

GOLD STANDARD FOR THE GLOBAL GOALS (GS4GG) REPORT

-

DESIGN CERTIFICATION (VALIDATION)



Project Title:	<i>12469 VPA02: Uplifting communities through clean energy in the DRC</i>
GS project ID:	<i>12620</i>
Internal ID:	<i>BELL_GS_PoA_VAL_VPA INCL_VER_6624</i>
Customer:	<i>ECONETIX GmbH</i>
Date:	<i>23/09/2024</i>
Revision:	<i>3</i>

SUMMARY			
Reference No.	Date (first version)	Version No.	Date (last version)
BELL_GS_PoA_VAL_VPA INCL_VER_6624	12/08/2024	3.0	23/09/2024
Client	ECONETIX GmbH		
Project Title	12469 VPA02: Uplifting communities through clean energy in the DRC		
Project Participants	Climate Connect Digital		
Project Location	DRC		
Contact Person	Mr. Jakob Netix		
GS4GG Version: 1.2 GS4GG Activity Requirements: Programme Of Activity Requirements Version 2.1 Applied Methodology Version: Methodology for Metered & Measured Energy Cooking Devices (version 1.2) Reduced Emissions from Cooking and Heating (Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralized Thermal Energy Consumption) version 4.0. Current Methodology Version: Methodology for Metered & Measured Energy Cooking Devices (version 1.2) Reduced Emissions from Cooking and Heating (Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralized Thermal Energy Consumption) version 4.0.		GS4GG Sectoral Scope: 2 UNFCCC CDM Sectoral Scope: 3 Technical Area: TA 3.1	
First PDD Version: 1.0 Date: 11/07/2024		Final PDD Version: 4.0 Date: 23/09/2024	
Estimated Annual Emission Reductions: 507,323 tCO ₂			
Selected Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): SDG 1; SDG 3; SDG 5; SDG 7; SDG 8; SDG 12; SDG 15			
Design Certification Summary			
LGAI Technological Center, S.A. (hereafter referred to as Applus+ Certification) has been contracted by ECONETIX GmbH to perform the GS VER validation of the VPA titled "12469 VPA02: Uplifting communities through clean energy in the DRC ". The purpose of the VPA is to reduce the GHG emission through distribution of Clean Energy Products (CEP), including efficient stoves to households in DRC. The project meets the technology and measure requirements of the applied methodologies, "TPDDTEC" v.4.0 and "Methodology for Metered & Measured Energy Cooking Devices (version 1.2)"/03/ in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The programme also aims to enhance the social, environmental, and economic impact of each VPA through various complementary activities.			

SUMMARY			
Reference No.	Date (first version)	Version No.	Date (last version)
The VPA decreases the demand for the non-renewable biomass that would have been used for cooking in the absence of the VPA. As a direct result, greenhouse gas emissions are decreased. The management of ECONETIX GmbH is responsible for the preparation of the GHG emissions data and the reported GHG emission reductions. A desk review and a site visit (by objective observer) have been conducted to verify the data submitted in the GS4GG PoA-DD and VPA-DD. Applus+ Certification confirms the following have been reviewed: - The PoA-DD and VPA-DD. - The applied monitoring methodology. - Relevant decisions, clarifications, and guidance from the CMP and the CDM Executive Board. - GS4GG guideline and related Annex. - All information and references relevant to the programme of activity resulting in estimated emission reductions. The scope of the validation is defined as an independent and objective review of the programme design document, against the Kyoto Protocol requirements, UNFCCC rules and requirement of Gold Standard. The validation report is finalized based on the assessment of the Gold Standard GS4GG VPA-DD and applying standard auditing techniques including but not limited to document reviews, follow up actions (e.g. site visit by objective observer, telephone or e-mail interviews) and the review of the applicable approved methodology and underlying formulae and calculations The report and the annexed validation checklist describe a total of 10 findings which include: 06 Corrective Action Requests (CARs); 02 Clarification Requests (CLs/CRs); 02 Forward Action Requests (FARs). The PP has responded these findings by modifying the Gold Standard VPA-DD and providing adequate additional explanations and evidence. Applus+ Certification confirms that all the findings have been "closed out" before submitting the request for registration to GS board. As a summary of the validation, the review of the Gold Standard GS4GG VPA-DD and the subsequent follow-up interviews have provided Applus+ Certification with sufficient evidence for the determination of the project's fulfilment with all stated criteria. In our opinion, the project meets all relevant UNFCCC requirements and requirement of Gold Standard. Therefore, Applus+ Certification recommends the project for registration by the GS Registry as GS VERS project.			

ASSESSMENT TEAM		
Team Members	Type of Resource ¹	Organization (for OEs)
Lead Auditor: Ravi Kant Soni	☐ IR ☒ EI ☐ OE	Not Applicable
Auditor: Ravi Kant Soni	☐ IR ☒ EI ☐ OE	Not Applicable
Technical Expert: Ravi Kant Soni	☐ IR ☒ EI ☐ OE	Not Applicable
Technical Reviewer/Technical expert: Simon Shen	☐ IR ☒ EI ☐ OE	Not Applicable

¹ IR (Internal Resource); EI (External Individual); OE (Outsourced Entity)

Note: The same assessment team (LA & TR) have performed the combined validation of PoA, VPA01, VPA02 and verification of VPA01 & VPA02.

ABBREVIATIONS	
AMS	Approved Methodology Small Scale
Applus+ LGAI / Applus+	LGAI Technological Center, S.A. (Applus+ Certification)
BM	Build Margin
CAR	Corrective Action Request
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CDM EB	CDM Executive Board
CER	Certified Emission Reduction
CL / CR	Clarification Request
CM	Combined Margin
CMP	Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol
DNA	Designated National Authority
DOE	Designated Operational Entity
EF	Emission Factor
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ER	Emission Reduction
FAR	Forward Action Request
GHG	Greenhouse Gas(es)
GS4GG (or GS)	Gold Standard for Global Goals
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
KP	Kyoto Protocol
MP	Monitoring Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
TAC	Gold Standard Technical Advisory Committee
OM	Operational Margin
PP	Project Participant
PS	Project Standard
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change
VVB	Validation and Verification Body
VVS	Validation and Verification Standard

Table of Content

Contents

1. INTRODUCTION.....	6
1.1 Objective	12
1.2 Scope	12
2. METHODOLOGY	13
2.1 Appointment of the assessment team.....	13
2.2 Document review.....	14
2.3 Follow up Interviews.....	14
2.4 Resolution of Clarification and Corrective Action requests.....	15
2.5 Internal Quality Control	15
3. PROJECT DESIGN CERTIFICATION ASSESSMENT	16
3.1 Start date and duration of VPA	16
3.2 Crediting period type and duration	16
3.3 Scale of the project	16
3.4 Baseline Scenario.....	16
3.5 Project Boundary	16
3.6 Eligibility Principles Assessment	17
3.7 Calculation algorithm and/or formula used to determine emission reductions .	30
4. REFERENCE.....	38
5. FINAL PROJECT DESIGN CERTIFICATION STATEMENT	40

Appendix:

Appendix 1: Corrective Action Request / Clarification Request / Forward Action Request resolution table.

Appendix 2: Audit Team CVs.

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the VPA is to distribute Clean Energy Products (CEP) in households and institutions who would otherwise be using non-renewable biomass. The VPA is expected to reduce the GHG emissions caused by using non-renewable biomass.

The VPA meets the eligibility criteria of the GS4GG Principles & Requirements v.1.2/8/ under the Gold Standard and aims to distribute the CEPs in the Democratic Republic of Congo to the various communities and institutions. The CME for the PoA is Econetix GmbH.

The summary of the VPA and the technology involved are described in the VPA-DD/1/ with sufficient details and clarity. The accuracy of the VPA description was determined based on the on-site survey as part of validation audit/19/, review of supporting documents (as mentioned in Appendix 3), and interaction with the project personnel.

The specifications of the installed Clean Energy Products under each VPA shall be cross-checked from the manufacturer's specifications/06/ of the particular technology. The sustainable development goals and their outcome are transparently discussed under section of the VPA-DD/1/. The assessment team has checked and reviewed the VPA-DD/1/ with supportive evidence and found the details to be correct. The validation team confirmed that the VPA did not receive any ODA to support the development and implementation through a declaration /16/ submitted by the CME.

The proposed GS VPA will introduce cooking technology activities which were found to be in-line with the requirements of the applied methodology, "Methodology for Metered & Measured Energy Cooking Devices (version 1.2), "TPDDTEC" v.4.0. VVB has interviewed the CME representative at the VPA level to understand about the monitoring system and implementation structure of the VPA.

Framework and Voluntary action:

The VPA aims at disseminating Clean Energy Products (CEPs) to households. The CME will be responsible for the overall management, operation, and monitoring of the VPAs under the PoA. The local implementation of the VPA however can be handled by the Project Developer directly or other VPA implementation partner(s). The framework was confirmed through the interview of CME representative.

The project spans across all states within the territorial boundary of DRC. The VPA-DD includes further details in the location of the project activity: Latitude: From about 13° 27' S to 5° 22' N & Longitude: From about 12° 15' E to 31° 15' E.

The co-ordinates of the location of the site were appropriately included in the VPA-DD/01/. The location has also been confirmed through website <https://www.google.co.in/maps>.

The technical description of the programme of activity has been validated by assessing the manufacturer specification evidence /06/ and the actual photographs/06/. All the information was correctly mentioned in the VPA-DD /01/. In the future, at the VPA level, additional equipment similar to the current technology may be added based on the applicability criteria of the applied methodology. Technical specifications for these additional items will be provided by PP at the VPA level.

The baseline scenarios have been found in accordance with the applied methodologies (Electric Induction Stoves & Improved Cookstoves)

The start date of the VPA has been selected in accordance with GS4GG Principles & Requirements. And a renewable crediting period of 5 years with the operational lifetime of the product as more than 5 years.

The sustainable development goals and their outcome is transparently discussed under section A.1 of the VPA-DD/01/. The assessment team has checked and reviewed the VPA-DD with supportive evidence and found the details to be correct.

The validation team looked out for the signs of any ODA that project might have received but did not find anything in this regard. Therefore, it can be confirmed that proposed PoA did not receive any ODA. Additionally, a declaration /07/ in this regard was obtained from CME.

The validation team confirms:

- The process undertaken to validate the accuracy and completeness of the project is described above (under MoV).
- The project description contained in the VPA-DD/1/ of the proposed GS VPA is accurate and complete.
- The audit was conducted by the validation team as described in this report.
- The validation team confirms that the proposed GS-PoA meets the eligibility criteria for Methodology for Metered & Measured Energy Cooking Devices (version 1.2) /03/, "TPDDTEC" v.4.0/03/.

