



**Verified Carbon
Standard**

EASTERN DRC COOKSTOVE PROJECT- SOUTH KIVU



Document Prepared by KBS Certification Services Pvt. Ltd

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Summary:

AERA Group. has commissioned KBS Certification Services Pvt. Ltd. to do validation of the VCS project activity: “Eastern DRC cookstove project-South Kivu”, with regard to the relevant requirements of VCS Standard version 4.2.

The proposed project activity aims to increase access of households and communities to improved cookstoves by disseminating high thermal efficiency and low greenhouse gas emitting cooking stoves known as Improved Cook Stoves (ICS) to the rural households in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), in the Sud-Kivu province, in Africa and will target primarily the regions covered by the diocese of Uvira. The implementation of the project activity will result in replacement of low efficiency and high greenhouse gas emitting stoves (three-stone fireplace or traditional charcoal cookstoves) in the households, thereby resulting in reduction of firewood consumption & consequent emissions from combustion. Overall objectives through the implementation of the project are reduction of greenhouse gases, conservation of forests leading to climate change mitigation in a sustainable manner (reduction of biomass consumption and associated reduction in expenses to purchase wood or charcoal and reduction in time gathering firewood), creating job opportunities in the region as well as improved health conditions of ICS users due to improved indoor air quality along with drudgery reduction in everyday cooking.

A risk-based approach has been followed to perform this validation. In the course of the validation 05 Clarification Request (CL) and 03 Corrective Action Request (CAR) were raised and successfully closed.

The validation is based on the VCS PD; the subsequent background investigation, follow-up interviews and supporting documents made available to the validation team by project proponent.

As a result of the validation, the validation team confirms that:

- The project fulfils criteria of VCS Standard Version 4.2.
- The project is in line with all relevant VCS requirements.
- The project baseline is sufficiently justified in the PD.
- The calculation of the baseline and project emission reductions is carried out in a transparent and conservative manner, so that the calculated emission reductions of 5,284,281 tCO_{2e} is most likely to be achieved within the first crediting period of 7 years (Renewable).

No restrictions or uncertainties were identified related to the validation.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Objective

AERA Group. has commissioned KBS Certification Services Pvt. Ltd. to do VCS validation of the project activity: “Eastern DRC cookstove project-South Kivu”, with regard to the relevant VCS requirements of VCS Standard version 4.2; to attain real, measurable, additional and permanent emission reductions.

The purpose of validation is to ensure a thorough, independent assessment of the project description (PD), in particular the project's description eligibility, ownership, crediting period and details regarding its compliance with the law statutes and other regulatory frameworks

- The requirements of VCS Program guide Version 4.1 /10/
- The requirements of VCS Standard Version 4.2 /11/
- To assess the project's compliance with other relevant rules, including the project country Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) legislation and
- Other relevant rules are validated in order to confirm that the project description as documented is sound and reasonable and meet the stated requirements and identified criteria.

The validation is seen as necessary to provide assurance about the quality of the project and its intended generation of emission reductions over the project's crediting period without any double counting.

1.2 Scope and Criteria

The scope of the validation is defined as an independent and objective review of the Project description document, where methodological deviations and the project's compliance in section 1 (i.e., Project Details) is reviewed against the requirements of VCS Standard. KBS has employed a risk-based approach in the validation, focusing on the identification of significant risks for project implementation and the generation of Emission Reductions.

The items covered in the validation are described below:

- VCS Criteria
- VCS Project Description

- Background investigation and follow up interviews
- Draft validation reporting with CARs & CLs, if any
- Final validation reporting

The validation is based on the information made available to KBS and on the contract conditions.

The validation is not meant to provide any consulting to the project proponent. However, stated requests for clarifications and/or corrective actions may provide input for improvement of the project description. The work carried out by KBS is free from any conflict of interest.

1.3 Level of Assurance

☒ Reasonable level of assurance

The validation report is based on VCS-PD, supporting documents made available to the validator and information collected through performing interviews. Based on the process and procedures conducted, KBS states whether the information in the PD:

- is materially correct and is a fair representation of the actual project details, and
- is prepared in accordance with VCS requirements and the applied methodology for information pertaining to description, methodological deviations and reporting.

The validation work is carried out as per this requirement and the validation opinion is assured provided the credibility of all above. Details are presented in the Validation statement in section 4 below.

1.4 Summary Description of the Project

The proposed project activity aims to increase access of households and communities to improved cookstoves by disseminating high thermal efficiency and low greenhouse gas emitting cooking stoves known as Improved Cook Stoves (ICS) to the rural households in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), of the Sud-Kivu province, in Africa and will target primarily the regions covered by the diocese of Uvira (via community-based organization). The implementation of the project activity will result in replacement of low efficiency and high greenhouse gas emitting stoves (three-stone fireplace or traditional charcoal cookstoves) in the households, thereby resulting in reduction of firewood consumption & consequent emissions from combustion. Overall objectives through the implementation of the project are reduction of greenhouse gases, conservation of forests leading to climate change mitigation in a sustainable manner (reduction of biomass consumption and associated reduction in expenses to purchase wood or charcoal and reduction in time gathering firewood), creating job opportunities in the

region as well as improved health conditions of ICS users due to improved indoor air quality along with drudgery reduction in everyday cooking.

The project seeks to distribute up to 400,000 ICS to households (targeted population) in the eastern DRC.

As confirmed through the remote interview and through the submitted supporting documents, the technology deployed under the project activity shall be thermally efficient (in compliance with the methodological requirements) and having an average lifespan of 8 years. The currently eligible types of cookstoves to be distributed include the “Jiko Matawi” stove, a Tanzanian-design ICS that is produced from moulded clay. “Jiko Matawi” stove has been tested for thermal efficiency of 32.1% as per water boiling test/2/ and certified by third party (CREEC test report dated 2019). The ICS distributed “Jiko Matawi” have a better efficiency than traditional charcoal pots and three stones fireplace. The efficiency test report provided to assessment team was reviewed and it was concluded that the efficiency test/3/ was conducted in accordance with the procedure stipulated in the applied methodology VMR0006, version 1.1/09/

The start date of the project is 10-June-2020 which the date of initial contract signed with beneficiaries and as verified through the project database. The duration of crediting period is of 7 years and 00 months, renewable 2 times for a total of 21 years i.e., the first crediting period starts from 10-June -2020 to 09-June-2027.

The ICS are provided to households at a 50% subsidy to users (Stoves are sold at 5\$ while the total manufacturing and distribution cost of ICS is accounted as 10\$/stove) as a replacement for the traditional stove /16/. The individual households using ICS will sign an agreement with the PP will enter into contractual agreement with the beneficiaries by virtue of which, the end user will confirm use of cook stove as well as transfer the VCU right to the Project Participant. The estimated amount of emission reductions per annum are 754,897tCO₂e and a total of 5,284,281 tCO₂e for the total crediting period of 7 years.

2 VALIDATION PROCESS

2.1 Method and Criteria

The project activity applies approved VMR0006 version 1.1/09/, categorized under sectoral scope 3 “Energy Demand”. The validation consisted of the following phases:

- Completeness check and desk review of the Project Description
- Interview with project representatives and issuance of findings.
- Resolution of findings followed by preparation of the final validation report and opinion.

Timeline of Validation:

Work order signed	28-September-2021
Onsite validation/Remote audit	11-January -2022
(Draft) Reporting	31- May-2022
(Final) Reporting	20-September-2022

2.2 Document Review

After the submission of the draft PD /1.1/ and supporting background documents related to the project design and baseline from the client, the completeness of information made available as per VCS standard version 4.2 /11/ requirements is reviewed. Furthermore, the validation team used additional documentation by third parties like host party legislation, technical reports referring to the project design or to the basic conditions and technical data available on public domain. The project has been listed in the VERRA (<https://registry.verra.org/app/projectDetail/VCS/2636>). A desk review is carried out to assess the following:

- the project details as per VCS PD template
- any methodological deviations applied
- compliance with relevant law and regulations
- conditions prior to project initiation/ baseline

The list of documents reviewed is included in the section ‘References’.

2.3 Interviews

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, taking into account the rules of relevant national and local authorities (local to the VVB offices as well as to locality of the site visits), World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations, policies of the VVB, email clarification for Verra guidance on site visits, notification of Covid-19 Travel Guidance for Projects <https://verra.org/covid-19-travel-guidance/> and other relevant travel restrictions and guidance (for example, a requirement to self-isolate upon return from specific countries), the VVB has skipped the on-site visit. Further Email from VERRA dated 24/03/2020 from “Andrew Beauchamp” has been referred as per which “*The VCS Program does not explicitly mandate site visits as part of the validation and verification process, only that VVBs must achieve a reasonable level of assurance on all validations and verifications (per Section 4.1.2 of the VCS Standard, v4.1). Therefore, where a VVB can achieve a reasonable level of assurance without conducting a site visit, or through a remote site visit, this is in conformance with the VCS rules, and no request for an exemption or pre-approval from Verra is required. However, where a validation/verification has been*

conducted without a site visit, or through a remote site visit, please ensure that the applicable section of the validation/verification report includes a discussion of how a reasonable level of assurance was achieved without an in-person site visit”.

Hence, the VVB has used other standard auditing techniques for validation as referred to in VCS Rules/requirements, VCS Validation and Verification Manual version 3.2.

Validation team has used the following alternative means for its assessment and to justify that they are sufficient for the purpose of validation. Along with desk review, audit team has conducted remote audit interview as follows:

- A complete desk review of the VCS PD /1.2/, as well as all applicable country legal requirement and supportive evidences have been checked by the validation team.
- Validation team has performed Skype interview with PP in order to check implementation, ownership, technology, thermal testing procedure, sampling and monitoring procedures etc.
- Cross-check evaluation, for information received from interviews, under the scope of all information and references provided in VCS PD and supporting documents.

Details of interviewees, topics covered and additional information are presented below:

Date:	11-January-2022 (WhatsApp video call)		
Key points discussed:	Name of person, interviewed	Designation, Organization	KBS Team member
Host Country rule and regulations related to project activity, Project description, Ownership, Project start date, technology, Conditions prior to the Project initiation, Participation under other GHG program, sampling, procedure to avoid double counting, monitoring plan	Jokhanan TOE	Project manager AERA Group	Team Leader/ Technical Expert (TA-3.1): Mr. Tushar Chaudhari Validator: Shilpa Swarnim
	Alexandre Dunod	COO AERA Group	
	NDIZEYE Claver	Director OBEN E.A.C	
	KAPOMA Joseph	Supervisor OBEN E.A.C/Uvira Diocese	
	RWEMERA Pascal	OBEN E.A.C	
	HUMURA KAMBALE MUAYILA Renaud KIMBASI NYEMBO Etienne	End-User End-User	

	KAMBALE DUDU DE Alexandre	End-User	
	LEMABO LUBANZADIO Aline	End-User	
	KABEYA MAISHA Virginie	End-User	
	MASAMZAMBI NGANGUTUFUISA Dominique	End-User	
	MAFOLO KASEREKA GODEFROID Vincent	End-User	
	KAMONGA MARIE Alfred	End-User	
	IPUMA CHRISTIAN Jeremie	End-User	
	NZAMBI MFUMU BANGULA Eliane	End-User	
	RAGEZI BOLENGA Zenbyrin	End-User	
	NSITA KABUYA Paul	End-User	
	NYAMUMBAY KATASI Adrienne		

2.4 Site Inspections

KBS has not conducted site inspection for the validation process, remote interviews were carried out and have been detailed in section 2.3 above.

2.5 Resolution of Finding

KBS applies the risk-based approach aimed at focusing on high-risk issues to the validation results whilst not omitting any part of the mandatory processes. A few discrepancies were found during the validation

and the findings was submitted to the project proponent, indicated under the titles corrective action requests (CARs) and clarification requests (CLs). CARs and CLs require the PP to take relevant actions. Criteria for judging items as CAR or CL are as follows:

Corrective action request (CAR):

- the project participants have made mistakes that will influence the ability of the project activity to achieve real, measurable additional emission reductions
- the Voluntary Carbon Standard's requirements have not been met, or
- there is a risk that emission reductions cannot be monitored or calculated.

Clarification request (CL):

- Information is insufficient or not sufficiently clear to determine whether the applicable VCS requirements have been met.

FAR is to be raised to highlight issues related to project implementation that require review during the first verification of the project activity. FARs does not relate to VCS requirements for registration.

