



Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard

CLEAN COOKING - COOK STOVE FOR RURAL INDIA

Document Prepared by



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Project Title	Clean Cooking- Cook Stove for Rural India
Project Location	Republic of India

Summary

A brief description of the project: The prime focus of the project registered in Verra with ID 2942¹ is the dissemination of fuel-efficient improved cook stoves (ICS) across various states in India, specifically Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Dadar & Nagar Haveli, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. These improved cookstoves are replacing traditional, less efficient models. The initiative involves the distribution and installation of highly thermally efficient ICS in households, which enhances the combustion of wood to improve energy transfer to cooking pots. This results in reduced fuel wood consumption and lowers greenhouse gas emissions. Consequently, the project helps decrease deforestation rates, mitigates health risks associated with indoor air pollution due to smoke, and reduces the time women and children spend collecting firewood.

The project significantly supports the achievement of 10 out of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by generating positive impacts through its activities. By implementing these stoves, the initiative ensures that households benefit from sustainable development through the deployment, installation, and maintenance of the ICS units. Originally targeting the states of Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Bihar, the project has expanded its cookstove distribution in Jharkhand, Dadar & Nagar Haveli & Uttar Pradesh across these three states in Republic of India. To date, EKI has successfully distributed a total of 571,460 cook stoves, with 234,114 ICS units distributed during the first monitoring period and an additional 337,346 units during the second (current verification).

The purpose and scope of verification:

The aim of this verification process was to independently assess the Project's compliance with the requirements of the SD VISta Program, as outlined in the Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard. This independent assessment included:

- Evaluating the appropriateness of the SD-VISta claims: This encompassed verifying that the project's claims regarding its contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its impacts on People, Prosperity, and the Planet are accurate, credible, and supported by strong evidence.
- Verifying the Project Description: This ensured that the project's design and implementation align with the project description registered in the VCS & SD-VISta PD and that the project adheres to the SD-VISta criteria for project design and implementation.
- Assessing the accuracy of the reported SD-VISta claims: This involved a thorough review of the project's monitoring reports to assess the accuracy, completeness, consistency, and transparency of the data.

Scope of the Verification:

- Sustainable Development Impact Assessment: This includes a comprehensive analysis of the sustainable development impacts generated by the project during the monitoring period. This assessment evaluated the project's contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), focusing particularly on the 10 SDGs targeted by the project, and analyzed the project's impacts on People, their Prosperity, and the Planet.
- Stakeholder Engagement: This assessment verified that the project's engagement and participation processes adhered to the requirements outlined in SD-VISta Standard Version 1.0,

ensuring the meaningful and inclusive involvement of all stakeholder groups, especially marginalized communities.

- **Monitoring System Integrity:** This verification encompassed a review of the project's monitoring system to ensure it meets the SD-VISa requirements for data collection, reporting, and verification.
- **Additionality and Double-Counting:** This addressed the project's compliance with the SD-VISa principles of additionality and double-counting, especially relevant for projects seeking to generate SD-VISa claims.

The verification period covers the timeframe from 01-October-2022 to 31-December-2023, encompassing both the start and end dates.

The method and criteria used for verification: SD-VISa verification employs a combination of methods, including document review, stakeholder interviews, site visits, data analysis, and expert review. This process assesses compliance with SD-VISa criteria, focusing on project design and implementation, sustainable development impact assessment (including SDG contributions and impacts on People, Prosperity, and the Planet), claim validation, data integrity, and, if applicable, adherence to principles of additionality and double-counting. The verification process is tailored to each project, employing a mix of methods and criteria to ensure a thorough and rigorous assessment.

The number of findings raised during verification: VKU diligently followed a rule-based approach during the verification process, ensuring strict adherence to the applicable VCS requirements. The verification encompassed a comprehensive assessment of the project activity's operations, monitoring procedures and SDG indicators. As a result, a total of (09) findings were identified, comprising (07) Corrective Action Requests (CARs), (02) Clarification Request (CLs), and zero (00) Forward Action Requests (FARs). All the raised findings were successfully resolved/closed after necessary corrections/clarifications by the client. The same has been discussed in [Appendix Q1](#) of this verification report.

Any uncertainties associated with the verification: The monitoring system in place is effective and reliable, ensuring reasonable level of assurance allowed by the methodology and the SD-VISa standards without any significant discrepancies. As a result, VKU is able to objectively state that the findings presented in this verification report affirm that the project activity, as documented in the Monitoring Report for the period between 01-October-2022 to 31-December-2023, adheres rigorously to all applicable verification standards set forth by the Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard and the SD VISa Program Guide.

