

Validation report form for validation of voluntary project activities Gold Standard for Global Goals					
KEY PROJECT INFORMATION					
Title and GS reference number of the programme of activities (PoA)	GS13116: EcoLinks Clean Cooking and Safe Water Programme in Rwanda				
Version number of the validation report	Version 3.0				
Completion date of the validation report	17/03/2025				
Title and reference number of each VPA to be included	<table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>VPA Ref. no.</th> <th>Title</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	VPA Ref. no.	Title	N/A	N/A
VPA Ref. no.	Title				
N/A	N/A				
Title and GS ID of the real-case VPA	GS 13117: GS13116 VPA-1 EcoLinks Clean Cooking and Safe Water Programme in Rwanda				
Version numbers of the VPA-DD to which this report applies	VPA 1: Version 2.2 - 04/03/2025				
Applied methodologies and standardized baselines for each CPA	<table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>VPA no.</th> <th>Applied methodologies</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>VPA 1</td> <td>Reduced emissions from cooking and heating – Technologies and Practices to displace Decentralised Thermal Energy Consumption (TPDDTEC), version 4.0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	VPA no.	Applied methodologies	VPA 1	Reduced emissions from cooking and heating – Technologies and Practices to displace Decentralised Thermal Energy Consumption (TPDDTEC), version 4.0
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VPA 1	Reduced emissions from cooking and heating – Technologies and Practices to displace Decentralised Thermal Energy Consumption (TPDDTEC), version 4.0				
Project Developer/Coordinating and managing entity (CME)	EcoLinks Co., Ltd				
Host County (ies)	Rwanda				
Scale of the VPA(s)	☐ Microscale ☐ Small scale ☒ Large scale				
Sectoral Scope	Sectoral Scope 3: Energy Demand				
Name of the VVB	Earthood Services Limited (Formerly known as Earthood Services Private Limited) E-0066				
Name, position and signature of the approver of the validation report					

	Dr. Kaviraj Singh, CEO
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Contents

Section A: Executive Summary	5
A.1: Purpose of the VPA.....	5
A.2: Scope of Validation	6
A.3: Validation Process	6
A.4: Conclusion	6
Section B: Validation team, technical review team and approver.....	7
B.1: Validation team member(s).....	7
B.2: Technical reviewer and approver of the validation report	8
Section C: Means of Validation.....	8
C.1: Desk/Document Review	8
C.2: Onsite Inspection and list of Interviewees	8
C.4: Sampling Approach	11
C.4.1: CME's Sampling Approach	11
C.4.2: VVB's Sampling Approach.....	12
C.5: Clarification requests (CLs), corrective action requests (CARs) and forward action requests (FARs) raised.....	13
Section D: Validation Assessment.....	14
D.1: General Description of the VPA.....	14
D.1.1: Start Date, crediting period and duration of the VPA.....	18
D.1.2: Assessment of the eligibility of the VPA(s) under PoA.....	18
D.1.3: Assessment of the Eligibility criteria of the VPA with GS4GG Principles & Requirements and Community Services Activity Requirements	26
D.2: Application of approved Gold Standard Methodology (ies) and/or demonstration of SDG contributions	33
D.2.1: Reference of approved methodology (ies)	33
D.2.2: VPA Boundary, sources and GHGs	39
D.2.3: Establishment and description of baseline scenario	39
D.3: Demonstration of Additionality	44
D.3.1: Ongoing Financial Needs	45
D.3.2: Demonstration of prior consideration	45
D.4: SDG Outcome Assessment.....	45
D.4.1: Data and Parameters - Fixed (Ex-Ante).....	47
D.4.2: Monitoring Plan	53
D.5: Estimation of SDG impacts or net anthropogenic removals.....	59
D.5.1: Equations and parameters applied to calculate SDG impacts.....	59
D.6: Summary of local stakeholder consultation	63
D.7: Summary of Safeguarding Principles and Gender Sensitive Assessment.....	64
D.7.1: Safeguarding Principles that will be monitored	64
D.7.2: Assessment for GS4GG Gender Sensitive requirements.....	65
Section E: Internal Quality Control	67
Section F: Validation Opinion.....	68
Appendix I: Abbreviations	69
Appendix II: Documents Reviewed.....	70
Appendix III: Competence Statements of the team.....	73
Appendix IV: Findings.....	76

Appendix V: Assessment of the Safeguarding Principles 86

Section A: Executive Summary

A.1: Purpose of the VPA

The GS PoA “EcoLinks Clean Cooking and Safe Water Programme in Rwanda” (GS 13116) aims to reduce the non-renewable biomass consumption required for cooking/boiling in rural areas of Rwanda. The CME shall achieve this through dissemination of Improved cookstove (ICS) and installation of community level water treatment technologies (CWT) in rural areas across Rwanda where households are dependent inefficient traditional cookstoves (three-stone fired and equivalent) for cooking or boiling water.

The VPA titled ‘GS13116 VPA-1 EcoLinks Clean Cooking Project in Rwanda’ will involve the distribution of improved cookstove technology (ICS) to the households in rural Rwanda which were dependent on conventional stoves for cooking. The project will make the end-users energy efficient and reduces greenhouse gas emissions otherwise resulting from the burning of non-renewable biomass (firewood) for preparing meals. The VPA is being submitted along with PoA “GS13116: EcoLinks Clean Cooking and Safe Water Programme in Rwanda” for design certification under GS4GG. The Coordinating/managing entity of the PoA and the VPA implementer is EcoLinks Co., Ltd.

Parameter	Validated information
GS ID of the VPA to be included	GS 13117
Title of the VPA	GS13116 VPA-1 EcoLinks Clean Cooking Project in Rwanda
Methodology applied	Reduced emissions from cooking and heating – Technologies and Practices to displace Decentralised Thermal Energy Consumption (TPDDTEC), version 4.0
Crediting period	5 years, Renewable twice, total 15 years of crediting period

The VPA aims at dissemination of improved cookstove in Rwanda /03/ and is being coordinated and implemented by EcoLinks Co., Ltd. The VPA aims to reduce GHG emission by distributing improved cookstove technology (ICS) to the households in rural Rwanda which are dependent on conventional stoves for carrying out cooking. The baseline scenario under the VPA is the replacement of traditional three stone fired cookstove with the improved cookstove thereby reducing the amount of fuelwood being used for cooking purposes in the baseline.

The first unit (improved cookstove technology) is expected to be distributed under the VPA on 15/02/2025 /03/. The crediting period for the VPA is 5 years, twice renewable for total 15 years of crediting period, which is in-line with the allowed crediting period under Community Services Activity Requirements version 1.2/08/ and the expected duration of PoA (20 years). The start date and length and type of the crediting period is also consistent with the PoA description in PoA-DD/01/.

The VPA envisages an annual GHG emission reduction of 227,487 tCO₂e GS-VERs for the ICS technology distributed under the VPA over the crediting period under SDG13. The estimated employment opportunities expected to be generated under the VPA are 30 under SDG 8. The VPA will contribute towards SDG-3 by reducing 80% of illnesses and death from hazardous chemicals and pollution and Health quality improvement under the SDG 3. Under the SDG 5, the households are expected to save 2 hours per week in the time associated with fuel collection and cooking and under SDG-7 it is

estimated that 94,200 number of households will have access with operational improved cookstove technology (ICS)/03/ due to project.

A.2: Scope of Validation

The scope of the services provided by Earthood Services Limited is to perform validation of the VPA ID GS 13117 (Real case VPA) under the PoA GS 13116. The scope of validation is to assess the claims and assumptions made in the VPA DD against the GS4GG criteria, applied methodology TPDDTEC - Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralized Thermal Energy Consumption (TPDDTEC), version 4.0. for application to improved cookstove systems/03,02/, GS4GG Principle & Requirements version 2.0/06/, GS4GG Programme of Activity Requirements and procedure version 3.0 /07/, Community Services Activity Requirements version 1.2/08/, GHG Emissions Reductions Sequestration and Product Requirements version 3.0/09/.

A.3: Validation Process

The validation process is undertaken by the validation team that involves the following:

1. The desk review of documents and evidence submitted by the project developer in context of reference GS4GG rules and guidelines.
2. On - Site interviews to assess the baseline practices followed by EcoLinks Co., Ltd.
3. Reporting audit findings concerning clarifications and non-conformities and the closure of the findings, as appropriate,
4. Preparing a draft validation report for the inclusion of VPA complying with the Gold Standard requirements.
5. An independent Technical Review team reviews the validation report prepared by the validation team. The final validation report that is accepted by Technical Reviewer is then approved on behalf of Earthood Services Limited and processed further as per GS4GG procedures.

A.4: Conclusion

The review of the VPA-DD, supporting documentation and subsequent follow-up actions have provided Earthood with sufficient evidence to determine the fulfilment of stated criteria. Earthood is of the opinion that the VPA titled "GS13116 VPA-1 EcoLinks Clean Cooking Project in Rwanda" as described in the final VPA-DD meets all relevant requirements of GS4GG, meets the host country's i.e., Rwanda criteria and has correctly applied the methodology TPDDTEC version 4.0/02/ for the installation of ICS. Therefore, the VPA is being recommended for registration under GS4GG

Table 1: Validated Sustainable Development Contributions (for each VPA separately)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGETED	SDG IMPACT	ESTIMATED ANNUAL AVERAGE	UNITS OR PRODUCTS
13 Climate Action (mandatory)	Amount of GHGs emissions avoided or sequestered	227,487	GS-VERs

3 Good Health and Well Being	Number of households visited medical facilities/dispensary for treatment of respiratory issues etc. such as cough, shortness in breath, pneumonia and other respiratory issues	80%	% household visited
5 Gender Equality	Average time saving associated with cooking time and fuel collection	2	Hours saved/household/week
7 Affordable and Clean Energy Target	Number of beneficiaries: Households	94,200	Number
8 Decent Work and Economic Growth	Total number of jobs	30	Number of jobs

Section B: Validation team, technical review team and approver

B.1: Validation team member(s)

S.NO.	FULL NAME	ROLE(S)	TYPE OF RESOURCE	TYPE OF ACTIVITY(IES) CARRIED OUT			
				Desk/document review	Onsite/Remote Audit	Interviews	Validation findings
1.	Sukanya Phukan	Team Leader and GS Approved Auditor	Internal	Y	N	N	Y
2.	Sushant Vashisht	Technical Area Expert (TA 3.1) and GS Approved Auditor	Internal	Y	Y	Y	Y
3.	Diyotima Karfa	Validator (Trainee team leader)	Internal	Y	N	N	Y
4.	Alexis Umimana	Local Expert	External	N	Y	Y	N

5.	Ronaldo Sebastian	Trainee Validator	Internal	Y	N	N	Y
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B.2: Technical reviewer and approver of the validation report

S.NO.	FULL NAME	ROLE(S)	TYPE OF RESOURCE	AFFILIATION (e.g.name of central or other office of VVB or outsourced entity)
1.	Shifali Guleria	Technical reviewer	Internal	Central office
2.	Shifali Guleria	Expert to TR (TA 3.1)	Internal	Central office
3.	Kaviraj Singh	Approver	Internal	Central office

Section C: Means of Validation

C.1: Desk/Document Review

The validation of the Voluntary Project Activities (VPA) is performed primarily as a document review of the VPA design document for VPA/03/, Ex-ante ER sheet/04/ and independent research on several platforms. The cross checks between information provided in the VPA-DD/03/ 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 Appendix 2.

C.2: Onsite Inspection and list of Interviewees

Table 2: Details of the team that conducted on-site inspection

DURATION OF ON-SITE INSPECTION: 21/11/2024 to 23/11/2024			
NAME	ROLE	LOCATION OF VISIT	ACTIVITY PERFORMED ON-SITE
Sushant Vashisht	Technical Area Expert (TA 3.1) and GS Approved Auditor	Rwanda	Interviews with the baseline users, Stakeholder interviews,
Alexis Umimana	Local Expert	Rwanda	reviewing the project implementation status

Table 3: Details of the people interviewed by the team during on-site inspection

S.NO	INTERVIEWEE		DATE	SUBJECT	TEAM MEMBER INVOLVED
	Name	Affiliation			
1.	Musoni Jeanne	Ecolink data collector	22/11/2024	VPA DD description, Additionality , Baseline identification , Project boundary, Ex-ante and Ex-post parameters Baseline scenario, Project technology, technical description	Sushant Vashisht, Alexis Uwimana
2.	Niyibikora	Driver	22/11/2024		Sushant Vashisht, Alexis Uwimana
3.	Habinshuti	Mobilizer	22/11/2024		Sushant Vashisht, Alexis Uwimana
4.	Sibomana Theoneste	Mobilizer	22/11/2024		Sushant Vashisht, Alexis Uwimana
5.	Uwituze Kellen	Enumerator	22/11/2024		Sushant Vashisht, Alexis Uwimana

BASELINE USERS					
1.	Mbahungire he Donathila	Baseline User	22/11/2024	Baseline device	Sushant Vashisht, Alexis Uwimana
2.	Jean Pierre Nteziryayo	Baseline User	22/11/2024	Baseline device	Sushant Vashisht, Alexis Uwimana
3.	Mukarugwiza Chantal	Baseline User	22/11/2024	Baseline device	Sushant Vashisht, Alexis Uwimana
4.	Nzayisenga Olivier	Baseline User	22/11/2024	Baseline device	Sushant Vashisht, Alexis Uwimana
5.	Ndagijimana Kosi	Baseline User	22/11/2024	Baseline device	Sushant Vashisht, Alexis Uwimana
6.	Umugwaneza groliose	Baseline User	21/11/2024	Baseline device	Sushant Vashisht, Alexis Uwimana

7.	Munyemana francois	Baseline User	21/11/2024	Baseline device	Sushant Vashisht, Alexis Uwimana
8.	Musheja Anastazi	Baseline User	21/11/2024	Baseline device	Sushant Vashisht, Alexis Uwimana
LOCAL STAKEHOLDER					
1.	Habinshut Jean d'Amour	local stakeholder	21/11/2024	Invitation regarding the LSC, Discussion happened in the meeting, registration of Grievances, LSC feedback round, dates and location of the meetings held	Sushant Vashisht, Alexis Uwimana
2.	Sibomana Theoneste	local stakeholder	21/11/2024		Sushant Vashisht, Alexis Uwimana
3.	Uwamaliya Aline	local stakeholder	21/11/2024		Sushant Vashisht, Alexis Uwimana
4.	Umutoni Claudette	local stakeholder	21/11/2024		Sushant Vashisht, Alexis Uwimana

Type of questions asked by the Validation Team:

Baseline Cookstove users:

No.	Questions asked by team members to project beneficiaries	Nature of Responses Received
1.	Number of persons in the household?	The data recorded onsite by the VVB were found to be consistent with the baseline survey data/17/ provided by the PP. VVB has recorded the baseline device and fuel type used by the households along with the quantity of fuel used in the pre-project scenario. These recorded data were found to be consistent with the data reported in the baseline survey data provided by the PP.
2.	What is the type of baseline stoves?	
3.	What is type of fuel used in the baseline stoves?	
4.	How much time do spend daily on collecting wood?	
5.	How much money do you spend each week for buying wood	
6.	Number of meals cooked in a day?	
7.	How much time spent on cooking food daily in the baseline stoves?	
8.	Distance to collect fuel	
9.	Person responsible for the wood collection	
10.	What is the means of transportation of fuel	

11.	Are there any problems while obtaining the fuel	
12.	Number of other stoves in the household? (electrical, LPG, kerosene, ICS from the other project)	
13.	Did the CME team visit your HH for capturing the data regarding baseline stove?	

LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS:

No.	Questions asked by team members to project beneficiaries	Nature of Responses Received
1.	Were you a participant of LSC meeting?	The data recorded onsite by the VVB were found to be consistent with the LSC report/18/ provided by the CME.
2.	How were you invited to the meeting	
3.	Discussion happened in the meeting	
4.	Did you have any questions during the meeting?	
5.	Do you know about the registering the grievances/complaints?	
6.	Do you have any feedback/grievance for the project?	
7.	Do you remember when the meeting is held?	
8.	Time and location of the meeting held	

C.4: Sampling Approach

C.4.1: CME's Sampling Approach

According to the CME sampling procedure prescribed in paragraph 4.3.3 of the TPDDTEC v4.0 methodology/02/, a baseline survey is conducted for each baseline scenario, utilizing representative and random sampling methods.

The households for the baseline survey in Rwanda were selected randomly to ensure that each rural household had an equal chance of being selected, thereby avoiding any bias/54/. The details of the sampling approach and sample selection was checked in the separate excel provided by CME and found to be appropriate. As per the sample requirement, total sample size was 153. However, to account for outliers and non-responsive households, CME targeted close to 250 households and ended up getting results captured for 205 households. This oversampling was conducted to enhance the reliability of the data by accommodating potential anomalies and non-responses. The survey was carried out by trained enumerators using KOBO Collect software between 6th September and 11th September 2024/53/.

Province	Number of rural households	Required Samples	Samples covered during baseline survey
Kigali/Central	65,441	5	19

Southern	691,512	44	65
Western	539,755	34	35
Eastern	667,585	42	48
Northern	438,745	28	38
Total		153	205

The cooking behaviour was found similar across the country however the income level and type of fuel for cooking vary across rural and urban residents. 93% of the rural households are dependent on firewood whereas 65% of the urban households are dependent on charcoal¹. Considering the project is going to focus on rural areas, hence baseline survey has been focussed only in rural areas of the five regions across Rwanda.

CME will conduct the baseline KPT prior to first verification in line with Annex-3 of the applied methodology. For the ex-ante estimation, government statistics on fuel consumption by households have been used. The approach was found appropriate.

C.4.2: VVB's Sampling Approach

Baseline survey database was provided by the CME. As per para 28, Standard: Sampling and Surveys for CDM project activities and programme of activities version 9.0/21/, VVB has applied acceptance sampling, to review the data collection and appropriateness of monitoring plan.

Baseline scenario till date was checked for the purpose of validation scope of the project during the onsite survey. For this, 08 random samples and 04 backup samples out of 205 surveyed samples were picked from cookstove baseline.

The validation team determined the sample size for acceptance sampling by evaluating the following, using its own professional judgment and guidance in the Standard 'Sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and programme of activities' version 09.0/21/:

- The proportion of discrepancies between the CME's data and verification team's (field or onsite inspection results) data that can be considered acceptable. This is referred to as the AQL (Acceptable Quality Level): 0.5% was considered in this validation.
- The proportion of discrepancies between the CME's data and validation team's (field or onsite inspection results) data that would be considered unacceptable. This is the UQL (Unacceptable Quality Level): 20% was considered in this validation.
- The producer risk of 10% and consumer risk of 20% was considered.

AQL	UQL	Producer Risk	Consumer Risk	Sample Size	Acceptance no.
0.5%	20%	10%	20%	08	0

¹ <https://www.hrp.org/download/20200930/EEE2-14517185.pdf>

Considering the above input values, a sample size of 08 was required as per Table 1 in the referred Standard for Sampling and surveys for CDM project Activities V9.0/21/. Accordingly, acceptance number 'c' thus determined for the sample size is 0.

The validation team has checked 08 samples from VPA per technology to confirm description of baseline technology, fuel type, number of devices framework in line with PoA, inclusion eligibility conditions stated in the VPA DD/03/.

C.5: Clarification requests (CLs), corrective action requests (CARs) and forward action requests (FARs) raised

Areas of validation of compliance	No. of CL	No. of CAR	No. of FAR
General Description of the VPA	-	-	-
Start Date, crediting period and duration of the VPA	-	-	FAR#03
Assessment of the eligibility of the VPA(s) under PoA	-	-	-
Assessment of the Eligibility criteria of the VPA with GS4GG Principles & Requirements	-	-	-
Reference of approved methodology (ies)	-	-	FAR#04
VPA Boundary, sources and GHGs	-	-	-
Establishment and description of baseline scenario	CL#01	-	-
Demonstration of Additionality	-	-	-
Ongoing Financial Needs	-	-	-
Demonstration of prior consideration	-	-	-
Ongoing Financial Needs	-	-	-
Demonstration of prior consideration	-	-	-
SDG Outcome Assessment	-	-	-
Data and Parameters - Fixed (Ex-Ante)	CL#04	CAR#01	-
Requirements and procedures for VPA	-	CAR#01	-
Monitoring Plan	-	-	-
Equations and parameters applied to calculate SDG impacts	CL#02	-	-
Safeguarding Principles that will be monitored	CL#03	-	-
Assessment for GS4GG Gender Sensitive requirements	-	-	-
Local Stakeholder Consultation Report	-	-	FAR#01* FAR#02*
Total	04	01	04

*FAR's from the GS preliminary review for Project Developer

Section D: Validation Assessment

D.1: General Description of the VPA

Description	Means of Validation by VVB								
Details of the VPAs to be included under PoA	The purpose of the GS PoA “GS13116: EcoLinks Clean Cooking and Safe Water Programme in Rwanda” is to reduce the non-renewable biomass consumption required for cooking/boiling by the distribution of improved cookstove (ICS) and installation of community level water treatment technologies in the rural regions of Rwanda . The CME of the PoA and the VPA implementer for this VPA is EcoLinks Co., Ltd. The VPA involves the dissemination of Improved cookstoves (ICS). The geographical boundary of the VPA is confined to Rwanda as a host country.								
	<table><tr><th>GS ID of the VPA(s)</th><th colspan="2">Title</th></tr><tr><td>GS13117</td><td colspan="2">GS13116 VPA-1 EcoLinks Clean Cooking Project in Rwanda</td></tr></table>			GS ID of the VPA(s)	Title		GS13117	GS13116 VPA-1 EcoLinks Clean Cooking Project in Rwanda	
	GS ID of the VPA(s)	Title							
GS13117	GS13116 VPA-1 EcoLinks Clean Cooking Project in Rwanda								
The start date of the VPA shall be on or after the start date of the PoA. Since the implementation of the improved cookstove technology has not yet begun, the subsequent verification body will verify the start date during the first verification of the VPA. The designated VVB will also review the end-user agreements signed between EcoLinks and the beneficiaries, which will serve as evidence of the start date under the VPA. Additionally, the VPA follows the regular cycle in alignment with the Grouped Local Stakeholder Consultation (LSC), which took place on 26 September 2024, and the proposed start date of the VPA is 15 February 2025, in accordance with the principles and requirements section 4.1.40/6/18/.									
Compliance of the VPA-DD form with the template	The VPA DD/03/ have been prepared using the applicable version of GS VPA-DD, i.e., version 2.3/05/. It has been checked from the GS website that the form used is the appropriate and applicable for this proposed VPA 06. Each section of the VPA-DD/03/ was also checked with the template guidelines/11/ and found to be fulfilling it.								
Technologies and measures implemented in the VPA(s)	The type of technologies distributed under the VPAs are as follows:								
	<table><tr><th>S No.</th><th>Type of CEP</th><th>Model</th></tr><tr><td>1.</td><td>Improved Cookstove</td><td>Hisha Eco7 stove Manufacturer: EcoGreen Solution Ltd</td></tr></table>			S No.	Type of CEP	Model	1.	Improved Cookstove	Hisha Eco7 stove Manufacturer: EcoGreen Solution Ltd
	S No.	Type of CEP	Model						
1.	Improved Cookstove	Hisha Eco7 stove Manufacturer: EcoGreen Solution Ltd							
The Improved cookstove of only one size has been confirmed from the technical specifications and built mechanism/13/. However, depending on the availability, EcoLinks can also distribute a									

different cookstove model under the project as long as it has similar characteristics² as compared to the above-stated model/03/.