CARs and CLs are to be resolved or closed out if the PP modifies the project description, rectifies the PD or provides adequate additional explanations or evidence that satisfies the concerns. If this is not completed, the project activity cannot be recommended for registration under VCS registry.

03 CARs and 05 CLs were raised and successfully closed during validation.

2.5.1 Forward Action Requests

No FARs raised during the validation.

3 VALIDATION FINDINGS

3.1 Project Details

- Project scope, activity, type, technologies and measures implemented, and eligibility of the project.

This project activity will target rural households of the community (via the local church communities) using low efficiency and higher GHG emitting stoves. Replacement of conventional firewood stoves or traditional charcoal cookstoves with higher efficiency ICS models will be carried out in the targeted households. ICS will be sold to households at subsidized rate. ICSs (Jiko Matawi stove) are more efficient than conventional firewood stoves and charcoal cookstoves as they reduce heat loss and improve heat transfer and combustion efficiency. Fuel efficient ICS models with improved heat

transfer and combustion efficiency will be deployed, resulting in a decrease in fuel use in comparison to conventional pre-project stoves, while also reducing particulate matter and carbon emissions.

As confirmed through the remote interview and through the documents/2//8/, the technology deployed under the project activity shall be thermally efficient single stove, improved cookstoves (in compliance with the methodological requirements) and having an average lifespan of 8 years. The currently eligible types of cookstoves to be distributed include the Jiko Matawi stove, Jiko Matawi stove meets the requirements of the methodology. Jiko Matawi stove has been tested for thermal efficiency of 32.1% as per water boiling test and certified by third party (Stove performance Test Report by CREEC ,dated July 2019, which conforms the efficiency of Jiko Matawi stove as 32.1%). The efficiency test report provided to assessment team was reviewed and it was concluded that the efficiency test/2/ was conducted in accordance with the procedure stipulated in the applied methodology VMR0006, version 1.1/9/

The project involves energy efficient cookstove distribution which falls under the category of efficiency improvements in thermal applications, therefore it is eligible under the scope of VCS Program. The start date of the project is 10-June-2020 which the date of initial contract signed with beneficiaries and as verified through the project database and sales contract. The duration of crediting period is of 7 years, renewable 2 times for a total of 21 years i.e., it starts from 10-June - 2020 and ends on 09-June-2027.

The stoves will be distributed into the community via the local church communities that function in the various locations. The individual households using ICS will sign an agreement with the PP on purchase of subsidized ICS and will enter into contractual agreement with the beneficiaries by virtue of which, the end user will confirm use of cook stove as well as transfer the VCU right to the Project Participant. The sample agreement /7/ signed between the parties, OBEN EAC S.A. (owner of all emission reductions generated by this stove) and CDPE (implementation and maintenance team) for Improved Cookstove Program in the Democratic Republic of Congo and individual "Household Representative" was validated by the assessment team for the cook stoves and found in line with the VCS-PD/01/. A record keeping system and unique identification of the ICS will be done by user's information collected through the Sales contract/Beneficiary Agreement and compiled in distribution records, as set out in the "Sales contract" between PP and distributor. This will include username, identification number and address/location of the user's house, stove unique serial code and distribution date. The record keeping system will ensure that each ICS can be traced to project to avoid double counting. The estimated total amount of emission reductions over the chosen 7-year "renewable crediting period" is 5,284,281 tCO₂e. The estimated amount of emission reductions per annum are 754,897 tCO₂e. The project activity falls under large-scale project category since the annual average GHG emission reductions are more than 300,000 tCO₂e.

The Validation team has checked all the above-mentioned details and confirms that all the information provided is accurate. CL 01 , CL 02 and CL 03 has been raised and successfully closed (Refer to Appendix 3 for further details).

- Project proponent

OBEN EAC S.A the project owner and it has granted full and uncontested legal ownership of the emission reductions that are generated under this VERRA project to Aera Group SAS, which is as per the submitted agreement/declaration as the project activity. OBEN EAC S.A and the Diocesan Center for the Protection of the Environment (CDPE) of Uvira in the Democratic Republic of Congo have entered into a formal agreement by which OBEN will provide information and capacity building to CDPE who will in turn ensure that the local populace and potential users are informed of the ICS benefits, register any concerns and act as a conduit to the project developers. Validation team confirms that the managing director/authorized signatory is the same person as mentioned in the section 1.5 of the VCS-PD. PP has been verified during remote interviews and accepted by the validation team.

Other entities involved in the project are:

Organization name	Role in the project
AERA Group	Project consultant/carbon advisor responsible for the validation process

- Project start date

As per the project description (PD) /1/, the start date of the project is 10-June-2020 i.e. earliest date of ICS distribution other than pilot phase. Moreover, which is also the date of initial contract signed with beneficiaries and as verified through the project database. Validation team has verified the same through the Sales contract signed with beneficiaries and from project database shared by the PP and confirmed that this is in accordance with section 3.7 of VCS standard, Version 4.2 /11/ and hence accepted.

CL 01 has been raised and successfully closed (Refer to Appendix 3 for further details).

- Project crediting period

The VCS Standard version 4.2 /11/ section 3.8.1 state that, “For non-AFOLU projects, the project crediting period shall be either seven years, twice renewable for a total of 21 years, or ten years fixed”. PP has chosen the crediting period of the 7 years and 00 months, twice renewable for a total of 21 years for the project activity from 10-June-2020 to 09-June-2027(including both days) and is of renewable type which is accepted to the validation team.

CL 01 has been raised and successfully closed (Refer to Appendix 3 for further details). The validation team has confirmed that the same has been correctly mentioned in the VCS-PD.

- Project scale and estimated GHG emission reductions or removals

The estimated volume of emission reduction from the project activity is more than 300,000 tons of CO₂e per year. The validation team confirms that the project activity falls under the category 2 'Large Projects' as per para 3.9.1 of the VCS standard version 4.1 /11/, as it has the potential to reduce GHG emission more than 300,000 tCO₂e/year.

The estimated annual average and the total CO₂e emission reduction by the project activity over the renewable crediting period of 7 years are expected to be 754,897 tCO₂e and 5,284,281 tCO₂e respectively. The same has been found inline paragraph 3.8.1 of VCS Standard, version 4.2/11/. The validation team confirmed that emission reduction forecast is reasonable if the underlying assumptions do not change.

- Project location

The project will be hosted within the geographic borders of the Democratic Republic of Congo in central Africa and will cover the national boundary of the Africa. The project activity will occur within the Eastern regions of DRC – specifically the Sud-Kivu Province. The province is located around the co-ordinates: 3° 0' 41.969" S, 28° 17' 57.966" E.

Further, project location has been verified through the means of google earth software.

Conditions Prior to Project Initiation

In the absence of the project, the existing common practice in the DRC region was less efficient cook stoves and relying on woody biomass to meet the cooking energy demand exists and a large amount of population depends on firewood and wood chips for the same. As estimated 97% of the population in Sud Kivu still rely on charcoal, while 13% were relying of firewood for cooking and regarding clean cooking, only 4% of the population have access to clean cooking in DRC. The use of charcoal in baseline was validated /17/by following two ways-

1. Based on historical data which was reported in Research papers shared by PP.

- (i) Cirad- UNDP report dated June 2020-

https://agritrop.cirad.fr/600193/1/20211111_Rapport_Consommation_Bukavu_Vf.pdf

It states that "The carbon is used regularly by almost 97% of the population, electricity by 15%, fire wood by 13% and gas by only 1% of interrogated households"

(ii) A report by International Energy Agency- IEA-dated Jan 2020- conforming 97% of the fuels used for cooking are from biomass, with charcoal accounting from 35% and other solid biomass accounting for 62%.

<https://www.iea.org/data-and-statistics/charts/democratic-republic-of-the-congo-fuels-and-technologies-used-for-cooking-by-scenario-2018-2030>

2) Also verified during interview of stakeholders conducted, where they confirmed use of charcoal stoves as prevalent practice.

The project aims to reduce the demand of non-renewable biomass and the environmental and social burdens caused by inefficient biomass cooking by introducing energy efficient wood and charcoal stoves to low- income households.

Compliance with Laws, Statutes and Other Regulatory Frameworks

The validation team confirms that there are no laws and regulations governing the use of improved cookstoves within DRC in Africa for households. The project is a voluntary effort by the project proponent.

The validation team has also confirmed that the baseline scenario presented in the VCS PD/1/ is also in compliance with the laws and regulations of DRC. Validation team confirms that the project is a voluntary initiative and is not under any mandatory/compliance scheme of the host country by assessment of an excerpts of the 2015 Global Climate Legislation Study: Review done on DRC climate change legislations and regulations (<https://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/DRC.pdf>) /17/. The same has been also been cross verified during the remote audit interview with PP's representative.

Net GHG emission reductions or removals generated by this PA will not be used for compliance with any emissions trading program or to meet binding limits on GHG emissions as the host country i.e. Africa is not a participant in any emission trading programs or nor does it have any binding limits.

Ownership and other programs:

Project Ownership

The project ownership is with OBEN EAC S.A., Project proponent (PP). During the registration of ICS, the participating household will sign a declaration to transfer the ownership rights of the carbon assets generated from this project to the project proponent, the same has been confirmed from the sample beneficiary agreement submitted by the PP.

Additional Information Relevant to the Project

Eligibility Criteria

The project is eligible under the scope of the VCS Program and is in accordance with requirement of VCS Standard 4.2 (para. 2.1.1).

This is not a grouped project activity.

Leakage Management

Not Applicable to this project activity.

Commercially Sensitive Information

No commercially sensitive information has been excluded from the public version of the project description.

Sustainable Development

The following sustainable development benefits are envisaged from the project activity.

- Distribute 400,000 high-efficiency, clean burning Matawi Cooktoves in DRC, to benefit over 2 million individuals. (SDG 7.1.2)
- Reduce the total fuelwood usage in the project area to generate approximately 3.2 million tCO₂e of emission reductions. (SDG 13)
- Significantly reduce Household Air Pollution (HAP) in rural households (SDG 3.9.1)
- Reduce the risk of mortality among infants and children under five years of age due to (1) acute lower respiratory illnesses (ALRI), such as pneumonia and bronchitis, the cause of mortality in 12% of children under five, and (2) burns resulting from children falling into open cooking fires. (SDG 3.2.1, 3.2.2)
- Reduce the proportion of time women spend on unpaid domestic work related to collection of firewood, and cooking meals on inefficient traditional cookstoves. (SDG.4.1)

The validation team concludes that the project description is accurate, complete, and provides an understanding of the nature of the project.

3.2 Safeguards

3.2.1 No Net Harm

No potential negative environmental or socio-economic impacts have been identified for the project and has been confirmed through the review of project technology.

3.2.2 Local Stakeholder Consultation

As confirmed through the remote interview and through supportive documents/6/, it was confirmed that the local stakeholder consultation for the grouped project activity was conducted on 8th of July 2021 in the capital town of the South Kivu in Uvira. Stakeholders were informed about the local stakeholder consultation, by letters, and phone calls and public announcement during the Sunday service in churches in local communities. The invitations were made 1 month before the meeting.

Details of the project technology, its impacts, benefits, environmental and socio-economic issues were discussed with the participants (21 in number) and their concerns if any were asked and the meeting was concluded with no negative comments. Further, it was confirmed during the remote assessment that the stakeholders have been provided with access to the contact details of the project participant. Also, the stakeholders are well informed about the grievance redressal procedure announced during the stakeholder consultation and can reach out to the project participant or their local representatives in case of any concern. Contact details of OBEN in Burundi as well as Uvira distributors were provided to all the end-users, to address their concerns. Therefore, in line with the requirements of section 3.16.3 of VCS standard version 4.2, it is confirmed that the project participant has established a mechanism for on-going communication with the stakeholders.

3.2.3 Environmental Impact

No negative environmental impacts, as the project involves dissemination of improved cookstoves, hence, environmental impact assessment (EIA) is not required for the project.

3.2.4 Public Comments

The project was open for public comments from 16/11/2021 to 16/12/2021.

During this period, no comments have been received on VCS website.

3.2.5 AFOLU-Specific Safeguards

The project does not implement AFOLU activity. Thus, this section is not applicable.