Verification conclusion:

Based on VKU's thorough assessment, it is our professional judgment that the project activity "Clean Cooking. – Cook Stove for Rural India" VCS 2942 fully complies with the applicable requirements of Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard version 1.0/08/ and associated Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard Guide Version 1.0/08-A/. The project has successfully implemented the designated baseline and monitoring methodology outlined in VMR0006 "Methodology for Installation of High Efficiency Firewood Cookstoves" version 1.1/10/.

The project exhibits full compliance, with no exceptions or limitations identified in its alignment with these criteria.

¹ <https://registry.terra.org/app/projectDetail/SDVISTA/2942>

Moreover, the project's claims concerning its contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including associated indicators, are thoroughly validated. These claims are substantiated by extensive historical data and evidence, underscoring the project's positive impacts on People, ensuring improved health and livelihoods; on Prosperity, by fostering economic growth and resilience in rural communities; and on the Planet, through contributions to environmental sustainability and reduced emissions. This comprehensive evaluation attests to the project's integrity and its significant role in advancing sustainable development objectives.

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1 VERIFICATION PROCESS

1.1 Objective

EKI Energy Services Limited (hereinafter referred to as PP) engaged the services of VKU Certification Private Limited (hereinafter referred to as VKU) to conduct the second SD-VISta verification of the project titled as "Clean Cookstove for Rural India" for monitoring period spanning from 01-October-2022 – 31-December-2023 (Inclusive of both dates) The purpose of this verification is to conduct an independent third-party review of the SD-VISta Monitoring Report (01) and accompanying documentation. This review aims to confirm that the project adheres to all relevant rules, regulations, and guidelines as outlined by the SD-VISta Standard.

The verification process aimed to confirm that:

- **Project Activity Adherence:** The project activities were executed and operated in strict adherence to the requirements of the SD-VISta Standard, as outlined in the current version of the standard, focusing on project design, implementation, and monitoring procedures. This includes evaluating the project's adherence to the SD-VISta requirements for additionality and double-counting, if applicable.
- **SDG Alignment:** The project is making significant and verifiable contributions to the 10 targeted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with emphasis on quantifying the positive impacts generated by the project and ensuring its alignment with the overall SDG framework.
- **Impact Verification:** The project is generating positive impacts on People, their Prosperity, and the Planet, as outlined in the SD-VISta Standard. The project's claims regarding its contribution to improved livelihoods, economic development, and environmental sustainability are accurate, credible, and supported by evidence.

The verification team used a combination of methods, including document review, stakeholder interviews, site visits, data analysis, and expert review, to provide a comprehensive and rigorous evaluation of the project's compliance with the SD-VISta Standard and its ability to deliver on its promises of sustainable development

1.2 Scope and Criteria

The scope of this SD-VISta verification encompassed the independent, objective review of the positive impacts generated by the "Clean Cookstoves for Rural India" project. The verification process focused on reviewing the project's contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as its benefits for People, Prosperity, and the Planet. The assessment covered the reporting period from 01-October-2022 – 31-December-2023 (Inclusive of both dates). The verification of this project was based on the validated & registered SD-VISta PD version 4.0 dated 30-May-2024 /06/ & monitoring report/1/ along with supporting documents

submitted by the project proponent to the VKU verification team. The documents thus submitted to the VKU Assessment Team were reviewed against the following guidance & protocols:

- SD VISta Program Guide, version 1.0 /08-A/
- Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard, version 1.0 /8/
- SD VISta Program Definitions, version 1.0 /08-B/

Criteria: The verification process aimed to evaluate the project's:

- **Implementation:** Whether the project's activities were executed and operated in strict adherence to the requirements of the SD-VISta Standard, as outlined in the current version of the standard, focusing on project design, implementation, and monitoring procedures.
- **Management:** Whether the project's management systems and processes are effective and comply with SD-VISta requirements for accountability, transparency, and responsible decision-making.
- **Stakeholder Conditions:** Whether the project effectively engages stakeholders, including marginalized communities, and respects their rights and interests. This involves verifying the project's compliance with the SD-VISta requirements for stakeholder engagement and participation.
- **Status of Natural and Ecosystem Services:** Whether the project has positive impacts on natural capital and ecosystem services, and whether these impacts are being monitored effectively. This includes evaluating the project's contribution to the overall SDG framework and its alignment with the SD-VISta criteria for assessing the project's impacts on People, Prosperity, and the Planet.
- **Effectiveness of Monitoring Plans:** Whether the monitoring plans in place are effective in collecting, analyzing, and reporting accurate and reliable data to assess the project's performance and its impact on sustainable development. This involves evaluating the project's adherence to the SD-VISta requirements for monitoring procedures and data integrity.