The Technical specifications of ICS to be distributed under the VPA are as follows:

Stove	Hisha Eco7 stove 
Manufacturer	EcoGreen Solution Ltd
Thermal Efficiency of stove	43.4%
Fuel Type	Firewood
Cookstove Height (mm)	337
Cookstove Thickness for insulation (mm)	103
Cookstove Top Diameter (mm)	360
Cookstove Top inside diameter (mm)	110
Cookstove bottom diameter (mm)	308
Cookstove ash depth (mm)	25
Cookstove firebox depth (mm)	200
Application	Domestic Cooking
Lifespan of the cookstove	7 years ³

² The definition of similar characteristics is in-line with paragraph 3.7.3 of the "TPDDTEC, version 4.0" methodology

³ The lifetime of the technology depends on several factors such as household usage and maintenance, the technical life of the technology can exceed 7 years if maintained properly however, in order to continue claiming credits under the project beyond 7 years, the EcoLinks will ensure that end-users are provided replacement technology of comparable/better quality or retrofitting of the essential parts is done.

	Warranty	1 year											
	Energy Output of cookstove	3.8 kW											
	According to the VPA-DD/03, the list above is not exhaustive, and other models may be distributed during the crediting period. The provision is found to be acceptable considering that inclusion criteria of PoA and methodology requirements for the applicable technology are met.												
Implementation Status	Installation of the first ICS under the VPA is estimated to take place on 15/02/2025/03/ which determines the start date of the VPA, which will be confirmed from the distribution database by the subsequent validation/verification body The crediting cycle length is 5 years, may be renewable twice, total 15 years of crediting period and type of the crediting period is renewal for the VPA as per para 4.1.40 of Principle and requirements/06/. The distribution of the cookstove is planned in a phased manner and the start date is estimated to be distributed between 15-02-2025/04/ and the subsequent VVB will confirm this through the distribution and sales database during the first verification.												
	The distribution plan for the improved cookstove is as follows: <table><tr><th>Year</th><th>VPA 1 Cumulative number of stoves</th></tr><tr><td>15/02/2025-14/02/2026</td><td>100,000</td></tr><tr><td>15/02/2026-14/02/2027</td><td>100,000</td></tr><tr><td>15/02/2027-14/02/2028</td><td>100,000</td></tr><tr><td>15/02/2028-14/02/2029</td><td>100,000</td></tr><tr><td>15/02/2029-14/02/2030</td><td>100,000</td></tr></table>		Year	VPA 1 Cumulative number of stoves	15/02/2025-14/02/2026	100,000	15/02/2026-14/02/2027	100,000	15/02/2027-14/02/2028	100,000	15/02/2028-14/02/2029	100,000	15/02/2029-14/02/2030
Year	VPA 1 Cumulative number of stoves												
15/02/2025-14/02/2026	100,000												
15/02/2026-14/02/2027	100,000												
15/02/2027-14/02/2028	100,000												
15/02/2028-14/02/2029	100,000												
15/02/2029-14/02/2030	100,000												
Location of the VPA(s)	The improved cookstove project is hosted in Rwanda and targets rural communities across the entire country, including Kigali/Central, Southern, Western, Northern, and Eastern regions. The beneficiaries of the project will be rural households in Rwanda, with the geographical coordinates approximately at latitude 1°56'06.4" S and longitude 30°04'55.6" E. The VVB has confirmed that the location of the PoA is in Rwanda, and this VPA is specifically situated in Kigali/Central, Southern, Western, Northern, and Eastern parts of the country. This confirmation was made using GPS data from the baseline survey provided by the CME/17/ and the project boundary declaration provided by the CME/19/.												

Estimated annual GHG emission reduction and other SDGs goals	SDGS TARGETED	ESTIMATED ANNUAL AVERAGE	UNIT/PRODUCTS
	13 Climate Action (mandatory)	227,487	GS-VERs
	3 Good Health and Well Being	80%	% household visited
	5 Gender Equality	2	Hours saved/household/week
	7 Affordable and Clean Energy Target	94,200	Number
	8 Decent Work and Economic Growth	30	Number of jobs
Scale of the VPA(s)	The calculation of aggregated capacity under the VPA is clearly depicted in the ER sheet /04/ provided by the CME. Thus, the validation team has confirmed that aggregate output capacity from the VPA is greater than the threshold limit of > 180 GWhth/year. Hence this VPA is considered as a large-scale VPA.		
Funding sources of VPA	The VVB has assessed that there is no public funding is involved in the VPA. This was confirmed through the ODA declaration form provided by the CME/12/.		
Findings	No findings have been raised		
Conclusion	The validation team confirms that: 1. The information provided is complete and correct concerning the description of technology(ies) and/or measures to be used, the description is as per the VPA DD/03/ and is following the GS4GG principles and requirement V1.2/06/ including a description of the purpose of the VPA and explanation how the VPA will reduce GHG emissions. 2. The validation team has conducted a thorough and independent assessment of the implementation of the included VPA against the GS4GG principles and requirements V2.0/6/. 3. The validation team has assessed both quantitative and qualitative information on GHG emission reduction GHG removals provided in the programme documentation. 4. The validation team has assessed that the implementation and operation of the PoA and included VPA, and the steps taken to report GHG emission reductions or net anthropogenic GHG removals comply with the relevant GS4GG principles and requirements. 5. The validation team has assessed that the data collection system meets the requirements of the monitoring plan as per the applied methodologies, the applied standardized		

	baselines and the other applied methodological regulatory documents. Thus, the implementation of the VPA is meeting the requirements of PoA version 2.2/01/, GS4GG Principles and Requirements/06/ and PoA Requirements version 3.0/07/.
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D.1.1: Start Date, crediting period and duration of the VPA

Means of Validation	According to GS4GG Principles and Requirements version 2.0 para 4.1.40/06/, "For distributed technology projects, the start date is the date of implementation of the first unit under the project or two years prior to the date of Design Certification or Inclusion Date – whichever is later". The first unit is expected to be distributed under the VPA on 15/02/2025 and hence this will mark the start date of the VPA as per the section C of the VPA DD/03/ and the start date of the VPA based on the implementation of the cookstove will be confirmed during the subsequent VVB based on the FAR raised during the validation (FAR ID 03). The crediting period of the VPA is expected to start from 15/02/2025 /03/. The expected operational lifetime of the VPA is 15 years as the project technologies disseminated under the VPA, although having 7 years of technical life, under which these will be subjected to repair or replacement if reported non-operational. It is also noted that the lifetime may vary from product to product depending on usage handling and other physical factors. Parameters like Usage rate will ensure that non-operationality rate of project devices found in representative samples is accounted for while calculating the emission reductions. The crediting period is found to be in line with para 6.3.1 of GHG Emission Reductions and sequestration product requirements/09/ and para 4.1.5 of CSA requirements/08/. Since the start date of the VPA is a tentative date and could not be verified during the validation, therefore, a FAR has been raised for the same. Kindly refer to FAR#03 under Appendix IV.
Findings	FAR ID#03 have been raised
Conclusion	The start date will be confirmed from the distribution database/sales invoice of the first unit sold under the VPA lifetime and whether the crediting period of the VPA lies within the crediting period of the PoA and is in accordance with GS4GG Principles and Requirements/06/ will be confirmed by the subsequent VVB during the first verification period of the particular VPA/03/.

D.1.2: Assessment of the eligibility of the VPA(s) under PoA

Eligibility Criteria	Justification provided by PP	Means of Validation
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1. Boundary and location of the VPA Condition: The regular VPA must be located within the geographical boundary of Rwanda, details of which are included in the PoA.	The VPA will involve the distribution of improved cookstove technology (ICS) to the rural households which are situated within the PoA boundary of Rwanda. Supporting evidence: CME statement which confirms the geographical boundary of the VPA (Rwanda)	The geographical boundary of the proposed VPA under the PoA is within Rwanda, Africa. The baseline survey database/17/ of the VPA was checked to confirm that geographical boundary of the VPA is within Rwanda, Africa. It was also confirmed from the on – site interviews/33/ with the CME represent that ICS will be only distributed in Rwanda, Africa. The CME has also provided a declaration/19/ which states that the location and boundary of the VPA is within Rwanda, Africa, which is supported by the GPS coordinates. Thus, the criterion was found to be met.
2. Project technology Condition: The regular VPA must involve the distribution of improved cookstove technology (ICS) which will benefit the rural communities in Rwanda.	The VPA will involve the distribution of improved cookstove technologies (ICS) which will benefit rural communities in Rwanda. The details of the technology shall be provided in section A.3 of the VPA-DD. Supporting evidence Manufacturer Specification and Third-party test report.	VVB has verified that the project involves in the distribution of the Hisha Eco7 stoves through the manufacturer specification and stove testing certificate from the Rwanda Board of standards/13/14/. The CME also stated that based on the availability EcoLinks can also distribute a different cookstove model under the project as long as it has similar characteristics⁴ as compared to the above-stated model/03/. This also confirmed during the On-site interviews with the CME/33/. Thus, the criterion was found to be met.
3. No Double counting of impacts within this PoA and across other registered or deregistered PoAs Condition: Under the VPA, there must be a	A unique ID will be provided for each improved cookstove technology distributed under the VPA. A database will be maintained for the VPA which will help in tracing the beneficiary	The VVB has verified through the On-site interviews with the project personnel's that the unique ID will be provided for each improved cookstove technology distributed under the VPA and a database will be maintained for the VPA which will help in tracing the

⁴ The definition of similar technology is in-line with paragraph 3.7.3 of the "TPDDTEC, version 4.0" technology.

unique identification for each improved cookstove technology distributed. This shall ensure no double counting of stoves within the PoA and also ensure that ICS can be identified as belonging to this PoA and not to any other project/programme	details (such as name, address, GPS coordinates) corresponding to the unique ID of each improved cookstove distributed under the programme. An end-user agreement will be signed between the beneficiaries and EcoLinks (which will transfer the carbon rights of the improved cookstove from the beneficiary to EcoLinks) A summary of projects registered with other standards-GS/VERRA/CDM and how they are not overlapping with this VPA has been submitted to VVB. Supporting evidences: a) Distribution database under the project b) End-user agreement c) Registry analysis excel	beneficiary details (such as name, address, GPS coordinates) corresponding to the unique ID of each improved cookstove distributed under the programme/33/. It's also verified that an end-user agreement will be signed between the beneficiaries and EcoLinks (which will transfer the carbon rights of the improved cookstove from the beneficiary to EcoLinks) through the sample of end user agreement, which is submitted to VVB for the reference/15/ and it will be confirmed by the Subsequent VVB during the first MP. A summary of projects registered with other standards-GS/VERRA/CDM and how they are not overlapping with this VPA has been submitted to VVB by CME ensures no double counting has been taken place/30/ and it will be also reconfirmed by the subsequent VVB during the first MP based on the FAR ID 03 raised during the current validation. Thus, the criterion was found to be met.
4. VER Ownership Condition: Under the VPA, the end users benefitting from the improved cookstove technology shall contractually cede their rights to claim and own emission reductions to the CME of the PoA.	Under the VPA, the emission reductions generated from distributed improved cookstove technology (ICS) shall be ceded to EcoLinks. An end-user agreement will be signed by the beneficiary of the improved cookstove technology which will establish that the beneficiaries have relinquished their carbon rights to	The VVB has verified that the emission reductions generated from distributed improved cookstove technology (ICS) shall be ceded to EcoLinks through an end-user agreement which will be signed by the beneficiary of the improved cookstove technology which will establish that the beneficiaries have relinquished their carbon rights to EcoLinks after receiving the product, which is confirmed through the end user sample agreement

	EcoLinks after receiving the product. Supporting evidences: End user agreement signed between the beneficiaries and EcoLinks	provided by the CME/15/ and through interviews with the project proponents during the VVB on site visit/33/.
5. No Double counting of VPA Condition: The VPA must exclusively be included in the PoA. The VPA shall not be proposed as part of another offset program i.e. as an individual Gold Standard or CDM project and/or as part of any other CDM PoA and/or any other mechanism to avail climate change mitigation benefits. CME shall issue a statement included in the VPA-DD that the specific VPA will not be part of another Gold Standard or CDM project activity or VPA under another PoA.	For the VPA, a declaration from the CME on its letterhead would be provided that the specific VPA will not be part of another project activity or VPA under another PoA. A registry analysis will be conducted to cross-check whether a programme/project of similar nature has been registered/deregistered in the same location. Supporting evidence: a) Declaration provided by the CME b) Registry analysis excel	To ensure no double counting takes place for the VPA, a declaration from the CME on its letterhead would be provided to the VVB by the CME which specify that the VPA will not be part of another project activity or VPA under another PoA and it is cross verified by the VVB/35/. The VVB has conducted the online assesment to ensure that the project activity doesn't belongs to any other project/35/. A registry analysis is conducted by the CME to cross-check whether a programme/project of similar nature has been registered/deregistered in the same location and the VVB cross verified the analysis for the no double counting/30/. Thus, the criterion was found to be met.
6. Non-diversion of ODA in case of public funding Condition: Under the VPA, the CME confirms that there is no public funding and no diversion of Official Development Assistance involved in the project.	EcoLinks will provide an ODA Declaration for each VPA wherein it will be confirmed that the project will not receive any ODA funding Supporting evidences: ODA declaration signed by EcoLinks	The VVB has assessed that there is no ODA is involved in the VPA. This was verified through the ODA declaration form provided by the CME/12/. Thus, the criterion was found to be met.
7. Specification of the technology such as the level and type of service, as well as	The VPA will involve the distribution of Hisha Eco7 improved cookstove technology which will at least meet	The VVB has assessed that the VPA will involve the distribution of Hisha Eco7 improved cookstove technology which had met

performance specification Condition: The improved cookstove technology (ICS) distributed under the VPA must be at least meet the tier-3 requirements and should be designed for domestic-users. The technology should be in-line with the host country's (Rwanda) national standard	the tier-3 requirements and will be designed for domestic users in rural Rwanda. The technology will be certified by the Rwanda Board of Standards. Supporting evidences: Certification from Rwanda Board of Standards	the tier-3 requirements and confirmed that the cookstove is designed for domestic users in rural Rwanda through the stove test certification from Rwanda Board of Standards/14/. The criterion was found to be met.
8. Start date of the VPAs Condition: The start dates of the VPA shall be mentioned in each VPA-DD and should be on or after the start date of the PoA. The start date of the VPA is defined as the date on which the first ICS is distributed under the VPA.	The start date of all the VPAs shall be on or after the start date of the PoA. The end-user agreement signed between EcoLinks and the beneficiaries will serve as the evidence of the start date under the VPA. Supporting evidences: End user agreement	The start date of all the VPAs shall be on or after the start date of the PoA. Since the implementation of the cookstove has not started yet, the subsequent verification body shall verify the start dates during the first verification of the VPA. The following VVB will be checking the end-user agreement signed between EcoLinks and the beneficiaries which will serve as the evidence of the start date under the VPA. The criterion was found to be met.
9. VPA Crediting period Condition: The crediting period of the VPA must not exceed the PoA end date and the start date of the crediting period of a VPA shall be on or after: (i) The date of registration of the PoA, if the corresponding VPA-DD is submitted together with the request for registration; (ii) The date when the VPA was included in the PoA.	A statement shall be included in the VPA-DD specifying the crediting period start date and that the crediting period will not exceed the PoA end date (i.e. 20 years after the date of registration of the PoA) totaling to 15 years for a VPA. Supporting evidences: Please refer section C of the VPA-DD	The VVB has confirmed that the dissemination of the cookstove hasn't started still to ensure the start date of the crediting period of the VPA. Thus, the subsequent VVB will verify the start date of the crediting period during the first verification of the VPA.
10. Approval of VPA by CME	A letter by EcoLinks giving approval for inclusion of the VPA	The VVB has assessed the letter provided by EcoLink regarding the approval of inclusion of the VPA into its

Conditions: CME must approve each VPA to be included into its PoA.	into its PoA shall be submitted to VVB Supporting evidences: Approval letter from EcoLinks	PoA which is provided by the CME to the VVB/20/. Thus, the criterion was found to be met.
11. Target groups of the programme Condition: The VPA included in the PoA shall include the distribution of improved cookstove technology (ICS) to the rural households in Rwanda.	The VPA will involve the distribution of improved cookstove technology (ICS) to the rural households which are situated within the PoA boundary of Rwanda. Supporting evidence Distribution database under the project	The VVB has confirmed that the distribution of the improved cookstove will be distributed only to the rural household in Rwanda through the baseline survey/17/ and also through the on site audit conducted by the VVB/33/. Thus, the criterion was found to be met.
12. Additionality of VPAs Conditions: All VPAs to be included under the PoA will comply with any one of the conditions prescribed in paragraph 4.1.9 of the 'Community Services Activity Requirements', version 1.2, the projects that meet any of the following criteria are considered additional: a) Positive list (Annex B) i.e. All projects will be solely composed of isolated units (ICS) where the users of the technology/ measure are households or communities or institutions and where each unit results in <= 600 tonnes of emission reductions per year. (b) Projects located in LDC, SIDS, LLDC (c) Micro-scale projects	The VPA will be solely composed of isolated units (ICS) where the users of the technology will be rural households in Rwanda where each ICS unit shall results in <= 600 tonnes of emission reduction. Also, the project is located in Rwanda which is a LDC. Therefore, the criteria (a) and (b) of the 4.1.9 of the CSA requirements apply. Supporting evidence Refer section B.5 of the VPA-DD	The validation and verification body (VVB) has thoroughly checked the coordinates of the project boundary, confirming that it is located in Rwanda, Africa. As Rwanda is classified as a least developed country (LDC)/34/ and after cross-checking the ex-ante ER sheet /04/ submitted by CME, the VVB found that each ICS unit distributed under this project will result in <=600 tonnes of emission reduction therefore, the project is deemed additional under the criteria outlined in section 4.1.9 (a) and (b) for the GS4GG Community services activity requirements/08/. Therefore, the project meets the necessary additionality criteria and considered to be deemed additional. Thus, the criterion was found to be met
13. Sampling requirements for the PoA	The VPA-DD will incorporate the sampling procedure and sampled survey	The VVB has cross checked the VPA-DD, which incorporates the sampling procedure/23/ and found that the sampling procedure is

Condition: The VPAs will follow the usage survey guidelines of the methodology and UNFCCC guidelines on sampling and survey for Programme of Activities version 4.0	form/excel sheets shall be provided to VVB. Supporting evidence: Refer section B.7 of the VPA-DD	found to be in line with the standards/21/. Hence, the criterion was found to be met.
14. Application of Methodologies Condition: The VPAs under the PoA will apply "Reduced emissions from cooking and heating – Technologies and Practices to displace Decentralised Thermal Energy Consumption (TPDDTEC), version 4.0"	The VPA will employ the "Reduced emissions from cooking and heating – Technologies and Practices to displace Decentralised Thermal Energy Consumption (TPDDTEC), version 4.0" impact quantification Supporting evidences: Refer section B.1 of the VPA-DD	The VVB has confirmed through the VPA-DD section B.2/03/ that the VPA has employed "Reduced emissions from cooking and heating – Technologies and Practices to displace Decentralised Thermal Energy Consumption (TPDDTEC), version 4.0"/02/ impact quantification. Hence, the criterion was found to be met.
15. Baseline parameters to be established at VPA level Condition: Each VPA shall demonstrate how the baseline parameters that are to be calculated at the VPA level have been determined.	The VPA shall outline the approach for determining baseline and provide supporting documents including copies of any official government reports, statistics or literature sources used for determining parameters. Supporting evidences: Please refer section B.4 of the VPA-DD Baseline survey report	The VVB has assessed the baseline survey report/17/ provided by the CME and also the section B.4 of the VPA DD/03/ and ensures that all the baseline parameter has been reflected and demonstrated in the VPA. Hence, the criterion was found to be met.
16. Scale of the VPAs Condition: The VPAs included must be large-scale. The definition of scale must be in-line with type-2 project i.e. "activities that lead to a thermal energy saving of greater than 180 GWh thermal"	The VPAs included will be large-scale. Supporting evidence Threshold calculation in ex-post ER calculation sheet	The VVB confirmed, based on the detailed Emission Reduction Calculation Sheet/04/, that the VPA involves the distribution of 100,000 improved cookstove technologies (ICS), leading to an aggregate thermal energy saving of 950.57 GWhthermal per year, which exceeds the threshold of 180 GWhthermal per year for small-scale type-II projects. Consequently, the

		project is classified as large-scale. In line with the product requirements, “end-user energy efficiency projects” qualify as type-II projects, and the SSC threshold assessment further confirmed that the criterion was met.
17. LSC Condition: The grouped stakeholder consultation meeting conducted for the real case will be valid for all the regular cases included within 2 years from the date of the physical stakeholder consultation meeting.	The grouped stakeholder consultation meeting conducted for the real case will be valid for all the regular cases included within 2 years from the date of the physical stakeholder consultation meeting for future regular VPAs additional consultation meetings will be held. Supporting evidence Stakeholder consultation report	The VVB has confirmed that the grouped stakeholder consultation meeting conducted for the real case is valid for all the regular cases included within 2 years from the date of the physical stakeholder consultation meeting for future regular VPAs additional consultation meetings will be held, through the LSC report submitted by the CME/18/. Hence, the criterion was found to be met.
18. Conditions to confirm that technologies in VPAs are eligible Condition: The improved cookstove technologies which fulfil all the applicability conditions as described under section 2.2.1 of the “TPDDTEC, version 4.0” methodology are eligible to be distributed under the VPAs.	The improved cookstove technologies which fulfil all the applicability conditions described under section 2.2.1 of the “TPDDTEC, version 4.0” will be distributed under the VPAs. Supporting evidence Refer section B.2 of the VPA-DD	The VVB has confirmed that the improved cookstove technologies which fulfil all the applicability conditions described under section 2.2.1 of the “TPDDTEC, version 4.0”/02,03/ which will be distributed under distributed under this VPA. Hence, the criterion was found to be met.
19. Conditions to be met by each VPA regarding SDG outcomes assessment Condition: The CME shall conduct the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) impact assessment as per Principles &	SDG outcome assessment shall be done at VPA level and the results will be included in section B.6 of the VPA-DDs. Supporting evidence SDG Impact Tool	The VVB has assessed the SDG Impact tool/36/ calculation and found it to be in line with the section B.6 of the VPA-DD/03/. Hence, the criterion was found to be met.