3.3 Application of Methodology

3.3.1 Title and Reference

Following approved baseline & monitoring methodology is applied;

Methodology: VMR0006- Methodology for Installation of High Efficiency Firewood Cookstoves

Version: 1.1

Sectoral Scope: 03

Tools:

“TOOL30: Calculation of the fraction of non-renewable biomass”; Version-03, EB 108, Annex-11

Findings: CAR 01 has been raised and successfully closed. (Refer to Appendix 3 for further details)

3.3.2 Applicability

Sr. No.	VCS Methodology requirement	Project justification	VVB Assessment
1	Project activities shall be implemented in domestic premises or in community-based kitchens	The proposed project involves deployment of ICS only in households in the Sud-Kivu province, and therefore meets this applicability condition	As confirmed from the remote interviews, replacement of conventional firewood stoves with higher efficiency ICS models will be carried out in the targeted households or community-based kitchens of rural areas.
2	The project stove shall have specified high-power thermal efficiency of at least 25% per the manufacturer's specifications and shall exclusively use woody biomass and can be single pot or multi-pot; in case of project stove replacing fossil fuel baseline stove, it shall exclusively use renewable biomass	Matawi stoves installed under this project are single pot wood cookstoves that have an efficiency of 32.1% as per the as per the Water Boiling test. The efficiency of Matawi is above 25%. Therefore, this applicability condition is met.	Based on the remote interviews and through the review of efficiency test report VVB confirms that the Jiko Matawi /8/ has been tested for thermal efficiency of 32.1% as per water boiling test and certified by third party (CREEC test report). Therefore, all the distributed cookstove types shall have specified high-power thermal efficiency of at least 25% as per the manufacturer's specifications, in line with methodological requirements.
3	Both 'Projects' and 'Large Projects' can use this methodology	This project is a large project. The methodology is applicable to both projects and large projects. Therefore, this applicability condition is met.	The project has estimated ex-ante annual average of 754,897 tCO ₂ e i.e. greater than 300,000 tonnes of CO ₂ e per year. Thus, in line with VCS Project Standard, version 4.2 section 3.9.1, the project qualifies as large scale project, Therefore, VVB confirms that this applicability condition is met.
4	Non-renewable biomass has been used in the project region since 31 December 1989, using survey methods or referring to published literature, official reports or statistics	The source of the biomass is from non-renewable sources in the eastern DRC; The biomass traditionally utilized is a mixture of non-renewable biomass from natural woodlands, charcoal	Based on the remote interviews and through the review of reference documents provided, VVB confirms that the non-renewable biomass was being used in the project region since 31 December 1989.

		produced locally and sold via an informal network of sellers and to a lesser extent some renewable biomass from wood grown for fuel. The UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) estimates that “Biomass resulting from fuelwood logging remains the principal source of cooking energy for more than 90 percent of the population in the DRC¹” This has been the case since before independence in the 1960s The harvesting of non-renewable biomass is commonplace in Democratic Republic of Congo and can be reasonably concluded that has been the case since 31 December 1989. Between 1990 and 2020, DRC lost, on average, 24,474,000 hectares of forest². Between 2010 and 2020 DRC lost on average 1 101 ha of forest/year corresponding on a annual net change of - 0.83% according to Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 table 7³. The above clearly shows that the rural	
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¹ United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF): Report: What does the clean cooking market look like in the DRC? – A Business and Health Assessment of the clean cooking market in the Democratic Republic of Congo – 21 Feb 2021

² <https://www.fao.org/3/cb0125fr/cb0125fr.pdf>

³ <https://www.fao.org/3/ca9825fr/ca9825fr.pdf>

		areas in the host country are dependent on biomass since and before 1989 with not much change in the trend which clearly depicts the dependence of the people of the host country on woody biomass as fuel for meeting thermal energy requirement for cooking at households.	
	For the specific case of biomass residues processed as a fuel (e.g. briquettes, wood chips), it shall be demonstrated that: (a) It is produced using exclusively renewable biomass (more than one type of biomass may be used). (b) The consumption of the fuel should be monitored during the crediting period and (c) Energy use for renewable biomass processing (e.g. shredding and compacting in the case of briquetting) may be considered as equivalent to the upstream emissions associated with the processing of the displaced fossil fuel and hence disregarded	Not applicable. The ICS is introduced as energy efficiency measure to replace baseline stoves and reduce the use of non-renewable biomass for combustion	Through the remote interviews it is confirmed that the project activity shall not use biomass residues processed as a fuel.
	The CDM-PDD or CDM-PoA-DD/CPA-DD shall explain the proposed method for distribution of project devices including the method to avoid double counting of emission reductions such as unique identifications of product and end-user locations (e.g. programme logo).	A record keeping system and unique identification of the project device will be used. This will include username, user identification number and address/location of the user's house and distribution date. The record keeping system will ensure that each ICS can be traced to project instances to avoid double counting	The validation team by means of remote interviews confirms that the proposed method for distribution of project devices includes the method to avoid double counting of emission reductions such as unique identifications of product and end-user details (name, address etc). Therefore, the validation team confirms that the record keeping system will eliminate double counting.
	The CDM-PDD or CDM-PoA-DD/CPA-DD shall also explain how the shall also explain how the	The project proponent will sign a sales contract agreement	During the remote interview and the review of sample beneficiary agreement, it has

	proposed procedures prevent double counting of emission reductions, for example to avoid that project stove manufacturers, wholesale providers or others claim credit for emission reductions from the project devices.	with individual household/user to ensure only PP can claim the emission reduction. A default distribution agreement for end users including the provision that emission reductions generated by the stove are owned by the PP will be provided for each user.	been confirmed that an agreement will be signed between the users and the PP, which shall give the ownership of VCU to the PP.
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Sr. No.	Applicability criterion Tool 30 v3	Project justification	VVB Assessment
1	DNAs to submit region- or country-specific default fNRB values, following the procedures for development, revision, clarification and update of standardized baselines (SB procedures);	Not applicable as the tool is used by the by project participant.	VVB confirms that this criteria is not applicable as PP has not used default value and applied the tool to calculate the fNRB value.
2	Project participants to calculate project- or PoA-specific fNRB values.	Applicable as the tool is used par project participant to calculate project specific fNRB values.	VVB confirms that this criteria is applicable as PP has applied the tool to calculate the fNRB value.

Sr. No.	CDM Tool 01 for the Demonstration and Assessment of Additionality V7.0.0	Project justification	VVB Assessment
1	The use of the “Tool for the demonstration and assessment of additionality” is not mandatory for project participants when proposing new methodologies. Project participants may propose alternative methods to demonstrate additionality for consideration by the Executive Board. They may also submit revisions to approved	Not applicable	VVB confirms that this criteria is not applicable as PP has not proposing new methodology or revision to approved methodology.

	methodologies using the additionality tool ;		
2	Once the additionally tool is included in an approved methodology, its application by project participants using this methodology is mandatory.	Applicable as the tool is included in an approved methodology AMS-II.G, V12 that is used along with VMR006, V1.1	VVB confirms that this criteria is applicable as PP has applied the tool to calculate the fNRB value.

Findings: CAR 01 was raised and successfully closed. Refer to Appendix 3 for further details.

3.3.3 Project Boundary

The validation team was able to confirm that all the identified emission sources which are impacted by the project activity are addressed by the approved methodology and can be seen in the Table below.

Sou rce	Gas	Included?	Justification/Explanation
Baseline	CO2	Yes	Major source of emissions
	CH4	Yes	Major source of emissions
	N2O	Yes	Major source of emissions
	Other	No	No other source identified
Project	CO2	Yes	Major source of emissions
	CH4	No	Can be Major source of emissions, Not considered
	N2O	No	Can be Major source of emissions, Not considered
	Other	No	No other source identified
	CO2	No	Not considered as briquettes usage is not expected. As verified through remote interviews and through technical specifications, briquettes usage is not expected in project scenario
	CH4	No	Not considered
	N2O	No	Not considered
	Other	No	Not considered

3.3.4

3.3.4 Baseline Scenario

The baseline scenario is the continued use of non-renewable wood fuel (firewood and charcoal) by the target population to meet similar thermal energy needs as provided by project cookstoves in absence of project activity.

Findings: CL 04 was raised and successfully closed. Refer to Appendix 3 for further details.

3.3.5 Additionality

PP has demonstrated additionality based on the activity method of applied methodology VMR0006 version 1.1, as per which the following steps have been followed:

Step 1: Regulatory Surplus

Through the review of related policies and validation team's sectoral expertise, it is confirmed that there is no mandated government programme or policy in host country ensuring the distribution of domestic fuel-efficient cookstoves. Also, PP has declared voluntary participation in the project as it is not mandated by any law, statute or other regulatory framework.

Step 2: Positive List

As confirmed through the remote interviews, the cookstoves will be distributed at a subsidized rate, hence there will be revenue stream apart from the sale of GHG credits. Therefore, PP chosen option 3 for demonstration of additionality.

The project is not implemented as part of government schemes or supported by multilateral funds. The project did not apply any methodology deviations.

Step 3: Project Method

PP has used "Tool for demonstration and assessment of additionality" Version-7.0.0 EB 70 Annex-08"/9/ to demonstrate the additionality through the project method. As per the step one of the tool, project alternatives have been accurately considered as per paragraph 20 a) and c) of the applied tool i.e. Alternative 1: The project activity carried out without registration under VCS and Alternative 2: Continuation of the baseline scenario. Based on the sectoral expertise of the validation team, the two alternatives considered have been evaluated to be the most credible scenarios for the grouped project. Validation team also confirmed that there are no laws and regulations governing the use of improved cookstoves in DRC in Africa for households. The project is a voluntary effort by the project proponent.

Further, confirmed through the remote interviews, distribution of cookstoves at a subsidized rate (50%) shall be carried out. Stoves are sold at 5\$ while the total manufacturing and distribution cost are 10\$ /16/, therefore, no economic benefit except from the sales of the Verified carbon units is envisaged. So, simple cost analysis, as per option 1 method under sub step 2b has been

applied by the PP, which is accepted to the validation team. As confirmed during the remote interview, the financial return from the grouped project shall be lower than cost incurred, also a team for supply chain, maintenance and repair shall be hired and therefore, carbon revenue is required to support the project. Moreover, there is no direct financial return to the users and hence, will create a barrier to the rural/semi-urban consumers for procuring ICSs requires. Similar cookstoves would be at least as expensive as the project ICS according to WorldBank prices of ICS in DRC range from 8\$ to 70 \$. The actions under the project will alleviate these barriers by promoting distribution of ICSs to end-users at an affordable price. Hence, the project faces investment barrier and is considered to be additional.

Barrier analysis method has not been chosen by the PP as the additionality has been demonstrated by simple cost analysis. Based on the sectoral expertise of the validation team in the host country, it is confirmed that there is very low penetration of improved cookstoves, and it is therefore, not a common practice. Hence, the demonstration of additionality by the PP is verified to be accurate.

Findings: CL 01 has been raised and successfully closed. (Refer Appendix 3 for further details)

3.3.6 Quantification of GHG Emission Reductions and Removals

Baseline Emissions

The improved cookstove is introduced as energy efficiency measure in the project, therefore equations 1 and 2 of the methodology will be applied to calculate the net GHG emission reductions.

$$ER_y = \sum_i \sum_j ER_{y,i,j} \dots \dots \dots \text{Equation (1)}$$

Where:

i = Indices for the situation where more than one type/model of improved cookstove is introduced to replace three-stone fire

j = Indices for the situation where there is more than one batch of improved cookstove of type i

ER_y = Emission reductions during year y in t CO₂e

$ER_{y,i,j}$ = Emission reductions by improved cookstove of type i and batch j during year y in t CO₂e

and;

$$ER_{y,i,j} = B_{y,savings,i,j} \times NCV_{wood\ fuel} \times fNRB \times (EF_{wf,CO_2} + EF_{wf,non\ CO_2}) \times N_{y,i,j} \times 0.95$$

Where,

$B_{y,savings,i,j}$ = Quantity of woody biomass that is saved in tonnes per improved cook stove of type i and batch j during year y

$NCV_{wood\ fuel}$ = Net calorific value of the non-renewable woody biomass that is substituted or reduced (IPCC default for wood fuel, 0.0156 TJ/tonne)

$fNRB$ = Fraction of woody biomass that can be established as non-renewable biomass ($fNRB$ value= 84.02%)

EF_{wf,CO_2} = CO₂ emission factor for the use of wood fuel in baseline scenario (IPCC default for wood fuel, 112 tCO₂/TJ)

$EF_{wf,non\ CO_2}$ = Non- CO_2 emission factor for the use of wood fuel in baseline scenario (IPCC default for wood fuel, 26.23 tCO_2/TJ)

$N_{y,i,j}$ = Number of improved cook stoves of type i and batch j operating during year y

0.95 = Discount factor to account for leakage

The quantify of woody biomass saved $B_{y,savings,i,j}$ due to implementation of improved cook stoves will be estimated using Equations 3 of applied approved methodology:

$$B_{y,savings,i,j} = B_{old} \times (1 - (\eta_{old} / \eta_{new,i,j})) \quad \text{Equation 3}$$

Where,

η_{old} = Efficiency of baseline cookstove (16%), based on the actual ICS distribution database, the ratio of Charcoal to firewood (63:37), PP has calculated the weighted average efficiency which comes to 16% to calculated $B_{y,saving}$ for estimation of Ex-ante ER calculation sheet.

