Content for verification:

- Connection area restored (ha);
- Indicator species, defined and monitored;
- Maintenance of the connectivity restored;
- Presence of flow of target species and/or analysis of gene flow;
- Exclusive use of native species of that ecosystem in the restoration;
- Rates of fragmentation through analysis of the countryside, comparing the scenarios of the countryside over the historical record available at frequent intervals.

Records	Actions
G1.I2	Implement actions operationalizing the area for biodiversity conservation
G2.I2	

Operationalize the protected area:

a) Evidence of action:

- Appropriate infrastructure: office, accommodation, equipment, communication, vehicles;
- Access: access routes, trails, in a good state of conservation;
- Records of contracting staff in sufficient numbers;
- Records of training staff;
- Management System implemented;
- Reports of activities and results;
- Reports produced by the manager of the protected area;
- Records of contact and communication with the surrounding area;
- Records of visiting;
- Interviews with the surrounding population.

b) Content for verification:

- Implementation of routines: training, protection/inspection plan, planning of research/monitoring, rules for public use, budget planning;
- Management System: strategic planning, information management, periodical evaluation of the system;
- Minutes and reports of meetings with the community;
- Social integration: relationship with the surrounding area, mobilization capacity, generation of income, visiting data.

Inspection:

a) Evidence of action:

- Routine of inspection/patrolling in operation;
- Records of contracting and training of personnel;
- Minimum equipment for inspection: vehicles, cameras, Personal Protective Equipment, portable communication devices etc.;
- Record of occurrences detected during the inspection;

- Physical evidence verified in loco;
- Reports of activities and results;
- Financial report: evaluate whether resources received for the inspection were used effectively in the inspection and control of the area.

b) Content for verification:

- Trained staff in sufficient numbers for adequate inspection;
- Routine of inspection: definition of strategic routes, points and areas for inspection, frequency of the rounds, as well as the efficient communication with public inspection and security bodies;
- Results indicators stipulated in the management plan;
- Sufficient frequency and territorial coverage of the inspection actions;
- Compatibility between the infrastructure and equipment available and the size of the area to be inspected;
- Integration of the inspection actions with actions of other bodies (e.g.: Federal Police, Army, etc.).

Fire prevention and combat programs:

a) Evidence of action:

- Records of volunteer firemen active;
- Records of firemen contracted and trained.

b) Content for verification:

- Number of man-made and non-man-made fires recorded;
- Reports of activities and results;
- Appropriate infrastructure for the prevention, control and combating of fires, in accordance with the size of the area;
- State of conservation of the relevant infrastructure.

Environmental sanitation:

a) Evidence of action:

- Basic sanitation infrastructure in the protected area;
- Routine of appropriate destination of solid waste;
- System of control and environmental sanitation in the Buffer Zone (BZ) implemented;
- Program of standardization of the productive activities existent in the BZ, in the ambit of environmental sanitation.

b) Content for verification:

- Results indicators stipulated in the management plan;
- Efficacy of the waste and effluent destination system within the protected area;
- Quality of the sanitation, measured through bio-indicators (e.g.: bivalves; micro-crustaceans; etc.);
- Frequency and results of analyses with bio-indicators;
- Information on pollution, polluting agents, political actions for industries and agricultural enterprises, among others, in the BZ.

Records	Actions
G4.I1	Implement/support strategic projects and/or public policies which contribute to the conservation and/or sustainable use of biodiversity.

a) Evidence of action:

- Legal approval of the instrument (political; economic or similar);
- Records or reports which substantiate the participation in meetings and discussion events for the elaborating of the norms to be applicable;
- Project containing the proposal of the political or economic instrument, or similar;
- Reports of activities and results;
- Reports of transfer of resources;
- Routine of payments instituted (e.g.: Payment for Ecosystem Services);
- Contracts and invoices;
- Official opinions regarding the eligibility of the areas considered in the projects;
- Technical and scientific articles and publications;
- Independent evaluations and audits;
- Reports from specialized consultancies.

b) Content for verification (in accordance with the project). Examples:

- Validity and time period of the project;
- Frequency of monitoring and critical analysis of the project;
- Expected results for biodiversity;
- Results achieved for biodiversity.