Requirements, version 2.0		
20. Conditions to be met by each VPA regarding safeguarding principles Condition: The VPAs shall conduct a Safeguarding Principles Assessment and confirm to Gold Standard Safeguarding Principles and Requirements, version 2.1.	SDG outcome assessment shall be done at VPA level and the results will be included in section B.6 of the VPA-DDs. Supporting evidence SDG Impact Tool The Safeguarding principles assessment report shall be conducted done at VPA level Supporting evidence Please refer section D and Appendix-A of the VPA-DD.	The VVB has assessed the safeguarding principles noted in appendix 1 of the VPA-DD/03/ and confirmed that all the conditions of the safeguarding principle assessment has been met by the CME throughout the project and it also cross confirmed during the onsite audit conducted by the VVB/33/. Hence, the criterion was found to be met.
Findings	No findings have been raised	
Conclusion	The validation team confirms that the proposed VPA with GS ID 13117 is eligible for inclusion under the GS PoA "EcoLinks Clean Cooking and Safe Water Programme in Rwanda" with GS ID: 13116. The VPA is thus eligible for seeking Gold Standard Certification	

D.1.3: Assessment of the Eligibility criteria of the VPA with GS4GG Principles & Requirements and Community Services Activity Requirements

Eligibility Criteria	Justification provided by PP	Means of Validation
1. Types of Project Condition: Eligible projects shall include physical action/implementation on the ground. Pre-identified eligible project types are identified in the Eligibility Principles and Requirements section.	Project is already one of the pre identified types as per section 3.1.1 (b) of "GS4GG Community Services Activity Requirements, version 1.2" and automatically eligible for Gold Standard Certification as per section 4.1.3 of "GS4GG Principles & Requirements, version 2.0".	The VVB has assessed the following project is already one of the pre identified project types and as per the section 3.1.1 (b), the project is automatically eligible for the Gold Standard Certification as per section 4.1.3 of GS4GG Principles & Requirements/06/. Thus, the criterion was found to be met.

2. Location of Project Condition: Projects may be located in any part of the world	The location of the project is the country of Rwanda	The VVB has confirmed that the location of the PoA is the Rwanda and this VPA will be located in Kigali/Central, Southern, Western, Northern and Eastern part of Rwanda through the GPS location of the area provided in the baseline survey by the CME/17/ and also through project boundary declaration provided by the CME/19/. Thus, the criterion was found to be met.
3. Project Area, Project Boundary and Scale Condition: The Project Area and Project Boundary shall be defined. Projects may be developed at any scale although certain rules, requirements and limitations may apply under specific Activity Requirements, Impact Quantification Methodologies and Products Requirements. In order to avoid double counting the Project shall not be included in any other voluntary or compliance standards programme unless approved by Gold Standard (for example through dual certification). Also, if the Project Area overlaps with that of another Gold Standard or other voluntary or compliance standard programme of a similar nature, the Project shall demonstrate that there is no double counting of impacts at design and	The project area is the point location of the beneficiary household for clean cooking project in rural areas of Rwanda. The boundary for the VPA in terms of the geographical area is defined as the country of Rwanda. To avoid inclusion of any improved cookstoves (ICS) which is a part of another registered carbon project/ programme, all ICS distributed under this programme shall have a unique ID (which will be inscribed on the ICS) in order to uniquely identify the ICS thereby avoiding any double counting and helping in traceability of its end-user. A registry analysis will be conducted in order to cross-check that the project location does not overlap with any other carbon project/programme. The CME (EcoLinks) will sign a declaration stating that the project will not be included in any other voluntary or compliance programme.	The project boundary of the proposed VPA under the PoA is within Rwanda, Africa. The baseline survey/17/ of the project technologies (ICS) under the VPA was checked to confirm that geographical boundary of the VPA is within Rwanda, Africa. It was also confirmed from the on – site visit with the project beneficiaries that ICS will be only installed in Rwanda, Africa/33/. The VVB has also received a declaration/19/ from the CME which states that the location and boundary of the VPA is within Rwanda, Africa, which is supported by the GPS coordinates of the host country/03/. Thus, the criterion was found to be met.

performance certification (for example use of similar technology or practices through which the potential arises for double counting or misestimation of impacts amongst projects)		
4. Host Country Requirements Condition: Projects shall be in compliance with applicable Host Country's legal, environmental, ecological and social regulations.	The VPA shall comply with Rwanda's legal, environmental and ecological and social regulations.	The VVB has checked that the VPA complies with Rwanda's legal, environmental and ecological and social regulations based on the country's regulation for the ICS distribution of the cookstove/37/. Thus, the criterion was found to be met.
5. Contact Details Condition: As part of the Project Documentation the Project Developer shall provide (i) name and (ii) contact details of all Project Participants ; AND in case of an organisation (iii) the legal registration details and (iv) documentation by the governing jurisdiction that proves that the entity is in good standing (defined as being a legal or other appropriate entity registered in or allowed to operate within the required jurisdiction and with no evidence of insolvency or legal/criminal notices placed against it or any of its Directors). Gold Standard retains the right (at its own discretion) to refuse use of the Standard where reputational	Name and contact details of EcoLinks which is sole project participant under the VPA has been given in Appendix 2 of this document.	The VVB has assessed the Name and Contact details of Project Participants is provided in the Appendix 1 of the VPA-DD/03/ is found to be in-line with the agreement document provided by the CME/16/. Thus, the criterion was found to be met.

concerns are highlighted.		
6. Legal Ownership Condition: Full and uncontested legal ownership of any Products that are generated under Gold Standard Certification, (for example carbon credits) shall be demonstrated. Where such ownership is transferred from project beneficiaries this must be demonstrated transparently and with full, prior and informed consent (FPIC). Note that for certain Project types there is a requirement for full and uncontested legal land title/tenure to be demonstrated. These are contained within specific Activity or Product Requirements. All projects shall immediately report to Gold Standard any land title/tenure disputes arising	Full and uncontested legal ownership of the improved cookstoves (ICS) distributed under the project shall be demonstrated by following the steps given below: • During the local stakeholder consultation meeting conducted for the project, the mechanism for the transfer of carbon ownership from beneficiaries to EcoLinks shall be transparently discussed with all the stakeholders. • During improved cookstove distribution, the end-users will be transparently informed about how upon receiving the improved cookstoves, the beneficiaries need to sign an "end-user agreement" transferring their carbon rights to EcoLinks. Only those end-users who agree to sign the agreement will become a part of the project.	The VVB has confirmed that the transfer of the carbon rights with end users will be through a signed agreement during the time of ICS distribution /15/ is provided to the end-users in the respective language. This is confirmed through the sample agreement provided by the CME and also confirmed through the onsite interviews by the VVB/33/. During the on-site visit the VVB also confirmed the CME personnel that only the households who are willing to voluntarily participate in the project activity are included in the project/33/. The VPA will not encroach on land titles or tenure/03/. Thus, the criteria are found to be met.
7. Other Rights Condition: As well as legal title and ownership, the Project Developer shall also demonstrate where required uncontested legal rights and/or permissions concerning changes in use of other resources required to service the Project (for example, access rights, water rights etc.). Any known disputes or contested rights must be declared immediately to Gold	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

Standard by the Project Developer and resolved prior to further project implementation in affected areas.		
8. Official Development Assistance (ODA) Declaration Condition: All Project Developers applying for project activities located in a country named by the OECD Development Assistance Committee's ODA recipient list and seeking Gold Standard Certification for carbon credits shall declare the Official Development Assistance (ODA) support. The Project Developer shall follow the GHG Emissions Reduction & Sequestration Product Requirements and submit the declaration at the time of Design Certification.	No ODA is being diverted for this project. The ODA declaration form has been submitted by EcoLinks.	The VVB has assessed that there is no ODA is involved in the VPA. This was confirmed through the ODA declaration form provided by the CME/12/. Thus, the criterion was found to be met.
The table below lists "Global Goals Community Services Activity Requirements", version 1.2 and how the VPA complies with the criteria:		
1. Para 2.1.2: 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.	This VPA involves distribution of improved cookstove technology (ICS) which will help in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions otherwise resulting from burning of non-renewable woody biomass for preparing meals in rural regions of Rwanda. The targeted end-users under the project will be "rural households" which were otherwise preparing meals on conventional stoves using non-	The aim of the VPA is dissemination of ICS in the rural households of Rwanda, Africa as mentioned by CME under Section A.2 of the VPA-DD/03/. The VVB has confirmed through the baseline survey/17/ of cooking practices in Rwanda. The manufacturer's technical specification/13/ of the stoves has been checked which clearly shows the improvement in thermal energy saving. Hence, the VPA will lead to reduction of GHG emissions.

	renewable biomass (firewood). Therefore, the project falls under category of "End-Use Energy Efficiency" of pre-identified CSA project types.	Hence, the applicability was found to be met.
2. Para 3.1.1 (b) End-use energy efficiency: Project activities that reduce energy requirements as compared to baseline scenario without effecting 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 end user end. For example, efficient cooking, heating, lighting, etc.	The VPA involves the distribution of improved cookstove technology (ICS) to the rural households in Rwanda which will reduce the energy consumption of these households (for cooking) without affecting the cooking pattern of the household in any way.	The aim of the VPA is to dissemination ICS in the rural households Rwanda, Africa as mentioned by CME under Section A.1 of the VPA-DD/03/. The technical specifications of stove/13/ and stove test report/14/ of the implementing stoves which clearly shows the improvement in thermal energy saving without any change in the level of service products for households. Hence, the criterion was found to be met.
3. Para 3.1.2: Project Area and Boundary shall be defined in line with the applicable Impact Quantification Methodologies and Product Requirements. The definition of scale is the same for all Projects, except Microscale which is defined as: (a) CSA Project issuing emission reductions less than or equal to 10,000 tCO₂eq per annum (b) CSA Project seeking any Gold Standard Certified Impact or Product other than emission reductions and meeting one of the following criteria: • Installed capacity less than equal to 2 MWel /6 MWth that	The project area is the point location of the beneficiary household for clean cooking project in rural areas of Rwanda. The geographical project boundary of this VPA is defined as the rural region of Rwanda (also detailed in Section A.2 of this document). In-line with the product requirements, the "end-user energy efficiency projects" qualify as type-2 projects. The definition of small-scale under type-II projects is "activities that led to a maximum energy saving of 180 GWh(th) per year". The VPA involves the distribution of 100,000 improved cookstove technologies (ICS) which	The aim of the VPA is dissemination of ICS in the households of Rwanda as mentioned by CME under Section A.1 of the VPA-DD/03/. This was confirmed through the baseline survey/17/ and on-site audit by VVB/33/. The CME has also provided declaration/19/ which states that the location and boundary of all the VPA is within Rwanda, Africa, which is supported by the GPS coordinates in section A.2 of the VPA DD/03/. The SSC threshold assessment has been done by the VVB basis on the detailed Emission reduction calculation sheet/4/ and it has been confirmed that project is a large-scale project (i.e. greater than 180 GWh thermal) The VPA involves the distribution of

employs renewable energy as the primary technology • Energy savings at a scale of no more than 20 GWh per year where energy efficiency is the primary activity • Achieve GHG emissions reductions at a scale of no more than 20,000 tCO₂eq per annum where project activity type is not included in the above two criteria.	will lead to an aggregate thermal energy saving of 950.57 GWhthermal per year (i.e. greater than 180 GWhthermal) therefore the project is large-scale.	100,000 improved cookstove technologies (ICS) which will lead to an aggregate thermal energy saving of 950.57 GWh thermal per year/04/. Hence, the criterion was found to be met.
4. Para 3.1.3: Certain Impact Quantification methodologies allow projects to account Suppressed Demand scenario when establishing a baseline. In such cases, the application of Suppressed Demand baseline is limited to Small Scale and Microscale Projects.	The scale of this VPA is large scale and therefore it is not eligible under the CSA requirements to account the suppressed demand scenario when establishing a baseline.	The VVB assessment has confirmed according to the CSA requirement para 3.1.3/08/ that VPA is considered as a large-scale project/03/. Thus, the VPA does not apply the suppressed demand scenario.
5. Para 3.1.4: 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. The transfer of Product	The improved cookstoves distributed under the VPA shall be owned by EcoLinks. EcoLinks will encourage the adoption of improved cookstoves by making it as simple as possible for end users to benefit from finance and incentives available via carbon market. EcoLinks will ensure that the end users are aware of the fact that it is claiming ownership rights from the product (here improved cookstove technology) and selling the emission reduction resulting from the project in order to obtain the necessary funding for the project. The information about the transfer of carbon rights will be	VVB has reviewed the agreement between the CME and end-users during the on-site /33/ and through the sample agreement provided by the CME/15/ and found to be in line with the eligibility criteria/06/. Sample end user agreements/15/ have been reviewed by the VVB. Hence, it has been confirmed that all the carbon title will be transferred to CME. Thus, the criterion was found to be met.

ownership shall be discussed during local stakeholder consultations for projects.	communicated transparently with the end-users during the local stakeholder consultation meeting and at the time of improved cookstove distribution. All the beneficiaries under the project will sign an end-user agreement which will transfer the carbon rights of the improved cookstove from beneficiaries to EcoLinks. The signed end-user agreements will be submitted to the GS-VVB as proofs that the end-users are aware of and willing to give-up their rights on products.	
	No findings have been raised	
	The validation team confirms that the proposed VPA with GS ID 13117 follows the relevant eligibility criteria As per section 3.1.1 of GS4GG Principles & Requirements and Global Goals Community Services Activity Requirements.	

D.2: Application of approved Gold Standard Methodology (ies) and/or demonstration of SDG contributions

D.2.1: Reference of approved methodology (ies)

Applicability Criteria	Justification provided by PP	Means of Validation
As per paragraph 2.1.1, the methodology is applicable to project activities that introduce technologies and/or practices that reduce or displace greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the thermal energy consumption of households and/or residential, institutional, industrial, or commercial facilities	This project involves the distribution of improved cookstove technology in rural households of Rwanda. The use of efficient cookstoves displaces the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from thermal energy consumption of the Rwandan households. Evidences: Project sales database	The VVB has confirmed that the project involves the distribution of the improved cookstove in the rural households of the Rwanda, Africa through the declaration by the CME and through the on-site audit by the VVB/33/. VVB also confirmed that use of efficient cookstoves displaces the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from thermal energy consumption of the Rwandan households for cooking/14/.

		Thus, the criterion was found to be met.
As per paragraph 2.1.2 of the methodology, where there is no installation of improved devices and project claims emission reductions from improved practices only, project shall provide a detailed discussion of the chosen monitoring approach to demonstrate that quantified emission reductions result exclusively from the practices introduced by the project activity.	The project involves the installation of improved cookstove technology hence this condition is not applicable for the project. Evidence: Project sales database	The VVB has confirmed that project involves the installation of improved cookstove technology as mentioned in the section A.1 of VPA DD/03/ hence this condition is not applicable for the project.
As per paragraph 2.1.3 of the methodology, project may involve progressive distribution of technology where implementation of the technology may occur in a gradual manner and adoption can increase over the project's crediting period.	The project involves progressive distribution of 100,000 improved cookstoves to the households in rural Rwanda which were earlier dependent on traditional methods of cooking. Evidences: Project sales database	The VVB has assessed that the project is intended to distribute 100,000 ICS to the households in rural Rwanda, who were depending on traditional methods of cooking through on-site audit and confirmed through the section A.1 of the VPA DD/03/ and it will be verified by the subsequent VVB during the first MP based on the FAR ID 03 raised during this validation in appendix IV of this report.
As per paragraph 2.2.1 (a) of the methodology, the 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%.	EcoLinks intends to distribute Hisha Eco7 improved cookstove technology under the project which has a rated thermal efficiency of 43.4% however, depending on the availability, EcoLinks can also distribute a different cookstove model under the project as long as it has similar /better efficiency than the Hisha Eco7 model. Evidences: Certification by national standard	The VVB has assessed the VPA under the proposed PoA involves the distribution ICS that have been used in other carbon projects for nearly 10 years and have proven durable (According to Gold standard)/38/. And the VVB has confirmed the rated thermal efficiency of ICS has been tested to be 43.4% through the stove test report/14/ provided by the CME. Thus, the criteria is found to be met.

As per paragraph 2.2.1 (b) of the methodology, the technology shall have continuous useful energy output of less than 150kW per unit	The improved cookstove technology distributed under the VPA has a continuous useful energy output of 3.8 kW per unit (i.e. less than 150 kW per unit) Evidences: Certification by national standard	VVB has checked the manufacturer's specifications/13/ and stove test reports of the ICS technology– Hisha Eco7 stove by the Rwanda Standards Board confirms that the energy output of the technology is less than 150kW per unit (i.e. 3.8 kW/unit) with a thermal efficiency of 43.4% /14/. Thus, the methodology criteria are found to be met.
As per paragraph 2.2.1 (c) of the methodology, 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 project activity is being implemented by EcoLinks which is the sole participant under the project. The details of EcoLinks have been listed in Appendix-2 of the VPA-DD. The households under the project will not individually act as project participant. Additionally, the households which will receive an improved cookstove technology (ICS) under the project will be signing an end-user agreement transferring their carbon rights to EcoLinks. Evidences: a) Project sales database b) End-user agreement c) Cover Letter	The VVB has confirmed that the project activity will be implemented by a project developer and the details of project participants has been listed in Appendix 2 of the VPA-DD/03/. The VVB also confirms that individual households do not individually act as project participants through the caron rights sample agreement/15/ and the cover letter provided by the CME and confirmed during the on-site by the VVB/33/. Thus, this criterion is applicable.
As per paragraph 2.2.1 (d) 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.	Under the project, the end-users who eliminate the use of inefficient baseline stove will be given an extended warranty of 1 year for the project technology. This is an incentive-based mechanism which will not be provided to those end-users who continue the use of the baseline technology. This mechanism will thereby encourage the project households to eliminate	The VVB has confirmed during the on-site/33/ with EcoLinks personnel that the end-users who eliminate the use of inefficient baseline stove will be given an extended warranty of 1 year for the project technology and also confirmed that this incentive mechanism will not be available to the end users, who continue the usage of the inefficient baseline stove/03/ which will act as a best mechanism to encourage the end users to

	the use of the inefficient baseline stoves after receiving the project technology. Evidences: a) Extended Warranty Certificate b) Project sales database	use the project stove and discontinue use of the inefficient baseline stove. Thus, this criterion is applicable.
As per paragraph 2.2.1 (e) of the methodology, 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 ii. inform and notify the end users that they cannot claim emission reductions from the project, and iii. 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	In order to avoid double counting under the project, EcoLinks will: i) Clearly communicate its ownership rights and intention of claiming the emission reductions resulting from the project activity through a contract to the manufacturer of the improved cookstove technology. EcoLinks is the sole participant in the project and it directly sources the technology from the manufacturer therefore, no retailers are involved. ii. The households which will receive the improved cookstove technology (ICS) under the project will be signing an end-user agreement waiving off their carbon rights to EcoLinks and thereby confirming that they cannot claim emission reductions from the project. iii. To avoid inclusion of any improved cookstoves (ICS) which is a part of another registered carbon project/ programme, all ICS distributed under this programme shall have a unique ID (which will be inscribed on the ICS) in order to uniquely identify the ICS thereby avoiding any double counting and	The VVB has confirmed that Household data and location will be collected for each stove allowing CME to trace each user for future monitoring and verification. Records will be kept of householders who agree to transfer the carbon rights through the signed agreement. The householder will own the stove/03/. To avoid double counting and to ensure that any stove that is part of another registered carbon project or programme is not included in this PoA, all ICS under this PoA shall have: • A unique ID serial number • Household data (name/address/physical location) • Records of baseline stove type and fuel type used • A record of the GPS Coordinate/19/. Thus, this criterion is applicable.

details on this demonstration.	helping in traceability of its end-user. Evidences: a) Contract between EcoLinks and EcoGreen solutions (manufacturer of ICS technology) b) End-user agreement	
As per paragraph 2.2.1 (f) of the methodology, 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 The project does not involve the use of solid or any other improved fossil fuels	The VVB has confirmed that the project will not be using solid fossil fuels according to the section A.1 of VPA-DD and the technical specification of the ICS/13/.
As per paragraph 2.2.1 (g) of the methodology, project activities making use of solid fossil fuel in the project scenario or other improved fossil fuel cookstoves meeting certain conditions (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 The project does not involve the use of solid/any other improved fossil fuels.	The VVB has confirmed that the project will not be using solid/any other improved fossil fuels according to the section A.1 of VPA-DD and the manufacturer's specification of the ICS/13/.
As per paragraph 2.2.1 (h) of the methodology, adequate evidence is supplied to demonstrate that indoor air pollution (IAP) levels are not worsened compared to	The Hisha Eco-7 stoves have been tested to demonstrate that they do not worsen the levels of IAP as compared to the baseline scenario. As per a study by Energy by	The VVB has confirmed that the indoor air pollution (IAP) levels are not worsened compared to the baseline as the project uses more efficient stoves. In order to confirm the levels of IAP, the

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.	Sustainable Development, concentration in open fire was found to be 1340 mg/MJd for PM2.5 and 9 g/MJd for CO among households using traditional stove. The project technology demonstrate that they do not worsen the level of IAP (211 mg/MJd for PM2.5 and 4.10 g/MJd for CO). The improved cookstove technology (ICS) distributed under the project will be portable in nature and will not lead to any change in cooking location (outdoor to indoor). The technology will not cause any reduction in ventilation. Evidence Certification by national standard	VVB has cross-verified the study conducted by Energy by Sustainable Development, 24-hour average concentration of 1340 mg/MJd for PM2.5 and 9 g/MJd for CO among households using traditional stove/39/. The third-party test report for the improved cookstove clearly shows that PM2.5 is 211.0 mg/MJd and CO is 4.10 g/MJd and CO2 is 213.5 g/MJd/14/. This clearly shows reduction in indoor air pollution from use of ICS. Use of clean energy products will contribute to improving the health of users as compared to inefficient traditional stoves by reducing the indoor air pollution/14/. Thus, this criterion is applicable.
Findings	CAR ID#01 have been raised and closed	
Conclusion	The validation team confirms that the VPA meet all the applicability conditions of the applied methodologies/02/.	