$\eta_{new,i,j}$ = Efficiency of the improved cookstove type i and batch j determined through water boiling test (WBT) during year y, Alternatively, efficiency may be determined using Equation 5 of applied approved methodology (Assumption 32.1%)

The efficiency of the project stoves can be estimated using equation below

$$\eta_{new,i,j} = \eta_P \times (DF_n)^{y-1} \times 0.94 \dots \dots \dots \text{Eq.5}$$

where,

η_P = Efficiency of project stove (fraction) at the start of project activity

$(DF_n)^{y-1}$ = Discount factor to account for efficiency loss of project cookstove per year of operation (fraction). This value may be based on actual monitoring or based on manufacturer's declaration on expected loss in efficiency or through publicly available literature on relevant industry standards Alternatively default value of 0.99 efficiency loss per year can be considered.

0.94 = Adjustment factor to account for uncertainty related to project cookstove efficiency test.

In order to address the potential source of leakage which can be attributed to diversion of non- renewable biomass saved by project devices to non-project households which previously used renewable biomass; a net to gross adjustment factor of 0.95 is applied to $ER_{y,i,j}$.

For projects opting for $B_{y=1,new,i,j,survey}$, it shall be demonstrated that the consumption of biomass for individual project stoves can be measured exclusive of one another.

$$B_{y,savings,i,j} = B_{old} \times (1 - \eta_{old}/\eta_{new,i,j})$$

$$B_{y,saving,i} = 4.396 \times (1 - 16\%/32.1\%) \text{)a}$$

$$= 2.16 \text{ tonnes/year}$$

Year	Bold (tonnes)	$\eta_{new,i,j}$	η_{old}	$B_{y,savings,i,j}$ (tonnes)
2020	4.396	32.1%	16%	2.16
2021	4.396	30.2%	16%	2.02
2022	4.396	29.9%	16%	2.00

2023	4.396	29.6%	16%	1.97
2024	4.396	29.3%	16%	1.95
2025	4.396	29.0%	16%	1.92
2026	4.396	28.7%	16%	1.90
2027	4.396	28.4%	16%	1.87

Hence, $ER_y = 2.16 \times 0.0156 \times (112 + 26.23) \times 100,000 \times 0.901 \times 0.95$

$ER_y =$

Year	Bysavings	fNRB	NCV	$EF_{wf,CO2} + EF_{wf,nonCO2}$	$N_{y,l,j}$	Leakage	Estimated baseline emissions or removals $ER_{y,l,j}$ (tCO ₂ e)
2020	2.16	84.02%	0.0156	138.23	20,000	0.95	41,827
2021	2.02	84.02%	0.0156	138.23	80,000	0.95	278,277
2022	2.00	84.02%	0.0156	138.23	140,000	0.95	481,206
2023	1.97	84.02%	0.0156	138.23	200,000	0.95	679,099
2024	1.95	84.02%	0.0156	138.23	260,000	0.95	871,878
2025	1.92	84.02%	0.0156	138.23	320,000	0.95	1,059,466
2026	1.90	84.02%	0.0156	138.23	400,000	0.95	1,307,144
2027	1.87	84.02%	0.0156	138.23	400,000	0.95	565,383
Total							5,284,281
Annual Average							754,897

Project Emissions

The methodology does not account for baseline emissions separately, but instead quantifies net emission reductions achieved by the project

Leakage

Leakage is already accounted in calculation of emission reduction by adjusting with default value of 0.95.

Emission Reduction

Year	Estimated baseline emissions or removals (tCO ₂ e)	Estimated project emissions or removals (tCO ₂ e)	Estimated leakage emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Estimated net GHG emission reductions or removals (tCO ₂ e)
10-June-2020- 31-December-2020	41,827	0	0	41,827
2021	278,277	0	0	278,277
2022	481,206	0	0	481,206
2023	679,099	0	0	679,099
2024	871,878	0	0	871,878
2025	1,059,466	0	0	1,059,466
2026	1,307,144	0	0	1,307,144
01-January-2027- 09-June -2027	565,383	0	0	565,383
Total	5,284,281	0	0	5,284,281
Annual Average	754,897	0	0	754,897

The total emission reduction is 5,284,281 tCO₂e over 7 years renewable crediting period.

Through the validation process KBS has confirmed that:

- All the assumptions and data used by the project participants are listed in the PD including their references and sources;
- All documentation used by the project participants as the basis for assumptions and source of data is correctly quoted and interpreted in the PD;

- All values used in the PD are considered reasonable in the context of the VCS project activity;
 - The baseline methodology has been applied correctly to calculate project emissions, baseline emissions, leakage and emission reductions;
- All estimates of the baseline emissions can be replicated using the data and parameter values provided in the PD

Finding: CAR 02 was raised and successfully closed. Refer to Appendix 3 for further details.

3.3.7 Methodology Deviations

The project activity has used the VMR0006 version 1.1 /9/ and the PP has completely followed the methodology for the development of the VCS PD /1/. The validation team has confirmed that the PP does not make any deviations from the applied methodology.

3.3.8 Monitoring Plan

The monitoring plan is in line with the applied methodology VMR0006, version 1.1/9/. The monitoring plan will give opportunity for real measurement of emission reductions achieved. Since the project is distribution of ICS, the methodology does not account for baseline emissions separately but instead quantifies the emission reductions achieved in the project and the leakage is accounted in calculation of emission reduction by adjusting the default value of 0.95. The monitor-able action plan for the same has been included in section 4.3 of the VCS PD/1.2/. It is KBS's opinion, that the project participant is able to implement the monitoring plan.

- Data and parameters available at validation

The net calorific value of non-renewable woody biomass that is substituted or reduced $NCV_{woodfuel}$ has a fixed value of 0.0156 TJ/tonne as per the approved methodology. The CO₂ emission factor for the use of wood fuel in baseline scenario EF_{wf,CO_2} has a default value of 112 tCO₂/TJ as per methodology. The non CO₂ emission factor for the use of wood fuel in baseline scenario $EF_{wf,non\ CO_2}$ has value of 26.23 tCO₂/TJ. The value of weighted average Efficiency of baseline cookstove η_{old} is 0.16. The Efficiency of project stove at the start of project activity η_p has a value of 32.1% as per manufacturer's specification.

Furthermore, the PP has determined the B_{old} value of 4.531 tonnes/year from historical data i.e. Data from Study conducted by the CIRAD for the city of Bukavu /17/. CIRAD report for Sud Kivu Province) which shows that around 97% of the population were relying on charcoal, while 13% were relying of firewood for cooking. Furthermore, Further based on the actual ICS distribution database, the ratio of Charcoal to firewood (63:37), PP has calculated the weighted average efficiency which comes to 16% to calculated $B_{y, saving}$ for estimation of Ex-ante ER calculation sheet. The calculation is has been checked and found inline with applied methodology and reliable.

The detailed assessment given in the above section 3.1. PP has determined f_{NRB} value 84.02%. The f_{NRB} calculation spreadsheet /3/ and its input values has been cross verified with referred source/18/ from <http://www.fao.org/3/cb0125fr/cb0125fr.pdf> and found inline with version 03 of methodological Tool 30 /9/. In addition to above, as defined in the applied methodology /9/ VMR0006, version 1.1, PP has

opted conversion factor, where charcoal is used by baseline devices, a default wood to charcoal conversion factor of 6 kg of firewood per kg of charcoal may be used in line with paragraph 35 of AMS II.G, version 11. These parameters are fixed for the entire crediting period.

- Data and parameters monitored

The parameters that are to be monitored ex-post are:

Parameter	Unit	Source/Justification																		
N_{y,i,j} Number of project devices of type I and batch j operating during year y	Number	The value will be checked from the Stove distribution record and monitoring survey records. The surveys will be conducted at least once every two years (biennial) and the sample size shall be determined based on 90/10 confidence/ precision in compliance with the latest version of sampling standard. <table><tr><th>Year</th><th>N_{y,i,j}</th></tr><tr><td>2020</td><td>20,000</td></tr><tr><td>2021</td><td>80,000</td></tr><tr><td>2022</td><td>140,000</td></tr><tr><td>2023</td><td>200,000</td></tr><tr><td>2024</td><td>260,000</td></tr><tr><td>2025</td><td>320,000</td></tr><tr><td>2026</td><td>400,000</td></tr><tr><td>2027</td><td>400,000</td></tr></table> The number of operating stoves for each device i and batch j shall be determined on a sampling basis through a sampling survey.	Year	N _{y,i,j}	2020	20,000	2021	80,000	2022	140,000	2023	200,000	2024	260,000	2025	320,000	2026	400,000	2027	400,000
Year	N _{y,i,j}																			
2020	20,000																			
2021	80,000																			
2022	140,000																			
2023	200,000																			
2024	260,000																			
2025	320,000																			
2026	400,000																			
2027	400,000																			

η_{old} Efficiency of baseline stoves	Fraction	PP has opted the weighted average value of 0.16 is used conservatively for ex-ante estimation. For ex-post emission reduction calculation, weighted average values regarding the type of stoves (0.1 for wood users and 0.2 for charcoal users) replaced will be used. The same has been found inline with applied methodology.														
$\eta_{new,y,i,j}$ Efficiency of the device of each type i and batch j implemented as part of the project activity	Fraction	For ex-post, PP has opted Option 1 “Conduct WBT test on a sample of three improved cookstoves with three tests conducted for each stove. The test can be carried out by project proponents by themselves or stove manufacturers or other third parties » Will be adopted during monitoring periods for ER estimations, However, for ex-ante calculation at validation stage, PP applied efficiency value provided by manufacturer and equation 5 of the applied methodology. The value ex-ante opted value for calculation has been checked from the Manufacturer’s Specification and supportive WBT reports. The same has been further verified during the remote audit interviews. In line with equation 5 of the applied methodology, loss in efficiency per year shall be calculated for ex-ante estimation of emission reductions <table> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Efficiency</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>32.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>30.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>29.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>29.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>29.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>29.0%</td> </tr> </table>	Year	Efficiency	1	32.1%	2	30.2%	3	29.9%	4	29.6%	5	29.3%	6	29.0%
Year	Efficiency															
1	32.1%															
2	30.2%															
3	29.9%															
4	29.6%															
5	29.3%															
6	29.0%															

		7 28.7% 8 28.4%
Life span The operating lifetime of the project device. The life span should be reported if the methodology equation 5 is adopted to determine the project stove efficiency	Years	Through the remote interviews, it has been confirmed that the operating lifetime of the project device shall be based on the manufacturer specifications (8 years).
Date of commissioning of batch j To establish the date of commissioning, the Project Participant may opt to group the devices in “batches” and the latest date of commissioning of a device within the batch shall be used as the date of commissioning for the entire batch	Date	The date of commissioning of the batch has been taken as (31-December-2020), which is the date of commissioning/distribution of the last project device in the batch. The distribution of project devices has been confirmed from the submitted project database.
μ_y Adjustment to account for any continued use of pre-project devices during the year y	Fraction	The number of stoves still operating will be determined based on the biennial monitoring surveys. The surveys would capture information related to cooking habits and stove usage of the region. The PP confirmed through interview that the monitoring will be done once in two years (biennial) and will apply one of the below methods for monitoring as per the applied methodology: 1. If the pre-project devices are decommissioned and no longer used, as determined by the monitoring survey its value is 0 and $B_{old, adjusted}$ is equal to B_{old}. 2. If both the improved cookstove and baseline cookstoves are used together then surveys shall be conducted to record the average continued operation of baseline

		cookstoves in a sample of households. The surveys should be designed to capture the cooking habits and stove usage of households in the region, including quantification of use of baseline cookstoves, by formulating questions and/or collecting evidences to determine the frequency of usage of both the improved cookstoves and baseline cookstoves. For example, if there were 3 baseline cookstoves in a household and it was determined during the survey that use of one of them continues during the crediting period then a conservative adjustment factor of 0.33 is applied to Bold. Another example would be the case where there was only one baseline cookstove per household and its use during the project period continues along with the improved cookstove to meet 25% of the cooking needs of the household in which case the adjustment factor will be 0.25. 3. A 95/10 confidence/ margin of error shall be achieved for the sampling parameter irrespective of monitoring frequency as per para 22 of Standard: Sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and programmes of activities, Version 09.0. In case of failure to achieve the desire 95/10, lower bound values shall be used to ensure conservativeness.
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Sample Plan:

As confirmed during the remote interview, the sampling shall be carried out based on the latest Guideline for Sampling and Surveys for CDM Project Activities and Programme of Activities, version 04. PP has opted for representative sampling due to the dissemination of large number of ICS under the project, which will involve grouping and sampling across project instances. The confidence and precision as per Standard for Sampling and Surveys for CDM Project Activities and Programme of Activities shall be

applied at the time of sampling. The sampling shall be done to obtain an unbiased and reliable estimate of the proportion (in the case of the parameter $N_{y,i,j}$, $\eta_{new,y,i,j}$, μ_Y). Assessment team confirms that the sampling method is clearly described in line with the description of the population and the sampling plan transparently describes how the samples are selected.