Moreover, the validation team confirms that the description of the proposed GS VPA, as contained in the VPA-DD/1/ sufficiently covers all relevant elements, is accurate, complete and it provides the reader with a clear understanding of the nature of the proposed GS-VPA.

The proposed GS VPA is not a CPA that has been excluded from a registered VPA because of erroneous inclusion of CPAs and did not find anything to contradict the same.

The eligibility of technology under section 3.1.1 of GS4GG Principles & Requirements version 1.2 /08/ and Community Services Activity Requirements version 1.2 /10/ is as follows:

Applicability Criteria as per Principles and Requirements	Justification from CME	Means of Validation
1. Types of Projects	The eligible VPAs shall describe the implementation schedule on ground in VPA-DD. Project is already one of the pre identified types as per section 3.1.1 (b) and automatically eligible for Gold Standard Certification as per section 4.1.3 of GS4GG Principles & Requirements. The Project type is automatically eligible for Gold Standard Certification as there are Gold Standard (GS) approved Activity Requirement- Community Services Activity (CSA).	The VPA is a Non – Forestry and/or Non-AGR VPA which is in line with para 4.1.1 (a) of Programme of Activity Requirements and Procedures, Version 2.1. The aim of the VPA is to introduce Clean Energy Products (CEPs) in households and institutions that rely on non-renewable biomass for fuel within the host country and this is in line with para 3.1.1 (b) of Community Service Activity Requirements (Version 1.2) /10/. The VPA is thus considered automatically eligible for gold standard certification as this comes under approved activity requirement (Community service activity

		requirements) which is in accordance with GS4GG Principles and Requirements paragraph 4.1.3./8/.
2. Location of Project	Location of the PoA is DRC.	According to para 3.1.1 (b) of Principles and Requirements, version 1.2/8/, The project can be located in any part of the world. The VPA is located in 'Democratic Republic of Congo' confirmed by the VVB during the on-site (by objective observer) interviews and an independent platform https://www.google.co.in/maps This is in accordance with GS4GG Principles and Requirements paragraph 3.1.1 (b)/8/.
3. Project Area, Project Boundary and Scale	The boundary for the PoA in terms of a geographical area is defined as the political boundary. All voluntary programme activities (VPAs) associated with this PoA are implemented within the geographical boundary of the PoA. To avoid inclusion of any CEP (Clean Energy Product) which is a part of another registered carbon project/ programme, all CEPs under this programme shall have a unique ID number / Tag / batch number, either inscribed on the CEP or retained by the buyer, to uniquely identify the CEP avoiding any double counting and trace its user, later during monitoring and verification.	The project area will be the households and communities that will be benefited from the clean energy products that is supplied under the VPA and the geographical boundary, Democratic Republic of Congo. Each VPA to be included in the PoA will be implemented within Democratic Republic of Congo. In-order to avoid the double counting CME will take the following measures: a) The proposed PoA will not be registered in any other carbon standard as confirmed from the declaration with the CME/16/. To ensure that the proposed project activities are not included in a project or programme registered under another carbon standard, the CME will consult the other carbon registries. b) Each clean energy product to be distributed will be marked with a unique ID. c) CME will maintain an End user database with household information that will be benefited from the implementation of the VPA. Thus, as the VPA meets this requirement. It is eligible under gold standards.
4. Host Country Requirements	Each VPA will be in compliance with the legal, environmental, ecological, and social regulations of the respective country.	Each VPA will comply with the legal, environmental, and ecological and social regulations of the host countries, i.e., Democratic Republic of Congo.

5. Contact details	Contact details of the organization i.e. Econetix GmbH which is the CME and developer of the PoA is given in the Appendix 1. The organizations registration documents and other legal documents may be provided to SustainCERT or VVB on request.	Name and contact details of the CME have been provided in appendix 2 of the VPA-DD /02/, found to be in accordance with the registration certificate. The details of Local partner organizations and staff involved in the implementation of VPA02 is checked and found consistent. The CME has provided the company registration certificate and found to be satisfactory
6. Legal Ownership	Econetix GmbH will own the carbon credits that are generated by the project, and it will use this revenue to pay back the project costs that are incurred. End users will benefit by receiving best-in-class technology at no cost, or at a subsidized, below-market sales price. CMEs ownership of carbon credits shall be informed to the end users and a declaration to this effect shall be signed.	The legal ownership of VPA02 is confirmed through the sales agreement with the end users and confirmed the emission reductions achieved by the project technology are owned by the CME. Hence, the VPA meets the eligibility criteria.
7. Other rights	The legal title and other rights have been verified by the GS VVB through the provision of supporting evidence like carbon waiver forms etc	During the audit, the assessment team has confirmed with the households, as well as the representatives of project developer, that there are no disputes or contested rights relevant to the project activities. Hence, the VPA meet the eligibility criteria of section 3.1.1 of GS4GG Principles & Requirements version 1.2.
8. Official Development Assistance (ODA) Declaration	No ODA is involved in the PoA. ODA declaration is provided.	It has been confirmed from the ODA declaration/07/ letter that no Official Development Assistance has been sought by the VPA. This is in accordance with GS4GG Principles and Requirements paragraph 3.1.1 (h)/8/.

Section 3 of the Community Services Activity Requirements/10/ includes the general criterion that applies to all the projects seeking Gold Standard Impact Statement and Product Certification. The demonstration of the VPA meeting the eligibility criteria has been represented below:

Eligibility Criteria Category	Required condition	CME's justification	VVB's justification
2.1.2 Eligible Project Types	All CSA Projects shall lead to climate change mitigation and/or adaptation by providing or improving access to services/resources at the household or community or institution level. Eligible services include electricity and energy, water and sanitation, waste management, housing, etc.	The goal of the proposed VPA is to distribute Improved Cook Stoves (ICS)/Electric Induction Stoves (EIS) in the households/SMEs of the host country of DRC.	The VPA involves distribution of Clean Energy Products (CEPs) in households and institutions that rely on non-renewable biomass for fuel. Thus, VPA is in-line to para 2.1.2 of community service requirements/10/ was found to be meeting the required eligibility criterion.
GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA			
3.1.1 Type of project	(b) End-use energy efficiency: Project activities that reduce energy requirements as compared to baseline scenario without affecting the level and quality of services or products, where the end-user of the products and services are clearly identified and when the physical intervention is required at the user end. For example, efficient cooking, heating, lighting, etc.	The PoA involves distribution of energy efficient ICS/EIS	The VPA involves distribution of Clean Energy Products (CEPs). Thus, as the implementation of this VPA provides ICS/EIS to the communities in The ., Democratic Republic of Congo. The required condition as stated under para 3.1.1 (b) of community services activity requirement was found to be met.
3.1.2 Project Area, Boundary, and scale	Project Area and Boundary shall be defined in line with the applicable Impact Quantification Methodologies and Product Requirements.	The project area is point location of CEP beneficiaries in the host country of the VPA. The project boundary will be limited to the geographical boundary of the host country of DRC. Scale is no limit for Improved Cookstoves since TPDDTEC v4.0 and Methodology for Metered & Measured Energy Cooking Devices (version 1.2) is followed	The project area and boundary are defined as the geographical boundary of ., Democratic Republic of Congo where the CEPs will be distributed in the HHs, commercial and institutional buildings. For the applied GS methodologies TPDDTEC v4.0 and Methodology for Metered & Measured Energy Cooking Devices (version 1.2), the methodological application is not limited based on scale. Therefore, no threshold related

		and there is no suppressed demand element.	requirements are to be considered. The eligibility criterion is found to be met in line with applied methodologies.
3.1.4 Legal Ownership	(a) Projects involving the distribution of a large number of devices for services such as heating, cooking, lighting, electricity generation, water treatment technology such as water filter, etc. shall provide a clear description of the ownership of the Products that are generated under Gold Standard Certification all along the investment chain. In line with the FPIC requirement, the proofs that end-users are aware of and willing to give up their rights on Products shall be provided. (b) The transfer of Product ownership shall be discussed during local stakeholder consultations for projects.	The CEP owners will confirm that rights to the ownership of carbon credits reside with the CME according to the end user agreement /declaration form signed via monitoring app etc (refer Eligibility under GS4GG section above).	The ownership of the carbon credits will be transferred to the CME/ Project Developer using appropriate means (for e.g. End-user agreement/ sales receipts)/04/, which will be included in each VPA DD. The end-users will be informed about the ownership of the carbon credits during the local stakeholder consultation held. The required condition as stated under para 3.1.4. of community services activity requirement will be therefore confirmed at VPA level if met or not.

All the conditions listed under principles and requirements /6/ and Community services activity requirements/10/ were found to be met. Thus, the VPA is meeting the eligibility criteria under Gold standard and Community services activity requirements/10/.

The VVB has accepted and validated the general eligibility criteria that applies to all PoAs seeking Gold Standard Certification. The eligibility of the VPA is found to be valid in accordance with the section 3.1.1 of GS4GG principles and requirements version 1.2/8/.

Management System

The Management plan is explained in section of the VPA-DD/01/ is correctly applied to the VPA.

The roles & responsibility of CME and partner organization (PO) is well defined. Econetix GmbH is the CME of the PoA who is responsible for the overall management, operation, and monitoring of the VPAs under the PoA. The role of CME is further defined by documentation for validation and monitoring reports for emission reduction verification; training of the staffs about the project; Communications with consultant/expert, VVBs and GS Technical Advisory Committee; managing and collating the project database and continuously review and improve the PoA performance whenever required. CME has further elaborated on the roles and

responsibilities of the PO involved in the implementation of the programme. CME will have a project database where all the end-user's information is stored in order to avoid double counting.

The VPA also has an elaborate system for avoidance of double counting through the process of allocating a unique serial ID to each project technology. The electronic database will include details about technology type, model installed under each VPA, Date of Installations or maintenance records, Unique identifier number, along with all unique information of the beneficiaries including name, contact number etc.

The VPA will go through the cross-check of various carbon registries/16/ to confirm that the VPA is not included in any other voluntary or compliance standards programme as well as the project area does not overlap with that of another Gold Standard and other voluntary or compliance standard programme of a similar nature. CME will also work to improve the management of the projects as it progresses. Internal audits will be held that will address all shortcomings to the VPA. The CME representatives confirmed that they will provide trainings for their staff and partners (the Project Developer and VPA Implementation Partner). The assessment team confirmed that management of VPA is detailed and therefore sufficient.

Conclusion:

The review of the PoA-DD & VPA-DD, supporting documentation and subsequent follow up actions have provided Applus+ Certification with sufficient evidence to determine the fulfilment of stated criteria. Applus+ Certification is of the opinion that the PoA "12469 VPA02: Uplifting communities through clean energy in the DRC " as described in the final VPA DD meets all relevant requirements of GS4GG and has correctly applied the methodology. Therefore, the project is recommended for request for registration.