D.2.2: VPA Boundary, sources and GHGs

Means of Validation	Project boundary: The CME has applied methodology TPDDTEC – Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralized Thermal Energy Consumption (TPDDTEC), version 4.0/02/ for Improved cookstoves. The project boundary basically defines the physical and geographical boundary of the project facility, and it is well defined in the VPA-DD/03/ (section B3). The project boundary includes the point location of ICS beneficiaries in the host country, which is Rwanda, Africa. Therefore, the project boundary covers all the points of ICS beneficiaries in all the locations. The project boundary is clearly defined in the VPA-DD/03/ as per the applied methodology/02/. Sources and GHGs: Emissions sources included in the project boundary have been appropriately included in the PoA-DD/01/. CO₂, CH₄ and N₂O emissions due to use of non-renewable biomass in the traditional stove for baseline scenario (for all the project sites) and the project scenario has reduced emissions, thus CO₂, CH₄ and N₂O GHGs are included. No emission source was identified that will be affected by the implementation of the VPA and which are expected to contribute more than 1% of the overall expected average annual emission reductions, that are not addressed by the selected applied methodologies/02/.
Findings	No findings have been raised
Conclusion	The project boundary, sources and GHGs have been determined in line with the applied methodologies/02/.

D.2.3: Establishment and description of baseline scenario

Means of Validation	The baseline scenario established under the project is in-line with the requirements of the TPDDTEC, version 4.0 methodology. The detailed assessment of the baseline scenario against section 3.5 of the “TPDDTEC, version 4.0” methodology is as follows:		
	Applicability Condition	Justification by the CME	VVB assessment
	As per paragraph 3.5.1 of the TPDDTEC version 4.0 methodology, the selection of the baseline scenario must be adequately described, with all technologies that may be replaced by the	The selection of the baseline scenario has been adequately described which includes all stove types that the household is using for preparing meals. During the baseline survey some of the	The VVB has assessed the selection of the baseline scenario which includes stove types that the household is using for preparing meals during the on site interviews

	project technology considered, such as the presence and usage of multiple baseline technologies by the target population ("stove stacking"). It is not legitimate to compare the project to only the most inefficient technology being used in the target population.	households in the target population were found using multiple stoves for preparing meals (stove stacking). In such cases, the improved cookstove technology (ICS) distributed under the project will only be replacing cooking tasks performed by the firewood dependent inefficient baseline technology (i.e three-stone fire stove/traditional stove).	conducted by the VVB/33/. The VVB has cross checked the baseline survey and confirmed through the on-site audit that some of the households in the target population were found using multiple stoves for preparing meals (stove stacking). In such cases, the VVB has confirmed that the improved cookstove technology (ICS) distributed under the project will only be replacing cooking tasks performed by the firewood dependent inefficient baseline technology (i.e three-stone fire stove/traditional stove) and only for households dependent primarily on firewood-based cooking/17/33/.
	As per paragraph 3.5.2 of the TPDDTEC, version 4.0 methodology, project developers must consider distinct baseline scenario when the project	According to the results of the baseline study, the cooking habits across rural Rwanda were found to be homogeneous and the communities were predominantly dependent on	The VVB has confirmed the results of the baseline study with the published literature and government statistics regarding

	activity targets end-user populations that consume significantly different fuels. For example, end users cooking predominantly with wood are significantly different from end-users cooking predominantly with charcoal and would thus warrant a different baseline scenario	firewood as fuel for cooking therefore, the project does not require distinct baseline scenarios.	cooking habits across rural Rwanda which is found to be homogeneous, and the communities were predominantly dependent on firewood as fuel for cooking/40/ therefore, the project does not require distinct baseline scenarios.
	As per paragraph 3.5.3 of the TPDDTEC, version 4.0 methodology, when the project includes different project technology types, the project developer must analyze whether multiple baseline scenarios are applicable in relation to different project technologies, depending on fuel-type and baseline technology use patterns. For example, one baseline scenario may represent rural end-users predominantly using inefficient wood stoves, while a second baseline scenario	Under the project, multiple baseline scenarios are not required based on project technology because the project involves the distribution of non-renewable biomass (firewood) dependent improved cookstove technology which shall be same/similar ⁵ in their characteristics throughout the project boundary.	The VVB has verified that under the project, multiple baseline scenarios are not required because the project involves the distribution of non-renewable biomass (firewood) dependent improved cookstove technology which shall be same/similar in their characteristics throughout the project boundary/03/.

⁵ The definition of similar technology is in-line with paragraph 3.7.3 of the “TPDDTEC, version 4.0” methodology

	may represent an urban target population predominantly using inefficient charcoal stoves.		
	As per paragraph 3.5.4 of the TPDDTEC version 4.0 methodology, a different baseline scenario is not necessarily required for each different technology in the project activity. For example, different improved wood stove models in the project activity could be compared to the same wood stove in baseline scenario, and different charcoal models in the project activity could be compared to the same inefficient charcoal stove baseline scenario.	Under the project only non-renewable biomass (firewood) dependent improved cookstove technology will be distributed which shall be same/similar ¹⁰ in their characteristics throughout the project boundary therefore, even if EcoLinks distributes different models of stoves it will be ensured that a different baseline scenario is not established for each of the models.	The VVB has confirmed through the section A.3 of the VPA DD/03/ that the project only depends on non-renewable biomass (firewood) - improved cookstove technology will be distributed which shall be same/similar in their characteristics throughout the project boundary. Therefore, even if EcoLinks distributes different models of stoves it will be ensured that a different baseline scenario is not established for each of the models. And this also verified through the interviews with CME personnel during the onsite audit by the VVB/33/03/.
	As per paragraph 3.5.5 of the TPDDTEC version 4.0 of the methodology, in project activities	Under the project, improved cookstove technology will be distributed to domestic users ⁶ and the implementation	The VVB has confirmed through the baseline survey/17/ that the project,

	where all units are installed at the start, or in a non-industrial project activity with gradual technology adoption, the baseline is considered fixed in time during the crediting period. It therefore does not require continuous monitoring or updating.	of the technology will happen in a phased manner therefore the baseline under the project shall be fixed and does not require continuous monitoring or updating.	improved cookstove technology will be distributed to domestic users of Rwanda, Africa and in a phased manner. Therefore, the baseline under the project has been fixed and does not require continuous monitoring or updating.
	As per paragraph 3.5.7 of the TPDDTEC version 4.0 of the methodology, in project activities targeting multiple distributed technologies e.g. improved cookstoves and oven technologies, cross-effect between the baseline and project scenarios including potential leakage must be accounted for. The purpose and scope of each technology shall be defined in the PDD, the baseline scenario surveys should be carried out at the same time, and the baseline scenario shall be defined such that	Under the project only improved cookstove technologies will be distributed to the rural households in Rwanda therefore, there are no cross-effects of technologies involved ⁷ .	The VVB has confirmed during the onsite that only the improved cookstove technologies will be distributed to the rural households in Rwanda and the GPS coordinates and/or detailed address of each end user will be captured and will be updated in the End- user database by the CME/03/. VVB has raised a FAR for the subsequent VVB to check for the cross-effects arising or existing within the VPAs.

⁷ This real case VPA is being included under a programme which involves implementation of multiple technologies: namely CWT and ICS. The VPA implementer shall ensure that the ICS technology distributed under this project does not target any household located within 1 km radius of the CWT technology which shall be implemented under the programme thereby ensuring that there is no overlap amongst the households of both the technologies.

	baseline fuel use is divided appropriately between the technologies.		
	As per the baseline study conducted by PD, 91.22% of the households in rural Rwanda is dependent on traditional stove using firewood. Around 5.37% of the households were found with stove stacking by using charcoal stove as secondary stove for cooking. For the households which were found "stove-stacking" it was observed that these households were using alternate fuels (fuels other than firewood) for preparing not more than 2 meals in a week (i.e. around 15% of the total cooking tasks). 78% of the households were found cooking indoors and 17% were cooking outdoors. VVB also cross-checked the value against available literature and govt. statistics. As per National Survey on Cooking Fuel Energy and Technologies in Households, Commercial and Public Institutions in Rwanda by Ministry of Infrastructure and Ministry of Finance, Rwanda published in Year 2020, 91% of the households in rural Rwanda are dependent on firewood for cooking. The same report also states that rural households consume around 234.28 kg per month of firewood for cooking which is 0.0078 tonnes/household*day. During the on-site visit, it was confirmed that most of the households depended on firewood for cooking. The few households found using other fuels stated that they used them for no more than two meals per week. The average fuel consumption was also in line with the govt. statistics. Hence, VVB confirms the baseline study has been conducted in line with the requirements of the applied methodology/02/.		
Findings	No findings have been raised		
Conclusion	The VPA is complying with the baseline scenario established under the TPDDTEC version 4.0 methodology which could be validated through onsite interviews with the users of the baseline technologies		

D.3: Demonstration of Additionality

Applicability Condition	Justification provided by PP	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:	The project involves the distribution of improved cookstove technology (ICS). Each improved cookstove distributed under the project shall result in an emission reduction not exceeding 600 tonnes CO ₂ e in any of the crediting period. Additionally, the project is	The VPA aims to distribute ICS which falls under Positive List. Further, the validation and verification body (VVB) has thoroughly checked the coordinates of the project boundary/1/3/, confirming that it is located in Rwanda, Africa. As Rwanda is classified as a least developed country (LDC)/34/ and additionally

(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. 600 MWh of thermal energy savings per year for ICS. b. 600 tCO₂ per year for HWT and IWT technologies (b) Projects located in LDC, SIDS, LLDC (c) Micro-scale projects"	located in Rwanda which qualifies as an LDC. The project activity therefore fulfils criteria (a) and (b) under paragraph 4.1.9 of the CSA requirements and is therefore deemed additional.	after cross-checking the ex-ante ER sheet /04/ submitted by CME, the VVB found that each ICS unit distributed under this project will result in <=600 tonnes of emission reduction therefore, this project is deemed additional under the criteria outlined in section 4.1.9 for the GS4GG Community services activity requirements (a) Positive list (b) Projects located in LDC, SIDS, LLDC4 (c) Microscale projects /08/. Since the project meets the necessary additionality criteria (a) and (b), the project is deemed additional.
Findings	No findings have been raised	
Conclusion	The VPA was found to be deemed additional.	

D.3.1: Ongoing Financial Needs

Means of Validation	It has been confirmed from the no ODA declaration/12/ that there is no provision for public funding available for the VPA. OFN is required only at time of renewal according to the para 4.1.52 of Principles and requirements /06/.
Findings	No findings have been raised
Conclusion	Not applicable.

D.3.2: Demonstration of prior consideration

Means of Validation	It has been confirmed as the VPA follows the regular cycle, thus prior consideration is not applicable according to the para 4.1.50 of the principles and requirements /06/.
Findings	No findings have been raised
Conclusion	The validation team confirms that the VPA fulfils the requirements for the demonstration of prior consideration from Gold Standard certification.

D.4: SDG Outcome Assessment

SDG Targeted	SDG Description	SDG Impact Indicator	Means of Validation
SDG 13 Climate	13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies,	Amount of GHGs emissions avoided or sequestered	The VVB has verified that the implementation of

Action (mandatory)	strategies and planning		the project technology decreases the carbon emission and supports the climate change action through the stove report and the technical specification of the ICS/13/14/ in comparison to the baseline scenario. Thus, the projects meets the applicability to claim the particular SDG.
SDG 3 Good Health and Well Being	3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination	Number of household visited medical facilities/dispensary for treatment of respiratory issues etc. such as cough, shortness in breath, pneumonia and other respiratory issues	The VVB has verified the stove test reports and the technical specification of the ICS/13/14/ that the usage of ICS over the baseline stove will drastically reduce the indoor air pollution which subsequently reduces illness and death in the end user household. Thus, the projects meets the applicability to claim the particular SDG.
SDG 5 Gender Equality	5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibilities within the household and the family as nationally appropriate	Average time saving associated with cooking time and fuel collection	The VVB has verified the literature provided by the CME that the usage of the improved cookstove saves the average time spent by the women in the process of collection of wood for fuel and cooking/47/. Thus, the projects meets the applicability to claim the particular SDG.
SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy Target	7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services	Number of beneficiaries: Households	The VVB confirmed that the project involves the distribution CEP (ICS) through the agreement between

			the CME and manufacturer/16/ and also through the section A.1 of the VPA DD/03/. Thus, the projects meets the applicability to claim the particular SDG.
SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth	8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value	Total number of jobs	The VVB has verified the possibility of jobs created during the implementation of the project through the statement provided by the CME in the VPA DD/03/. The following VVB will confirm during the first MP. Thus, the projects meets the applicability to claim the particular SDG.
Findings	CL ID#02 have been raised and closed		
Conclusion	The VVB has verified that the following SDG is eligible to claim during the project activity.		

D.4.1: Data and Parameters - Fixed (Ex-Ante)

Means of Validation	Parameter and Description (SDG 13)	Value and Unit	Assessment
	Baseline scenario survey results	The results have been summarized in section B.4 of the VPA-DD/03/.	The VVB confirms that the baseline scenario of the VPA is through the review of the baseline survey/17/conducted by the PP. This was cross verified by the VVB during on the onsite audit where the households were interviewed regarding the baseline device and fuel in use. All the households confirmed using traditional three stone stove and firewood as fuel/17/.
	Project technology description	Technical specification of the stove is given in the	The VVB has confirmed the project technology provided in the section B.6.2 of VPA-DD/03/ found to be correct by assessing the

		section B.6.2 of the VPA-DD/03/	manufacturer specification of the stove/13/, and through the stove test reports/14/.
	Expected technical life of project technology	7 years	The VVB has confirmed the project technology through the commercial guarantee document/13/ and through the stove test reports/14/ confirms that the ICS lifespan is 7 years, if it is maintained properly. The VVB also confirmed during the onsite interviews that/33/, as soon as service team receives the complaint, the field team will visit the household with 48-72 hours to examine the product. In case of minor issues, repair of the device will happen on the site itself however if the issue is major then the device is collected and taken to the nearest workshop for repair. Once the product is repaired, it will be returned to the beneficiary. CME also confirmed that the end-users will be provided with the replacement of the technology of comparable/better quality or retrofitting the essential part to claim the carbon credit beyond 7 years. (section B.7.3, B.6.2 of the VPA DD)/03/.
	Indoor Air Pollution (IAP) levels of project technology	In order to quantify the IAP levels from Hisha Eco-7 stove technology, the certificate provided by Rwanda Board of Standards indicates that the levels of PM2.5 and CO are 211 mg/MJd and 4.10 g/MJd respectively. In order to quantify the IAP levels from inefficient baseline technology, the study	The VVB has assessed the Indoor Air Pollution (IAP) levels of project technology through the certificate provided by Rwanda Board of Standards/14/ and study conducted by Energy by Sustainable Development on traditional stove and confirmed that there is a considerable reduction in the indoor air pollution as described in the section B.6.2 of VPA DD/03/.

	conducted by "Energy for Sustainable Development" indicates that of PM2.5 and CO are 1340 mg/MJd and 9 g/MJd respectively.	
Avoidance of double counting or double claiming among project participants	A written assertion will be signed between the manufacturer of the improved cookstove technology (EcoGreen Solutions Ltd) and VPA implementer (EcoLinks) confirming the following: a) EcoLinks will own the emission reductions generated from the Hisha Eco-7 technology b) EcoLinks will be sell the emission reduction generated from the Hisha Eco-7 technology and obtain the necessary funding for sustaining the project.	The VVB has confirmed through the no double counting through signed agreement between CME and the manufacturer/35,16/ that there is no double counting and no double claiming of VERs among the project participants.
Avoidance of double counting or double claiming with other	Registry analysis	The VVB has confirmed through no double count declaration, signed agreement between CME and the manufacturer /35,16/ and also through the registry analysis document/30/ and also from the

	mitigation actions		public information over internet that there is no double counting and no double claiming of VERs with other mitigation actions. Based on the results of registry analysis submitted by the CME /30/ the VVB found that there are several improved cookstove projects underway in Rwanda however, the VPA implementer has established appropriate mechanisms to ensure that there is no double counting or double claiming with other mitigation actions during distribution and monitoring activity under the project
	Regulatory framework for provision of thermal energy services	Rwanda Energy Policy, 2015 The project which aims to distribute improved cookstove technology in Rwanda is therefore aligned with the strategies of the Rwanda Energy Policy, 2015 and it does not undermine any policies in Rwanda.	The VVB has assessed that the project does not undermine or conflict with any national, sub-national or local regulations or guidance for thermal energy supply/devices or fuel supply or use in Rwanda. /41/
	EF _{b,f,CO2} CO ₂ emission factor arising from use of fuel type <i>I</i> in baseline scenario	Fuelwood: 112 tCO ₂ /TJ	The VVB has verified the value applied for the parameter was found to be default IPCC value/24/ for CO₂ Emission factor of fuelwood. Hence, found to be appropriate
	EF _{b,f,nonCO2} Non - CO ₂ emission factor arising from use of fuel type <i>I</i> in baseline scenario	Wood: 9.46 tCO ₂ e/TJ	The VVB has verified the value applied for the parameter was found to be default IPCC value/24/ for non - CO₂ Emission factor of fuelwood, which has been calculated using the EF of firewood for CH₄ and N₂O and their corresponding GWP. The calculation is found to be appropriate.

NCV _{b,fuel} Net calorific value of the fuel type <i>i</i> used in the baseline scenario	Fuelwood / wood chips: 0.0156 TJ/tonnes	The VVB has verified the value applied for the parameter was found to be default IPCC value/24/ for NCV of fuelwood. Hence, found to be appropriate
f _{NRB,i,y} Non – renewability status of woody biomass fuel type <i>i</i> that can be established as non – renewable during year <i>y</i>	Fuelwood: 59% for Rwanda, Africa	The VVB has verified the value of f _{NRB} is calculated using the Tool 30: Calculation of the fraction of non-renewable biomass of CDM, version 4.0/25/. The detailed calculation of the approach has been assessed by the VVB through a f _{NRB} calculation document/26/. The formulas and approach used by the CME is found to be appropriate and in line with the applied methodology/02/ and Tool 30/25/ but EcoLinks has decided to use the f _{NRB} value provided in Bailis 2015 report for Rwanda i.e. 59% as a measure of conservativeness and to adhere to the principles of Gold Standard/49/.
LE _{p,y} Leakage in project scenario <i>p</i> during year <i>y</i>	95%	The estimated value of this parameter is 95 percent/03/04/. The VVB has assessed the parameter that is determined through the leakage assessment as per the guidelines in the applied methodology/02/.

Assessment on f_{NRB}:

The value for parameter 'f_{NRB,y}' fraction of renewable biomass was determined by the CME. An f_{NRB} calculation sheet and report was submitted by the CME along with the details of the sources used. The parameters used to determine this value were demonstrated in the calculation sheet and were assessed by the assessment team. The following formula was used for f_{NRB} calculation, which is found to be in line with TOOL30:

$$f_{NRB} = NRB / (NRB + RB)$$

Where:

f _{NRB}	=	Fraction of non-renewable biomass in the country/region or project area (fraction or %)
NRB	=	Quantity of non-renewable biomass (t/yr) in the country/region or project area, determined as per paragraphs 10 and 11 of the applied tool
RB	=	Quantity of renewable biomass in the country/region or project area, determined as per section 4.2 below (t/yr)

Since NRB is determined on a region-specific basis by the CME, the following method was applied in line with paragraph 9 of TOOL30:

$$NRB = H - RB$$

Where:

H: Total annual consumption of wood in the absence

Variable	Unit	Value	Assessment by the VVB
Total woody biomass consumption (H)	t/yr	6,026,078	The values provided here verified by the VVB through the FNRB calculation document provided by the CME/25/ and also values used for the calculation is verified and found to be correct based on the literature values provided in the FNRB document/25/.
Renewable biomass (RB)	t/yr	541,798	
Non-renewable biomass (NRB)	t/yr	5,484,280	
fNRB	-	0.91	
fNRB (used for ER Calculation) as per para 6 of CDM Tool 6	-	0.59	The fNRB value calculated using CDM Tool 30 v4.0 was compared with peer reviewed scientific literature Bailis 2015 report as per para 6 of the tool. As a measure of conservativeness, CME has used to Bailis fNRB value for Rwanda i.e. 59% instead of the 91% as per the tool.

The other underlying parameters for the fNRB calculation are assessed below:

Estimation of renewable biomass (RB) is carried out in line TOOL30:

$$RB = \sum(MAI_{forest,i} \times (F_{forest,i} - P_{forest})) + \sum(MAI_{other,i} \times (F_{other,i} - P_{other}))$$

	Where:		
	MAI	=	Mean annual increment of woody biomass (t/ha/year)
	F _{forest}	=	Extent of forest in the relevant period (ha)
	F _{other}	=	Extent of other land in the relevant period (ha)
	P _{forest}	=	Extent of non-accessible area within forest areas (ha)
	P _{other}	=	Extent of non-accessible area within other land areas (ha)
	i	=	Sub-category i of forest areas and other land areas
	The forest area and other wooded areas were determined using data from FAO data, therefore, found acceptable.		
	The consumption of woody biomass (H) was determined in accordance with paragraph 11 of TOOL30, which provides two options to calculate this parameter. The parameter was determined using option (a) i.e. official statistics and reports. The calculations were checked from the calculation sheet and sources provided in that sheet as well as cross check against online resources wherever deemed necessary by the assessment team.		
	The fNRB thus calculated is provided in the fNRB calculations sheet. A summary of sources and assessment of all parameters in line with applied methodology and TOOL30.		
Findings	CL ID#04 have been raised and closed		
Conclusion	Provide concluding statement on whether the parameters are in line with the applied methodology.		