Findings: CL 03, CL 04, was raised and successfully closed. Refer to Appendix 3 for further details.

3.4 Non-Permanence Risk Analysis

Non-permanence risk analysis is not applicable.

4 VALIDATION CONCLUSION

AERA Group has commissioned KBS Certification Services Pvt. Ltd. To do VCS validation of the project activity: “Eastern DRC cookstove project-South Kivu” having VCS ID 2636, with regard to the relevant requirements of VCS Standard version 4.2; to attain real, measurable, additional and permanent emission reductions.

The proposed project activity seeks to increase access of households and communities to improved cookstoves by disseminating high thermal efficiency and low greenhouse gas emitting cooking stoves known as Improved Cook Stoves (ICS) to the rural and semi-urban households of various locations of the Sud-Kivu province in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in Africa. The improved cook stoves through replacement of inefficient traditional cook stove (fuelwood and charcoal) will contribute towards reduction of greenhouse gas emission resulting in the reduction of firewood consumption leading to climate change mitigation in a sustainable manner.

A risk-based approach has been followed to perform this validation. In the course of the validation 03 Corrective Action Request (CAR) and 05 Clarification Request (CL) were raised and successfully closed.

The validation is based on the VCS PD, additional documents related to baseline and monitoring methodology; the subsequent background investigation, follow-up interviews and supporting documents made available to the validation team by project proponent.

As a result of the validation, the validation team confirms that:

- The project fulfils criteria of VCS Standard Version 4.2.
- The project is in line with all relevant VCS requirements.
- The project baseline is sufficiently justified in the PD.

- The calculation of the project emission reductions is carried out in a transparent and conservative manner, so that the calculated emission reductions of 5,284,281 tCO₂e is most likely to be achieved within the during the first 7 years crediting period.
- No restrictions or uncertainties were identified related to the validation.

Location: Faridabad, Haryana, India

Date: 07-October-2022



Kaushal Goyal

Managing Director

KBS Certification Services Pvt. Ltd.

APPENDIX 1: REFERENCES

No.	Document
1	/1.1/ Initial VCS- PD Version 01, dated 24-August-2021 /1.2/ Final VCS-PD Version 1.8, dated 01-October-2022
2	Efficiency (32.1%) test report of ICS as per water boiling test according to CREEC Test report dated July 2019)
3	Spread sheets for Emission Reduction Calculations
4	Undertaking for not availing other forms of environmental credit for the same crediting period under consideration
5	Distribution and data sharing agreement between the PP(OBEN SAS) and CDPE (Distributor of ICS) dated 26-5-2017
6	Stakeholder consultation records (list of participants and pictures) Invitations sent out for consultation
7	Sample beneficiary agreement: Tripartite agreement between PP, distributor and end beneficiary/ICS user
8	Technical specifications of the ICS Matawa stoves, as per manufacturer specification
9	VMR0006- Methodology for Installation of High Efficiency Firewood Cookstoves, version-1.1 dated 22 July 2021 Tool for demonstration and assessment of additionality" Version-7.0.0 Methodological tool 30 : Calculation of the fraction of non-renewable biomass
<u>10</u>	VCS Program guide Version 4.1
<u>11</u>	VCS Standard, Version 4.2
12	VCS_Validation_Verification_Manual_v3.2
13	SDG7- The Energy progress report dated 2019
14	Demographic and Health Survey 2013- 2014
15	Review of fuel utilization in Africa

16	Declarations pertaining to expenses incurred on ICS production
17	Historical research papers for Baseline Assumptions- 1. Safe Access To Fuel and Energy (SAFE) Democratic Republic of Congo by WFP dated 36ovember 2017 2. Democratic Republic of the Congo fuels and technologies used for cooking by scenario, 2018-2030 3. CIRAD-UNDP report on "Report on the study of household energy consumption in the city of Bukavu"dated June 2020 4. https://trackingsdg7.esmap.org/country/democratic-republic-congo 5. CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION IN Democratic Republic of the Congo https://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/DRC.pdf
18	f_{NRB} calculation supportives http://www.fao.org/3/cb0125fr/cb0125fr.pdf

APPENDIX 2: COMPETENCE OF TEAM MEMBERS AND TECHNICAL REVIEWERS

Personnel Name:		Tushar Chaudhari	
Qualified to work as:			
Team Leader	☒	Technical Expert	☒
Validator/Verifier	☒	Financial Expert	☒
Technical Reviewer	☒	Local Expert (India)	☒
Area(s) of Technical Expertise			
Sectoral Scope	Technical Area		
Energy Industries (renewable/non-renewable sources)	TA 1.1: Thermal energy generation from fossil fuels and biomass including thermal electricity from solar		
Energy industries (renewable/non-renewable sources)	TA 1.2: Energy generation from renewable energy sources		
Energy demand	TA 3.1. Energy Demand		
Waste Handling and Disposal	TA 13.1 Waste Handling and Disposal		
Approved by	Manager Competency & Training		
Approval date:	02/09/2020		

Personnel Name:		Shilpa Swarnim	
Qualified to work as:			
Team Leader(trainee)	☒	Technical Expert	☒
Validator/Verifier	☒	Financial Expert	☐
Technical Reviewer	☐	Local Expert	☐
Area(s) of Technical Expertise			

Sectoral Scope	Technical Area
SS: 01: Energy industries	TA 1.2: Energy generation from renewable energy sources
SS 14: Afforestation and reforestation	TA 14.1 Afforestation and reforestation
Approved by	Manager Competency & Training
Approval date:	06/09/2021

Personnel Name:		Sanjay Kandari	
Qualified to work as:			
Team Leader	☒	Technical Expert	☒
Validator/Verifier	☒	Financial Expert	☒
Technical Reviewer	☒	Local Expert (India)	☒
Area(s) of Technical Expertise			
Sectoral Scope		Technical Area	
Energy Industries (renewable/non-renewable sources)		TA 1.1: Thermal energy generation from fossil fuels and biomass including thermal electricity from solar	
Energy industries (renewable/non-renewable sources)		TA 1.2: Energy generation from renewable energy sources	
Energy demand		TA 3.1. Energy Demand	
Waste Handling and Disposal		TA 13.1 Waste Handling and Disposal TA 13.2 Manure	
Approved by (Manager C & T)		Akhilesh Joshi	
Approval date:		11/12/2015	

APPENDIX 3: FINDINGS

Table 1.CLs from this validation

Date	Type & Number	Raised by	Reference
11/01/2022	CL 01	Verification team	VCS-PD Sec 1/ Sec 3.
Non conformities raised			
1. Under section 3.5 of VCS PD, while demonstrating additionality, PP mentions that Stoves are sold at 5\$ while the total manufacturing and distribution cost are 8.96 \$/stove. In the same section, in Table 1, the total cost is mentioned as 8.97 \$. However, during remote assessment, it has been concluded that cost per stove for distribution was quoted as 10\$. PP to clarify and provide correct manufacturing and distribution cost of the ICS with supportive evidence, re-emphasizing the applicability of Additionality for the project. 2. As mentioned in section 3.5 of VCS PD, the proposed project intends to distribute the ICS at 44% subsidy to users. However, during remote assessment process, it was conveyed that project intends to provide 50% subsidy to buyers for purchase of ICS. Also, this term and condition is not been reflected in the initial project description in PD under section 1.1. PP to provide clarification for the difference in subsidy percentage noted. 3. Under section 1.1 , the information on the Total number of ICS stoves been distributed by the PP till date is not provided.			
Project Participant's response		Date: 29/01/2022	
1. The total cost for ICS production is 10\$ and the sales price is 5\$. The values registered in the PDD didn't take into account, the cost of metalization of the cookstoves. The value is now corrected in the VCS-PD. All the supportive evidence will be provided to the VVB. 2. The subsidy is 50%. Total cost for stove manufacturing is 10\$ and the stoves are sold at 5\$, thus a subsidy of 50%. This has been added in section 1.1 3. The number of ICS distributed to data have been included in section 1.1			
Documentation Provided as Evidence by Project Participant			
Revised VCS-PD			
Information Verified by Team Leader		Date of review: 14/02/2022	

1. PP has submitted revised PD which has been assessed by Verification Team. PP now mentions in revised PD under section 3.5 and section 1.1 that the proposed project intends to distribute the ICS at 50% subsidy to users (Stoves are sold at 5\$ while the total manufacturing and distribution cost are 10 \$/stove. The same is in line with the remote audit observation. However, PP needs to submit a valid purchase receipt/ invoice issued to the beneficiary as documentary evidence for the confirmation of the sale price. Also, PP to provide documentary evidence for total cost incurred for the manufacturing and distribution of “Jiko Matawi” stove distributed for the project activity.

PP to also conform if the carbon scheme benefits were conveyed to PP while signing the contract agreement.

Furthermore, in accordance with requirement of applied methodology, for additionality, “*For any project activity where stoves are not provided at zero cost to the end-user or has any other source of revenues other than the sale of GHG credits, then the project activity shall apply investment analysis method set out in the CDM Tool for the Demonstration and Assessment of Additionality.*” Hence PP to follow and describe clearly in VCS PD all the steps of tool applied (CDM Tool for the demonstration and assessment of additionality) documenting the outcome of each step, re-emphasizing the applicability of Additionality for the project. Provide sufficient information (including all relevant data and parameters, with sources) for assessment.

Hence this part of CL is Open.

2. In the revised PD provided by PP, under section 1.1 it is now correctly mentioned in PD that the cookstoves will be distributed at a 50% subsidy to users (Stoves are sold at 5\$ while the total manufacturing and distribution cost are 10\$/stove. The same is inline with the remote audit observations. Since, this part of CL is linked with above CL 1.1 part, **Hence this part of CL is kept open.**

3. In the revised PD, under section 1.1, PP now includes the information that “*The project seeks to distribute up to 400,000 ICS to households (targeted population) in the eastern DRC.*

To date, 82,273 stoves have been distributed to end-users in Sud-Kivu province.”. However, in the Excel sheet provided, under tab “Database” Number of stoves distributed for year 2020- 2022 is quoted as 60,080. PP to conform and provide updated database details. **Hence this part of CL is Open.**

Project Participant’s response

Date: 04/03/2022

1.Detailed calculation of cookstoves production and distribution costs have been added in Appendix 1 for VVB perusal. All the invoices and proof of payments will also be available to VVB.

2.Same as point 1. The detailed calculation is provided in Appendix 1

3.The first database sent to VVB was not for full 2021 year. The complete database until end of 2021 is now available. In total 87,765 cookstoves have been distributed. The database is shared with VVB. The number of cookstoves distributed have also been corrected in the VCS-PD.