The verification method and criteria encompassed several phases, including

- I. Desk review of VCS & SD-VISta Project description & listed monitoring report, registered under SD-VISta (Version 4.0) dated 30-May-2024 /06/ and other supporting documents listed in **Table-07**_below;
- II. Acceptance Sampling
- III. Onsite interviews & Focussed Group Discussions with End-Users, Stakeholders & PP representatives involved in project's implementation.
- IV. VKU's Completeness/Quality Check, and
- V. The Final issuance of the verification report.

Outstanding issues were resolved, leading to the issuance of the final verification report and the relevant SD VISTA Verification Deed of Representation. It is important to note that the verification process does not involve providing consultancy to the project proponents. However, requests for clarifications and corrective actions may have contributed to improvements in the monitoring processes.

1.3 Level of Assurance

The verification report underwent a thorough internal technical review conducted by a team of qualified independent reviewers. This process ensured that all verification activities were completed in accordance with the SD-VISTA Standard, achieving a reasonable level of assurance. The review specifically focused on the criteria outlined in Sections 5.2 clause 5.2.3 & 5.2.4 of the standard, including the assessor criteria, assessment methods, and the level of assurance required.

Assessment Approach: The assessment employed a risk-based approach, as outlined in the SD-VISTA Standard. This means that the verification team selected samples of data and information to be validated or verified, ensuring a reasonable level of assurance as defined in ISO 14064:3:2019. This approach considered both quantitative and qualitative materiality. Quantitative materiality requires that the aggregate of errors, omissions, and misrepresentations, individually or in the aggregate, for any reported SD-VISTA claim is limited to five percent. Qualitative materiality involves assessing whether the project adheres to the program's rules and methodological criteria. In cases where non-compliance is identified, professional judgment is used to determine whether this non-compliance is material.

Table 1: - Identification of Materiality threshold

Check the relevant box against applicable threshold level	Threshold as per Section 5.2 clause 5.2.3 of SD-VISTA Standard v1.0/06/	Related to
☒	5%	The verification process addressed materiality in accordance with the SD VISTA standard's guidelines, ensuring a reasonable level of assurance as defined in ISO 14064:3 (2006). Quantitative Materiality: The threshold for quantitative materiality, as per SD VISTA reporting standards, dictates that the aggregate of errors, omissions, and misrepresentations (individually or in combination), for any reported value in relation to total reported SD VISTA claims or assets, should not exceed five percent (5%).

		Discrepancies below this threshold are considered immaterial and do not significantly impact the overall reporting accuracy. Qualitative Materiality: - The verification process also assessed whether the project conforms to the SD VISta program rules and methodological criteria. Professional judgment was used to determine whether non-compliances with the program rules or methodological criteria were material. Verification Approach: - The assessment of materiality was conducted through a combination of: Project Proponent's Sampling Survey: The project proponent's sampling survey (referenced as /20/) was reviewed. Acceptance Sampling: The assessment team performed acceptance sampling to evaluate the sample data collected. - These assessments revealed that the proportion of non-working stoves observed was lower than anticipated. This finding contributed to a reduction in the overall uncertainty associated with the reported results. Conclusion: Based on the results of the sampling and acceptance sampling, the reported results were deemed valid and in compliance with the established materiality criteria. This conclusion supports the assurance that the SD VISta claims presented in the monitoring report are accurate and credible.
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The SD-VISta verification report is based on the Monitoring Report /01/, the project description, and supporting documentation made available to the VKU Certification Private Limited assessment team. This includes information gathered through interviews with end-users, project proponents, and local stakeholders during site visits. The technical review was conducted by

qualified reviewers, adhering to VKU Certification Private Limited's established qualification procedures.

1.4 Summary Description of the Project

Project Purpose and Scope:

This project is centered on the distribution of fuel-efficient Improved Cook Stoves (ICS) across India, specifically targeting Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli. The initiative aims to replace inefficient traditional cookstoves with high-thermal-efficiency ICS units in households. By enhancing wood combustion efficiency and improving energy transfer to pots, these stoves significantly reduce fuelwood consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. This effort not only curtails deforestation but also mitigates health risks associated with indoor air pollution, while reducing the time women and children spend gathering firewood.

