Acorn project registration process

1. **Submit your eligibility assessment for review**
   The first step of becoming an Acorn project is to submit an eligibility assessment to Acorn. The eligibility assessment outlines the essential criteria for a project to meet Acorn eligibility requirements. The Local Partner must complete this document with input from relevant stakeholders. Upon completion, the eligibility assessment will be sent to our external Certifier Plan Vivo for review. Plan Vivo will assess and determine if a pipeline project successfully demonstrates additionality and meets the eligibility requirements in the Acorn Framework. If a pipeline project is approved, it will receive a "Certificate of eligibility approval" granted by Plan Vivo. Please note that receiving this certificate does not mean the pipeline project has been successfully registered in the Acorn program. Completion of the Acorn Design Document (ADD) and a validation event are still required to complete the registration process.

2. **Submit your Acorn Design Document for review**
   After receiving the "Certificate of eligibility approval", the pipeline project can proceed to the second step, which is drafting the full ADD that describes the detailed information of the project design, including topics such as Stakeholder identification, Project council, Grievance mechanism, Baseline assessment, Agroforestry system design, Financial feasibility, Benefit sharing mechanism, Risk assessment. The ADD must be submitted to Acorn for review and approval in terms of completeness and compliance with the Acorn Framework and Methodology.

3. **Validation and registration**
   After the ADD of a pipeline project is approved by Acorn, the pipeline project can proceed to the third step, which is undergoing a validation process. A validation process is done by an accredited, certifier-approved Validation & Verification Body (VVB). The VVB will visit and assess the project to ensure that it is implementing agroforestry systems according to the Acorn requirements and the approved ADD. After the validation field visit, the VVB will prepare a validation report based on their findings and submit it to the pipeline project, Acorn, and Plan Vivo. Once the validation field visit is complete and the findings in the validation report have been successfully addressed, the pipeline project can be registered as an Acorn project under the Acorn program.

4. **Reporting and monitoring**
   After being registered under the Acorn program, an Acorn project must follow the reporting and monitoring requirements outlined in the Acorn Framework and Acorn Methodology. This could include for example updating the ADD, submitting the Annual Report, and reassessing relevant topics such as baseline scenario and additionality, as per the requirements outlined in the Acorn Framework.

5. **Verification**
   An Acorn project is required to schedule a verification event conducted by an accredited, certifier-approved VVB before the issuance of Carbon Removal Units (CRUs) and at least every 5 years. This is to ensure that the Acorn project is on track to deliver the ecosystem and livelihood benefits as described in the project documentation and that the Acorn project performs project implementation, monitoring, and reporting following the Acorn Framework and Acorn Methodology.