Documentation Provided as Evidence by Project Participant

Revised VCS-PD	
Cookstoves database.	
Information Verified by Team Leader	Date of review: 24/03/2022
1. PP has submitted details (in excel format) for total cost incurred for the manufacturing and distribution of “Jiko Matawi” stove distributed for the project activity and it could be inferred from the details that cost of return per improved cookstove is 10 \$. However, as highlighted above too, - PP still needs to submit a valid purchase receipt/delivery note pertaining to the price of the ICS issued to the beneficiary as documentary evidence for the confirmation of the sale price. - PP to also conform if the carbon scheme benefits were conveyed to PP while signing the contract agreement. Sample copy of agreement is awaited for assessment. - All the steps of Tool applied (CDM Tool for the demonstration and assessment of additionality) is not been described in VCS PD (documenting the outcome of each step, re-emphasizing the applicability of Additionality for the project, in accordance with requirement of applied methodology, for additionality). Hence this part of CL is Open. 2. The revised VCS PD reflects now that Stoves are sold at 5\$ while the total manufacturing and distribution cost are 10\$/stove. However, as indicated above, PP still needs to submit a valid purchase receipt/delivery note pertaining to the price of the ICS issued to the beneficiary as documentary evidence for the confirmation of the sale price. Hence this part of CL is kept open. 3. The total number of ICS distributed is now revised to 100,891 in revised VCS PD. PP has submitted “Updated DRC project database” details for cross verification and assessment of ICS distributed till date. Hence this part of CL is Closed.	
Project Participant's response	Date: 25/04/2022
1. Purchase agreement sample pertaining the price and the carbon scheme is shared for VVB assessment. VVB to kindly note that all the beneficiaries are informed about the carbon scheme benefit, as per agreement that they signed. They understand and agree to give the rights on all the emissions reductions achieved by they stoves to OBEN, in return of a subsidized price. All the steps are of the tool are now described in the VCS-PD 2. Valid purchase agreement is now available to VVB	
Documentation Provided as Evidence by Project Participant	

Purchase agreement	
Revised VCS-PD	
Information Verified by Team Leader	Date of review: 10/05/2022
1. / 2. The revised PD now includes applicability of tool applied. However, wrt price of ICS cited, following are observations made by VT- I. The purchase agreement, signed with beneficiaries, provided by PP initially which is dated 01/02/2022 does not reflect the purchase amount of \$5. PP is requested to provide the purchase agreement highlighting the above stated conditions, as quoted in response for the confirmation of the sale price. II. The start date of the project has been attuned now from 01 April 2020 to 10 May 2020, however the evidence for start date provided by PP for assessment is dated 1 April 2020, PP shall produce documentary evidence for revised start date conforming 10 May 2020 considered. III. The revised start date (10 May 2020) and crediting period is not been reflecting in revised PD provided under section 4.4. IV. Estimated net GHG emission reductions or removals (tCO₂e) reported in revised ER sheet under section 4.4 (433,261 tCO₂) is not consistent with revised ER reported in section 1 of VCS PD (442,981 tCO₂e). V. PP to also submit revised ER sheet highlighting the change in crediting period dates and adjusted ERs respectively. Hence this part of CL 1 is OPEN.	
Project Participant's response	Date: 16/05/2022
I. Kindly, note that the project start date has been reviewed to 10 June 2020. In fact contract shared for pilot batches didn't mention the price of the cookstoves. As these were for pilot phase. All the contracts for cookstoves distributed since the 10 June 2020 have the price mentioned in the contract. II. As explained above, the start date of the project is revised to 10 June 2020. Evidence of the project start date is now provided. III. Start date and crediting period are now reflected in the VCS-PD and the ER sheet. IV. Estimated net GHG emissions have been revised and are now consistent with ER sheet V. Revised ER Sheet is now provided	
Information Verified by Team Leader	Date of review: 18/05/2022

1. PP has now submitted the originals sales contract signed with beneficiaries which conforms that ICS are provided at subsidized price of \$5 (USD) as a replacement for the traditional stove and that the household representative voluntarily purchases the improved cookstoves. **Hence, this part of CL is closed.**

2. The project start date has been now revised to 10 June 2020. The contract signed with beneficiaries has been submitted by PP and reviewed by Verification Team which reflects the date as 10 June 2020. The updated start date is also reflecting in ER sheet and PD. However as updated by PP, the latest database of ICS beneficiaries considered from the project start date are 112,643 stoves that are distributed to end-users in Sud-Kivu province till date. However, the same is inconsistent with provided database dated 15/05/2022 which shows 107822 number of ICS from 10/06/2020 till 28/04/2022. Thus, PP is requested to clarify the difference. **Hence, this part of CL is Open.**

3. The revised start date (10 June 2020) and crediting period (10-June -2020 to 09-June-2027) is now reflecting in revised PD provided under section 4.4. **Hence, this part of CL is closed.**

4. Updated value for estimated net GHG emission reductions or removals (tCO₂e) reported in revised ER sheet (611,899 tCO₂) is now consistent with revised value reported in section 1 of VCS PD (611,899 tCO₂e). However, the under section 1.11 of VCS PD in page number 11, the revised value is not been updated and reported wrongly (*The project aims to avoid on average 419,733 tCO₂e per year and 2,938,134 during the first crediting period*).

Also in cover page of revised VCS PD- the title of the project (EASTERN DRC COOKSTOVE PROJECT-SOUTH KIVU) is not consistent with that reflecting Verra page and in PD summary sections (EASTERN DRC COOKSTOVE PROJECT) **Hence, this part of CL is Open.**

Revised ER sheet is now been submitted for assessment. The same has been checked and following error identified.

- a. The sampling size calculation sheet has error which needs to be addressed.
 - b. Further, the weblink mentioned in the ex-ante parameter spreadsheet are not working.
- Hence, this part of CL is Open.**

Hence CL 1 is Open

Project Participant's response

Date: 29/05/2022

2) The difference was related to some ICS distributed during pilot phase included in the database. This is now revised with total number of ICS distributed of 107,822.

4) The estimated GHG emissions reductions have been now revised in section 1.1 and section 1.11 and are consistent with ER calculation. Revised ER are 628,992 tCO₂/year and 4,402,942 during the crediting period

The project name in VCS-PD section is now revised. Name on Verra page will be updated once final documents are shared with VCS.

a) The error in the sampling size tab have been revised. The number of stoves distributed was missing, hence the error.

b) The weblink have been updated, thus working now.

Information Verified by Team Leader

Date of review: 31/05/2022

2. PP has now submitted updated distribution database which is now reflecting number of ICS distributed since 10 June 2020 till date and is reported to be 107,822. The number has been cross checked in ER sheet provided. **Hence this part of CL is Closed.**

4. PP has submitted revised MR version 1,4 where the updated value for estimated net GHG emission reductions or removals (628,992 tCO₂e/yr) reported in revised ER sheet (628,992 tCO₂/yr) is now consistent with revised value reported in section 1 and section 1.11 of VCS PD (628,992 tCO₂e/yr).

PP has responded that name of the project shall be revised and attuned to “EASTERN DRC COOKSTOVE PROJECT-SOUTH KIVU” henceforth. The name of the project has been revised in submitted VCS-PD throughout. As claimed by PP- *“Name on Verra page will be updated once final documents are shared with VCS.”*.

In the revised ER sheet-

The error in the sampling size tab is now revised.

The weblink in ER sheet under tab “ex-ante parameters” is now updated and functional.

Hence this part of CL is Closed. Thus, CL 1 is now Closed.

Date	Type & Number	Raised by	Reference
11/01/2022	CL 02	Verification team	PD Sec 1
Non conformities raised			

1. Under section 1.4 and 1.11 of PD, sufficient information about the selection criteria adopted and practiced for beneficiaries' identification/ target users is not been provided. PP to demonstrate how the end users have been selected and how it intends to avoid double counting of distribution of ICS.	
Project Participant's response	Date: 29/01/2022
1. Section 1.4 and 1.11 have been revised to include information about the beneficiaries, and how double counting is avoided. Avoidance of double counting is also available in section 3.2.	
Documentation Provided as Evidence by Project Participant	
Revised VCS-PD	
Information Verified by Team Leader	Date of review: 14/02/2022
PP has mentioned in revised PD that <i>"The project activity involves the distribution of multiple project activity instances (ICS devices) within the project boundary Sud-Kivu province to households via community-based organizations (primarily linked to churches)"</i>. Verification team was able to infer that the stoves were distributed through a network of churches that function in the region and will target primarily households with inefficient three-stone fireplace or traditional charcoal cookstoves that are predominantly used across the region. To avoid double counting, PP states that all the stoves distributed shall have a unique serial number, and all the cookstoves distributed will be recorded in an electronic excel, which will be check to ensure that double counting is avoided. Verification was able to confirm the same via submitted images of distributed ICS lots which had assigned serial number. However, the provide information is inadequate. Further, in the section 1.4 of VCS PD, the information regarding how many ICS per household/end user distributed to avoid double counting? Further, if the use of baseline stove along with ICS is observed how the same is taken care to calculate emission reductions? Hence this CL is kept open.	
Project Participant's response	Date: 16/05/2022
One ICS is expected to be distributed by households, therefore only one ICS will be accounted by households for ER calculations. Regarding use of baseline stove, it is clearly mentioned in the contract that households have to discard their baseline stoves, when they receive the ICS. It will be check during monitoring surveys, if baseline stoves are still used. If it is found that baseline stoves are still used, then as per methodology applied and adjustment factor (U_y) will be calculated to assess the $B_{oldadjusted}$. For Ex-ante calculation a factor of 3.4% is used for U_y value.	

Documentation Provided as Evidence by Project Participant	
Revised VCS-PD	
Information Verified by Team Leader	Date of review: 18-05-2022
PP has submitted the revised VCS PD and has mentioned under section 1.4 that “the projects aim at distributing only one ICS per household. Even if more than 1 ICS is found in a household, only one will be accounted for ER calculations. To account for the continued use of baseline devices, the adjustment factor will be assessed during monitoring period to calculate a <i>Bo_{idadjusted}</i> as per methodology requirements”. The same is inline with para 8.4- Equation 6 and hence found satisfactory. Hence, This CL 2 is Closed now.	

Date	Type & Number	Raised by	Reference
11/01/2022	CL 3	Verification team	VCS-PD Sec 1.
Non conformities raised			
1. Under section 1.11 of the PD, the efficiency of the distributed ICS stoves is mentioned as 32.1%, However during remote assessment it has been conveyed that the efficiency of the stoves are reported between 29 -31 %. PP to clarify and conform the efficiency of the ICS stoves used at project area with supporting document.			
Project Participant's response		Date: 29/01/2022	
1. The efficiency of the new ICS distributed is 32.1%. The Water Boiling Test is available to the VVB. The range of 29%-31%, reported by PP during the audit was referring to the monitored efficiency of the same technology of cookstoves distributed under another programme of Activities “ CDM ID 10474: Improved Cooking Stove Programme in Burundi supported by Republic of Korea (CPA1) ”, where the monitored average efficiency of the sample of stoves tested was ranging between the given values.			
Documentation Provided as Evidence by Project Participant			
Results from Water boiling test			
Information Verified by Team Leader		Date of review: 14/02/2022	

VT has assessed the Water Boiling Test Certificate submitted by PP. The report highlights the mean thermal efficiency for ICS (wood stoves) as – 28.22 % and 26.83 % and for ICS (charcoal) based stoves - 32.87 % and 31.07 %. And the efficiency cited in ER sheet is 32.10% (ref source from July 2019 CREEC test report). PP to conform and provide documentary evidence for the statement above that “*The efficiency of the new ICS distributed is 32.1%*”.

Further, the Water Boiling Test certificate provided to Verification Team is dated 17 September 2019. Since the project start date is 1 February 2020, PP is requested to clarify if this the latest available efficiency test results specific for the ICS models distributed under the project activity.

Hence this part of CL is Open.

Project Participant’s response

Date: 04/03/2022

This Water Boiling Test is the latest available for new Matawi cookstoves.. The efficiency of 32.1% is available on the table 2 page 9 of the CREEC Test report. VVB to kindly note that the first report was referring to stoves already in use and not new stoves.

Documentation Provided as Evidence by Project Participant

Revised VCS PD, ER Sheet,

Information Verified by Team Leader

Date of review: 24/03/2022

It is conformed in revised VCS PD and ER summary excel sheet that the efficiency of ICS is determined to be 32.1% and reference cited in PD is “July 2019 CREEC test report”.