Implementation and Financial Model:

Recognizing the financial constraints of the target demographic, the ICS units have been distributed at no cost to the end users. Beneficiaries are informed that the ICS usage generates carbon finance, which is utilized to offset the stoves' distribution costs and recover project implementation expenses. This innovative financial model facilitates the accessibility and sustainability of the initiative.

Project Deployment:

To date, the project has installed a considerable number of ICS units: 20,898 in Maharashtra, 91,398 in Chhattisgarh, 59,446 in Gujarat, 49,132 in Madhya Pradesh, 205,993 in Rajasthan, 87,297 in Bihar, 32,800 in Uttar Pradesh, 10,000 in Jharkhand, and 14,496 in Dadra and Nagar Haveli, has a substantial regional coverage by the end of the current monitoring period on December 31, 2023.

Table 02: Cookstove Distributed in each Monitoring period

Sl. No.	Location	Cookstove Distributed in each Monitoring period		
		1 st Monitoring period from 16-June-2022 to 30-September-2022)	2 nd Monitoring period from 01-October-2022 to 31-December-2023	Total Cookstove distributed
1	Chhattisgarh	48,506	42,892	91,398
2	Maharashtra	11,498	9,400	20,898
3	Madhya Pradesh	42,656	6,476	49,132

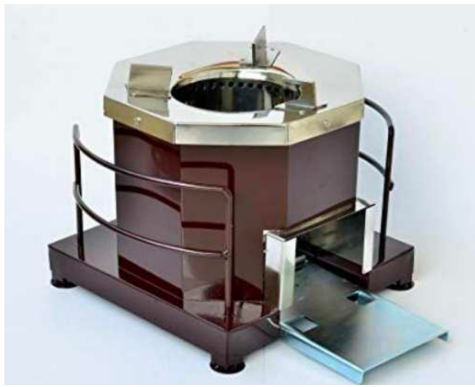
4	Rajasthan	74,769	131,224	205,993
5	Bihar	26,993	60,304	87,297
6	Gujrat	29,692	29,754	59,446
7	Uttar Pradesh	0	32,800	32,800
8	Jharkhand	0	10,000	10,000
9	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	14,496	14,496
Total Cookstove distributed		234,114	337,346	571,460

The ICS deployed under the grouped project activity are the portable cook stove manufactured by GHG Reduction Technologies Pvt LTD., having thermal efficiency of includes more than 25% (as per applied methodology VMR 0006).

Technical Specifications of cook stoves distributed under the project activity instance to date are as below:

GHG Reduction Technologies Pvt LTD. is ISO 9001:2015 Certified Organization. They have ample experience in metal fabrication along with in-house testing and assembly facility and have strategic tie-ups with tool room and powder coating setups.

Table no 03: Technical Details:

A)	Cook Stove Type/Category	AGNEEKAA ECO MINI STOVE MODEL4 SE		
				
		Natural Draft		
B)	Secondary Air Supply	Through Natural Draft		
C)	Stove Material Used	Body	Galvanized Iron Sheet	
		Body Material Thickness	0.6mm	
		Combustion Chamber	Stainless Steel SS 202 grade	

		Combustion Chamber Material Thickness	1 mm SS 202 grade
		Insulating Material	Thermal Wool
		Insulating Material Thickness	6 to 8mm
		Top Plate	Stainless Steel SS 202 grade
		Top Plate Material Thickness	1 mm
D)	Physical Structure	External Dimension	Length: 260mm
			Width: 260mm
			Height: 248mm
		Combustion Chamber Dimension	Diameter: 125mm
E)	Grate Thickness	2 mm Material HR sheet	
F)	Wight Of the Stove	3.8 Kg	
G)	Type of Fuel Wood	Firewood 30 to 50 mm diameter	
H)	Feeding Process	Continuous Feeding Front Loading	
I)	Expected life of stove	7 Years	
K)	Box Dimension	Outer Side Box Dimension	Length: 300mm
			Width: 300mm
			Height: 270mm
L)	Thermal Efficiency	36.42%	

The specifications outlined above have been incorporated into the impact assessment calculations for the project activities within this Monitoring Report (MR).