1.1 Objective

The purpose of a validation is to have an independent third-party assessment of the GS4GG VPA-DD and compliance with the GS requirements as described in the Gold Standard documentation and supporting documents by the CME. Validation is part of the GS VER Project cycle and will finally result in a conclusion by Applus+ Certification whether a programme of activity is valid and should be submitted for registration of a proposed project activity rests at the GS and the Parties involved.

1.2 Scope

The scope of the services provided by the LGAI Technological Center, S.A. (hereafter referred to as Applus+ Certification) for the VPA is to perform validation of Programme of Activity and the VPA. The scope of validation is to assess the claims and assumptions made in the VPA-DD against the GS4GG criteria, applied methodology and other relevant rules and requirements established for the GS project activities.

2. METHODOLOGY

The validation process is undertaken by a competent validation team and involves the following:

- (i) The desk review of documents and evidence submitted by the project participant in context of GS for GG criteria along with CDM rules and guidelines issued by CDM EB,
- (ii) Undertaking/conducting site visit, interview, or interactions with the representative of the project participant, reporting audit findings with respect to clarifications and non-conformities and the closure of the findings, as appropriate and
- (iii) Preparing a draft validation opinion based on the auditing findings and conclusions.
- (iv) Technical review of the draft validation opinion along with other documents as appropriate by an independent competent technical review team finalization of the validation opinion (this report)
- (v) An independent technical review team reviews the validation report made by the validation team. After the final report is accepted by the technical reviewer it is then approved by Applus+ Certification which is processed further according to the GS procedures.

The Complete List of CAR/CL/FAR is included as Appendix 1 of this report

2.1 Appointment of the assessment team

According to the applicable sectoral scope / technical area and experience in the sectoral or national business environment, LGAI Technological Center S.A. (Applus+ Certification) has composed an assessment team in compliance with the contract review and Assessment Team appointment rules in the internal Quality Management System of LGAI Technological Center S.A. (Applus+ Certification) as well as in compliance with the applicable requirements in the Accreditation Standard.

The composition of audit team (Applus+ Certification's verification team) has been approved by the LGAI Technological Center S.A. (Applus+ Certification) Central site during its Contract Review process, ensuring that the required skills and capabilities are covered by the team.

The qualification levels for Assessment Team members that are assigned by aforementioned appointment rules are as presented below:

- Lead Auditor (LA).
- Auditor (A).
- Technical Expert (TE).
- Technical Reviewer (TR).
- Any of the above-mentioned roles in training (iT, e.g. AiT for auditor in training, TEiT for Technical Expert in Training, etc.).

The sectoral scope / technical area knowledge linked to the applied methodology/ies shall be covered by the assessment team.

Name	Role	SS Coverage	TA Coverage	Financial aspect	Host country experience
Ravi Kant Soni	Lead Auditor/Technical expert	3	3.1	NA	Y
MUSHAGE BONDO Pascal	Objective Observer	-	-	-	Y
Simon Shen	Technical Reviewer/Technical expert	3	3.1	NA	NA

The complete list of CVs is included as Appendix 2 of this report.

2.2 Document review

The validation of the Programme of Activities is performed primarily as a document review of the VPA design document version 01 dated 11/07/2024 and the final version 02, dated 28/07/2024/01/. The cross checks between information provided in the PoA DD, VPA DD and information from sources other than those used, if available, the validation team's sectoral or local expertise and, if necessary, independent background investigations.

The complete list of documents/evidence assessed by validation team is included under section 4 of this report.

2.3 Follow up Interviews

The assessment team has reviewed the details provided in VPA-DD/1/ and the documentary evidence followed by the site visit. Validation team has used the following alternative means for its assessment and to justify that, they are sufficient for the purpose of validation of the VPA.

- Desk review of the PoA-DD & VPA-DD (all versions) and all the applicable country legal requirement and supportive evidences have been checked by the assessment team.
- Stakeholders in order to check the implementation, current situation, management system of the PoA, programme technology, location, training provided, start date etc
- Photographic evidences equipment's with Unique Serial IDs
- Information's congregated during the site visit are further verified through the PoA-DD and other supporting documents.

List of CME personnel interviewed during site visit

Interviewed Personnel	Functions	Organization
Mr.Jakob	Director	Econetix Gmbh
Mr.Prince Kuyena	Operation Team	Econetix Gmbh
Mr.Dunia Mbalechabo	Operation Team	Econetix Gmbh
Mr.Sandeep Melana	Technical Team	Climate Connect Digital

Note: Verbal consent from interviewed people has been taken, to include their names in the public version of the report.

2.4 Resolution of Clarification and Corrective Action requests

The objective of this phase of the validation was to resolve the requests for corrective actions and clarification and any other outstanding issues which needs to be clarified for Applus+ Certification positive conclusion on the VPA-DD. The Corrective Action Requests and Clarification Requests raised by Applus+ Certification were resolved during communications between the Client and Applus+ Certification to guarantee the transparency of the validation process, the concerns raised, and responses given are summarized in Appendix 1 of this report.

The Gold Standard GS4GG VPA-DD version 02 submitted on 28/07/2024 serves as the basis for the final assessment presented.

2.5 Internal Quality Control

As final step of a validation the final documentation including the validation report and the protocol must undergo an internal quality control by the technical review committee.

After the Technical Review process, the final documentation may undergo a final quality checking process called Administrative Review, done by the Applus+ Certification's Project Manager and/or Technical Support.

For final approval, the final set of documents are prepared by the VVB's Technical Manager or its deputy and signed by the authorized signatory of the VVB.

In case any of the persons performing this final internal quality control approval process has acted as a part of the Assessment Team or Technical Review team, the approval can only be given by VVB's personnel who are not part of those teams.

After confirmation of the PP the validation opinion and relevant documents are submitted to the GS Registry.

3. PROJECT DESIGN CERTIFICATION ASSESSMENT

3.1 Start date and duration of VPA

The start date of the VPA is 01/11/2024 (Expected date of distribution). The first date of clean cooking equipment.

The Duration of VPA will be 15 years, 00 Months till 31/10/2039.

In accordance with the para 3.1.4 of GS4GG 'Programmes of Activities Requirements' version 1.2 "For the VPA/CPA Start date definition, refer to the Project Start Date as defined in the Principles & Requirements/08/.

3.2 Crediting period type and duration

The project activity is a "regular" project activity. The LSC has been conducted before the start date of the Project activity.

The crediting cycle length is 5 years and type of the crediting period is renewal twice for the VPAs, as per Paragraph 4.1.40 of Principles & Requirements (Version 1.2).

The first crediting period start date will be 01/11/2024 and end date will be 31/10/2029.

Applus+ Certification confirms that the selected duration of the VPA is as per para 13.1.1 of GS4GG 'Programmes of Activities Requirements' version 1.2.

3.3 Scale of the project

The CME has identified the type of VPA and it intends to design as per the latest version of the following:

- (i) Gold Standard for The Global Goals Principles & Requirements Version 1.2
- (ii) Gold Standard For The Global Goals Programmes of Activities Requirements Version 2.1
- (iii) Gold Standard for The Global Goals Community Services Activity Requirements Version 1.2

For the applied GS methodologies TPDDTEC v4.0 and Methodology for Metered & Measured Energy Cooking Devices (version 1.2), the methodological application is not limited based on scale. The eligibility criterion is found to be met in line with applied methodologies.

3.4 Baseline Scenario

Improved Cookstoves:

In line with the applied methodology, the baseline scenario is "Three-stone fired traditional cookstove using firewood."

Electric Induction Stoves:

In line with the applied methodology, the baseline scenario is "Three-stone fired traditional cookstove using firewood /Improved firewood/charcoal, LPG etc.

The baseline scenario will be assessed at VPA level and the same will be included in each VPA DD and monitoring report.

3.5 Project Boundary

As per applied methodology, the project boundary is the physical, geographical site of the efficient devices that utilize biomass. Therefore, the project boundary covers each Project CEPs location. As the project CEPs are spread in DRC. The Project CEPs installation point is verified from installation database.

The project boundary is correctly identified in accordance with the applied methodology. All greenhouse gas emissions (CO₂) occurring within the proposed project activity boundary because of the implementation of the proposed PoA have been appropriately addressed in the VPA-DD.

3.6 Eligibility Principles Assessment

- Principle 1. Contribution to Climate Security & Sustainable Development**

Improved Cookstoves (Gold Standard methodology "Reduced emission from cooking and heating" TPDDTEC v.4)

Applicability Criteria as per methodology	Assessment
Project shall choose a technology design that has predictable performance in that it is proven to be efficient and durable under field conditions; for cookstoves, the rated thermal efficiency shall be at least 20% (see Parameters ICS 1).	VVB confirms, based on certain evidence, that efficiency will exceed 20%. The project involves the distribution of cookstoves with predictable performance, as validated by third-party testing.
The technology shall have continuous useful energy output of less than 150kW per unit, where "continuous useful energy output" is defined above (see Parameter ICS 2).	VVB has checked the technical specifications of the ICS technology and confirms that the energy output of the technology is less than 150kW per unit. Thus, the methodology criteria are found to be met.
The project activity is implemented by a project developer and can include additional project participants listed in Appendix 2 of the PDD template. The individual households and institutions may be represented collectively by community organizations, etc., but do not individually act as project participants	The end-user agreement and agreement between POs and CME was checked and confirmed that the carbon rights was transferred to the CME. Thus, this criterion is applicable.
The project developer must design incentive mechanism(s), which should be effective as fast as possible, for the elimination of inefficient baseline stoves that are replaced by the project cooking devices and describe the incentive mechanism(s) in the PDD/VPA-DD at the time of validation.	The project promotes the removal of the baseline technology. Awareness Training will be provided, as possible, to end users at the point of distribution/sale to encourage them to move away from their traditional inefficient appliances.
To avoid double counting or double claiming, the project developer must: i. clearly communicate its ownership rights and intention of claiming the emission reductions resulting from the project activity to the following parties by contract or clear written assertions in the transaction paperwork: all other project participants; project technology manufacturers; and retailers of the project technology or the renewable fuel in use; and	The VVB confirms the following: i. The transfer of carbon credits will be addressed during local stakeholder consultations and awareness-raising/recruitment activities. Clear agreements will be established to demonstrate ownership of carbon rights. ii. Each end user of an improved stove, who initially owns the emission reductions, will be informed that they relinquish ownership of these reductions upon receiving the stove. This is formalized through a rights waiver signed with the Community Agent during direct distribution, ensuring the customer