D.4.2: Monitoring Plan

Means of Validation	Data and parameters to be monitored:			
	Parameter and Description	Value and Unit	Monitoring Frequency	Assessment
	(ICS15) SDG 13: Avoidance of double counting or double claiming among project technology end users	No double counting amongst project technology end-users.	Monitored whenever project technology is distributed	The parameter will be monitored by the CME when the project technology is distributed, and the value will be confirmed during the verification of the subsequent MPs. The monitoring

				frequency is found to be in line with the applied methodology. For ex-ante estimation, the CME confirmed that there will be no double counting or double claiming with the project technology end users and it will be made through the signed carbon title transfer agreement with the end users/15/. The approach and the monitoring frequency are found to be appropriate and acceptable by the VVB.
	(ICS16) SDG 13: Presence of stove stacking	No stove stacking observed under the project	Annually	The parameter of presence for stove stacking will be monitored by the CME annually and the value will be confirmed through usage survey during the verification of subsequent MPs. The monitoring frequency is found to be in line with the applied methodology. For ex-ante estimation, the CME based on the baseline survey and literature assessment assumed that there is no stove stacking under the project and also provided the procedure to account for stove stacking and other fuel use (other than firewood) during the project KPT

				and, which is mentioned in the VPA DD (section B.7.1- ICS 16/03/42/. The approach and the monitoring frequency are found to be appropriate and acceptable by the VVB.
	(ICS 18) SDG 13: $P_{b,y}$ Quantity of fuel that is consumed in baseline scenario b in year y	0.0078 tonnes/hh-day (0.66 tonnes/person*year)	At the start of crediting period (fixed for one crediting period)	The parameter $P_{b,y}$ will be determined prior to the first verification using baseline KPT by the CME and the value will be confirmed during the verification of the first MP. The monitoring frequency is found to be in line with the applied methodology. For ex-ante estimation, the value of the parameter is taken as 0.0078 tonnes/hh-day (0.66 tonnes/person*year) which is sourced from the literature/52/ and the value is confirmed that it is less than the threshold value of 0.75 tonnes/person*year of fuelwood which is provided in the applied methodology/2/. Therefore, the value is deemed conservative by the VVB and the approach and the monitoring frequency are found to be

				appropriate and acceptable by the VVB.
(ICS 19) SDG 13: $P_{p,y}$ Quantity of fuel that is consumed in project scenario p during year y, kg/household-day	0.0018 tonnes/hh-day	Updated every 2 years.		The parameter $P_{p,y}$ will be monitored by the CME for every two years and the value will be confirmed during the verification of the first MP. The monitoring frequency is found to be in line with the applied methodology. For ex-ante estimation, the value of the parameter is calculated from the proportional efficiency of traditional stove and project stove and is taken as 0.0018 tonnes/hh-day. The approach and the monitoring frequency are found to be appropriate and acceptable by the VVB.
(ICS 26) SDG 13: $U_{p,y}$ Weighted average usage rate in project scenario p during year y	100 percent	At least annually		The parameter $U_{p,y}$ will be monitored at least annually by the CME and the value will be confirmed during the verification of the first MP. The monitoring frequency is found to be in line with the applied methodology. The VPA implementer intends to follow the "Best practices Monitoring requirements" therefore, for ex-ante estimation, the value of the

				parameter is taken as 100 percent in-line with "Cookstove Usage Rate Guidelines, version 2.0"/03/31/. The approach and the monitoring frequency are found to be appropriate and acceptable by the VVB.
	(ICS 27) SDG 13: $N_{b,p,y}$ Number of project technology-days included in the project database for baseline b/project p pair in year y	365 days	annually	The parameter $N_{b,p,y}$ will be monitored by the CME annually and the value will be confirmed through the usage survey during the verification of the first MP. The monitoring frequency is found to be in line with the applied methodology. For ex-ante estimation, the value of the parameter is taken as 365 days which is based on the number of days the project technology present in the end user premise/04/. The approach and the monitoring frequency are found to be appropriate and acceptable by the VVB.
	(ICS 20) SDG 13: $SFS_{b,p,y}$ Specific fuel savings for an individual project technology of baseline b/project p	0.0060 tonnes/hh-day	Updated every 2 years	The parameter $SFS_{b,p,y}$ will be monitored by the CME and it will be updated every two years and the value will be confirmed during the verification of the first MP. The

pair in year 'y'			monitoring frequency is found to be in line with the applied methodology. For ex-ante estimation, the value of the parameter is taken as 0.0060 tonnes/hh-day which is calculated using the parameter $P_{b,y}$ and $P_{p,y}/04/$. The approach and the monitoring frequency are found to be appropriate and acceptable by the VVB.
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The assessment team confirmed that the monitoring parameters are sufficient to calculate the emission reductions in accordance with the applied methodology/02/. 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/03/ are in line with the monitoring methodology and SDG monitored parameters will be assessed on the basis of monitoring frequency mentioned.

Implementation of Sampling Plan:

All monitored parameters will be assessed using random sampling, at the required precision/confidence level, which shall be applied for determining parameter values as per the CDM Standard: "Sampling and Surveys for CDM Project Activities and Programmes of Activities version 9.0". /21/

For Usage Survey, the overall sample size will be determined for each age category based on percentage of stoves in corresponding age category.

For example,

- Participants in a usage survey with technologies in the first year of use (age0-1) must have technologies that have been in use on average at least 0.5 years or longer.
- Participants in a usage survey with technologies in the second year of use (age1-2) must be conducted with technologies that have been in use on average at least 1.5 years, and so on.

As usage is a proportion-based parameter, minimum sample size for each technology and age group is 30.

In addition to in-person usage surveys, continuous monitoring of stoves using SUMs will be conducted for understanding the usage/adoption rate. This step shall ensure that the project developer follows the best practices for cookstove usage under the "Cookstove usage rate

	guideline, version 2.0". The data loggers will also help in tracking the non-operational days of the cookstove technology. For Project Survey, the overall sample size will be determined based on the group size: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Group size</th><th>Minimum sample size</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><300</td><td>30 or population size, whichever is smaller</td></tr> <tr> <td>300 to 1000</td><td>10% of group size</td></tr> <tr> <td>>1000</td><td>100</td></tr> </tbody> </table> The project will involve the distribution of 100,000 ICS hence the minimum sample size for project survey will be 100. For stove stacking, the data will be collected as part of the usage survey on presence and usage of other stoves. In person interviews and kitchen observation techniques will be followed. For field test parameters (bKPT and pKPT), CME will follow the guidance provided in Annex-2 Complementary guidelines for Kitchen Performance Test. The sampling approach and sample size calculations will be presented transparently and accurately in each monitoring report/03/	Group size	Minimum sample size	<300	30 or population size, whichever is smaller	300 to 1000	10% of group size	>1000	100
Group size	Minimum sample size								
<300	30 or population size, whichever is smaller								
300 to 1000	10% of group size								
>1000	100								
Findings	CL ID#01 have been raised and closed								
Conclusion	The SDGs chosen by CME are accurate & the monitoring of all the parameter align with the methodology TPDDTEC version 4.0/2/.								

D.5: Estimation of SDG impacts or net anthropogenic removals

D.5.1: Equations and parameters applied to calculate SDG impacts

Means of Validation	SDG Targeted	SDG Indicator	Baseline Scenario	Project Scenario	Net Benefit
	SDG 5: Gender Equality	Average time saving associated with cooking and fuel collection Approach: Monitor the average time saving associated with improved cookstove technology	The time involved in the fuel collection and cooking in the baseline scenario	The time saved in the fuel collection and cooking after the implementation of the ICS	Net Benefit (SDG 5) = $T_{\text{project}} - T_{\text{baseline}}$ Where: T_{Baseline} (Average time spent collecting fuel and cooking) = 0 hours/HH/week

					T_{Project} (Average time spent on collecting fuel and cooking) = 2 hours/HH/week Net Benefit (SDG-5) = $2 - 0 = 2$ hours/HH/week
	SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	Total number of jobs Approach: Recording the number of employees hired under the project	Quantitative Employment (Number of employees) hired under in baseline scenario	Quantitative Employment (Number of employees) hired under project scenario	Employment records Net Benefit (SDG 8) = $QE_{\text{IGProject}} - QE_{\text{IGBaseline}}$ Where: $QE_{\text{IGBaseline}}$ = Quantitative Employment (Number of employees) hired under in baseline scenario = 0 $QE_{\text{IGProject}}$ = Quantitative Employment (Number of employees) hired under project scenario = 30 Net Benefit (SDG 8) = $30 - 0 = 30$ Jobs
	SDG 3:	Number of households visited medical facilities/dispensary for	Percentage of households who were reporting	Percentage of households reporting reduction in medical	Net Benefit (SDG 3) = $BSA_{\text{Project}} - BSA_{\text{Baseline}}$ Where:

	treatment of respiratory issues etc. such as cough, shortness in breath, pneumonia and other respiratory Approach: Monitor the percentage of households which report reduction in medical visits due to respiratory ailments (such as cough, shortness of breath, pneumonia etc.)	reduction in medical visits due to respiratory ailments (such as cough, shortness of breath, pneumonia etc.).	visits due to respiratory ailments (such as cough, shortness of breath, pneumonia etc.).	BSA_{Baseline} (Percentage of households who were reporting reduction in medical visits due to respiratory ailments (such as cough, shortness of breath, pneumonia etc.)) = 0% BSA_{Project} (Percentage of households reporting reduction in medical visits due to respiratory ailments (such as cough, shortness of breath, pneumonia etc.)) = 80% Net Benefit (SDG-3) = 80%-0% = 80%
SDG 7:	Number of beneficiaries: Households Approach: Monitor the number of households with operational improved cookstove technology (ICS)	Number of households with operational improved cookstove technology (ICS) in baseline scenario	Number of households with operational improved cookstove technology (ICS) in project scenario	Net Benefit (SDG 7) = ACS_{project} - ACS_{baseline} Where: ACS_{Baseline} (Number of households with access to operational improved cookstove technology in baseline

				scenario) = 0 ACS_{Project} (Number of households with access to operational improved cookstove technology in project scenario) = 100,000*100% hours/HH/week Net Benefit (SDG-7) = 100,000*100% - 0 = 100,000
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SDG 13: Climate Action

The VPA applies the methodology: TPDDTEC. – Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralized Thermal Energy Consumption (TPDDTEC), version 4.0/02/ which defines the methodological steps to determine the project emissions, baseline emissions and leakages emissions by the proposed project activity.

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Using TPDDTEC - Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralized Thermal Energy Consumption (TPDDTEC), version 4.0 /02/, “When the baseline fuel and the project fuel are the same and the baseline emission factor and project emission are considered the same, the overall GHG reductions achieved by the project activity in year y are calculated as follows:”

$$ERY = \sum_{b,p} (N_{b,p,y} \times U_{p,y} \times SFS_{p,b,y} \times NCV_{b,fuel} \times (f_{NRB,b,y} \times EF_{b,f,CO2} + EF_{b,f,nonCO2})) - \sum LE_{p,y} \quad \text{(Eq.1)}$$

Where:

ER_y: Emission reduction for total project activity in year y (tCO₂e/year)

Σ_{b,p} : Sum over all relevant (baseline b/project p) pairs .

N_{p,y}: Number of project technology – days included in the project database for baseline b and project p pair in year y (days)

	$U_{p,y}$: Cumulative usage rate for technologies in project scenario p in year y (fraction) $SFS_{p,b,y}$: Specific fuel savings for an individual technology of baseline b/ project pair p in year y,(tons/hh*day). $F_{NRB,b,y}$: 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 biomass. This parameter is omitted when f is a fossil fuel. $NCV_{b,fuel}$: Net calorific value of the fuel that is substituted or reduced in baseline b (IPCC default for wood fuel, 0.015 TJ/ton). $EF_{b,fuel, CO_2}$: CO₂ emission factor from use of fuel f . 112 tCO₂/TJ for Wood/Wood Waste, or the IPCC default value of other relevant fuel. $EF_{b,fuel,non CO_2}$: Non – CO₂ emission factor arising from use of fuel f, when baseline f is biomass or charcoal (tCO₂e/TJ). This parameter is excluded when f is a fossil fuel $LF_{p,y}$: Leakage for project scenario p in year y (tCO₂e/yr). The validation team confirms that the ex-ante calculations of the SDG impact are in line with the applied methodology, TPDDTEC ver. 4.0/02/.
Findings	CL ID #02 have been raised and closed.
Conclusion	The formulae and approach used for ex ante calculation of baseline emissions has been correctly presented and implemented as per methodology TPDDTEC ver. 4.0/02/. They have been given consistently within the VPA DD/03/.

D.6: Summary of local stakeholder consultation

Means of Validation	LSC was conducted by the CME at the time of registration for the project prior to the project implementation. The CME, EcoLinks Co., Ltd held grouped physical local stakeholder meeting on 26/09/2024, which is before the start date of the VPA. The CME has shared the LSC report/18/ and invitation evidence/44/, which is found to be in compliance. VVB has assessed the SCR and topics discussed was found to be fulfilling the criteria set out in stakeholder consultation and engagement requirement/22/. It was confirmed from the on-site interviews with the CME representatives that during the meeting, a detailed objective of the project activity was given to attendees and the transfer of product ownership was also discussed. The SFR for the project has been started was initiated between by 04/10/2024 to 07/10/2024 and ended by 08/11/2024, the duration includes minimum 30 days as per the section 3.6.11 of stakeholder consultation and engagement requirements/22/. There were no comments received during the SFR round. The filled SFR forms were checked to confirm that all comments in the SFR too have been taken under consideration. Additionally, assessment team also conducted interviews with
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	participants of stakeholder consultation and the interviewees were able to confirm that they attended the consultation and SFR rounds, and provided their feedback and comments, which were addressed by the project developer. The VVB team confirms that there were no negative comments received from the stakeholder consultation rounds and all the queries or concerns raised by the stakeholder were satisfactorily resolved by the CME.
Findings	FAR#01, FAR#02 from GS preliminary review for Project Developer has been raised and closed
Conclusion	LSC was found to be conducted for the VPA. The validation team confirms that CME has considered and addressed all the stakeholder comments.

D.7: Summary of Safeguarding Principles and Gender Sensitive Assessment

D.7.1: Safeguarding Principles that will be monitored

Means of Validation	VVB has reviewed the safeguarding principles established by PD for monitoring, specifically: • Principle 6.1: Labour Rights • Principle 9.5: Hazardous and Non-Hazardous Waste Assessment of Principle 6.1: Labour Rights Upon assessment, the VVB has reviewed the Ecolinks Business Ethics Code /55/ and Ecolinks Code of Conduct /55/ and confirmed that they ensure all employment practices comply with national Labour, occupational health, and safety laws. Additionally, these codes align with the principles and standards outlined in the ILO Fundamental Conventions. Furthermore: • This principle will be monitored annually. • Employment contracts will be cross-checked during verification to ensure continued compliance with Principle 6.1. Assessment of Principle 9.5: Hazardous and Non-Hazardous Waste The CME has established clear measures for proper waste handling end of life improved cookstove. Beneficiaries will be informed about appropriate disposal practices for scrap materials generated from non-operational or end-of-life stoves. The project commits to ensuring that all waste generated is managed and disposed of in strict accordance with national environmental standards. VVB finds these measures reasonable and effective.
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Findings	CL#03 have been raised and closed
Conclusion	VVB confirms that reasonable measures are being taken by PD to ensure the monitoring of safeguarding principles. These measures are designed to maintain compliance with relevant standards and regulations, ensuring that non-hazardous waste management are effectively monitored and implemented.

D.7.2: Assessment for GS4GG Gender Sensitive requirements

Means of Validation	Question	Justification by PP/CME	Assessment by VVB
	Question 1 - Explain how the project reflects the key issues and requirements of Gender Sensitive design and implementation as outlined in the Gender Policy?	The project has been designed keeping in mind the GS4GG's gender sensitive requirements. The grouped local stakeholder consultation meeting also had over 50% women participation. The project helps women is spending less time on collecting fuel (firewood) and cooking due to the distribution of efficient improved cookstove technology (ICS)	The VPA has identified women as key stakeholders and do not promote gender disparity in any manner. So the VPA does not involve and is not complicit in any form of discrimination based on gender difference, which is confirmed during the onsite by the VVB/33/.
	Question 2 - Explain how the project aligns with existing country policies, strategies and best practices	The project focuses bridging the prevalent gender inequality in Rwanda and is therefore aligned with the National Gender Policy, Rwanda . In rural Rwanda, the burden of cooking for the entire household is shouldered by	The VPA has identified women as key stakeholders and primary end users are women and do not promote gender disparity in any manner through the LSCR/18/. So the VPA does not involve and is not complicit in any form of discrimination based on gender difference.

		the women therefore by distributing improved cookstove, the project helps in making cooking more efficient, which in-turn helps women in saving immense time that can be spent on more productive activities such as learning vocational courses.	
	Question 3 - Is an Expert required for the Gender Safeguarding Principles & Requirements?	Not applicable. The improved cookstove projects following Gender responsive approach do not require to contract an expert as per Gender Equality Requirements & Guidelines.	Not required. The improved cookstove projects following Gender responsive approach do not require to contract an expert as per Gender Equality Requirements & Guidelines.
	Question 4 - Is an Expert required to assist with Gender issues at the Stakeholder Consultation?	Not applicable. There is no need for an expert to assist with Gender issues at the Stakeholder Consultation. The project is prepared and implemented in line with the Gold Standard GS4GG Principles & Requirements as well as the Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements and Guidelines. The carbon technical team was present on the day of the	Not required. There is no need for an expert to assist with Gender issues at the Stakeholder Consultation. The project is prepared and implemented in line with the Gold Standard GS4GG Principles & Requirements as well as the Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements and Guidelines. The carbon technical team was present on the day of the consultation which has extensive experience in conducting this type

		consultation which has extensive experience in conducting this type of meeting and followed the Gold Standard Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements, which includes gender guidelines, and specifies which social groups must be included in the consultation. The stakeholder consultation included interactions with potential beneficiaries including women and their feedback were considered appropriately.	of meeting and followed the Gold Standard Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements, which includes gender guidelines, and specifies which social groups must be included in the consultation. The stakeholder consultation included interactions with potential beneficiaries including women and their feedback were considered appropriately.
Findings	No findings have been raised		
Conclusion	The Validation team confirms that the VPA comply with the GS4GG Gender Equality guidelines and requirements/28/.		

Section E: Internal Quality Control

A validation report prepared by the validation team is reviewed by an independent technical review team (one or more members) to confirm whether all the internal procedures established and implemented by Earthood Services Limited were duly complied with and such opinion/conclusion was reached in an objective manner that complies with the applicable GS4GG rules/requirements. The technical review team is collectively required to possess the technical expertise of all the technical area/sectoral scope the project activity relates to. All team members of the technical review team are independent of the validation team.

During the technical review process, additional findings may be identified, or the closed-out findings may be opened, which needs to be satisfactorily resolved before the request for inclusion is submitted to GS. The independent technical reviewer may either approve the report as such or reject/return the same in such case providing the comments/findings/issues that need to be resolved by the validation team. The decision

taken by the Technical Reviewer is final and is authorized by the Managing Director on behalf of Earthood Services Limited.

Section F: Validation Opinion

The review of the PoA-DD/01/, VPA-DD/03/, supporting documents and subsequent follow-up actions (independent research of information) has provided Earthood with sufficient evidence to determine the fulfilment of stated criteria.

The VPA will lead to access of clean energy for the rural people of Rwanda. The project results in reduction of CO₂e emissions that are real, measurable and give long-term benefits to the mitigation of climate change. It is demonstrated that the project is not a likely baseline scenario and the emission reductions attributable to the project are, hence, additional to any that would occur in the absence of the proposed GS programme of activities.

The emission reductions (average) from the proposed VPA "GS13116 VPA-1 EcoLinks Clean Cooking Project in Rwanda" are estimated to be the annual average of 2,271,487 tCO₂ for the selected 5 years of renewable crediting period. The emission reduction forecast has been checked, and it is deemed likely that the stated amount is achievable given that the underlying assumptions do not change.

The monitoring plan explained in VPA-DD/03/ is in compliance with the PoA DD/01/. It adequately provides for the ex-post monitoring of the project's emission reductions and sustainable indicators as defined in GS PoA-DD. The monitoring arrangements described in the monitoring plan are feasible within the project design and it is Earthood's opinion that EcoLinks Co., Ltd shall be able to implement the monitoring plan.

The targeted SDGs from the VPAs are:

SDGs Targeted	Value for VPA 1	Unit/Products
13 Climate Action (mandatory)	227,487	GS-VERs
3 Good Health and Well Being	80%	% household visited
5 Gender Equality	2	Hours saved/household/week
7 Affordable and Clean Energy Target	94,200	Number
8 Decent Work and Economic Growth	30	Number of jobs

In summary, "GS13116 VPA-1 EcoLinks Clean Cooking Project in Rwanda" as described in the VPA-DD/03/ and, meets all relevant GS requirements and correctly applies the baseline and monitoring methodology TPDDTEC ver.4.0/02/. Therefore, Earthood requests the registration of the GS13117) titled "GS13116 VPA-1 EcoLinks Clean Cooking Project in Rwanda along with the GS PoA GS13116, titled "EcoLinks Clean Cooking and Safe Water Programme in Rwanda".