Records	Actions
G4.I2	Implement/support communication and/or social mobilization campaigns which contribute to conservation and/or sustainable use of biodiversity.

a) Evidence of action:

- Contracts and work plans with communication companies;
- Books, leaflets, videos and other publicity materials produced;
- Reports on the distribution of the materials;
- Reports on the receiving and/or visualization of the media disseminated;
- Reports on the mobilization meetings held;
- List of participants in lectures, meetings and/or mobilization events (network of actors consolidated);
- Advisory Council formed and active.

b) Content for verification:

- Objectives and goals of the campaign;
- Emphasis on conservation in the media produced;
- Method defined and applied for evaluating whether the information passed on was assimilated;
- Public reached (quantity of material provenly distributed);
- Results expected and achieved;
- Program content;
- Reduction/elimination of the history of conflicts with the protected area's surrounding area;
- Reduction/elimination of occurrences of invasions in the protected area;
- Engagement of community leaders;
- Evaluation of the program elaborated.

Records	Actions
G4.I3	Establish/maintain partnerships, agreements and/or similar with research institutions, governmental bodies, and/or NGOs, which contribute to the conservation and/or sustainable use of biodiversity.

a) Evidence of action:

- Contract signed between the parties (e.g.: National/Regional Centers for Conservation and Management of Wildlife; NGOs; Research Center; Universities; etc.);
- Records of financial support;
- Reports of the activities undertaken in the ambit of the partnership.

b) Content for verification:

- Duration of the agreement sufficient to achieve the expected results;
- Transfer and appropriate application of the financial resources;
- Financial audit reports;
- Mission, objectives or history of the functioning of the partner-institution related to biodiversity conservation;
- Objectives of the agreement compatible with the results obtained.

Records	Actions
G4.I4	Implement/support and/or make available information for databases or technical and/or scientific collections referent to conservation and/or the sustainable use of biodiversity.

a) Evidence of action:

- Spreadsheets containing systematized information on biodiversity;
- Production of software with information related to biodiversity;
- Contracts for exchanging information between institutions;
- Information available on the Internet;
- History of data publicized;
- Reports of results of the systems made available by the maintainers;
- Agreement signed for the maintenance of the holdings of technical and scientific collections of biological materials;
- Technical and scientific holdings and collections of material maintained in an appropriate state for conservation, with the possibility of use, and available for consultation;
- Data on the monitoring of biodiversity and indicators of environmental impacts, organized in databases (GIS, ACCESS, Excel, or similar);
- Scientific publications, technical guides, and other publications resulting from monitoring data.

b) Content for verification:

- Extent of publicity
- Free character of the information;
- Technical and/or scientific quality of the information made available;
- User interface;
- Updating of the database;
- Number of accesses to the system;

- Number of feedings of the system;
- Percentage of institutions/actors covered by the systems;
- Reports elaborated by the curators of the collections.

Records	Actions
G4.I5	Undertake/support actions of mapping, elaboration and updating of cartographic bases, and the recording of areas destined for conservation and/or sustainable use of biodiversity.

a) Evidence of action:

- Fences and fire breaks implemented in accordance with measurements and documentation;
- Number of signs and/or boundary marks on the perimeter demarcated;
- Recording of the area with the responsible Governmental Bodies;
- Use of software for spatial planning of the area/countryside, with a view to conciliating the conservation objectives;
- Maps, GIS base map and associated database;
- Reports of activities and results;
- Technical reports;
- Zoning for the spatial planning and use of the area, as well as for possible green corridors and mosaics, adopting benchmarks from the areas of Conservation Biology and Landscape Ecology.

b) Content for verification:

- Quality of the demarcation;
- Consistency between the layout plans, map, project description and legal records;
- Boundary markers and signs on all the corners;
- At least one sign in each segment of the division between two corners;
- State of conservation and functionality of the demarcatory elements;
- Identification of key points for the creation of green corridors and mosaics;
- Identification of areas at risk of invasion by domestic animals (cows, horses, goats, sheep) or at higher risk of invasion by humans (invasion for hunting, fishing and extraction);
- Provision for fire breaks on the borders where there is a risk of fire.