ii. inform and notify the end users that they cannot claim emission reductions from the project, and exclude from the project activity, cooking devices included in any other voluntary market or CDM project activity/PoA, and strive not to displace the cooking devices of another CDM or voluntary project/PoA. See data and parameters not monitored, Avoidance of double counting or double claiming with other mitigation actions, for details on this demonstration.	understands their waiver of ownership rights over emission reductions. iii. Each stove distributed under the project will have a unique identifier. Only stoves with these unique identifiers, linked to the project's distribution, will be considered. The transfer of carbon credits will also be discussed during local stakeholder consultations and awareness-raising/recruitment activities.
Project activities making use of solid fossil fuel in the project scenario or other improved fossil fuel cookstoves meeting certain conditions described in the footnote to Table 1 (e.g. switch from three-stone fire biomass stoves to LPG stoves) may only claim emission reductions for energy efficiency improvement aspect and shall assume the same baseline and project fuel for emission reduction calculations.	Not applicable. GS VVB confirms during site visit and evidence provided that there is no such fuel switch to fossil fuel.
Project activities making use of a new solid biomass feedstock in the project situation (e.g. switch to green charcoal or renewable biomass briquettes) must comply with relevant specific requirements for biomass related project activities, as defined in the latest version of the Community Services Activity Requirements. The specific requirements apply to both plantations established for the project activity and/or existing plantations that will supply biomass feedstock.	Not Applicable GS VVB confirms during site visit and evidence provided that there is no such fuel switch to green fuel.
Adequate evidence is supplied to demonstrate that indoor air pollution (IAP) levels are not worsened compared to the baseline, and greenhouse gases emitted by the project fuel/stove combination are estimated with adequate precision. Furthermore, for projects where cooking will move from outdoor to indoor or where the project technology reduces ventilation (for example, changing from a stove with chimney to improved stove with no chimney), indoor air pollution (IAP) levels shall not worsen in the project compared to the baseline, including PM 2.5 and carbon monoxide (CO) emissions. This may be demonstrated before project Design Certification or during project operation using the certification resulting from of a manufacturer's test, report of field testing of the technology's PM 2.5 and carbon monoxide (CO) emissions, report of lab testing of the technology, or results of modelling of the technology's operation under field conditions. If none of these are available, reference from published literature or report by independent agencies may be used as evidence, provided it is not more than 5 years old.	As per VVB assessment, the indoor air pollution (IAP) is expected to decrease due to the increase in thermal efficiency of the project stove than the traditional cookstove. The sample surveys on an annual basis, the results of which will be verified by the verifying VVB during the verification process of the VPA.
Project shall choose a technology design that has predictable performance in that it is proven to be efficient and durable under field conditions; for	The GS VVB confirms, through evidence, that it has cross-verified the following: The project distributes cookstoves with predictable

cookstoves, the rated thermal efficiency shall be at least 20% (see Parameters ICS 1).	performance, as demonstrated by third-party performance testing. The thermal efficiency of these cookstoves exceeds the 20% threshold.
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Electric Induction Stoves (Gold Standard Methodology for Metered & Measured Energy Cooking Devices (version 1.2))

Methodology criteria	Assessment
This methodology is applicable to project activities that introduce technologies that reduce or avoid greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and quantify emission reductions from cooking devices through direct measurement of energy or fuel consumed, in households, communities, and/or institutions such as schools, prisons or hospitals (hereinafter referred as end-users).	The VVB verifies that the VPA involves the distribution of high-efficiency induction cookstoves to households in the DRC (as described in section A.1). This distribution reduces GHG emissions and contributes to other sustainable development benefits. Emission reductions are quantified by directly measuring the electricity used by the induction cookstoves.
This methodology may be applied by project developers promoting the installation of improved cooking devices, where the actual amount of energy or fuel used in the project scenario is measured directly in real-time for every device or otherwise monitored via measurement. The methodology includes the following metered cooking devices, but is not restricted to: a. electric cookstove b. electric pressure cooker (EPC) and other devices with characteristics where the cooking energy is influenced by factors other than temperature such as cooking pressure, c. LPG cookstove, d. biogas stoves, e. bio-ethanol cookstoves.	The VVB verifies, through cross-checking, that the VPA involves the distribution of high-efficiency induction cookstoves powered by grid electricity to households. These cookstoves are classified as electric cookstoves (in response to point (a)). The actual electricity consumption of each cookstove is measured directly and in real-time for every device.
Project shall choose a technology design that has predictable performance in that it is proven to be efficient and durable under field conditions; for fuel-based cookstoves, the rated thermal efficiency shall be higher than the baseline technology efficiency and at least 40%.	The VVB verifies that the VPA involves the distribution of high-efficiency induction cookstoves, which demonstrate predictable performance and have a rated operational efficiency exceeding 76%.
The technology shall have continuous useful energy output of less than 150kW per unit, refer to the Definition "continuous useful energy output" section.	The induction cookstove used in the VPA has an energy output of less than 150kW, according to the manufacturer's specifications or project data sheet.
The project activity is implemented by a project developer and can include additional project participants listed in Appendix 2 of the PDD template. The individual households and	The end-user agreement and agreement between POs and CME was checked and confirmed that the carbon rights was transferred to the CME. Thus, this criterion is applicable.

institutions may be represented collectively by community organizations, etc., but do not individually act as project participants.	
The project developer must design incentive mechanism(s), which should be effective as fast as possible, for the elimination of any inefficient baseline stoves that are replaced entirely by the project cooking device(s) and describe the incentive mechanism(s) in the PDD/VPA- DD at the time of validation.	The VPA distributes high-efficiency induction stoves through a microfinance program, making them affordable via installments. This aims to increase adoption and replace baseline technologies. Policies like extended warranties and discounts will be implemented to encourage the shift to induction stoves, with details in the VPA-DD.
Under this methodology, emission reductions cannot be claimed for fuel- switch only, so proposed project activities also need to introduce alternative technologies, i.e., technology switch is a source of emission reductions.	The VPA distributes high-efficiency induction cookstoves powered by grid electricity, claiming emission reductions from fuel switching and energy efficiency improvements.
For project cooking devices that use fossil fuel, only emissions reductions from efficiency improvement are eligible.	Not Applicable. The project devices in the VPA does not involve direct fossil fuel use but grid electricity. The VPA involves claiming of emission reductions for both fuel switch (non-renewable biomass and LPG to grid electricity) and energy efficiency improvements.
For project cooking devices that use grid electricity, emissions reductions from fuel switch and efficiency improvement are eligible.	The VPA distributes high-efficiency induction cookstoves powered by grid electricity, claiming emission reductions from both fuel switching (from non-renewable biomass and LPG to grid electricity) and energy efficiency improvements.
The measured fuel or energy is used to calculate both baseline and project emissions. The project developer must have monitoring systems in place to monitor the fuel or energy consumption by all the project devices under the project to be recorded in a database, which is maintained by the project developer.	The Project Implementer and the CME will maintain a database to record the energy consumption of monitored project devices under the VPA.
The project shall not undermine or conflict with any national, sub-national or local regulations or guidance for thermal energy supply or fuel supply or use. The project shall document the national, regional and local regulatory framework for provision of thermal energy services of the type the project provides in the project boundary.	End users in the VPA will receive replacement parts or access to new models of comparable quality. Local partner field staff usually meet with users weekly or monthly in group meetings or at the VPA Implementers regional office. During these meetings, regular announcements about after-sales service, repair and replacement procedures, and discounts due to carbon funds will be made. The project

	implementer will ensure that appliance maintenance adheres to the manufacturer's specifications.
If the expected technical life of project technology is shorter than the crediting period, the project developer shall describe measures to ensure that end users are provided replacement technology of comparable quality at the end of the technical life, by either replacing with comparable or better technology, or retrofitting essential parts with performance guarantee. If neither of the prior conditions can be demonstrated, no emission reductions can be claimed for the technology after its technical life has ended.	recommendations, including provisions in regards to repair or replacement.
For project activities introducing bioethanol cookstoves, project participants shall demonstrate that the bioethanol cookstoves are designed, constructed and operated to the requirements (e.g. with regard to safety) of a relevant national or local standard or comparable literature. Latest guidelines issued by a relevant national authority, or an international organization may also be used.	Not applicable for this project since the high efficiency induction cookstove uses electricity as the source of fuel.

- **Principle 2: Safeguarding Principles**

PP has completed the safeguarding principles in the VPA DD, and the VVB has cross-verified and confirmed that they meet the requirements and are satisfactory.

- **Principle 3: Stakeholder Inclusivity**

Local Stakeholder Consultation: Since the local stakeholder consultation has been done only at PoA level, hence in line with the requirements as outlined under paragraph 4.9.1 of "GS4GG Programme Of Activity Requirements v.2.1 *"The CME shall conduct the local Stakeholder Consultation at both the PoA level i.e., PoA Design Consultation and VPA equivalent level in accordance with Stakeholder Consultation & Engagement Requirements."*

The local stakeholder meeting held on 19/12/2023 and the stakeholder feedback round started on 30/12/2023 & ended on 30/01/2024.

The stakeholders were invited via email, phone & WhatsApp and personal invitations and the relevant documents are submitted to the validation team. The same also confirmed from stakeholders during the site visit. All the steps found performed as per the guideline.

The assessment team has verified the list of invitees/13/ and attendance list/13/ and confirmed that relevant stakeholder was part of the local stakeholder meeting. The CME has submitted the LSC report that includes the photographs of the physical meeting/13/

The assessment team has verified the minutes of meeting, stakeholders feedback forms and it is observed that no negative comment or grievance found recorded during the stakeholder meeting. Furthermore, the assessment has interviewed the local stakeholders during site visit that no negative comments from stakeholders received

It is to be noted that the LSC has been conducted at PoA level only, since the PoA is located in DRC only and technology and its impacts will be similar in the entire PoA, hence the stakeholder consultation at PoA level is found to be appropriate and acceptable

The stakeholders identified by the project participant were local villagers who are the major population of the particular area, local communities and gram panchayat (Village head), CME representatives. Validation team verified the list of participants who attended the stakeholder meeting and feedback form and confirms the stakeholders identified are relevant. The validation team also verified the minutes of meeting to note that no negative comments were received and the same was cross checked with the information obtained during follow up interviews with the stakeholders during site visit. The assessment team has verified the stakeholder meeting records and confirmed that all the stakeholders invited during the first stakeholder consultation were also invited for further comments during the stakeholder feedback round. Thus, validation team is of the opinion that the stakeholder meeting was adequate and appropriate. The assessment of SFR is carried out below:

- i. Different representative of stakeholders like local villagers, head of panchayats, NGOs, project employees were invited for stakeholders feedback round /13/
- ii. The people were invited by using different mode like telephone, public notice and personnel invitations /13/.
- iii. The personnel invitation letter was also sent to representative of local village and NGOs /13/.
- iv. The meeting was organized at site office where Econetix equipment's (ICS) have been distributed and the local was considered convenient and easily approachable to all.
- v. The queries raised by stakeholders has been addressed properly and recorded in the evaluation forms /13/
- vi. The minutes of the meeting which includes the list of participants and topic discussed has been made and recorded/13/.
- vii. No negative comments were received, and stakeholders were very satisfied with the PoA implementation and operation in their area.
- viii. For any cases of public grievance, the grievance register will be placed at site office.