Appendix I: Abbreviations

Abbreviations	Full Texts
CAR	Corrective Action Request
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CL	Clarification Request
CME	Coordinating / Managing Entity
CO₂	Carbon dioxide
CO₂e	Carbon dioxide equivalent
VPA	Voluntary Project Activity
VPA DD	Voluntary Project Activity Design Document
FAR	Forward Action Request
GHG	Greenhouse gas(es)
GS4GG	Gold Standard for Global Goals
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LSC	Local Stakeholder Consultation
LDC	Least Developed Country
NRB	Non-Renewable Biomass
PA	Project Activity
PoA	Programme of Activities
PoA DD	Programme of Activities Design Document
ICS	Improved cookstove
SCR	Stakeholder Consultation Report
SFR	Stakeholder Feedback Round
V	version
VER	Verified Emission Reduction
VVB	Validation and Verification Body
HH	Household

Appendix II: Documents Reviewed

S.N o.	Author	Title	References to the document	Provider
1.	CME	PoA-DD	Version 2.2 03/03/2025	CME
2.	GS4GG	TPDDTEC - Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralized Thermal Energy Consumption	Version 4.0 07/10/2021	Others
3.	CME	VPA-DD	Version 2.2 04/03/2025	CME
4.	CME	1. Ex-Ante ER calculation sheet (ER tool) 2. SDG impact tool	1.GS ER Calculation Tool for TPDDTEC Version 1.3 07/07/2024 2.SDG-version 1.3	CME
5.	GS4GG	GS VPA-DD template form	Version 2.3 Dated 29/06/2023	Others
6.	GS4GG	GS4GG Principles and Requirements	Version 2.0 12/11/2024	Others
7.	GS4GG	Programme of Activity Requirements and Procedure	Version 3.0 12/11/2024	Others
8.	GS4GG	Community Services Activity Requirement	Version 1.2 23/10/2019	Others
9.	GS4GG	GHG Emission Reduction & Sequestration Product Requirement	Version 3.0 12/11/2024	Others
10.	GS4GG	Site Visit and Remote Audit Requirements and Procedures	Version 2.0 30/05/2023	Others
11.	GS4GG	GS VPA-DD template guidelines	Version 2.3 Dated 29/06/2023	Others
12.	CME	ODA declaration form	Version 2.0 Date: 03/05/2022	CME
13.	CME	Technical specifications and commercial guarantee	-	CME
14.	CME	Stove Test Report- Rwanda Board of Standards	16/08/2024	CME
15.	CME	End User Agreement (Carbon Title Transfer Form) – Sample	-	CME

16.	CME	Agreement Between manufacturer and CME/ VPA implementor	-	CME
17.	CME	Baseline Survey	-	CME
18.	CME	Local Stakeholder Consultation Report	Version 1.0 10/10/2024	CME
19.	CME	CME Declaration of location (project boundary)	-	CME
20.	CME	CME approval letter for inclusion of VPA in the PoA	21/11/2024	CME
21.	UNFCCC	Standard for Sampling and surveys for CDM project Activities	Version 9.0	Others
22.	GS4GG	Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements	Version 2.1 14/06/2022	Others
23.	UNFCCC	Guidelines for Sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and programme of activities	Version 4.0	Others
24.	-	IPCC report	2006	Others
25.	UNFCCC	Tool 30: Calculation of the fraction of non-renewable biomass of CDM	Version 4	Others
26.	CME	fnrb Calculation for Rwanda	Dated: 14/11/2024	CME
27.	CME	Ex – ante ER calculation Sheets	-	CME
28.	GS4GG	Gender Equality guidelines and requirements	Dated: May 2023	Others
29.	CME	LSC: Photos, invitation evidence and attendance	-	CME
30.	CME	Registry Analysis	-	CME
31.	GS4GG	Cookstove usage guidelines	Version 2.0 27/10/2020	CME
32.	GS4GG	Stakeholder consultation and engagement requirement	Version 2.0 04/05/2022	Others
33.	VVB	On- site evidence	-	-
34.	UN	List of the LDC country	-	others
35.	VVB	Internet analysis for double counting		
36.	CME	SDG impact tool	-	CME
37.		Rwanda national policy for energy reg.rw/fileadmin/user_upload/National_Energy_Policy_and_Strategy.pdf	-	others
38.	GS	Gold standard projects Gold Standard		others
39.	JHBSPH	Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health		others

40.	UNFCCC	Improved Cook Stoves for East Africa - Rwanda UNFCCC	-	others
41.	-	Rwanda National standards	-	others
42.	VVB	Stove stacking assessment-FAO, WISDOM		VVB
43.	GS4GG	Cookstove usage rate guidelines		others
44.	CME	LSC photographs, invitations, emails		CME
45.	NEMA	https://nema.go.ug/sites/all/themes/nema/docs/National%20Environment%20(Waste%20Management)%20Regulations%20S.I.%20No.%2049%20of%202020.pdf	-	others
46.	-	https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1364032114001300	-	others
47.	CME	Literatures regarding SDG3,5	-	CME
48.	CME	Literatures regarding SDG8	-	CME
49.	Others	Bailis NatureCC main text with figs pre-pub (1).pdf	-	others
50.	others	Internet analysis of cookstove project in Rwanda https://www.carboncheck.co.in/sites/default/files/2024-05/CC IPL%201059_FVR_VCS%20Final%20validation%20report%20v4.2_Final.pdf	-	others
51.	Others	https://cleancooking.org/binary-data/DOCUMENT/file/000/000/604-1.pdf	-	others
52.	Others	https://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR370/FR370.pdf	-	others
53.	CME	Samples of KOBO collect Software	-	CME
54.	CME	Baseline survey approach	-	CME
55.	CME	EcoLinks Ethics Code and Code of Conduct	-	Others

Appendix III: Competence Statements of the team

Competence Statement			
Name	Sushant Vashisht		
Education	M.Sc. Environmental science and Technology		
Experience	2+ years		
Field	Environment science and technology		
Approved Roles			
Team Leader	YES (VM only)		
Validator	YES (VM only)		
Verifier	YES (VM only)		
Local expert	YES (India)		
Financial Expert	NO		
Technical Reviewer	YES		
TA Expert (X.X)	YES (VM 1.2, 3.1)		
Reviewed by	Shifali Guleria (Quality Manager)	Date	26/08/2024
Approved by	Deepika Mahala (Deepika Mahala)	Date	26/08/2024

Competence Statement			
Name	Diyotima Karfa		
Education	B.Tech. Biotechnology M.Sc. Biotechnology		
Experience	1.5 year		
Field	Climate Change		
Approved Roles			
Team Leader	NO		
Validator	YES		
Verifier	YES		
Local expert	YES (India)		
Financial Expert	NO		
Technical Reviewer	NO		
TA Expert (X.X)	YES (TA 1.2, 3.1)		
Reviewed by	Shifali Guleria (Quality Manager)	Date	21/11/2024
Approved by	Deepika Mahala (Technical Manager)	Date	21/11/2024

Competence Statement	
Name	Sukanya Phukan
Education	M.Sc (Environmental Science and Technology) B.Sc (Zoology)
Experience	1+ year

Field	Environment Science		
Approved Roles			
Team Leader	YES (VM only)		
Validator	YES (VM only)		
Verifier	YES (VM only)		
Local expert	NO		
Financial Expert	NO		
Technical Reviewer	NO		
TA Expert (X.X)	YES (VM TA 1.2, 3.1)		
Reviewed by	Shifali Guleria (Quality Manager)	Date	23/06/2023
Approved by	Deepika Mahala (Technical Manager)	Date	23/06/2023

Competence Statement			
Name	Ronaldo Sebastian		
Education	Master of science (M.sc) – Petroleum Geosciences		
Experience	Nil		
Field	--		
Approved roles			
Team Leader	NO		
Validator	NO		
Verifier	NO		
Methodology Expert	NO		
Local expert	NO		
Financial Expert	NO		
Technical Reviewer	NO		
TA Expert (X.X)	NO		
Trainee	Yes		
Reviewed by	Shifali Guleria (Quality Manager)	Date	03/09/2024
Approved by	Deepika Mahala(Technical Manager)	Date	03/09/2024
Competence Statement			
Name	Alexis Uwimana		
Education	B.Tech. Electronics and Telecommunications Engineering		
Experience	1.2 years		
Field	Solar Engineering		
Approved Roles			
Team Leader	NO		
Validator	NO		
Verifier	NO		

Methodology Expert	NO		
Local expert	YES (Rwanda)		
Financial Expert	NO		
Technical Reviewer	NO		
TA Expert (X.X)	NO		
Reviewed by	Shifali Guleria (Quality Manager)	Date	12/01/2024
Approved by	Deepika Mahala (Technical Manager)	Date	12/01/2024

Competence Statement			
Name	Shifali Guleria		
Education	M.Sc. (Environmental Studies and Resource Management), TERI University		
Experience	3+ year		
Field	Climate Change		
Approved Roles			
Team Leader	YES		
Validator	YES		
Verifier	YES		
Methodology Expert	YES (AMS-I.A., AMS-II.G., AMS-II.E., AMS-III.A.V., AMS-I.D, ACM0002)		
Local expert	YES		
Financial Expert	NO		
Technical Reviewer	YES		
TA Expert	YES (1.2, 3.1)		
Reviewed by	Deepika Mahala	Date	18/02/2022
Approved by	Ashok Gautam	Date	18/02/2022

Appendix IV: Findings

Table 4. FAR from GS preliminary review for Project Developer

FAR ID	01	Section no.	E.2 (LSCR)	Date : 19/11/2024
Description of FAR				
FAR 1. Section E of the LSC report shall be updated to reflect the stakeholder feedback received following the conclusion of the consultation period. This update shall include a detailed account of the comments gathered and an organized presentation of the responses.				
Project participant response				Date : 24/11/2024
<i>PD has updated section E with the information regarding the stakeholder feedback round. No additional comments were received during this period.</i>				
Documentation provided by project participant				
<i>Revised LSC Report</i>				
VVB assessment				Date: 05/12/2024
VVB has conducted a review of the updated Local Stakeholder Consultation (LSC) report submitted by the CME. The revised report includes comprehensive documentation of stakeholder feedback, with the information about comments and responses systematically presented in Section E of the report. (closed)				

FAR ID	02	Section no.	E.2 (LSCR)	Date : 19/11/2024
Description of FAR				
FAR 1. the VVB shall validate that the stakeholder feedback round is conducted in line with stakeholder consultation requirement.				
• The project developer shall provide feedback to the stakeholders on how comments received in the physical meeting(s) have been considered and seek further comments from stakeholders. • All stakeholders invited to participate in the physical meeting(s) shall be invited to provide feedback during the stakeholder feedback round. • The project developer shall share the updated project documentation with stakeholders for thirty days via publicly accessible means i.e., easily accessible online or other means for example publicly accessible website, online platform or others. It shall include details on procedure & contact details for submission of further comments.				
Project participant response				Date :
• <i>PD summarized the comments/feedback received during the stakeholder meeting in the non-technical summary. The revised non-technical summary was circulated amongst all the stakeholders in order to gather further feedback.</i> • <i>PD invited all the stakeholder who were invited for the physical meeting for the SFR Round. The invitation was sent through email to stakeholders who had access to internet and public notice was issued for stakeholder without access to internet. PD has submitted screenshots of the invitation and notice to VVB.</i> • <i>The project document along with consolidated feedback from physical meeting were shared with stakeholder via email, LinkedIn and placed at various public places for stakeholder to access the documents and revert in case of any comments. The document had information regarding the contact details such as phone number and email address for submission of further comments.</i>				
<i>PD has provided evidence in the form of screenshots, time stamped photos to VVB</i>				

Documentation provided by project participant	
<i>Screenshots of email and linkedin post</i> <i>Time stamped photos of public notice and placing of project documents</i>	
VVB assessment	Date: 05/12/2024
The VVB has reviewed and validated the changes implemented by the CME to ensure adherence to stakeholder consultation requirements. The CME provided verifiable evidence, including screenshots of email communications and LinkedIn posts, as well as public notices, and documentation presented in the stakeholder consultation report (section B of SCR). This evidence demonstrates that comments and feedback obtained during the physical stakeholder meeting were accurately summarized in the non-technical summary, which was subsequently disseminated among stakeholders for further review and input. The VVB confirmed that invitations to participate in the Stakeholder Feedback Round (SFR) were extended to all attendees of the physical meeting. Notifications were issued via email for stakeholders with internet access, while public notices ensured inclusion for those without such access.. (closed) Additionally, the updated project documentation, including consolidated feedback, was shared through email, LinkedIn posts, and placement at public locations to ensure accessibility. The shared documents contained detailed instructions and contact information for submitting further comments. The VVB verified the CME's compliance through the review of submitted evidence, including screenshots of emails and LinkedIn posts, time-stamped photographs of public notices, and documentation placements. Based on this evidence, the VVB confirms that the stakeholder feedback process was conducted in line with the established requirements. (closed)	

Table 5. CL from this validation

CL ID	01	Section no.	Baseline survey	Date : 19/11/2024
Description of CL				
1. In the raw baseline data sheet, cell HP6 indicates that a member of the specified household spends approximately 30 hours per week collecting firewood, while the mode of acquisition is recorded as 'purchase.' However, this reported time is significantly higher than that of households entirely reliant on firewood collection from forests rather than market purchases. This discrepancy requires clarification from the CME to ensure the accuracy of the data. Additionally, the CME is requested to update the baseline survey sheet to include the number of individuals in each household, thereby enhancing the clarity and comprehensiveness of the survey data. 2. In the raw data sheet of the baseline survey, cells O26 and O27 contain identical phone numbers, while the GPS coordinates indicate that these entries correspond to different households. The (CME) is requested to clarify the repetition of phone numbers in the baseline survey. Additionally, rows 206 and 207 of the raw baseline data show a duplication of the surveyed individual. The CME is requested to explain the reasons for this duplicated entry and ensure the accuracy of the baseline survey data				
Project participant response				Date : 21/11/2024

1. The amount of time taken to obtain firewood (collect/purchase) is dependent on several factors such as the proximity of the household to the forest , availability of firewood suppliers in the village, number of household members involved in cutting firewood, efficiency of the household members involved in cutting trees and carrying logs to the household, quantity of firewood required therefore, the assumption that "time taken to collect firewood will be more in households which collect firewood as compared to those which purchase firewood" may not be justified. The VVB is further requested to refer column "CA" in the "raw data" tab for the household reporting 30 hours/week. The aforementioned household is one of the very few households which prepares the maximum "number of meals in a week" on the most inefficient stove technology (i.e. three-stone fire) which justifies why the reported time by this household is significantly higher than other households interviewed during the baseline survey.

The "number of individuals in each household" has already been provided in the baseline survey, the VVB is requested to refer column "AH" of the "raw data" tab.

2. In rural Rwanda, many of the households do not have access to mobile phones hence, the contact details of their relative/neighbour may have been indicated by the enumerators during the baseline survey in order to ease the process of user follow-up. The address details (GPS coordinates) of these households are distinct which justifies that there hasn't been any duplicate entry during the data recording process.

After analyzing the data, the CME found that row 206 and row 207 are duplicate entries. The reason for the duplicate entry could be attributed to human errors during the data recording process. This could have happened due to multiple factors such as connectivity issues because of which entries were submitted twice. The duplicate entry has been deleted and the CME confirms that the baseline survey data is now accurate.

Documentation provided by project participant	
<i>Revised baseline survey sheet</i>	
<i>Revised VPA-DD</i>	
VVB assessment	Date: 05/12/2024

1. The VVB has reviewed and verified the response provided by the CME regarding the reported time for firewood acquisition in the baseline survey. The CME clarified that the time taken to obtain firewood depends on various factors, including proximity to forests, availability of suppliers, the number and efficiency of household members involved, and the quantity of firewood required. The VVB confirmed the explanation by examining column "CA" in the "raw data" tab, which indicates that the household reporting 30 hours per week prepares the maximum number of meals using the least efficient stove technology (three-stone fire), thus justifying the higher reported time. Additionally, the VVB verified that the number of individuals in each household is provided in column "AH" of the same tab, ensuring that the baseline survey data is accurate and comprehensive. (closed)
2. The VVB has reviewed and verified the response provided by the CME regarding the identified issues in the baseline survey data. The CME clarified that in rural Rwanda, many households lack access to mobile phones, leading enumerators to record the contact details of relatives or neighbors for follow-up purposes. The VVB confirmed that the distinct GPS coordinates associated with these households support the CME's assertion that there are no duplicate entries due to repeated phone numbers. Additionally, the CME acknowledged that rows 206 and 207 were duplicate entries caused by human error during data recording, potentially due to connectivity issues. The duplicate entry has been removed, and the VVB has verified that the baseline survey data has been corrected and is now accurate (closed).

CL ID	02	Section no.	Table 1 of VPA-DD, SDG Summary sheet	Date : 05/12/2024																		
Description of CL																						
1. As outlined in the SDG summary sheet of the ex-ante calculations for SDG7, the Project Developer (PD) is requested to provide a detailed explanation of the methodology used to estimate the number of operational cookstoves for each subsequent year following the distribution of 100,000 cookstoves in Year 1. Additionally, the CME is requested to clarify and justify the observed variability in the rate of depreciation of access to clean energy over the subsequent years, ensuring alignment and consistency in the calculations provided.																						
<table><tr><th colspan="2">SDG-7 (Number of households with</th></tr><tr><th>Year</th><th>SDG- Benefit</th></tr><tr><td>Year-1</td><td>1,00,000</td></tr><tr><td>Year-2</td><td>95,000</td></tr><tr><td>Year-3</td><td>90,000</td></tr><tr><td>Year-4</td><td>88,000</td></tr><tr><td>Year-5</td><td>85,000</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>85,000</td></tr><tr><td>Average</td><td>91,600</td></tr></table>					SDG-7 (Number of households with		Year	SDG- Benefit	Year-1	1,00,000	Year-2	95,000	Year-3	90,000	Year-4	88,000	Year-5	85,000	Total	85,000	Average	91,600
SDG-7 (Number of households with																						
Year	SDG- Benefit																					
Year-1	1,00,000																					
Year-2	95,000																					
Year-3	90,000																					
Year-4	88,000																					
Year-5	85,000																					
Total	85,000																					
Average	91,600																					
Project participant response				Date :																		

SDG 7 is calculated based on number of operational stoves each year i.e. total number of stoves distributed multiplied by usage rate of the product.			
Year	Number of stoves	U _{p,y}	SDG 7
15/02/2025-14/02/2026	100,000	100%	=100,000 * 100% = 100,000
15/02/2026-14/02/2027	100,000	97%	=100,000 * 97% = 97,000
15/02/2027-14/02/2028	100,000	94%	=100,000 * 94% = 94,000
15/02/2028-14/02/2029	100,000	91%	=100,000 * 91% = 91,000
15/02/2029-14/02/2030	100,000	89%	=100,000 * 89% = 89,000
PD has made the depreciation rate consistent with a drop rate of 3% per year. PDD and ER has been revised accordingly.			
.			
Documentation provided by project participant			
VVB assessment			Date : 16/12/2024
The VVB has verified that the PD has addressed the request regarding the methodology used to estimate the number of operational cookstoves in subsequent years following the distribution of 100,000 cookstoves in Year 1. The PD has clarified that a consistent depreciation rate of 3% per year has been applied. This adjustment ensures alignment and consistency in the calculations provided. The PDD and ER have been revised accordingly, reflecting this updated approach. (closed)			

CL ID	03	Section no.	Appendix 1(safeguarding principles)	Date : 05/12/2024
Description of CL				
1. The burning of the wood results in the production of ash, which can contain harmful elements such as Pb, Cd, Zn, Ni, Cu, As, Hg and Cr (source: Chemical and mineral composition of ashes from wood biomass combustion in domestic wood-fired furnaces International Journal of Environmental Science and Technology). The disposing of such ashes can also lead to land and water pollution (source: Environmental Impact of Waste Wood Ash Encyclopedia MDPI). The CME is requested to clarify the disposal of the damaged or the expired cookstove, during and the ending of the crediting period or the lifetime of the cookstove since the disposal can cause inappropriate and harmful landfilling and leads to land pollution. The CME is requested to revise the safeguarding principle for the generation and management of the waste produced from the ICS. (section: P.9.5 of VPA-DD) 2. According to the source, (How Rwanda became a restoration leader IUCN) the country Rwanda is focusing on forest growth. The CME is requested to confirm that the firewood collection of the ICS end users does not access the area where the forest regrowth measures are taken. (Section: P.9.7 of VPA-DD)				

Project participant response				Date : 06/12/2024
1. The literature provided by VVB is accurate that ash produced from burning wood has harmful elements. Hence, from that perspective, this project become even more critical considering improved cookstoves have higher thermal efficiency than traditional stoves thus reducing the amount of wood required for cooking. The project intervention leads to significant reduction in the ash generation from the baseline scenario. Hence, it has a positive impact on water and land. The beneficiaries will be informed about proper waste handling and disposal of scrap material due to end of life or non-operational product. PD would ensure proper collection and disposal of National Environment (Waste Management) Regulations, 2020. Same has been updated in safeguard section of PDD. 2. According to the source, (How Rwanda became a restoration leader IUCN) the country Rwanda is focusing on forest growth. The CME is requested to confirm that the firewood collection of the ICS end users does not access the area where the forest regrowth measures are taken. (Section: P.9.7 of VPA-DD). (Section: P.9.7 of VPA-DD).				
Documentation provided by project participant				
<i>Revised PDD</i>				
VVB assessment				Date: 16/12/2024
1. The VVB has verified that the CME has acknowledged the concerns raised regarding the disposal of ashes and damaged cookstoves. The CME clarified that the project, by promoting the use of improved cookstoves with higher thermal efficiency, reduces the amount of wood required for cooking, thereby significantly lowering the amount of ash generated compared to traditional stoves. This results in a positive impact on land and water, minimizing the risks associated with ash disposal. Additionally, the CME has committed to informing beneficiaries about proper waste handling and ensuring compliance with the National Environment (Waste Management) Regulations, 2020, for the disposal of non-operational products or scrap materials. These updates have been incorporated into the safeguarding section of the PDD. (closed) 2. The VVB has verified that the CME has provided confirmation that the firewood collection by ICS end users does not occur in areas where forest regrowth measures are being implemented in Rwanda, as highlighted in the source "How Rwanda became a restoration leader IUCN." The CME's response aligns with the project's commitment to environmental sustainability and ensures that firewood collection does not interfere with ongoing forest restoration efforts. This confirmation has been documented in the updated safeguarding section of the VPA-DD, as outlined in Section P.9.. (closed)				
CL ID	04	Section no.	FNRB calculation	Date : 05/12/2024
Description of CL				

1. Regarding the calculation of the Fraction of Non-Renewable Biomass (FNRB) value in Table 1 of the submitted FNRB document, the Project Developer (PD) has considered only four forest product categories to calculate non-domestic wood consumption. The CME is requested to provide a justification for the exclusion of other forest products as outlined in the FAO report, which lists eight forest product categories, including the omitted ones.

1. Roundwood
2. Wood particles
3. Sawnwood
4. Veneer and plywood
5. Panels made of wood particles
6. Wood pulp and paper
7. Round and split wood products
8. Energy wood products and properties

Reference:

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/eebaeee6-cd98-4b35-9143-21f96fad16af/content>

2. Additionally, in the same table, the total woody biomass consumption (Woody Biomass Consumption Total [t/yr]) was calculated as the sum of domestic energy, non-domestic energy, and non-domestic non-energy totals, resulting in a value of 5,319,181 t/yr. The CME is requested to provide clarification and validation of this calculation methodology to ensure consistency and accuracy
3. The CME is requested to provide clarification regarding the observed increase in the FNRB value. The cookstove project, as issued by VERRA in 2023, reports an FNRB value of 0.89 (as referenced in the [final validation report](#)). Additionally, various studies and reports indicate the potential for a decrease in the FNRB value due to measures implemented by the government and other entities (Ref: https://www.carboncheck.co.in/sites/default/files/2024-05/CCIPL%201059_FVR_VCS%20Final%20validation%20report%20v4.2_Final.pdf). Given these considerations, the Project Developer (PD) is requested to either revise the FNRB value or provide a detailed explanation for the value provided, ensuring consistency with the latest available data and methodologies

Project participant response	Date : 06/12/2024
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1,2. PD would like to highlight that as per CDM tool 30, fNRB value shall be cross-checked with peer-reviewed literature such as Bailis 2015 report. Even though as per CDM Tool calculation, fNRB value came as 0.91, PD has used the Bailis 2015 value which is 0.59. Bailis 2015 report has used values for all parameters that are scientifically validated and verified hence, PD is justified in using this value in line with para 6 of CDM Tool 30.