However, PP is supposed to submit the reference link mentioned above (*table 2 page 9 of the CREEC Test report*) for cross checking and internal records as the submitted Water Boling test report does not reflect the efficiency indicated above. Further, Please clarify how the provided efficient test report is applicable and valid as the monitoring parameter is Efficiency of the improved cookstove type i and batch j.

Hence this part of CL is Open.

Project Participant’s response

Date: 25/04/2022

The CRECC Test report is already shared by PP. VVB to kindly refers to the table 2 of the page 9 giving the thermal efficiency of the cookstoves.

As per methodology, PP can whether :

- 1) Use equation 5 with np being 32.1% (efficiency at the start of the project) , a discount factor of 0.99, and an adjustment factor of 0.94. Without need of assessing Nnew each year or
- 2) Conduct efficiencies test for each verification period and each batch. This solution is chosen by PP. Therefore, the efficiency of 32.1% is only used for validation and ex-ante estimations. For 1st verification updated test efficiencies per batch will be provided and used for ex-post emission reduction calculations.

Documentation Provided as Evidence by Project Participant	
Revised VCS-PD	
Information Verified by Team Leader	Date of review: 10/05/2022
Verification team is in accordance with PP's clarification that PP shall conduct efficiencies test for each verification period and each batch and updated test efficiencies per batch will be provided and used for ex-post emission reduction calculations. However, PP is requested to kindly re submit- July 2019 CREEC test report for re-assessment, as this document is not traceable in records submitted. Hence this part of CL is Open.	
Project Participant's response	Date: 16/05/2022
July 2019 CREEC report highlighting new cookstoves efficiency is shared with VVB as well as a WBT report for already used cookstoves from another project using the same OBEN Matawi is also provided for cross-check.	
Documentation Provided as Evidence by Project Participant	
CREEC report OBEN Matawi WBT results	
Information Verified by Team Leader	Date of review: 24/05/2022
PP has now submitted Stove performance Test Report by CREEC ,dated July 2019, which conforms the efficiency of Matawi Oben stove as 32.1%. The test report has been assessed and found satisfactory. Hence this CL 3 is Closed.	

Date	Type & Number	Raised by	Reference
11/01/2022	CL 4	Verification team	VCS-PD 3.4
Non conformities raised			

1. In the absence of any baseline surveys been conducted, PP to clarify how does it demonstrate that prevailing inefficient three-stone fireplace or traditional cookstoves were predominantly used across the region in pre-project scenario. 2. Under section 3.4 for “Baseline Scenario”, it is stated that <i>“The baseline scenario is the usage of firewood and/or charcoal in traditional low efficiency charcoal/firewood stove or three-stone fire for cooking in kitchens of households. The baseline scenario is identified as the use of woody biomass from non-renewable sources in traditional three stone cooking”</i> . However during stakeholder interviews one of them said that before OBEN ICS stoves , they did not use firewood or three stone stoves, which is considered as baseline scenario. Instead, they were using Metallic cookstove using charcoal. As the sample chosen for interview are expected to represent the larger no of beneficiaries. In such scenario, CME shall clarify how the baseline scenario considered is appropriate and valid?	
Project Participant's response	Date: 29/01/2022
1. The prevailing practices before the introduction of the cookstoves were assessed with available report on the current situation in Democratic Republic of Congo. The prevailing practices have been documented in section 3.5 of the VCS-PD showing that charcoal and firewood was predominantly used in inefficient stoves. Also, during project implementation that started in 2020, with nearly 80,000 stoves distributed, PP noticed that most of the beneficiaries, were charcoal users (65%) followed by firewood (35%), confirming the trend and the baseline technology used. 2. The baseline scenario have been completed to include charcoal also. As permitted by the methodology, different types of woody biomass can be used as baseline scenario. Baseline scenario is therefore the use of charcoal or firewood in the inefficient cookstoves.	
Documentation Provided as Evidence by Project Participant	
Revised VCS-PD	
Information Verified by Team Leader	Date of review: 14/02/2022

1. PP to quote and provide excerpts/ reference link for the specific available “report on the current situation in Democratic Republic of Congo”, which is referred by PP for baseline, as responded by PP above.

Also PP states above that “Also, during project implementation that started in 2020, with nearly 80,000 stoves distributed, PP noticed that most of the beneficiaries, were charcoal users (65%) followed by firewood (35%), confirming the trend and the baseline technology used.” However, In ER sheet provided, total stoves distributed for year 2020- 2022 is numbered to be 60,0800. And, % of Wood fuels users are 36% and % of Charcoal users are 64%. PP to justify the baseline assumption values and clarify/update the inconsistency.

Hence this part of CL is Open.

2. In the revised PD submitted by PP, under section 3.4, PP mentions that “Most households use the inefficient charcoal stoves or three-stone-fire as their principal method of cooking.”. Verification team was able to infer that though the metallic stoves were used by few of the stakeholders, they were of low efficiency and hence were considered for baseline scenario. During remote audit process, it was confirmed by concerned stakeholders that with usage of improved ICS they were able to save on money spent on fuel and also saving time to cook meals per day. Also, since baseline scenario as per applied methodology states that “The baseline scenario is the continued use of non-renewable wood fuel (firewood/charcoal) or fossil fuel (coal/kerosene) by the target population to meet similar thermal energy needs as

provided by project cookstoves in absence of project activity.” Hence the response provided by is acceptable.

Hence this part of CL is Closed.

Project Participant's response	Date: 04/03/2022
1.The total numbers of cookstoves distributed until 28/12/2021 is 87,765 cookstoves. Among the beneficiaries, 64% are charcoal users and 34% are firewood users. Report on current situation in Congo does not refers to only one report but to documentation available on the practice in Congo. These documentation sources are already included in the project documentation section 3.4	
Documentation Provided as Evidence by Project Participant	
DRC project Updated Database	
Information Verified by Team Leader	Date of review: 24/03/2022

1. PP has submitted “DRC project Updated Database” for conformation of total number of ICS distributed till date. The updated number now counts to 100,891 and the same is reflecting in revised PD which has been cross verified. However, the provided supportive “report on the current situation in Democratic Republic of Congo” was published in December 2018, means the survey may be conducted in early 2018 or mid of 2017. Further, the referred report was for another province i.e.Gbadolite city which is far away from project activity province i.e. Sud-Kivu. Thus, PP is requested to clarify how the referred report is still valid and applicable for the project activity in line with section 8.4 of applied methodology.

Hence this CL is kept open.

Project Participant’s response

Date: 16/05/2022

Project database at the end of April 2022 is now shared with VVB. 112,643 stoves have been distributed since project start date. New supportive applicable to project boundaries is now provided for VVB assessment.

Documentation Provided as Evidence by Project Participant

Bukavu Report

Revised VCS-PD

Information Verified by Team Leader

Date of review: 24/05/2022

1. The total number of ICS distributed has been now updated and reported to 112,643 stoves from 100,891 and the same is cross checked with database spreadsheet included in ER sheet and found inconsistent. **Hence this part of CL is kept Open.**

2. The value considered for parameter $B_{old,i,j}$ is now revised and updated to 4.531.

As per meth- It shall be calculated according to options stated in ‘Determination of quantity of firewood consumed in absence of project activity as per options provided in Section 8.4 -

(a) Historical Data

(b) Baseline Survey of Local Usage.

(c) Minimum Service Level.

PP to clarify how is this meeting meth requirement. Further, PP is requested to clarify how the same is conservative and inline with the above requirements.

Also, value considered for

$B_{old,P} = 0.697 \text{ t}$ and $N_{p,HH} = 6.5$, is to further clarified and substantiated.

Hence this part of CL is kept Open.

Project Participant's response	Date: 29/05/2022
1) The number of ICS distributed has been revised to 107,822 ICS. As explained in CL01 2) As per section 8.4 of the methodology, PP can use one of the 3 following option to assess Bold,i,j: (a) Historical Data (b) Baseline Survey of Local Usage. (c) Minimum Service Level Option a is chosen and Bold,i,j is calculated using historical data. As demonstrated in the VCS-PD. Bold,p value is obtained from most recent and available data specific to the project area (South-Kivu). Two studies have been used, 1 published in 2013, underlining an average consumption of 118kg of charcoal per capita, and a more recent study from CIRAD published in June 2020 (year of the project start), estimating average consumption of 113.15 (0.31*365) kg of charcoal and 18.25kg (0.05*365) of firewood per person. The most conservative data(CIRAD) was used for Bold,p value. For Np,HH although the methodology refers to average number of households, in PP opinion this refers instead to average number of person per households. The value of NpHH is also derived from historical data. A study conducted by the Secure Livelihood research Consortium and published in 2015, underlined an average household size of 6.7 persons per households.While the report from CIRAD estimated average household size at 6.5. This value was used as more conservative for NpHH BoldHH is therefore : $(0.31*6 + 0.05)*365*6.5 = 0.697\text{tonnes}*6.5 = 4.531 \text{ tonnes of woody biomass per household.}$ Furthermore Bold adjusted is calculated using a μy of 3% therefore Bold adjusted is: $4.531*(1-3\%) = 4.395\text{tonnes/household, i.e. } 4.531*(97\%) = 4.395$ It is also expected that 1 ICS will be distributed per household, therefore NdHH= 1. Bold,i,j is therefore equals to $4.395/1 = 4.395 \text{ tonnes/year}$ The values are therefore found conservative and in line with the methodology requirements.	
Information Verified by Team Leader	Date of review: 31/05/2022
1. PP has now submitted updated distribution database which is now reflecting number of ICS distributed since 10 June 2020 till date and is reported to be 107,822. The number has been cross checked in ER sheet provided. Hence this part of CL 4 is Closed. 2. PP has submitted the revised documents. It could be inferred that B_{old} has been estimated using historical data (Option a). A source document dated June 2020 has been referred. Further, the clarification for the B_{oldp}, NpHH values has been checked and found conservative. Hence this part of CL 4 is Closed.	

Date	Type & Number	Raised by	Reference
10/05/2022	CL 05	Verification team	Section 5.1 of PD
Non conformities raised			
1. In the section 8.4 of VCS PD, PP has considered B_{old} value of 3.29 t/household/year. PP is requested to clarify and provide supportive evidence in line with section 8.4 of applied methodology VMR0006, version 1.1 2. Furthermore, the DHS survey report, of 2013-14 referred to determine Number of person by households, PP is requested to clarify how the same is inline with in line with section 8.4 of applied methodology VMR0006, version 1.1 3. PP has sourced, Woodfuel consumption by capita from UNEP report, 2015, PP is requested to clarify how the same is inline with in line with section 8.4 of applied methodology VMR0006, version 1.1 4. In the fNRB calculation sheet, the Total annual consumption of wood in the absence of the project activity (t/yr) has been determined, PP is requested to clarify how the charcoal consumption in the baseline cooking practice has also been taken care in the same.			
Project Participant's response		Date: 16/05/2022	
1) Section 8.4 is revised and Bold value is calculated based on methodology 2) Number of persons per households is revised, supportive for number of persons per household in the project boundary is provided 3) Value of woodfuel consumption is revised more specific project data is now used 4) As charcoal is made from wood fuel, the fNRB value also account for charcoal consumption. Regarding the charcoal consumption in the baseline stoves, the value is now clearly mentioned in CIRAD report for Bukavu.			
Documentation Provided as Evidence by Project Participant			
Revised VCS-PD			
Information Verified by Team Leader		Date of review: 24/05/2022	
The provided response are inadequate. and linked with above findings. Thus, this part of CL is kept open.			
Project Participant's response		Date: 29/05/2022	

As per applied methodology, option a (historical data) is used to determine: 1) Bold value. The Value of Bold have been revised to 4.351 tonnes/household/year. The calculation is reported in the VCS-PD and in CLO4 above, PP used historical data to assess the Bold in line with applied methodology requirements. Values used are found conservative and most recent data is used. This value is retrieved from <u>CIRAD report</u> that estimate average consumption of 0.31 kg of charcoal and 0.05kg of firewood per person and per day thus 0.697t of woody biomass per person and per year. This value is found conservative with regard to a report from the GIZ estimating the average consumption of charcoal per person at 118kg (0.708 t of woody biomass) consumption per person. Considering a wood-to-charcoal factor of 6 as per methodology. 2) NpHH. The number of persons per household is also revised to 6.5 persons per household. Data is retrieved from CIRAD report. Data is found conservative and specific to the project boundaries. 3) Value of woody biomass is revised as explained above to 4.531 (4.396 after adjustment) tonnes/household/year. 4) In the provided fNRB calculation sheet, charcoal consumption has been accounted considering a wood-to-charcoal factor of 6 as per applied methodology.	
Information Verified by Team Leader	Date of review: 31/05/2022
PP has submitted the revised documents. It could be inferred that B_{old} has been estimated using historical data (Option a) and also considering the charcoal consumption based on wood-to-charcoal factor of 6 as per applied methodology. A source document dated June 2020 has been referred. Further, the clarification for the B_{oldp}, NpHH values has been checked and found conservative. Hence this part of CL 5 is Closed.	