The assessment team is in opinion after witnessing the consultation process and document review and interaction with the local stakeholders during site visit that SFR has been conducted in line with GS guidelines and a grievance/input mechanism is established. No negative comments were received during the stakeholder feedback round. It is concluded that the stakeholder consultation carried out adequately.

Applus+ Certification confirms that LSC and SFR were conducted in accordance with the Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements and Programme of Activity Requirements Version .

• **Principle 4: Demonstration of real outcomes**

The sustainable development co-benefits are reported in PoA-DD. Further, it is also confirmed that PP/CME will monitor the sustainable development co-benefits of the following SDG's indicators:

Improved Cookstoves / Electric Induction Stoves

SDGs	VVB opinion
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13	The indicator to monitor the target is the amount of the reduced GHG emissions annually through the project as contribution to a lower greenhouse gas emission development path of DRC it will contribute to the reduction of the emission of GHG.
1	This indicator monitors the percentage of households confirming money savings with clean energy products.
3	This indicator monitors the percentage of users reporting a reduction in smoke/PM after switching to ICS in the project.
5	This indicator monitors the percentage of users reporting time savings due to reduced fuel collection and cooking time.
7	This indicator monitors the number of households with an operational stove.
8	This indicator monitors the number of direct jobs.
12	This indicator monitors the average percentage of fuel savings reported by users in the project.
15	This indicator monitors the fuelwood equivalent savings reported by users in the project.

The PP has mentioned the contribution of the project towards these SDG's clearly in the VPA DD-DD. Applus+ Certification confirms the technology which is implemented reflects the good practice in the host country also contributing to sustainable development of the host country.

Eligibility criteria for inclusion of VPAs:

No.	Eligibility Criterion	Means of Verification/Supporting evidence for inclusion	Conclusion
1	Location of the VPA (The VPA is located within the geographical boundary of one of the countries included in the PoA.)	The host country and location of each VPA will be specified in each VPA- DD including a statement from CME confirming the geographical boundary of the VPA and that it within the boundary of the PoA.	The aim of the VPAs is provide CEPs to the households and institutions in DRC as confirmed by the VVB during the on-site interviews and an independent platform https://www.google.com/maps Further, the geocoordinates/32/ will be confirmed at VPA level. Thus, the criterion was found to be met.
2	Type of Project (Projects will involve the distribution of energy- efficient cooking technologies and Solar	The VPA-DD specifies the target end-user group and the technology being distributed.	The Validation team confirmed that the VPA-DDs specify the distribution of units under the VPA 2, which are all certified by national standards.

	lighting systems (lanterns/home systems) to residential/institutions/commercial users.)	Supporting evidence: Sales database	Thus, the criterion was found to be met.
3	No Double counting of CEPs and VPAs within this PoA and across other PoAs (A unique numbering or identification system for the CEP installed is applied. This shall ensure no double counting of stoves within the PoA and ensure that stoves can be identified as belonging to this PoA and not to a PoA managed by any other CME.)	The unique numbering stamped on each CEP supported by the individual distribution record matching such information is included in the specific VPA-DD and consistent with the PoA DD. Supporting Evidence: CEP Sales Receipts in Total Sales Record including VPA assignment and end user details (i.e. name, address). Additionally, the unique id displayed on the CEP itself. The unique numbering or identification regime is included in the specific VPA-DD and will be verifiable by the GS-VVB. Relevant agreements with manufacturers/ project partners or a master database will be provided at the time of verification.	CME will maintain end user database with household information that will be benefited from the implementation of the PoA. The database will record unique IDs of safe water technologies and end users. Thus, the criterion was found to be met.
4	No Double counting of VPA (The VPA is exclusively bound to the PoA. The VPA shall not be proposed as an individual Gold Standard or CDM project and/or as a part of any other CDM PoA and/or any other mechanism to avail climate change mitigation benefits. A statement shall be included in the VPA-DD that the specific VPA will not be part of another single Gold Standard or CDM project activity or VPA under another PoA and confirmed by the Partner Organization (PO) implementing the VPA.)	A statement by the CME is included in the VPA-DD that the specific VPA will not be part of another single Gold Standard or CDM project activity or VPA under another PoA. Supporting Evidence: This shall be cross-checked and verified by the CME with the UNFCCC, Gold Standard, VERRA and other voluntary programs.	CME will maintain end user database with household information that will be benefited from the implementation of the PoA. The database will record unique IDs of technologies and end users. GS VVB also verified through various carbon registries like VCS, UNFCCC, GCC etc. and confirm that there is no such double counting. Thus, the criterion was found to be met.
5	Awareness and agreement of those operating a VPA on PoA subscription (Contractual provisions to ensure that those operating	Contractual agreement from VPA operators as part of their contract with the CME, stating that they are aware and have agreed that their activity is being subscribed to the PoA.	CME will maintain a contractual agreement with VPA operators which states that they have agreed that the project activity has being subscribed to the PoA.

	the VPA are aware and have agreed that their activity is being subscribed to the PoA.)	Supporting Evidence: Signed contractual agreement.	Thus, the criterion was found to be met.
6	Non-diversion of ODA in case of public funding (The CME and the VPA operator (in case of being different from the CME) shall confirm that there is no public funding or in the case of public funding, the annex I party will confirm that funding is not a diversion of Official Development Assistance.)	A statement is included in the VPA-DD informing whether the specific VPA is funded with Annex I country funding. If Annex I country funding is used, then the following document will be provided by each funding party (the donor/s): Signed statement by the Annex I country donor party confirming that funding from Annex I country is not a deviation of ODA funding.	It has been confirmed from the ODA declaration/17/ letter that no Official Development Assistance has been sought by the PoA. Thus, the criterion was found to be met.
7	VPA Crediting Period (VPA crediting period not to exceed the PoA end date and the starting date of the crediting period of a VPA shall be on or after: (i) the VPA crediting period start date is either the VPA Start Date or two years prior to the date of Design Certification whichever is later.)	A statement is included in the VPA-DD specifying the crediting period starting date and that the crediting period will not exceed the PoA end date (this is 20 years after the date of registration of the PoA).	The crediting period of the VPA involved in this report is: VPA 02: 01/11/2024 as indicated in section C.2 of the VPA-DD, which is found to be in line para 4.1.5 of CSA requirements/10/. Thus, the criterion was found to be met.
8	Approval of VPA by CME (CME approves each VPA to be included into its registered PoA.)	Statement of CME in each VPA-DD giving approval for the VPA to be included into its registered PoA.	The approval of the CME will be confirmed by declaration from the CME to the project developer of each VPA. Thus, the criterion was found to be met.
9	Methodology Requirement (Each clean cooking VPA will comply with the applicability criteria of the applied Methodology for solar/clean cooking technology VPA will comply with the applicability criteria of methodology emission reduction.)	The VPA-DD shall include information on how it complies with all applicability criteria applied Methodology.	The VPA's have applied the applied methodology, which is found to be in line with the eligibility criteria. The detailed assessment of the eligibility of applied methodologies is under section D.4.1 of this report. Thus, the criterion was found to be met.
10	Additionality	The VPA DD will either follow option which is located LDC/LDC/SIDS or option 2 by confirming the thermal energy savings per year. The VPA-DD to confirm that the thermal energy	The additionality of the VPA is demonstrated through Annex B (Positive List) of community services activity requirement document. Since the VPA comprises of distributed isolated units which are distributed to

		savings per year at a unit level (i.e. per CEP) are clearly below 600 MWh/1.8 GWhth of thermal energy savings per year or 600 tonnes emission reduction per year and to be outlined in the ER calculation sheet.	households and communities, the VPA is found to be meeting the criterion for positive list. Additionally, the host country is a Least Developed Country (LDC).
11	Scale of the VPA (VPAs included under the PoA can be either small or large scale. In case of large scale VPAs, CME shall confirm that there is no suppressed demand claim. In case of small-scale threshold of 60,000 tCO ₂ /crediting year.)	VPA-DD will be large scale. Improved Cookstoves since TPDDTEC v4.0 and Metered Methodology Version 1.2 is followed Evidence: Emission reduction calculation/Statement by CME	GS VVB confirms that VPA is large scale due to ERs estimation is more than 60k tCO ₂ e.
12	Project Technology (Specification of technology or measures, such as the level and type of service, as well as performance specification based on, intra alia, testing/certification)	Project technology along with technical specifications is outlined in VPA DD.	The Validation team confirmed that the VPA-DDs specify the distribution of units under the VPA 2, which are all certified by national standards.
13	Sampling (Sampling approaches are set out in each VPA and will follow the applied Meth.)	Sampling method is described in VPA-DD as per applied methodology requirements.	The sampling procedure dictated in section B.7.2 of VPA-DD's has been checked and found to be in compliance with the requirements of the applied methodology /03/ and sampling and survey for Programme of Activities version 4.0. The detailed assessment of the sampling plan is under section D.5.2 of this report. Thus, the criterion was found to be met.
4	SDG Outcomes (A minimum of two SDG outcome to be included in addition to SDG-13)	All VPA-DDs will include a minimum of three SDG impact assessment including SDG-13. SDG targets and impact are described in section A.4 of the document	The project participant (PP) has claimed 8 SDGs under VPA 2, and the VVB has cross-verified these claims and found them to be consistent.

Monitoring plan:

The monitoring plan in the VPA DD/02/ is correctly applied to the VPA. The monitoring plan has been found to be in compliance with the requirements of the applied methodologies)/03/

The ex-ante parameter and monitored parameters can be found in the table given below.