The thermal efficiency of the improved cookstoves (ICSs) was rigorously tested at the manufacturer's facility by a qualified third-party, adhering to the BIS protocol IS: 13152 : 2013. Additionally, the manufacturer is actively engaged in ongoing research and development initiatives to enhance the efficiency, quality, and design of the ICSs. This commitment to improvement involves incorporating valuable feedback from end-users through routine follow-ups and site visits. EKI may adopt modified stove models with enhanced efficiency for future distribution within the current project. This decision-making process will be transparently reflected during subsequent verification assessments, and the details and specifications of these modified ICSs will be appropriately considered in the impact calculations for future project activity instances

Baseline Scenario and Impact:

The ICS installations substitute traditional open-fire cooking methods, which predominantly rely on non-renewable biomass such as firewood. This project activity crucially reduces reliance on such biomass, aligning with broader environmental sustainability objectives. From June 16,

2022, the project has successfully implemented 571,460 ICS instances. Of these, 234,114 were recorded during the first monitoring period, and 337,346 were added in the current period.

By implementing the project activity, the following GHG sources of emissions are reduced/avoided:

Baseline/Source	As per methodology section 8.1, the methodology does not account for baseline emissions separately, but instead quantifies emission reductions as a function of the reduction in the amount of non-renewable biomass fuel consumption in the efficient project stoves as compared to baseline stoves.
Project Equipment/Sink	The avoidance of GHG emission into the atmosphere is due to improved cooking stove (ICS) which directly reduces fuel wood consumption, of this project which is in line with 3.1.1 of ISO:14064 part-2
Baseline GHG emission source reduced/avoided	Emission reductions as a function of the reduction in the amount of non-renewable biomass fuel consumption in the efficient project stoves as compared to baseline stoves.

Outcomes and Emission Reductions:

The latest monitoring survey, conducted from August-2023 to October-2023, reports emission reductions totalling 4,098,765 tCO₂e over the period from 01-October-2022 to 31-December-2023. Detailed state-specific monitoring insights are available in section 4.3 of the report. This significant reduction in emissions underscores the project's effectiveness in enhancing environmental and socio-economic outcomes within the target regions.

1.5 Audit Team Composition

The verification/assessment team and the technical reviewers consist of the following.

Table No 04: The Assessment Team Members are as follows:

Role of Assessment Team	Gender	Last Name	Middle Name	First Name	Role ²
Team Leader & Technical Expert (04, Energy: SD-VISTA Sectoral Scope) (Local Expert - Country: India)	Female	Kaushik	NA	Niharika	DR/OSV-RV/VA
Project Trainee	Female	Das	NA	Kriti	DR/RV

² DR: Desk Review// OSV: Onsite Visit/ RV: Remote Visit//VA: Verification Assessment

Ms. Niharika Kaushik

Niharika Kaushik: As Team Leader & Technical Area Expert for [Relevant Sectoral Scopes including SD-VISta, e.g., TA 1.2 and 3.1]³

Expertise: Holding a Master's degree in Environmental Sciences from J.C. Bose University of Science and Technology, YMCA, Faridabad, and a Bachelor's degree in Zoology (Hons) from Hansraj College, University of Delhi.

Professional Experience: As a certified ISO 14064 Lead Validator/Verifier. she holds extensive experience working in successful completion of over 35 projects in the VCS and GS registries.

Environmental Advocacy: Niharika is deeply passionate about environmental sustainability, reflected in her scholarly contributions, such as publications on susana.org.in, and her work preparing SFD for District Faridabad and C4Y Youth Indian Chapter.

Leadership and Engagement: Niharika's commitment to environmental protection and sustainability is evident in her participation in prestigious programs such as the 6-month 2nd C4Y-IWP Champions for Youth Water Fellowship Programme, 2020, supported by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India. She has also received recognition for her impactful Rain-water harvesting campaigns across District Faridabad with Nehru Yuva Kendra and local NGOs, focusing on environmental protection, sustainability, and conservation.

Ms Kriti Das (Project Trainee)

Kriti Das: Kriti Das holds a Master of Science degree in Environmental Studies from J.C. Bose University of Science and Technology, YMCA, Faridabad. She is certified in ISO 14064, demonstrating her expertise in environmental standards. She has participated in numerous training sessions, including VERRA and Gold Standard DOE webinars, expanding her knowledge of environmental regulations and best practices.