Table 2. Corrective Action Requests (CARs) from this validation

Date	Type & Number	Raised by	Reference
11/01/2022	CAR 01	Verification team	Section 3.1 of VCS PD
Non conformities raised			
1. Under section 3.1 of PD, PP has not referred to the latest version of the applied methodology VMR0006. PP to revise and update the VCS -PD accordingly. 2. PP to demonstrate and justify how the project activity(s) meets each of the applicability conditions of the latest applicable version of the methodology, and tools applied by the project.			
Project Participant's response		Date: 29/01/2022	
1. The latest version of the methodology V1.1 have now been applied and corrected in the VCS-PD 2. The VCS-PD has been revised to demonstrate that the project meets all of the applicability conditions of the latest applicable version of the methodology.			
Documentation Provided as Evidence by Project Participant			

Revised VCS-PD	
Information Verified by Team Leader	Date of review: 14/02/2022
1. PP has submitted the revised PD, and is now referring to correct version of methodology implied (version 1.1). Revised PD has been reviewed by Verification team. Hence this part of CAR 01 is Closed. 2. In the revised PD, PP now correctly demonstrates and justifies the applicability conditions of the latest applicable version of the methodology. However. PD does not still indicate the version of the tool applied by the project, highlighting the applicability conditions. PP to revise and update the VCS -PD accordingly. Hence this part of CAR 01 is kept Open.	
Project Participant's response	Date: 04/03/2022
The version of the tool is now included in the VSC-PD section 3.1	
Documentation Provided as Evidence by Project Participant	
Revised VCS-PD	
Information Verified by Team Leader	Date of review: 24/03/2022
2. The revised VCS PD submitted by PP now includes version number of the Tool 30 applied (ver 3). However, the applicability conditions of the tool 30 and its justification is not provided. Hence this part of CAR is Open.	
Project Participant's response	Date: 25/04/2022
The applicability condition have been now included.	
Documentation Provided as Evidence by Project Participant	
Revised VCS-PD	
Information Verified by Team Leader	Date of review: 10/05/2022
PP has submitted revised PD which now includes the applicability conditions of Tool 30 under section 3.2. Hence this CAR 01 is Closed now.	

Date	Type & Number	Raised by	Reference
11/01/2022	CAR 02	Verification team	VCS-PD
Non conformities raised			

In the VCS PD provided- - Under section 1.3 of PD, the Project eligibility is not described and justified in accordance with VCS Standard, version 4.0. - Under in sec 1.11 of PD, in accordance with the VCS template guidelines, PP does not include description of how the project activity will achieve net GHG emission reductions or removals. - Under section 1.12 of PD, the specific location of area/villages in Uvira District, where ICS are planned to be distributed, are not being provided for efficient monitoring. - Under Section 2.2, In accordance with VCS requirements, following informations are not been provided- - Procedures or methods used for engaging local stakeholders (e.g., dates of announcements or meetings, periods during which input was sought). - The procedures used for documenting the outcomes of the local stakeholder consultation. - The mechanism for on-going communication with local stakeholders. - How due account of any input received during the consultation has been addressed.	
Project Participant's response	Date: 29/01/2022
- The project eligibility have been justified in accordance with VCS Standard - The section 1.11 have been revised to explain how the project will achieved net GHG reductions. - The project is expected to take place in the districts covered by the Uvira Diocese as specified in the project description. All the villages, regions covered by the Uvira Diocese are targeted by the project. - The VCS-PD have been revised to include missing elements	
Documentation Provided as Evidence by Project Participant	
Revised VCS-PD	
Information Verified by Team Leader	Date of review: 14/02/2022

PP has submitted the revised PD and Verification team was able to review the same and states that -

1. PP to describe and justify the project eligibility in accordance with latest version available now of VCS Standard, (VCS Standard, v4.2). Also, the PD needs to be updated and revised as per latest version of template for PD (v4.1) available at the VCS weblink. **Hence this part of CAR is Open.**
2. The description of how the project activity will achieve net GHG emission reductions or removals is now reflecting in revised PD under section 1.11.

Hence this part of CAR is closed.

3. In PD provided, under section 1.11, it is stated that *"The project activity will occur within the Eastern regions of DRC – specifically the Sud-Kivu Province.."* However, under section 3.3 – Project Boundary, it is stated that *"The project activity will occur within the Eastern regions of DRC – specifically the Tanganyika Province"*

Further, the geo-coordinates (3°01' S, 28°16' E) provided in the PD leads to Mwenga territory. PP needs to mention consistent information regarding the project location and project boundary providing specific geo-coordinates (and maps) throughout the PD.

Hence this part of CAR is Open.

4. Details of Local stakeholders' consultation has been now provided under section 2.2 mentioning the requirements of the template. PP has provided the LSC meeting report for assessment which has been reviewed by Verification team.

However, PP to submit evidence of letters/invitations used as means to invite stakeholders for LSC meet for assessment.

Hence this part of CAR is Open

Project Participant's response

Date: 04/03/2022

1.The VCS-PD have been revised in accordance with VCS Standard V4.2. The template of the project description have been also changed to meet with the last template.

3.The section 3.3 have been revised. Project occurs in Sud-Kivu province. The Geo coordinates have been revised

4. As explained during the remote audit, invitations for the local stakeholder meeting were made whether by letters (Officials) or using the Uvira diocese churches channels for end-users. Sample of invitations letters for the officials are provided for VVB perusal

Documentation Provided as Evidence by Project Participant

Revised VCS-PD, Invitations letters

Information Verified by Team Leader	Date of review: 24/03/2022
1. Revised VCS-PD (ver 03) submitted by PP is now revised and updated in accordance with VCS Standard V4.2. and uses latest version of template for VCS-PD (v4.1) available. The same has been reviewed by Verification Team and found satisfactory. However, following errors have been observed in revised VCS-PD version 03- • Version Number of the VCS PD to be updated accordingly in cover page. • The revised start date of the project cited in ER estimation sheet (1 April 2020) is inconsistent with the date reported in section 1.8 (3 April 2020) of PD. PP to conform and clarify the same with supporting evidence. • The values reported under section 1.1- for Emission Reduction in revised PD (427,295 tCO₂e per year and 2,991,062 during the first crediting period) is inconsistent with the calculated value reported in ER estimation sheet (4,33,261 tCO₂e per year and 3,032,828 during the first crediting period.). PP to provide the correct, consistent estimated value in PD. Hence this part of CAR is Open. 3. In the revised VCS PD, section 3.3 has been attuned now and correctly states <i>“The project activity will occur within the Eastern regions of DRC – specifically the Sud-Kivu province.”</i> The geo co-ordinates of the project location are also now updated under section 1.11. Hence this part of CAR is Closed. 4. PP has now submitted evidence of invitations used as means to invite stakeholders for LSC meet for assessment. The same has been reviewed by Verification Team and found satisfactory. Hence this part of CAR is Closed.	
Project Participant’s response	Date: 25/04/2022
1. The version number have been revised The start date have been revised to 10 May 2022. Pilot pp hase cookstoves have been excluded. The values in section 1.1 have been revised accordingly	
Documentation Provided as Evidence by Project Participant	
Revised VCS-PD	
Information Verified by Team Leader	Date of review: 10/05/2022

1. PP has submitted the revised PD which has attuned version number.

However, as indicated in CL-1 above-

- I. The start date of the project has been attuned now from 01 April 2020 to 10 May 2020, however the evidence for start date provided by PP for assessment is dated 1 April 2020, Thus, PP is requested to justify the considered start date of 10 May 2020 and provide supportive evidence for the same.
- II. The revised start date and crediting period is not been reflecting in revised PD provided under section 4.4.
- III. Estimated net GHG emission reductions or removals (tCO₂e) reported in revised ER sheet under section 4.4 (433,261 tCO₂) is not consistent with revised ER reported in section 1 of VCS PD (442,981 tCO₂e).
- IV. PP to also submit revised ER sheet highlighting the change in crediting period dates and adjusted ERs respectively.

Hence this part of CAR is Open.

Project Participant's response

Date: 16/05/2022

- I. The start date of the project is 10 June 2020, supportive is now provided
- II. The start date is now reflected in the VCS-PD
- III. Estimated Net GHG reduction are now revised
- IV. Revised ER sheet is provided

Documentation Provided as Evidence by Project Participant

Revised VCS-PD, Revised ER sheet

Information Verified by Team Leader

Date of review: 18-05-2022

As assessed and conformed under CL 1-

1. The project start date has been now revised to 10 June 2020. The contract signed with beneficiaries has been submitted by PP and reviewed by Verification Team which reflects the date as 10 June 2020. The updated start date is also reflecting in ER sheet and PD. However as updated by PP, the latest database of ICS beneficiaries considered from the project start date are 112,643 stoves that are distributed to end-users in Sud-Kivu province till date. But latest updated database has not been provided for validation of the same. **This part of CL is closed.**

2. The revised start date (10 June 2020) and crediting period (10-June -2020 to 09-June-2027) is now reflecting in revised PD provided under section 4.4. **This part of CL is closed.**

3. Updated value for estimated net GHG emission reductions or removals (tCO₂e) reported in revised ER sheet (611,899 tCO₂) is now consistent with revised value reported in section 1 of VCS PD (611,899 tCO₂e). However, the under section 1.11 of VCS PD in page number 11, the revised value is not been updated and reported wrongly (*The project aims to avoid on average 419,733 tCO₂e per year and 2,938,134 during the first crediting period*). **Hence this part of CAR is Open.**

4. Revised ER sheet is now been submitted for assessment.

Hence CAR 02 is Open.

Project Participant's response	Date: 29/05/2022
3) The net GHG emission reduction are revised to 628,992 tCO₂/year and 4,402,942 during the crediting period. Value was updated in all the document including section 1.11 4) Comments in the ER sheet have been taken into consideration. Efficiency during the first year have been revised thus higher ER. The revised ER sheet is provided.	
Information Verified by Team Leader	Date of review: 31/05/2022
PP has submitted revised MR version 1,4 where the updated value for estimated net GHG emission reductions or removals (628,992 tCO₂e/yr) reported in revised ER sheet (628,992 tCO₂/yr) is now consistent with revised value reported in section 1 and section 1.11 of VCS PD (628,992 tCO₂e/yr). Hence this CAR 02 is Closed.	

Date	Type & Number	Raised by	Reference
11/01/2022	CAR 03	Verification team	VCS-PD 2.4
Non conformities raised			
Under section 2.4 of VCS PD, “Public Comments”, Details of Local stakeholder consultation meetings is wrongly included. As per VCS template guidelines, section should mention due account of any comments received during the public listing period in VERRA site has not been provided. PP to modify and revise the VCS PD accordingly.			
Project Participant’s response		Date: 29/01/2022	
The section 2.4 have been revised in accordance with VCS guidelines			
Documentation Provided as Evidence by Project Participant			
Revised VCS-PD			
Information Verified by Team Leader		Date of review: 14/02/2022	
In the revised PD submitted by PP, the section 2.4/ Public comments has been attuned and revised. It is correctly status the project was open for public comments from 16/11/2021 to 16/12/2021. During this period, no comments have been received on VCS website. The same has been conformed by Verification Team from VCS project site.			
Hence this CAR 03 is Closed.			

Table 3. Forward Action Requests (FARs) from this validation

FAR ID	xx	Section No.		Date: DD/MM/YYYY
Description of FAR				
Project participant response				Date: DD/MM/YYYY
Documentation provided by project participant				
VVB assessment				Date: DD/MM/YYYY

No FAR were raised from this validation.