Improved Cookstoves

Fixed ante

Name	Description	Unit	Source
NCV _{b,p,f,uel} (baseline and project)	Methodology default Net calorific value for charcoal	TJ/ton	IPCC Default Value
EF _{b,p,f,co2} (baseline and project)	Methodology default CO ₂ emission factor for charcoal including production emissions	tCO ₂ /TJ	IPCC Default Value
EF _{b,p,f,nonco2} (baseline and project)	Methodology default non-CO ₂ emission factor for charcoal including production emissions	tCO ₂ /TJ	IPCC Default Value (AR5 GWP)
fNRB _{b,y}	Fraction of non-renewable biomass	-	Tool 30 v4.0 Third party report using CDM Tool 30
P _{b,y}	Quantity of fuel that is consumed in baseline scenario b during year y	tonnes/HH/year	Baseline KPT Study
SFS _{b,y}	Specific fuel consumption for an individual baseline technology in baseline scenario b during year y	Tons/baseline technology*day	Calculation

Monitoring Parameters

Data and parameters to be monitored:

Relevant SDG Indicator	Parameter and Unit	Monitoring Frequency	VVB Assessment
SDG 13: Climate Action	P _{p,y} Quantity of fuel that is consumed in project scenario p during year y, kg/household-day	Updated every two years	The estimated value of the parameter will determine using the baseline KPTs. The baseline KPT sheet and ex-ante ER sheet has been reviewed and the calculation used to determine the estimated value is found to be appropriate. The quantity of fuel consumed in project scenario will be determined using project field test results. The field tests will be conducted with annually calibrated equipment by trained staff. The parameter determination approach is found acceptable and justified.

SDG Climate Action	13: $U_{p,y}$ Usage rate in project scenario p during year y, Fraction or Percentage	Annual	The estimated value for this parameter, which is found to be appropriate as per cookstove usage guidelines. CME will be following the good practices like Field team training, end-user training and awareness campaign to usage rate as per cookstove usage rate guidelines. The CME has shared Field team training records, awareness campaign photos, end-user training records, call recordings with end-users and survey questionnaire, from which it is evident that the CME is following good practices. The value of the parameter is determined on an annual basis through Usage Survey which will be carried out by the trained staff.
SDG Climate Action	13: $N_{p,y}$ Technologies in the project Database for project scenario p through year y, Project technologies credited (Number)	Continuous	The estimated values of this parameter for each VPA have been estimated based on the actual current distribution and projected distributions in the future. The actual value for the parameter will be sourced from monitoring database. The parameter determination approach is found acceptable and justified.
SDG Climate Action	13: $LE_{p,y}$ Leakage in project scenario p during year y	Every two years	The parameter will be determined through the leakage assessment as per the guidelines in the applied methodology/06/.
SDG Climate Action	13: $SFS_{b,p,y}$ Specific fuel savings for an individual project technology of baseline b/project p pair in year y	Every two years	Calculated from $P_{b,y}$, $P_{p,y}$ and other information to obtain the savings in the required units.

Electric Induction Stoves

Exante Parameters

Name	Description	Unit	Source
$NCV_{b,i}$	The net calorific value of the baseline fuel type i (TJ/tonne)	TJ/ton	IPCC Default Value
$P_{b,i,j}$	Amount of baseline fuel i used in device j in the baseline	Tonnes /year/H H	Baseline Kitchen Performance Test (BKPT)
E_{Fb,i,CO_2}	CO ₂ Emission factor of the baseline fuel i (tCO ₂ /TJ)	(tCO ₂ /TJ)	IPCC Default Value
$E_{Fb,i,non-CO_2}$	Non-CO ₂ Emission factor of the baseline fuel i (tCO ₂ /TJ)	(tCO ₂ /TJ)	IPCC Default Value
$f_{NRB,b,y}$	Fraction of non-renewable biomass	-	Tool 30 v4.0 Third party report using Tool 30
$\eta_{b,i,j}$	Energy efficiency of baseline device j with fuel	%	Default MECD v1.2 for traditional firewood & charcoal.

			Technical Specification for improved firewood & charcoal.
Percentage of fuel _i	Percentage of fuel type i in the baseline situation	%	Baseline Assessment

Monitoring Parameters

Relevant SDG Indicator	Parameter and Unit	Monitoring Frequency	VVB Assessment
SDG 13: Climate Action	$\eta_{p,d,y}$ Thermal efficiency of the project device	Annual	For modern electric cooking devices, thermal efficiency is expected to be consistent over the technical life span of the product.
SDG 13: Climate Action	$U_{p,y}$ Usage rate in project scenario p during year y, Fraction or Percentage	Annual	The estimated value for this parameter, which is found to be appropriate as per cookstove usage guidelines. CME will be following the good practices like Field team training, end-user training and awareness campaign to usage rate as per cookstove usage rate guidelines. The CME has shared Field team training records, awareness campaign photos, end-user training records, call recordings with end-users and survey questionnaire, from which it is evident that the CME is following good practices. The value of the parameter is determined on an annual basis through Usage Survey which will be carried out by the trained staff.
SDG 13: Climate Action	$EG_{p,d,y}$ The amount of energy used in the project scenario by device d in year y (MWh)	Continuous	Data logger, analog or digital meters that are in-built electric cooking appliances to measure the electricity consumption of the electric cooking appliance(s).
SDG 13: Climate Action	$LE_{p,y}$ Leakage in project scenario p during year y	Every two years	The parameter will be determined through the leakage assessment as per the guidelines in the applied methodology/06/.

The assessment team confirmed that the monitoring parameters are sufficient to calculate the emission reductions in accordance with the applied methodologies /03/. The parameters will be calculated or measured as mentioned above section.

The validation team confirms that list of parameters identified by the CME and as mentioned in the VPA DD/10/ are in line with the monitoring methodology and SDG monitored parameters will be assessed on the basis of monitoring frequency mentioned.

• **Principle 5: Financial Additionality & Ongoing Financial Need**

Applicability conditions	Justification by the Project proponent	Means of validation
Community Services Activity Requirements (Version 1.2), paragraph 4.1.9: "Projects that meet any of the following criteria are considered as deemed additional and therefore are not required to prove Financial Additionality at the time of Design Certification: (a) Positive list (Annex B) i.e. All VPAs will be solely composed of isolated units (CEPs) where the users of the technology/ measure are households or communities or institutions and where each unit results in <= a. 1.8GWh of thermal energy savings per year for ICS. b. 600 tCO₂ per year for SLS (b) Projects located in LDC, SIDS, LLDC (c) Micro-scale projects"	Project activities under the VPA are solely composed of isolated units where the users are households or institutions and where each unit results in GHG emission not exceeding 600 ton of CO₂e in any year of the crediting period. The project is located in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), a Least Developed Country (LDC). Thus, the project activity meets the criteria (b) and is therefore deemed additional	The additionality of the VPA is demonstrated through Annex B (Positive List) of community services activity requirement document in which option b selected for LDC country This was confirmed from the calculations in estimated emission reduction sheet and found appropriately demonstrated.

Applus+ Certification can confirm that the VPA is additional and in compliance with the GS4GG Principle & Requirements, Programme of Activity Requirements and Community Services Activity Requirements /10/.

3.7 Calculation algorithm and/or formula used to determine emission reductions

Emission Reduction – ICS

$$ER_y = \sum_{b,p} (N_{b,p,y} \times U_{p,y} \times SFS_{p,b,y} \times NCV_{b,fuel} \times (f_{NRB,b,y} \times EF_{b,f,co2} + EF_{b,f,nonco2})) - \sum LE_{p,y} \quad Eq.1$$

Where,

ER_y = Emission reduction for total Mitigation Activity in year y (tCO₂e/yr)

$\sum_{b,p}$ = Sum over all relevant baseline b/project p pairs

$N_{b,p,y}$ = Number of project technology-days included in the project database for baseline b/project p pair in year y (days)

$U_{p,y}$ = Cumulative Usage rate for technologies in project scenario pin year y (fraction)

$SFS_{p,b,y}$ = Specific fuel savings for an individual project technology of baseline b/project p pair in year y (mass or volume units/technology per day)

$NCV_{b,fuel}$ = Net calorific value of the fuel(s) that is substituted or reduced in baseline b (TJ/mass or volume units)

$fNRB_{b,y}$ = Fractional non-renewability status of woody biomass fuel during year y (fraction). For biomass, it is the fraction of woody biomass that can be established as non-renewable. This parameter is omitted when f is a fossil fuel.

EF_{b,f,CO_2} = CO₂ emission factor from use of fuel f (tCO₂/TJ)

$EF_{b,f,nonCO_2}$ = Non-CO₂ emission factor arising from use of fuel f, when the baseline fuel f is biomass or charcoal (tCO₂e/TJ). This parameter is omitted when f is a fossil fuel.

$LE_{p,y}$ = Leakage for project scenario p in year y (tCO₂e/yr)
 The formulae to determine specific fuel savings is as follows,

$$SFS_{p,b,y} = P_{b,y} - P_{p,y} \quad Eq.2$$

Where,

$SFS_{p,b,y}$ = Specific fuel savings for an individual project technology of baseline b/project p pair in year y (mass or volume units/technology per day)

$P_{b,y}$ = Quantity of fuel that is consumed in baseline scenario b during year y

$P_{p,y}$ = Quantity of fuel that is consumed in project scenario p during year y

Emission Reduction – EIS

The Emission Reductions can be calculated using the following approach:

$$ER_y = BE_y - PE_y - LE_y$$

Where:

ER_y Emission reductions in year y (tCO₂e/yr)

BE_y Baseline emissions in year y (tCO₂e/yr)

PE_y Project emissions in year y (tCO₂e/yr)

LE_y Leakage emissions in year y (tCO₂e/yr)

Baseline Emissions

The following approach has been adopted to calculate the baseline emissions from the referred methodology.

Case 1 (Electric Induction Stoves): It is possible to determine the thermal efficiency of the project device and to know the useful energy that is being replaced.

The baseline emissions shall be calculated from the total electric energy input used in the project scenario in year y, the energy ratio of the specific energy consumption of baseline device(s) and the project device, and the baseline emissions factor:

$$BE_y = EG_{p,useful,y} \times EF_{b,useful}$$

Where:

BE_y - Baseline emissions in the year y (tCO₂e)

$EG_{p,useful,y}$ - The amount of useful energy applied in the project in year y (TJ)

$EF_{b,useful}$ - Baseline emissions factor (tCO₂e per TJ pf energy input)

The baseline emission factor shall be determined applying the equation below:

$$EF_{b,useful} = \sum_k \left(\sum_{i,j} P_{b,i,j} \times \text{Percentage of fuel } i \times (EF_{b,i,CO_2} \times fNRB_{i,y} + EF_{b,i,non-CO_2}) \times NCV_{b,i} \right)_k$$

$$\div \sum_k \left(\sum_{i,j} P_{b,i,j} \times \text{Percentage of fuel } i \times NCV_{b,i} \times \eta_{b,i,j} \right)_k$$

Where:

$P_{b,i,j}$ - Amount of baseline fuel i used in device j in the baseline (tonnes)

EF_{b,i,CO_2} – CO₂ emission factor of the baseline fuel i (tCO₂e/TJ)

$EF_{b,i,nonCO_2}$ -Non-CO₂ emission factor of the baseline fuel i (tCO₂e/TJ)

$fNRB_{i,y}$ - Non-renewability status of woody biomass fuel i during year y

$NCV_{b,i}$ - The net calorific value of the baseline fuel type i (TJ/tonne)

$\eta_{b,i,j}$ - Energy of baseline device j with fuel i (fraction)

K - Household k from the target population, where applicable

J - Baseline devices j I Baseline fuel i

The useful project energy in year y shall be calculated as follows :

$$EF_{p,useful,y} = \sum_d EG_{p,d,y} \times 0.0036 \times \eta_{p,d,y}$$

Where:

$EG_{p,d,y}$	The amount of electricity used in the project scenario by device d in year y (MWh)
0.0036	Factor to convert MWh to TJ
$\eta_{p,d,y}$	Energy efficiency of the project device, d in year y (fraction)
D	Project device d

The methodological choices are justifiable and appropriate as per GS4GG requirements.