Records	Actions
G4.I6	Implement/support conservation programs *ex situ*.

a) Evidence of action:

- Conservation chambers for genetic material;

- Structure for in vitro cultivation or cryogenics;
- Cultivation in laboratories;
- Greenhouses and/or nurseries;
- Nuclei of conservation of animal species;
- Germoplasm banks of vegetable species;
- Reports.

b) Content for verification:

- Relevance of the action to the species under conservation;
- Consistency between the rationale, objectives and methods.

Records	Actions
G4.I7	Implement/support programs/projects of education for conservation and/or the sustainable use of biodiversity.

a) Evidence of action:

- Records of activities undertaken;
- Support material for the activities (booklets; multimedia material);
- Participation lists;
- Evaluations applied;
- Technical reports.

b) Content for verification[6]:

- Initial diagnosis;
- Focus on the educational strategy;
- Repercussions of the Program;
- Participative processes;
- Critical analysis.

[6] Adapted from: SILVA, L.B. 2009. Available at: http://dspace.c3sl.ufpr.br/dspace/bitstream/handle/1884/21170/Dissertacao_LizBuckSilva%20.pdf?sequence=1

	Content for verification
Initial diagnosis	Proposal of the program for Environmental Education starts with an environmental and social diagnosis in which the group is inserted.
Strategy focus	Multidisciplinary; inter/transdisciplinary.
Repercussions of the program	Has repercussions for the group, the family members, and the community.
Participative processes	The project encourages the participation of the target groups in discussions and seeking joint solutions for meeting the project's objective.
Critical analysis	Stipulates a continued methodology of evaluation which must monitor changes of awareness, behavior, development of skills and participation.

Critical Analysis - Parameter	**Evidence**
Awareness	The group developed a critical perspective regarding the issue of biodiversity: it recognizes the local problems and relates them to global problems, and perceives the relationship between man and nature conservation.
Knowledge	Concepts acquired after experiencing the processes of environmental education for biodiversity conservation: improvement in the formulating of concepts relating to the issue of biodiversity.
Behavior	Changes in values/construction of new ethics or value for biodiversity conservation, observed during and after the Environmental Education program (project).
Skill	Development of the potential to resolve conflicts in place related to biodiversity conservation.

Records	**Actions**
G4.I8	Undertake/support studies and/or research contributing to conservation, sustainable use and/or mitigation of impacts on native biodiversity.

a) Evidence of action:

- Research projects and/or monitoring programs;

- Mapping of the areas studied;
- Monitoring and research protocols;
- Reports on research and/or monitoring;
- Reports from the community involved in the projects and programs;
- Authorizations for collection and research from the responsible environmental body;
- Database;
- Publications.

b) Content for verification:

- Rationale;
- Consistency and sufficiency of the indicators of the research projects, for evaluating the results expected;
- Sufficiency of duration or continuity of the projects, in accordance with the objectives expected;
- Relevance of the species selected as indicators and/or biotic communities evaluated.

Records	Actions
G4.I9	Implement/support alternative production systems which minimize the impacts on biodiversity, in comparison with traditional production systems.

a) Evidence of action:

- Evaluation of the system in the field;
- Reports;
- Photographic records.

b) Content for verification:

- Rationale for the production system adopted, and its relationship with biodiversity;
- Management adopted;
- Reduction of the pressure on biodiversity;
- Percentage of reduction in the use of the natural resource;
- Species used;
- Reduction in the use of herbicides and pesticides;
- Use of native seeds (on-farm conservation);
- Increasing diversity in the system of production at the genetic, species, and countryside levels.

6. GLOSSARY

The terms used in this document are available in the LIFE Glossary.

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