Documentation provided by project participant
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VVB assessment	Date: 16/12/2024
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The VVB has verified that the PD has clarified their choice of the fNRB value, noting that although the CDM Tool 30 calculation suggests a value of 0.91, they have used the value of 0.59 from the Bailis 2015 report. The PD has justified this choice by referencing the scientifically validated and peer-reviewed nature of the Bailis 2015 report, aligning with paragraph 6 of CDM Tool 30, which allows the use of scientifically validated literature. The PD has provided the necessary documentation to support this decision. (closed)

Table 6. CAR from this validation

CAR ID	01	Section no.	VPA-DD	Date :	19/11/2024
Description of CAR					
1. The VPA-DD and PoA-DD currently refer to outdated versions of the Programme of Activity (PoA) requirements, the GHG Emissions Reduction & Sequestration Product Requirements, and the Principles and Requirements by GS4GG. Specifically, the PoA requirements and procedures should reference the applicable version 3.0, the GHG Emissions Reduction & Sequestration Product Requirements should reference version 3.0, and the Principles and Requirements by GS4GG should reference version 2.0, as per the latest applicable program documents on the GS standards website. The PP is requested to address this inconsistency and update the documents to ensure compliance with the latest standards.. 2. In Section B.6.3 of the VPA-DD, the parameter Nb,p,y is reported as 36,500,000 days. However, this value corresponds to 100,000 years. The CME is requested to verify and provide accurate value for this parameter. Additionally, the corrected value should be updated in the Emission Reduction (ER) sheet to ensure consistency across all documents. 3. In the Method 1 sheet of the Emission Reduction (ER) Excel file, the leakage for the project scenario is reported as 0.000464 tCO₂/day. When converted to an annual value, this equates to 0.16936 tCO₂/year, which is inconsistent with the parameter LE, recorded as 16,210 tCO₂/year in Section B.6.3 of the VPA-DD. The (CME) is requested to review and clarify this discrepancy and ensure that the values are consistent with the calculations in the ER sheet.					
Project participant response					Date : 21/11/2024
1. The CME has ensured that the latest version of the GS4GG's documents have been referred under the VPA. The updates have been reflected consistently throughout the PoA-DD and the VPA-DD. 2. The value has been revised in the VPA-DD. 3. CME has reviewed the value and has updated the VPA-DD. Earlier the value provided was for 100,000 stoves however, now it has been made consistent with the ER sheet which is calculating the value for 1 stove.					
Documentation provided by project participant					
<i>Revised VPA-DD</i>					
<i>Revised ex-ante ER calculation sheet</i>					
VVB assessment					Date: 05/12/2024

1. The VVB has reviewed and verified the updates made by the CME to align with the latest versions of the relevant documents. The CME has ensured that the Programme of Activity (PoA) requirements and procedures, the GHG Emissions Reduction & Sequestration Product Requirements (version 3.0), and the Principles and Requirements by GS4GG (version 2.0) have been consistently applied throughout the PoA-DD and VPA-DD. The VVB confirms that the updates have been appropriately incorporated as per the current standards (closed).
2. The VVB has reviewed and verified the correction made by the CME to the parameter **Nb,p,y** in Section B.6.3 of the VPA-DD. The previously reported value of 36,500,000 days, which corresponded to 100,000 years, has been revised. The updated value has also been reflected in the Emission Reduction (ER) sheet to ensure consistency across all documents. The VVB confirms that the correction has been appropriately implemented.
3. The VVB has reviewed and verified the changes made by the CME regarding the leakage parameter discrepancy between the Method 1 sheet of the Emission Reduction (ER) Excel file and Section B.6.3 of the VPA-DD. The CME has corrected the inconsistency, ensuring alignment of the annual leakage value with the calculations in the revised ER sheet. The revised values in the VPA-DD and the revised ER sheet have been confirmed to be accurate and consistent.(closed)

Table 4. FAR from this validation

Table 4. FAR from this validation					
FAR ID	03	Section no.	Section C of VPA-DD	Date : 05/12/2024, 17/03/2025	
Description of FAR					
1. As per the GS4GG principles and requirements outlined in V2.0 (section 4.1.40), the VPA start date is determined as the date of implementation of the first unit within the project. In accordance with the VPA-DD template guidelines V.2.3 (section C), the crediting period start date for a real case VPA is established as either the VPA Start Date or two years prior to the Design Certification or Inclusion Date, depending on which occurs later. Since the distribution of cookstoves has not yet been implemented, it is necessary for the subsequent VVB to verify both the VPA start date and the crediting period start date by performing the required verification activities, which include validating the project implementation timeline, design certification, and related evidence. 2. The subsequent VVB shall check whether the incentive mechanism described by the CME in Section B.2 of the VPA-DD (Version 2.2) was properly implemented. This will ensure that inefficient baseline cookstoves were effectively replaced by the project cookstoves, as required by Paragraph 2.2.1(d) of the applied methodology. The FAR is specifically to confirm if the CME’s incentive-based mechanism was carried out as planned.					
Project participant response				Date :	
-					
Documentation provided by project participant					
-					
VVB assessment				Date:	
-					

Table 5. FAR from the PoA Validation

FAR ID	04	Section No.	D.5	Date: 06/03/2025
Description of FAR				
The PoA entails application of two different technologies i.e improved cookstove and safe drinking water using methodologies namely “Reduced emissions from cooking and heating – Technologies and Practices to displace Decentralized Thermal Energy Consumption (TPDDTEC), version 4.0” and “Methodology for Emission Reduction from Safe Drinking Water Supply, version 1.0” respectively within the same host country “Geographical boundary of Rwanda”. The CME will ensure that there are no cross-effects generated and the subsequent verifying VVB is requested to check if any cross-effects are observed during verification of the real case VPAs.				
Project participant response				Date: DD/MM/YYYY
Documentation provided by project participant				
VVB assessment				Date: DD/MM/YYYY

Appendix V: Assessment of the Safeguarding Principles

SOCIAL SAFEGUARDING PRINCIPLES			
Reference requirement	Question	Response	VVB Assessment
P.1 HUMAN RIGHTS			
P.1.1.1 	Does the project developer, its representatives and the Project disrespect internationally proclaimed human rights?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
P.1.1.1 	Is the project involved or complicit in violence or human rights abuses of any kind as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
P.1.1.2 	Have local communities or individuals raised human rights concerns regarding the project (e.g., during the stakeholder engagement process, grievance processes, public statements)?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
P.1.1.3 	Is there a risk that rights-holders (e.g., Project-affected stakeholders) do not have the capacity to claim their rights?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
P.1.1.3 	Does this project undermine national or regional measures for the realisation of the right to development?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
If the answer to any of the questions above is "yes," please explain the reason and how the project will ensure compliance with applicable requirements. NA Would the project potentially involve or lead to:			
P.1.1.1 	adverse impacts on enjoyment of the human rights (civil, political, economic, social or cultural) of the affected population and particularly of marginalised groups?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.1.1.2 	inequitable or discriminatory impacts on affected populations, particularly people living in poverty or marginalised or excluded individuals or groups, including persons with disabilities?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.1.1.3 	restrictions in availability, quality of and/or access to resources or basic services, in	☐ YES	N/A

	particular to marginalised individuals or groups, including persons with disabilities?	☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	
P.1.1.3	exacerbation of conflicts among and/or the risk of violence to project-affected communities and individuals?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A

Briefly describe below how the project incorporates a human rights-based approach. For example, by describing how the project design:

- is informed by human rights analysis, including from UN human rights mechanisms (human rights treaty bodies, universal periodic review, special procedures)
- includes measures to assist the government to realise (respect, protect and fulfil) human rights under international law and to implement human rights-related standards in national law (whichever is higher)
- enhances the availability, accessibility and quality of benefits and services for potentially marginalised individuals and groups, and to increase their inclusion in decision-making processes that may impact them (consistent with the non-discrimination and equality human rights principle)

provides reasonable accommodations to strengthen inclusivity and accessibility of project benefits and services to persons with disabilities.

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THE PROJECT WILL RESPECT ALL THE INTERNATIONALLY PROCLAIMED HUMAN RIGHTS. THERE WILL NOT BE ANY KIND OF FORCE/COERCION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROJECT. THE BENEFICIARIES WILL BE PARTICIPATING VOLUNTARILY UNDER THE PROJECT.

P.2 | GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

P.2.1.1	Have women's groups/leaders raised gender equality concerns regarding the project, (e.g., during the stakeholder engagement process, grievance processes, public statements)?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
P.2.1.2	Does the project undermine the principles of non-discrimination, equal treatment, and equal pay for equal work?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
P.2.1.2	Does the project prevent men and women from having equal opportunities to participate in identified tasks and activities, whether through paid work, volunteer work, or community contributions, as appropriate?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
P.2.1.2	Does the project limit the participation of women or men based on pregnancy, maternity/paternity leave, or marital status?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
P.2.1.2	Is information about project objectives being communicated in a way that is inappropriate for the local context and not tailored to the	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A

	methods of understanding of both women and men, which could hinder their participation?		
P.2.1.3	Has the project assessed gender risks without referencing the country's gender strategy or equivalent national commitment?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
P.2.1.4	Has expert stakeholder(s) been involved, and has their input been requested for the project design on gender equality and women's empowerment?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A

If the answer to any of the questions above is "yes," please explain the reason and how the project will ensure compliance with applicable requirements.

NA

Would the project potentially involve or lead to:

P.2.1.1	adverse impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women and girls?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.2.1.1	exacerbation of risks of gender-based violence? For example, through the influx of workers to a community, changes in community and household power dynamics, increased exposure to unsafe public places and/or transport, etc.	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.2.1.2	reproducing discriminations against women based on gender, especially regarding participation in design and implementation or access to opportunities and benefits?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.2.1.2	limitations on women's ability to use, develop and protect natural resources, taking into account different roles and positions of women and men in accessing environmental goods and services? For example, activities that could lead to natural resources degradation or depletion in communities who depend on these resources for their livelihoods and well-being.	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A

Briefly describe below how the project is addressing any identified risk to gender equality and women's empowerment.

The project helps in reducing the time spent by women in collecting firewood for preparing meals thereby giving them more time for vocational activity such as education.

P.3 COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
P.3.1.1 	Does the project involve potential risks to the health and safety of affected communities during its life cycle?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
P.3.1.2 	Does the project involve any potential risks to the workers' safety and health?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
If the answer to any of the questions above is "yes," please explain the reason and how the project will ensure compliance with applicable requirements.			
NA			
Would the project potentially involve or lead to:			
P.3.1.1 	construction and/or infrastructure development (e.g., roads, buildings, dams)?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
P.3.1.2 	air pollution, noise, vibration, traffic, injuries, physical hazards, poor surface water quality due to runoff, erosion, sanitation?	☐ YES ☒ POTENTIALLY ☐ NO	the VVB has verified that the indoor pollution is significantly reduced in comparison to the traditional cookstove through the stove test reports provided by the cme from the rwanda national standards/14/. hence the project is potentially viable for pollution but it is less than the baseline scenario.
P.3.1.2 	harm or losses due to failure of structural elements of the project (e.g., collapse of buildings or infrastructure)?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.3.1.2 	risks of water-borne or other vector-borne diseases (e.g., temporary breeding habitats), communicable and noncommunicable diseases, nutritional disorders, mental health?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY	N/A

		☒ NO	
P.3.1.2	transport, storage, and use and/or disposal of hazardous or dangerous materials (e.g., explosives, fuel and other chemicals during construction and operation)?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.3.1.2	adverse impacts on ecosystems and ecosystem services relevant to communities' health (e.g., food, surface water purification, natural buffers from flooding)?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A

Briefly describe below how the project is addressing any identified risk related to community health and safety.

The project doesn't expose the community to increased health risks and is not adversely affecting the health of workers and the community. As per a study by Energy by Sustainable Development⁸, concentration in open fire was found to be 1340 mg/MJ_d for PM2.5 and 9 g/MJ_d for CO among households using traditional stove. The project technology demonstrate that they do not worsen the level of IAP (211 mg/MJ_d for PM2.5 and 4.10 g/MJ_d for CO). The workers participating in the project activity are not exposed to unsafe or unhealthy work environments as the sale/distribution of improved cookstove. The monitoring activities of the project will not include any hazardous chemicals or other hazardous material.

P.4 | CULTURAL HERITAGE, INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, DISPLACEMENT AND RESETTLEMENT

P.4.1 | Sites of Cultural and Historical Heritage

P.4.1.1	Does the project involve altering, damaging, or removing sites, objects, or structures of significant cultural heritage?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
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If the answer to question above is "yes," please explain the reason and how the project will ensure compliance with applicable requirements.

NA

Would the project potentially involve or lead to:

P.4.1.1	activities adjacent to or within a cultural heritage site?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.4.1.1	significant excavations, demolitions, movement of earth, flooding or other environmental changes?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A

⁸ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S097308262200165X>

		☒ NO	
P.4.1.1	alterations to landscapes and natural features with cultural significance?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.4.1.1	adverse impacts to sites, structures, or objects with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional or religious values or intangible forms of culture (e.g., knowledge, innovations, practices)? (Note: projects intended to protect and conserve Cultural Heritage may also have inadvertent adverse impacts)	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.4.1.2	utilisation of tangible and/or intangible forms (e.g., practices, traditional knowledge) of Cultural Heritage for commercial or other purposes?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.4.1.2	If answer to question above is "YES" or "POTENTIALLY" - are the communities made aware of their right under the law, scope and nature of proposed development and its potential consequences?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A
P.4.1.3	If answer to question above is "YES" - does the project provide equitable sharing of benefits from commercialisation of such knowledge, innovation, or practice, consistent with their customs and traditions?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A
P.4.1.4	If answer to question above is "YES" - are opinions and recommendations of an Expert Stakeholder(s) not sought and demonstrated as being included in the project design?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A
P.4.1.4	If answer to question above is "YES", has project design been changed, modified, updated considering opinions and recommendations of an Expert Stakeholder?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A

If the answer is "yes" or "potentially" to any of the above questions, please provide a brief description of the project situation below. Also, provide justification and/or evidence as necessary to demonstrate compliance with applicable requirements.

NA

[P.4.2](#) *Forced Eviction and Displacement*

P.4.2.1	Does the project involve any risks related to involuntary relocation of people?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
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If the answer to question above is "yes," please explain the reason and how the project will ensure compliance with applicable requirements.

NA

Would the project potentially involve or lead to:

P.4.2.1	risk of forced evictions or involuntary relocation of people?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.4.2.2	temporary or permanent and full or partial physical displacement (including people without legally recognisable claims to land)?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.4.2.2	economic displacement (e.g., loss of assets or access to resources due to land acquisition or access restrictions – even in the absence of physical relocation)?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.4.2.2	If answer to question above is "YES" or "POTENTIALLY", - has the project developed Resettlement Action Plan or Livelihood Action Plan in consultation and agreement with affected individual, group or community? - has the project integrated Resettlement Action Plan or Livelihood Action Plan into the Project design?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A
P.4.2.3	If answer to question above is "YES" - are opinions and recommendations of an Expert Stakeholder(s) not sought and demonstrated as being included in the project design?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A
P.4.2.3	If answer to question above is "YES", have project design been changed, modified, updated considering opinions and recommendations of an Expert Stakeholder?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A

If the answer is "yes" or "potentially" to any of the above questions, please provide a brief description of the project situation below. Also, provide justification and/or evidence as necessary to demonstrate compliance with applicable requirements.

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[P.4.3](#) | **LAND TENURE AND OTHER RIGHTS**

P.4.3.1	Does the project involve any risks related to identifying and managing legitimate tenure rights that may be affected by the project?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
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If the answer to question above is "yes," please explain the reason and how the project will ensure compliance with applicable requirements.

NA

Would the project potentially involve or lead to:

P.4.3.1	impacts on or changes to land tenure arrangements and/or community-based property rights/customary rights to land, territories and/or resources?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.4.3.1	uncertainties with regards to land tenure, access rights, usage rights or land ownership? Examples include, but are not limited to water access rights, community-based property rights and customary rights.	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.4.3.2	Changes in legal arrangements, if yes, are the changes done in line with relevant laws and regulations?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A
P.4.3.2	Changes in legal arrangements, if yes, are these changes agree with free, prior and informed consent of the involved stakeholders?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A
P.4.3.3	Does some other entity (other than the project developer) hold uncontested land title for the entire Project Boundary?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A
P.4.3.4	Are opinions and recommendations of an Expert Stakeholder(s) not sought and demonstrated as being included in the project design?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A
P.4.3.4	If answer to question above is "YES", have project design been changed, modified, updated considering opinions and recommendations of an Expert Stakeholder?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A
P.4.3.5	Have project developer in consultation with stakeholders established a functioning mechanism to receive, process, resolve, communicate and record grievances?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A

If the answer is "yes" or "potentially" to any of the above questions, please provide a brief description of the project situation below. Also, provide justification and/or evidence as necessary to demonstrate compliance with applicable requirements.

NA

P.4.4 | INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

P.4.4.1 	Does the project involve Indigenous People within the Project area of influence who may be affected directly or indirectly by the Project?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
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If the answer to question above is "yes," please explain project situation and how the project will ensure compliance with applicable requirements.

NA

Would the project potentially involve or lead to:

P.4.4.1 	affect areas where indigenous peoples are present (including project area of influence)	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.4.4.1 	affect areas, land and territory claimed by indigenous peoples?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.4.4.1 	impacts (positive or negative) to the human rights, lands, natural resources, territories, and traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.4.4.7 	If answer to above questions is "YES" or "POTENTIALLY", - Is it determined that the proposed project may affect the rights, lands, resources, or territories of indigenous people? - Has an "Indigenous People Plan" (IPP) or "Indigenous People Plan Framework" been elaborated and included in the project documentation? - Was the plan developed in accordance with the effective and meaningful participation of indigenous peoples and in accordance with UNDP Guidelines?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A
P.4.4.3 	risk of forcibly removing indigenous people from their lands and territories?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A

P.4.4.4	utilisation and/or commercial development of natural resources on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples? Consider, and where appropriate ensure, consistency with the answers under Principle 4.1 above	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.4.4.5 P.4.4.6	If answer to question above is "YES" or "POTENTIALLY" - Did the project obtain free, prior and informed consent from indigenous people before taking their cultural, intellectual, religious, and/or spiritual property? - Does the project ensure that the indigenous people receive an equitable sharing of benefits resulting from the use of their traditional knowledge and practices? ? - Does the project ensure that the sharing of benefits resulting from the use of indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge and practices is culturally appropriate and inclusive? - Does the project ensure that the provision of equitable sharing of benefits does not impede land rights or equal access to basic services including health services, clean water, energy, education, safe and decent working conditions, and housing?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A
P.4.4.8	Does the project lack appropriate feedback and grievance channels for Indigenous Peoples and their representatives?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A
P.4.4.8	Has a grievance mechanism not been established at the beginning of programme or project implementation with due consideration given to customary dispute settlement mechanisms among the Indigenous Peoples concerned and will it remain operational throughout the project cycle?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A
P.4.4.9	Are opinions and recommendations of an Expert Stakeholder(s) not sought and demonstrated as being included in the project design?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A
P.4.4.9	If answer to question above is "YES", have project design been changed, modified, updated considering opinions and recommendations of an Expert Stakeholder?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ NA	N/A

If the answer is "yes" or "potentially" to any of the above questions, please provide a brief description of the project situation

below. Also, provide justification and/or evidence as necessary to demonstrate compliance with applicable requirements.

NA

P.5 | CORRUPTION

P.5.1.1 	Does the project involve, or is it complicit in, contributing to or reinforcing corruption or corrupt projects?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
P.5.1.1 	Does the project have a risk of encouraging bribery, kickbacks, or other unethical behavior?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A

If the answer to any of the questions above is "yes," please explain project situation and how the project will ensure compliance with applicable requirements.

NA

ECONOMIC SAFEGUARDING PRINCIPLES

P.6 | ECONOMIC IMPACTS

P.6.1 | LABOUR RIGHTS AND WORKING CONDITIONS

P.6.1.1 	Does the project involve, facilitate, or condone forced labor, or pose a potential risk of forced labor?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
P.6.1.1 	Does the project violate any labor or health and safety laws, international obligations, or ILO conventions?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
P.6.1.2 	Does the project violate the principles of equal opportunity and fair treatment in its employment decisions?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
P.6.1.3 	Does the project violate national laws, if available regarding non-discrimination in employment?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
P.6.1.4 P.6.1.5 	Does the project allow child labor?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
P.6.1.7 P.6.1.8 	Does the project have insufficient processes and measures in place to ensure the safety and health of project workers?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
P.6.1.9 	Does the project have insufficient measures to safeguard and support vulnerable project workers, such as women, people with disabilities, migrant workers, and young workers, and to prevent any kind of harassment, abuse, bullying, or exploitation, including gender-based violence (GBV)?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
P.6.1.10 	Does the project have no grievance mechanism available for workers to voice	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A

	workplace concerns? Is information about this mechanism not provided to workers at the time of recruitment, or is it not easily accessible?		
If the answer to any of the questions above is "yes," please explain project situation and how the project will ensure compliance with applicable requirements.			
NA			
Would the project potentially involve or lead to: (NOTE: APPLIES TO BOTH PROJECT AND CONTRACTOR WORKERS)			
P.6.1.1 	use of forced labour?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.6.1.1 	working conditions that do not meet national labour laws and international commitments?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.6.1.1 	working conditions that may deny freedom of association and collective bargaining?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.6.1.1 	absence of documented working agreements with all individual workers <i>if such agreements do not exist, or do not address working conditions and terms of employment, the project developer shall provide reasonable working conditions and terms of employment.</i>	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.6.1.1 	use of migrant workers? <i>if engaged, the developer shall ensure that they are engaged substantially equivalent terms and conditions to non-migrant workers carrying out similar work.</i>	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.6.1.1 	having no arrangements for basic services ⁹ for workers?	☐ YES	N/A

⁹ Basic services requirements refer to minimum space, supply of water, adequate sewage and garbage disposal system, appropriate protection against heat, cold, damp, noise, fire, and disease-carrying animals, adequate sanitary and washing facilities, ventilation, cooking and storage facilities and natural and artificial lighting, and in some cases basic medical services.