SDG Outcome Assessment:

The CME has submitted the ex- ante calculation in the excel sheet for VPA. The baseline and project calculations in the excel sheet have been checked to confirm that the calculation is which is following the methodology /03/. Based on the ex-ante calculations, the net benefit for each SDG outcome has been summarized as following:

Electric Induction Stoves

SDG 13

Year	Baseline estimate	Project estimate	Net benefit
Year 1	51,068	11,513	39,555
Year 2	136,181	30,701	105,480
Year 2	238,317	53,727	184,590
Year 4	322,534	72,713	249,821
Year 5	304,615	68,673	235,942
Total	1,052,715	237,326	815,388
Total number of crediting years	5		
Annual average over the crediting period	210,543	47,465	163,078

SDG 7–

Year	Baseline estimate	Project estimate	Net benefit
Year 1	0	15,000	15,000
Year 2	0	25,000	25,000
Year 2	0	30,000	35,000
Year 4	0	30,000	50,000
Year 5	0	100,000	100,000
Total	0	100,000	100,000
Total number of crediting years	5		
Annual average over the crediting period	0	100,000	100,000

Improved firewood cookstoves
SDG 13

Year	Baseline estimate	Project estimate	Net benefit
Year 1	9,812	0	9,812
Year 2	213,028	0	213,028
Year 2	340,218	0	340,218
Year 4	586,414	0	586,414
Year 5	571,754	0	571,754
Total	1,721,226	0	1,721,226
Total number of crediting years	5		
Annual average over the crediting period	344,245	0	344,245

SDG 7

Year	Baseline estimate	Project estimate	Net benefit
Year 1	0	25,000	25,000
Year 2	0	79,000	79,000
Year 2	0	126,000	126,000
Year 4	0	150,000	150,000
Year 5	0	150,000	150,000
Total	0	150,000	150,000
Total number of crediting years	5		
Annual average over the crediting period	0	150,000	150,000

Electric Induction Stove/Improved Cookstove

SDG 1

Year	Baseline estimate	Project estimate	Net benefit
Year 1	0%	100%	100%

Year 2	0%	100%	100%
Year 2	0%	100%	100%
Year 4	0%	100%	100%
Year 5	0%	100%	100%
Total	0%	100%	100%
Total number of crediting years	5		
Annual average over the crediting period	0%	100%	100%

SDG 3

Year	Baseline estimate	Project estimate	Net benefit
Year 1	0%	100%	100%
Year 2	0%	100%	100%
Year 2	0%	100%	100%
Year 4	0%	100%	100%
Year 5	0%	100%	100%
Total	0%	100%	100%
Total number of crediting years	5		
Annual average over the crediting period	0%	100%	100%

SDG 5

Year	Baseline estimate	Project estimate	Net benefit
Year 1	0%	95%	95%
Year 2	0%	95%	95%
Year 2	0%	95%	95%
Year 4	0%	95%	95%
Year 5	0%	95%	95%
Total	0%	95%	95%

Total number of crediting years	5		
Annual average over the crediting period	0%	95%	95%

SDG 8

Year	Baseline estimate	Project estimate	Net benefit
Year 1	0	70	70
Year 2	0	70	70
Year 2	0	70	70
Year 4	0	70	70
Year 5	0	70	70
Total	0	70	70
Total number of crediting years	5		
Annual average over the crediting period	0	70	70

Total number of jobs generated over 5 years = 70

Improved Cookstove

SDG 12

Year	Baseline estimate	Project estimate	Net benefit
Year 1	4.91	1.96	60%
Year 2	4.91	1.96	60%
Year 2	4.91	1.96	60%
Year 4	4.91	1.96	60%
Year 5	4.91	1.96	60%
Total	4.91	1.96	60%
Total number of crediting years	5		

Annual average over the crediting period	4.91	1.96	60%
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SDG 15

Year	Baseline estimate	Project estimate	Net benefit
Year 1	0.013452055	0.005381	201.78
Year 2	0.013452055	0.005381	637.63
Year 2	0.013452055	0.005381	1016.98
Year 4	0.013452055	0.005381	1210.68
Year 5	0.013452055	0.005381	1210.68
Total	0.013452055	0.005381	1210.68
Total number of crediting years	5		
Annual average over the crediting period	0.013452055	0.005381	1210.68

4. REFERENCE

No.	Author	Title	References to the document	Provider
1.	PP	Project Design Document (PoA-DD)	Version 1.0 07/08/2024 Version 3.0 23/08/2024	PP
2.	PP	VPA-DD	Version 1.0 10/08/2024 Version 4.0 23/09/2024	PP
3.	Gold Standard	Methodologies – Methodology for Metered & Measured Energy Cooking Devices (version 1.2) & Gold Standard methodology “Reduced emission from cooking and heating” TPDDTEC v.4	Version 1.2 & 4.0	Others
4.	PP	Sample copies of end user agreement	-	PP
5.	GS	Date of first submission to GS for preliminary review	02/02/2024	GS
6.	PP	Declaration of equipment life (ICS/EIS) – Technical Specificaiton	-	PP
7.	PP	ODA declaration for the project activity	-	PP
8.	GS	GS4GG Principles & Requirements	Version 1.2	GS
9.	GS	GS4GG Stakeholder Consultation And Engagement Guidelines	Version 2.1	GS
10.	GS	GS4GG Community Services Activity Requirements	Version 1.2	GS
11.	GS	GS4GG Programme Of Activity Requirements	Version 2.1	GS
12.	GS	GS4GG Safeguarding Principles & Requirements	Version 2.1	GS

13.	PP	Local stakeholder consultation: Minutes of local stake holder consultation process Advertisement in local news paper Mail invitation to stakeholders Attendance sheet of LSC LSC evaluation forms	19/12/2023	P
14.	PP	Stakeholder Feedback Round (SFR): The email sent to local NGOs and International NGOs MoM Stakeholder Feedback Round	30/12/2023 – 30/01/2024	PP
15.	UNFCCC	Standard: Sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and programmes of activities	Version 9.0	
16.	PP	Declaration from CME that VPA is neither registered as GS or CDM or VCS project activities, included in another registered PoAs, nor the project activities that have been deregistered	-	PP
17.	PP	Design Consultation report	-	PP
18.	PP	Local Stakeholder Consultation report	-	PP
19.	PP	On-Site Visit		PP

5. FINAL PROJECT DESIGN CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

Applus+ Certification was contracted by Econetix GmbH for validation of the VPA "12469 VPA02: Uplifting communities through clean energy in the DRC". The validation was performed based on rules and requirements defined by GS4GG rules and requirements.

The VPA involves the introduction of induction cookstoves/improved firewood stoves to domestic households.

The proposed GS VPA will introduce cooking technology activities which were found to be in-line with the requirements of the applied methodology, "TPDDTEC" v.4.0/03/ and "Methodology for Metered & Measured Energy Cooking Devices (version 1.2) /03/. VVB has interviewed the CME representative at the VPA level to understand about the monitoring system and implementation structure of the PoA.

Applus+ Certification applied the following validation process and methodology using a competent validation team;

- ✓ The desk review of documents and evidence submitted by the CME in context of the reference GS and CDM rules and guidelines issued by CDM EB and GS secretariat,
- ✓ Undertaking/conducting on-site visit, interview, or interactions with the representative of the project CME,
- ✓ Reporting audit findings with respect to clarifications and non-conformities and the closure of the findings, as appropriate and
- ✓ Preparing a draft validation opinion based on the auditing findings and conclusions.
- ✓ The review of the VPA-DD, supporting documentation and subsequent follow-up actions (interviews) have provided sufficient evidence to determine the fulfilment of stated criteria.
- ✓ The proposed PoA is meeting all the requirements of the GS4GG standards, Project Standard for PoA.

Date: 23/09/2024

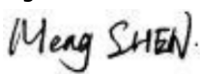
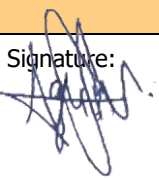
Lead Auditor: Ravi Kant Soni

Tech. Expert: Ravi Kant Soni

Tech.Reviewer: Simon Shen

Approver (*Applus+ Certification Business Unit Technical Manager*)

Mr. Agustín Calle de Miguel

ASSESSMENT TEAM	
Team Leader : Ravi Kant Soni	Technical Reviewer: Simon Shen
Signature: 	Signature: 
Approver: Mr. Agustín Calle de Miguel	
Signature: 	

Appendix 1: Corrective Action Request/Clarification Request/Forward Action Request resolution table

Table 1. Remaining FAR from Preliminary Review

FAR ID	01	Section no.	Preliminary review	Date :15/03/2024
Description of FAR				
PP is requested to address the FAR raised during the preliminary review by the Gold Standard.				
List the FARs raised for Project Developer/CME here.				
FAR 1. The CME shall conduct the Safeguarding Principles Assessment at VPA level in accordance with modalities in corresponding real case VPA. All the safeguarding principles assessment shall be supported with evidence/references/expert's opinion. The VVB shall validate the assessment of all the safeguarding principles and include their opinion in the validation report.				
FAR 2. CME shall conduct stakeholder feedback round lasting for at least 30 days and modify project design, where reasonable. All stakeholders invited to participate in the physical meeting(s) shall be invited to provide feedback during the stakeholder feedback round. VVB shall check all the supporting evidence and provide its assessment in the validation report.				
Project participant response				Date : 28/07/2024
FAR 1 The Project Proponent has ensured that the VPA Design Documents comply with the guidelines outlined in the GS template & Principal requirement.				
FAR 2 PP confirms that the stakeholder feedback round for the project activity lasted 30 days. All details of the LSC and stakeholder consultations have been reported in the SCR report, which has been submitted along with this submission to the assessment team and will also be uploaded to the SustainCERT platform.				
Documentation provided by project participant				
Revised VPA DD Revised SCR report				
DOE assessment				Date: 03/08/2024
FAR 01 The VVB confirms that the PP has completed the sections of the safeguarding principles in the revised VPA DD, and it has been found satisfactory.				
FAR 02 The VVB confirms that the PP has provided all the supporting evidence along with this submission to the assessment team. The PP has also provided the SCR report for the same, and it has been found satisfactory.				
#FAR 1 & 02 Closed				