	<i>the project developer shall put in place and implement policies on the quality and management of the accommodation and provision of basic services in a manner consistent with the principles of non-discrimination and equal opportunity. Workers' accommodation arrangements should not restrict workers' freedom of movement or of association</i>	☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	
P.6.1.2	any form of discrimination or harassment based on factors unrelated to job requirements, such as gender, race, nationality, ethnicity, social or indigenous origin, religion or belief, disability, age, or sexual orientation?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.6.1.2	any form of discrimination in any aspect of employment, such as recruitment, compensation, working conditions, training, job assignment, promotion, termination, or discipline?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.6.1.2	harassment, intimidation, and/or exploitation, especially in regard to women?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.6.1.3	discriminatory working conditions and/or lack of equal opportunity where national law provides provision to address non-discrimination in employment?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.6.1.4	use of child labour? (including third-party engaged workers)	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.6.1.4	inadequate and verifiable mechanisms for age verification?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
P.6.1.7	no processes and measures in place for the safety and health of project workers?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
P.6.1.7	No provision of safety and health training provisions, including on the proper use and maintenance of personal protective equipment conducted by competent persons and the maintenance of training records?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
P.6.1.7	No provision to record and document accidents, diseases, incidents, and any resulting injuries, illnesses, or deaths?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
P.6.1.8	occupational health and safety risks due to physical, chemical, biological and psychosocial	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A

	hazards (including violence and harassment) throughout the project life-cycle?		
P.6.1.9	No measures to protect vulnerable project workers from harassment, exploitation, and gender-based violence (GBV)? This includes women, people with disabilities, migrant workers, and young workers.	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
P.6.1.10	No grievance mechanism available for workers to voice workplace concerns.	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
P.6.1.11	No measures for due diligence and the establishment of policies and procedures to manage and monitor the performance of third-party employees in the project?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A

If the answer is "yes" or "potentially" to any of the above questions, please provide a brief description of the project situation below. Also, provide justification and/or evidence as necessary to demonstrate compliance with applicable requirements.

Even though response to all parameters is no, yet PD has added a monitoring indicator for the same under section D.1 of the VPA-DD

[P.6.2 | NEGATIVE ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES](#)

P.6.2.1	Is there a risk of project failure during implementation or after project certification due to a lack of financial resources?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
P.6.2.2	Does the project have potential negative impacts or pose a risk to the local economy?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
P.6.2.2	Are there any potential risks or negative impacts this project may have on vulnerable or marginalised social groups, despite the benefits it may bring?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A

If the answer to any of the questions above is "yes," please explain project situation and how the project will ensure compliance with applicable requirements.

NA

Would the project involve or lead to:

P.6.2.2	economic impacts (negative/detrimental) to the local economy?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.6.2.2	negative economic consequences during and after project implementation, e.g., for vulnerable and marginalised social groups in targeted communities?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A

If the answer is "yes" or "potentially" to any of the above questions, please provide a brief description of the project situation

below. Also, provide justification and/or evidence as necessary to demonstrate compliance with applicable requirements.

NA

P.7 | CLIMATE AND ENERGY

P.7.1 | GHG EMISSIONS

P.7.1.1 	Does the project have a risk of increasing greenhouse gas emissions over the Baseline Scenario?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
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If the answer to question above is "yes," please explain project situation and how the project will ensure compliance with applicable requirements.

NA

Would the project involve or lead to:

P.7.1.1 	increase greenhouse gas emissions over the Baseline Scenario?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
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If the answer is "yes" or "potentially" to the above question, please provide a brief description of the project situation below. Also, provide justification and/or evidence as necessary to demonstrate compliance with applicable requirements.

NA

P.7.2 | ENERGY SUPPLY

P.7.2.1 	Does the project pose a risk to the availability and reliability of energy supply to other users?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
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If the answer to question above is "yes," please explain project situation and how the project will ensure compliance with applicable requirements.

NA

Would the project involve or lead to:

P.7.2.1 	negative impact on the availability and reliability of energy supply to other users?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
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If the answer is "yes" or "potentially" to the above question, please provide a brief description of the project situation below. Also, provide justification and/or evidence as necessary to demonstrate compliance with applicable requirements.

NA

P.8 | WATER

P.8.1 | IMPACT ON NATURAL WATER PATTERNS/FLOWS

P.8.1.1 	Does the project increase water usage to a level that will not allow for the maintenance of environmental flows?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
P.8.1.1 	Does the project result in the discharge of wastewater that does not meet the required standard for beneficial reuse and could therefore negatively impact the environmental flow?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
P.8.1.1 	Does the project have the potential risk to exceed the rate of recharge for the groundwater source?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
P.8.1.1 	Does the project involve any processes or activities that could contaminate the groundwater and render it unsuitable for use?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A

If the answer to any of the questions above is "yes," please explain project situation and how the project will ensure compliance with applicable requirements.

NA

Would the project involve or lead to:

P.8.1.1 	affect the natural or pre-existing pattern of watercourses, groundwater and/or the watershed(s) such as high seasonal flow variability, flooding potential, lack of aquatic connectivity or water scarcity?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.8.1.1 	Wastewater discharge of quality that does not meet the required standard for beneficial reuse?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.8.1.1 	significant extraction, diversion of ground water? For example, construction of dams, reservoirs, river basin developments, groundwater extraction	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.8.1.2 	Are opinions and recommendations of an Expert Stakeholder(s) not sought and demonstrated as being included in the project design?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A

If the answer is "yes" or "potentially" to any of the above questions, please provide a brief description of the project situation below. Also, provide justification and/or evidence as necessary to demonstrate compliance with applicable requirements.

NA

P.8.2 | EROSION AND/OR WATER BODY INSTABILITY

P.8.2.1 	Does the project have a risk of negatively impacting the catchment and has it been assessed and addressed?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
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If the answer to question above is "yes," please explain project situation and how the project will ensure compliance with applicable requirements.

NA

Would the project involve or lead to:

P.8.2.2 	negatively impact on the catchment area?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.8.2.5 	<i>If yes, Erosion prevention measures, including soil and slope protection measures, must be implemented before project commencement. These measures should involve natural terracing, infiltration strips, permanent ground cover, hedge and tree rows, and effective slope length assessment. Regular reassessment of these measures is necessary.</i>		
P.8.2.6 	Are opinions and recommendations of an Expert Stakeholder(s) not sought and demonstrated as being included in the project design?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A

If the answer is "yes" or "potentially" to any of the above questions, please provide a brief description of the project situation below. Also, provide justification and/or evidence as necessary to demonstrate compliance with applicable requirements.

NA

P.9 | ENVIRONMENT, ECOLOGY AND LAND USE

P.9.1 | LANDSCAPE MODIFICATION AND SOIL

P.9.1.1 	Is there any risk of soil resource degradation or loss of ecosystem services provided by soils in the project?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
P.9.1.3 	<i>If yes, the project shall maintain healthy soils by minimising negative impacts on soil health, productivity, structure, and water retention. Steps to minimise soil degradation include crop rotation, composting, using N-fixing plants, and reducing tillage and ecologically harmful substances.</i>		

If the answer to question above is "yes," please explain project situation and how the project will ensure compliance with applicable requirements.

NA

Would the project involve or lead to:

P.9.1.4	production, harvesting, and/or management of living natural resources by small-scale landholders and/or local communities?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.9.1.4	if answer to above question "yes" or "potentially", does project adopt appropriate and culturally sensitive sustainable resource management practices?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A

If the answer is "yes" or "potentially" to any of the above questions, please provide a brief description of the project situation below. Also, provide justification and/or evidence as necessary to demonstrate compliance with applicable requirements.

NA

[P.9.2 | VULNERABILITY TO NATURAL DISASTER](#)

P.9.2.1	Does the project have any risks associated with natural or man-made hazards that could result from land use changes due to the project?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
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If the answer to question above is "yes," please explain project situation and how the project will ensure compliance with applicable requirements.

NA

Would the project involve or lead to:

P.9.2.2	any potential risks that require emergency preparedness and response planning?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.9.2.2	if answer to above question "yes" or "potentially", did the project developer disclose appropriate information about emergency preparedness and response to affected communities?	☐ YES ☒ NO ☐ NA	N/A

If the answer is "yes" or "potentially" to any of the above questions, please provide a brief description of the project situation below. Also, provide justification and/or evidence as necessary to demonstrate compliance with applicable requirements.

NA

[P.9.3 | BIOSAFETY AND GENETIC RESOURCES](#)

P.9.3.1	Does the project involve the transfer, handling, and use of genetically modified organisms/living modified organisms that may	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
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	result in adverse effects on biological diversity?		
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If the answer to question above is "yes," please explain project situation and how the project will ensure compliance with applicable requirements.

NA

Would the project involve or lead to:

P.9.3.1	the transfer, handling and use of genetically modified organisms/living modified organisms (GMOs/LMOs) that result from modern biotechnology	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.9.3.1	If answer to above question is "yes" has a risk assessment by a competent Expert stakeholder been carried out in accordance with Annex iii of the Cartagena protocol on biosafety to the convention on biological diversity?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A
P.9.3.2	If answer to above question is "yes" has any risks identified in the risk assessment?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A
P.9.3.3	Forestry (for example Afforestation/Reforestation) involving GMO planting? <i>Note - Forestry projects (for example Afforestation/ Reforestation) involving GMO planting are not eligible for Certification under Gold Standard for the Global Goals.</i>	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A

If the answer is "yes" or "potentially" to any of the above questions, please provide a brief description of the project situation below. Also, provide justification and/or evidence as necessary to demonstrate compliance with applicable requirements.

Please add text here....

[P.9.4 | RELEASE OF POLLUTANTS](#)

P.9.4.1	Does the project have a risk of releasing pollutants to air, water, and land in routine, non-routine, or accidental circumstances?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
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If the answer to question above is "yes," please explain project situation and how the project will ensure compliance with applicable requirements.

NA

Would the project involve or lead to:

P.9.4.1 	any potential risk of pollutant release that cannot be avoided?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.9.4.3 	If answer to above question is "Yes" or "potentially", has the project identified all potential pollution sources that may degrade the quality of soil, air, surface, and groundwater in the project area?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A
P.9.4.2 	If answer to above question is "Yes" or "potentially", do the pollution prevention and control technologies and practices applied during the project life cycle align with national regulations or international best practices?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A
P.9.4.3 	If answer to above question is "Yes", is there a monitoring plan to ensure that mitigation measures are implemented, and resources are protected?	☐ YES ☒ NO ☒ NA	N/A

If the answer is "yes" or "potentially" to any of the above questions, please provide a brief description of the project situation below. Also, provide justification and/or evidence as necessary to demonstrate compliance with applicable requirements.

Please add text here....

P.9.5 | HAZARDOUS AND NON-HAZARDOUS WASTE

P.9.5.1 	Does the project involve the generation of waste materials (both hazardous and non-hazardous)?	☒ YES ☐ NO	the cme has ensured through the literature survey of the other implemented cookstove project that the ics significantly reduced the production of the ashes/46/ which creates a positive impact on the water and land pollution. the cme explained through the section p.9.5.1 of the vpa dd/03/ that the beneficiaries will be informed about proper
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			waste handling and disposal of scrap material due to end of life or non-operational product. PD would ensure proper collection and disposal of national environment (waste management) regulations, 2020/03/
P.9.5.3 	Does the project involve risk of release of hazardous materials resulting from their production, transportation, handling, storage, or use?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
P.9.5.5 	Does the project involve the use of any chemicals or materials subject to international bans or phase-outs?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A

If the answer to any of the questions above is "yes," please explain project situation and how the project will ensure compliance with applicable requirements.

Burning of wood result in production of ash which contain harmful elements. The use of wood in traditional stove is higher than improved cookstoves as the thermal efficiency is lower in the traditional stoves. The project intervention becomes even more critical considering improved cookstoves have higher thermal efficiency thus reducing the amount of wood required for cooking. The project intervention leads to significant reduction in the ash generation from the baseline scenario. Hence, it has a positive impact on water and land pollution.

The beneficiaries will be informed about proper waste handling and disposal of scrap material due to end of life or non-operational product. PD would ensure proper collection and disposal of National Environment (Waste Management) Regulations, 2020¹⁰.

Would the project involve or lead to:

P.9.5.1 	the generation and management of waste materials?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	The beneficiaries will be informed about proper waste handling and disposal of
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¹⁰

[https://nema.go.ug/sites/all/themes/nema/docs/National%20Environment%20\(Waste%20Management\)%20Regulations%20S.I.%20No.%2049%20of%202020.pdf](https://nema.go.ug/sites/all/themes/nema/docs/National%20Environment%20(Waste%20Management)%20Regulations%20S.I.%20No.%2049%20of%202020.pdf)

			scrap material due to end of life or non-operational product. PD would ensure proper collection and disposal of National Environment (Waste Management) Regulations, 2020
P.9.5.1 	treatment, destruction, or disposal of waste material?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A
P.9.5.1 	If answer to above question is "Yes", does the project involve an environmentally friendly method that includes appropriate control of emissions and residues resulting from the handling and processing of waste material?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A
P.9.5.3 	risk of release of hazardous materials resulting from their production, transportation, handling, storage, or use?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A
P.9.5.3 	If answer to above question is "yes", does project have measures in place to address health risks?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A
P.9.5.4 	Involve manufacture, trade, and use of chemicals and hazardous materials subject to international bans or phase-outs due to their high toxicity to living organisms, environmental persistence, potential for bioaccumulation, or potential for depletion of the ozone layer	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A

If the answer is "yes" or "potentially" to any of the above questions, please provide a brief description of the project situation below. Also, provide justification and/or evidence as necessary to demonstrate compliance with applicable requirements.

all waste generated from the system will be managed and disposed of in strict accordance with rwanda's standards for health, environment, and safety (hes) cme has added a monitoring indicator for the same under section d.1 of the vpa-dd

[P.9.6 | PESTICIDES & FERTILISERS](#)

P.9.6.1 	Does the project involve the use of chemical pesticides?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
P.9.6.5 	Does the project involve purchase, store, manufacture, trade or use products that fall in	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A

	Classes IA (extremely hazardous) and IB (highly hazardous)		
P.9.6.6	Does the project use fertilisers, and if so, are measures being taken to minimise their use and nutrient losses to the environment?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A

If the answer to any of the questions above is "yes," please explain project situation and how the project will ensure compliance with applicable requirements.

NA

Would the project involve or lead to:

P.9.6.1	chemical pesticides use for pest management?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.9.6.4	If answer to question above is "yes" or "potentially", does project has documented Chemical Pesticides Policy in place?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A
P.9.6.5	purchase, store, use, manufacture, or trade in Class II (moderately hazardous) pesticides?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.9.6.5	If answer to question above is "yes" or "potentially", does project has appropriate controls on manufacture, procurement, or distribution and/or use of these chemicals?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A

If the answer is "yes" or "potentially" to any of the above questions, please provide a brief description of the project situation below. Also, provide justification and/or evidence as necessary to demonstrate compliance with applicable requirements.

NA

[P.9.7 | HARVESTING OF FORESTS](#)

P.9.7.1	Does the project have a risk of unsustainable forest management, including timber harvesting?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
P.9.7.1	Does the project pose a risk of depleting biodiversity and ecosystem functionality in areas where improved forest management is undertaken?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
P.9.7.1	Does the project risk not meeting requirements for environment-friendly, socially beneficial, and economically viable plantations using native species whenever possible?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A

If the answer to any of the questions above is "yes," please explain project situation and how the project will ensure compliance with applicable requirements.

NA

P.9.8 | FOOD SECURITY

<u>P.9.8.1 </u>	Does the project involve the risk of negatively influencing access to and availability of food for people affected?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
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If the answer to the question above is "yes," please explain project situation and how the project will ensure compliance with applicable requirements.

NA

Would the project involve or lead to:

<u>P.9.8.1 </u>	modification of the quantity or nutritional quality of food available such as through crop regime alteration or export or economic incentives?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
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If the answer is "yes" or "potentially" to the above question, please provide a brief description of the project situation below. Also, provide justification and/or evidence as necessary to demonstrate compliance with applicable requirements.

NA

P.9.9 | ANIMAL WELFARE

<u>P.9.9.1 </u>	Does the project involve any risks to animal welfare? Animal welfare shall be ensured by providing access to water and food, appropriate environment, humane treatment, and staff training. Evidence of mistreatment will be treated as an immediate non-conformity.	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
<u>P.9.9.2 </u>	Does the project involve any potential risk of excessive or inadequate use of veterinary medicines?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
<u>P.9.9.4 </u>	Does the project involve the risk of administering synthetic growth promoters, including hormones?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A

If the answer to any of the questions above is "yes," please explain project situation and how the project will ensure compliance with applicable requirements.

NA

Would the project involve or lead to:

P.9.9.1	animal husbandry or harvesting of fish populations or other aquatic species? ¹¹	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A
P.9.9.1	limiting access for animals to basic needs like drinking water, adequate food, daylight, appropriate shelter etc.?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.9.9.3	inadequate measures to isolate sick animals and control the spread of disease, especially zoonotic diseases?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A
P.9.9.5	inadequate low-stress methods, equipment, and facilities that facilitate calm animal movement.	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A
P.9.9.6	inadequate measures to ensure that animals are exposed to the least stress possible during transportation and slaughtering?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A
P.9.9.7	inappropriate spacing per animal and stocking rates per land unit?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A
P.9.9.8	inadequate measures to address the specific needs of aquatic animals?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A
P.9.9.9 P.9.9.10	primary production of living natural resources such as animal husbandry, aquaculture, and fisheries? If the answer is yes, implement industry-standard sustainable management practices in line with to one or more relevant and credible standards and utilise available technologies.	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A

If the answer is "yes" or "potentially" to any of the above question, please provide a brief description of the project situation below.

Also, provide justification and/or evidence as necessary to demonstrate compliance with applicable requirements.

NA

[P.9.10 | HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE AREAS AND CRITICAL HABITATS](#)

P.9.10.1	Does the project have the risk of negatively impacting HCV areas and/or critical habitats?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
P.9.10.2	Does the project in the project area or area of downstream impacts have risks to the following: native tree patches, individual native trees, freshwater resources (including	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A

¹¹ 'Involve' means if the project mechanism and/or impact(s) are achieved via changing animal husbandry practices in some way.

	rivers, lakes, swamps, temporary water bodies, and wells), habitats of rare, threatened, and endangered species, and biodiversity-enhancing areas?		
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If the answer to any of the questions above is "yes," please explain project situation and how the project will ensure compliance with applicable requirements.

NA

Would the project involve or lead to:

P.9.10.1	identified habitats as HCV areas and or Critical habitats?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.9.10.1	If answer to above question is "yes", does the project have any risks that could negatively impact the catchment, project success, and surrounding HCV and ecological assets, as well as any measurable adverse impacts on the criteria or biodiversity values for which the critical habitat was designated, and on the ecological processes supporting that biodiversity?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A
P.9.10.1	If answer to above question is "yes", is a robust, appropriately designed, and long-term Habitats and Biodiversity Action Plan absent which will make the project unable to achieve net gains of those biodiversity values for which the critical habitat was designated?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ N/A	N/A
P.9.10.2	Does the project area or area of downstream impacts have native tree patches, individual native trees, freshwater resources (including rivers, lakes, swamps, temporary water bodies, and wells), habitats of rare, threatened, and endangered species, and biodiversity-enhancing areas?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.9.10.2	If the answer to the above question is "yes", will the project have any adverse effects on these areas?	☐ YES ☐ No ☒ NA	N/A
P.9.10.3	If the answer to above question is "yes", does the project has opportunities to minimise unwarranted conversion or degradation of the habitat and to enhance the habitat as part of its development?	☐ YES ☐ No ☒ NA	N/A
P.9.10.4	Is the project applying Land Use & Forest Activity Requirements and managing a minimum 10% of the project area to protect or enhance the biological diversity of native ecosystems following HCV approach as per the given requirements?	☐ YES ☐ No ☒ NA	N/A

P.9.10.5	Are opinions and recommendations of an Expert Stakeholder(s) not sought and demonstrated as being included in the project design?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A
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If the answer is "yes" or "potentially" to any of the above question, please provide a brief description of the project situation below.
Also, provide justification and/or evidence as necessary to demonstrate compliance with applicable requirements.

NA

[P.9.11 | ENDANGERED SPECIES](#)

P.9.11.1	Does the project lead to the reduction or negative impact on any recognised Endangered, Vulnerable or Critically Endangered species?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
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If the answer to question above is "yes," please explain project situation and how the project will ensure compliance with applicable requirements.

NA

Would the project involve or lead to:

P.9.11.2	distortion of habitats of endangered species?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NA	N/A
P.9.11.2	If answer to the above question is "yes", does the project plan to protect and enhance them?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☐ NO ☒ N/A	N/A
P.9.11.2	Are opinions and recommendations of an Expert Stakeholder(s) not sought and demonstrated as being included in the project design?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ NA	N/A

If the answer is "yes" or "potentially" to any of the above question, please provide a brief description of the project situation below.
Also, provide justification and/or evidence as necessary to demonstrate compliance with applicable requirements.

NA

[P.9.12 | INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES](#)

P.9.12.1	Does project introduce any alien species (not currently established in the country or region of the project) into new environments?	☐ YES ☒ NO	N/A
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If the answer to question above is "yes," please explain project situation and how the project will ensure compliance with applicable requirements.

NA

Would the project involve or lead to:

P.9.12.1 	risk of introducing any alien species with a high risk of invasive behaviour regardless of whether such introductions are permitted under the existing regulatory framework?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.9.12.1 	risk of potential accidental or unintended introductions including the transportation of substrates and vectors (such as soil, ballast, and plant materials) that may harbour alien species.	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A
P.9.12.2 	risk of spreading alien species into areas in which they have not already been established?	☐ YES ☐ POTENTIALLY ☒ NO	N/A

If the answer is "yes" or "potentially" to any of the above question, please provide a brief description of the project situation below. Also, provide justification and/or evidence as necessary to demonstrate compliance with applicable requirements.

NA