FAR ID	02	Section no.	Preliminary review	Date :15/03/2024
Description of FAR				
List the FARs raised for validating/verifying VVB here.				
FAR 1. VVB shall confirm that the project is not being submitted/or will be submitted/registered under any other carbon credit mechanism (domestic/international/compliance/voluntary etc.).				
FAR 2. VVB to check the database management system and record keeping at CME level.				
FAR 3. VVB to check the contracts/agreements of CME with VPA Implementers and local partners.				
FAR 4. The start date shall be justified in line with the definitions of the start date. The relevant evidence for the start date shall be provided at the time of validation. The VVB shall provide opinion on the same at the time of validation.				
FAR 5. VVB to confirm and assess the technology used in the VPA are eligible.				
FAR 6. VVB to assess the baseline scenario and how project is additional.				
FAR 7: VVB to check the installation contracts.				
FAR 8. VVB shall confirm that the Project Area does not overlap with that of another Gold Standard or other voluntary or compliance standard program of a similar nature, is there a demonstration of no potential for double counting/misestimation of impacts.				
FAR 9. VVB shall confirm that the host country, region, locality, or state does not either: Have an emission reduction cap enforced or have the possibility to trade emissions that include the scope of the proposed project.				
FAR 10. All stakeholders invited to participate in the physical meeting(s) shall be invited to provide feedback during the stakeholder feedback round. VVB shall check all the supporting evidence and provide its assessment in the validation report.				
Project participant response				Date : 28/07/2024
VVB will respond to FARs for VVB.				
Documentation provided by project participant				

Installation Contracts
 No Double Counting Declaration
 Cover Letter
 Start date evidence
 Baseline Survey
 SCR report

DOE assessment

Date: 28/08/2024

FAR 01

The PP has provided a declaration that the project has not been registered under a different mechanism, and the VVB has cross-checked this across various mechanisms. Hence, it has been found satisfactory.

FAR 02

During the site visit, the VVB interviewed relevant personnel and reviewed the database management of the project activity, ensuring proper procedures for gathering data from the site. The PP also submitted supporting evidence for this process, and it was found satisfactory.

FAR 03

The PP has provided the contract between the local entity and the CME, as well as the cover letter for the project activity.

FAR 04

The PP has provided documentation of the first sale of the equipment. The VVB has cross-checked the sales receipts, including the dates, and confirmed that they align with GS requirements. The findings are satisfactory.

FAR 05

The VVB has confirmed that the technology used under the VPA (Solar Technology) and the applied methodology are in line with GS requirements and have been found satisfactory.

FAR 06

The PP has provided the baseline survey, which the VVB reviewed during the site visit and cross-checked with the database. The targeted users align with the methodology requirements and the GS positive list. Additionally, the VVB verified that it meets CDM tools criteria and is considered auto additional.

FAR 07

The VVB has reviewed the installation contract provided by the PP and found it satisfactory.

FAR 08

During the site visit, the VVB verified that there is no overlap of the project boundary with other projects by different PPs. It also confirmed that there are various VPAs in the PoA where ICS will be distributed, each targeting different regions. Therefore, there is no overlap.

FAR 09

The VVB confirms that, based on supporting evidence from the DRC, there is no emission reduction cap within the project boundary. This has been found satisfactory.

FAR 10

The PP has provided all supporting evidence for the LSC, along with the SCR report, and it has been found satisfactory.

FAR 01 to 10 - Closed

Table 2. CL from this verification

CL ID	01	Section no.	Key Project Information	Date : 26/07/2024
Description of CL				
The PD would like to provide the contract between ECONETIX GmbH and Climate Connect Digital as part of the project activity.				
Project participant response				Date : 28/07/2024
PD has corrected the values in Table 1 and throughout the VPA DD. Therefore, the VPA DD has been revised.				
Documentation provided by project participant				
Revised VPA DD				
DOE assessment				Date: 03/08/2024
The PP has provided the contract between the entities and the cover letter for the project activity, and both have been found satisfactory.				
#CL 01 Closed				

CL ID	02	Section no.	Table 1	Date : 26/07/2024
Description of CL				
The PD requests that you ensure the value is consistent from Table 1 throughout the VPA DD.				
Project participant response				Date : 28/07/2024
PD has corrected the values in Table 1 and throughout the VPA DD. Therefore, the VPA DD has been revised.				
Documentation provided by project participant				
Revised POA DD				
DOE assessment				Date: 03/08/2024
PP has corrected the values in the table 1 of the revised VPA DD.				
# CL 02 Closed				

Table 1. CAR from this verification

CAR ID	01	Section no.	C.2	Date : 26/07/2024
Description of CAR				
It has been noted in Section C.2, "Crediting Period of Project," that the start date of the crediting period in the VPA-DD is inconsistent with the start date listed on the project webpage. PP shall provide clarification.				
Project participant response				Date : 28/07/2024
PD has revised the start date and crediting period of the VPADD in accordance with GS guidelines and provided supporting evidence for these changes. Additionally, PD will email Sustaincert to correct the start date and crediting period details on their platform.				
Documentation provided by project participant				

Revised VPA DD	
DOE assessment	Date: 03/08/2024
PP has revised the VPA DD in accordance with the requirements. PP will email GS to confirm the date consistency.	
# CAR 01 Closed	

CAR ID	02	Section no.	B.7	Date : 26/07/2024
Description of CAR				
The fNRB has been cited as 0.85. The underlying study and associated calculation sheet have not been submitted though. The details are to be provided for fNRB.				
Project participant response				Date : 28/07/2024
PD is hereby submitting the fNRB calculation along with this submission to the assessment team.				
Documentation provided by project participant				
Fnrb calculation Sheet				
DOE assessment				Date: 03/08/2024
PP has shared the FNRB sheet along with the FNRB report, and everything is satisfactory.				
# CAR 02 Closed				

CAR ID	03	Section no.	B.2	Date : 26/07/2024
Description of CAR				
PD has only demonstrated and identified the baseline scenario for ICS, however, the baseline scenario for EIS has not been demonstrated. Since there are no baseline emissions for EIS, the project should only demonstrate project emissions scenario for EIS				
Project participant response				Date : 28/07/2024
PD has revised the baseline scenario section in the VPA DD. For ICS, the baseline scenario is traditional firewood stoves, and for EIS, the baseline includes traditional, improved, and LPG stoves. These changes have been updated in the respective section.				
Documentation provided by project participant				
Revised VPA DD				
DOE assessment				Date: 03/08/2024
PP has updated the baseline scenario for both ICS and EIS technologies in the revised VPA DD, and it has been found satisfactory.				
# CAR 03 Closed				

CAR ID	04	Section no.	B.6.3	Date : 26/07/2024
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Description of CAR	
PD to clarify if the number of jobs created SDG 8 is for one VPA or for VPA 1 & VPA 2	
Project participant response	Date : 28/07/2024
PD confirms that for both VPA 1 and VPA 2, SDG 8 will remain the same, and employment will be consistent for both since they share a common team. PD has also included a footnote regarding this in the VPA DD.	
Documentation provided by project participant	
<i>Revised VPA DD</i>	
DOE assessment	Date: 03/08/2024
PP has provided the supporting evidence for SDG 8, and it has been found satisfactory. # CAR 04 Closed	

CAR ID	05	Section no.	C	Date : 26/07/2024
Description of CAR				
The life of the stove/EIS is not indicated. PD to clarify and provide the operational lifetime of the project.				
Project participant response				Date : 28/07/2024
PD has included the lifespan of the stove/EIS in the VPA DD, along with the technical specification sheet provided to the assessment team.				
Documentation provided by project participant				
Technical Specification sheet				
Revised VPA DD				
DOE assessment				Date: 03/08/2024
PP has provided the technical specification sheet for the technology adopted in the project activity.				
# CAR 05 Closed				

CAR ID	06	Section no.	A.1.1	Date : 26/07/2024
Description of CAR				
PD will provide supporting evidence of no double-counting and detailed clarification on the unique serial numbers of equipment, as well as how to verify that the project equipment is not registered with different GHG mechanisms.				
Project participant response	Date : 28/07/2024			

PD will submit the no-double-counting declaration with this submission to the assessment team (VVB). A unique numbering or identification system for the CEP installed is applied, ensuring no double counting of CEP within the PoA/VPA. This system ensures that CEP can be identified as belonging to this PoA/VPA and not to a PoA managed by any other CME.	
Documentation provided by project participant	
<i>No double Counting Declaration</i> <i>Revised VPA DD</i>	
DOE assessment	Date: 03/08/2024
The PP has provided the no-double counting declaration and confirmed that each piece of equipment in the project activity has a unique serial number. # CAR 06 Closed	

Table 2. FAR from this validation

FAR ID	01	Section No.	D.4	Date : 26/07/2024
Description of FAR				
The baseline survey for DRC is yet to be conducted and the baseline survey values must be checked prior to first verification.				
Project participant response				Date : DD/MM/YYYY
NA				
Documentation provided by project participant				
NA				
DOE assessment				Date: DD/MM/YYYY
NA				

Appendix 2: Audit Team CVs

Name	SHORT CV. BACKGROUND INFORMATION
Ravi Kant Soni	He is a certified lead auditor for Lead Auditor ISO 14001:2004&Lead Auditor ISO 14064:2006 GHG Inventory and verification. He has more than 10 years of work experience across Climate Change, Environmental Management & Monitoring, Health & Safety Management, and Statutory Compliance. He was involved in more than 100 CDM validation and verifications activities and Gold Standard, VER projects as a team leader/technical reviewer / validator / verifier covering the sectoral scope 1 technical area 1.2. He has done Master in Technology (Energy Management) from a premier institute, School of Energy & Environmental Studies, DAVV, Indore (M.P.), India and Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical Engineering) from M.I.T.S Gwalior Jiwaji University Gwalior, India
Simon Shen	Mr. Simon Shen (Master's Degree in Thermal Energy Engineering, Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Engineering) is an Auditor appointed by Applus+ LGAI for the GHG project assessment, auditing and technical review. He has more than 6 years of work experience in CDM/GS4GG/VCS project assessment and review with Applus+, apart from the years of experience working as GHG Auditor and ISO 9001/14001 in TUV SUD for 3.5 years before he joined Applus+. Mr. Simon Shen has extensive experience also as former Applus+ Shanghai CDM Technical Manager