Table No 05: The Technical Reviewer Team is as follows:

Role/Qualification of Technical Team	Gender	Last Name	Middle Name	First Name
Technical Reviewer & Technical Expert TA 04 (Energy)	Male	Joshi	NA	Akhilesh

Mr Akhilesh Joshi

Akhilesh Joshi is a seasoned environmental professional with over 17 years of experience in the field of Climate Change and Environment, specializing in industrial applications. His expertise encompasses a wide range of areas, including thermal energy generation from fossil fuels and

³ The Team Leader & Technical Reviewer is also a sectoral scope expert for this SD-VISta project that falls under scope 04 - Energy

renewable energy sources, energy demand, manufacturing industries (particularly the cement sector), mining and mineral processes, and solid waste and wastewater management. Akhilesh holds an MBA in Oil & Gas Management and a BE in Chemical Engineering, demonstrating his strong educational background in relevant technical areas. He has completed more than 100 GHG validation and verification assignments in over 25 countries, including India, China, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and various countries across Africa and Latin America.

Akhilesh is a recognized expert in his field and has held several key roles in project validation and verification, including Team Leader, Technical Reviewer, and Local Expert. His expertise is further enhanced by his experience as a Local Expert for diverse project sectors, including thermal energy generation (from both fossil fuels and renewables), mining and mineral processes, and solid waste and wastewater management. He is highly regarded as a skilled professional with a strong understanding of industry best practices, environmental regulations, and sustainability principles.

1.6 Method and Criteria

Verification was conducted using VKU's procedures in line with the requirements specified in the SD-VISta Requirements, i.e., SD-VISta Program Guide Latest version 01/08-A/, SD-VISta standard version 01 /08/ & SD-VISta Program Definitions Version 1.0. The project activity falls under the category of "grouped projects".

Sampling methods were employed by the assessment team for the verification of GHG emission reductions or removals generated by the project in accordance with the paragraph 26 of the Standard: Sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and programmes of activities, Version 09.0.

- The GHG emission reductions are based on the approved Baseline and monitoring methodology VMR0006: Methodology for Installation of High Efficiency Firewood Cookstoves, Version 1.1/10/
- Scope: 04 Energy
- Project type: Type II – Energy Efficiency improvement project

Tools used for GHG Calculations are as follows as per registered PD: Tool 30- "Calculation of the fraction of non-renewable biomass"; version 04.0/11/

Keeping in line with ISO (14064-3; 2019, clause 06 & 14065-2020, clause 09)/43/ Standard guidelines assessment team has framed down the process for completing the verification and has followed the same throughout the execution of audit of the said project i.e., SD-VISta 2942.

The verification consisted of the following phases:

1. **Planning and Intimation to VERRA about site visit:** The assessment team starts with a desk review then need for site visit is identified and site visit is planned. Assessment team also shared a NOVS Notice of Validation/Verification Services (NOVS) Form/31/ and submit it to auditing@verra.org , 15 business days before the initial meeting with the project

- proponent. The assessment team intimated Verra for this project activity on 03-July-2024. and again, a version 1.1 was shared on 23-July-2024. Decision to conduct a Hybrid Audit by VVB was considered, since this is the first time VKU has undertaken the verification process of this project and hence keeping in SD-VISta Program Guide version 1.0 in clause 3.5.2 and 5.1.5 of SD-VISta Standard version 1.0, VVB decided to conduct a Hybrid site visit that included a physical inspection to the 05 out of 09 states where cookstove distribution took place. The physical inspection especially included the new states i.e., Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand & Dadar & Nagar Haveli along with 02 other states Gujarat and Rajasthan rest of the states that includes Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar & Chhattisgarh of Republic of India remote audit was undertaken by the VVB.
2. **Document Review:** Relevant documents, such as the verification report, monitoring plan, methodology, SD-VISta PD, VCS Joint PD & MR and QA/QC procedures are thoroughly reviewed.
 3. **Strategic Analysis:** Assessment team performed strategic analysis to understand the activities and complexity of the project, and to determine the nature and extent of the verification activities. The results of the strategic analysis shall be used in the risk assessment.
 4. **Risk Assessment;** Assessment team performed risk assessment of the GHG statement to identify the risk of a material misstatement or nonconformity with the criteria. /34/
 5. **Evidence Gathering Activities;** Using risk-based approach assessment team prepared evidence gathering activities, to collect sufficient and appropriate evidence upon which to base the conclusion & determine whether the GHG statement conforms to the criteria, taking into account the principles of the standards or GHG programme that apply to the GHG statement.
 6. **Audit and Sampling Plan:** An audit plan is prepared, including all sub-elements required for an integrated verification process aligned with the contract, scope, objectives, level of assurance and materiality, the same was documented in VKU.F24W. Audit and Sampling Plan_VKU.VER.01.24_SD-V_2942/35/
 7. **Evidence Gathering Plan;** The evidence-gathering plan is prepared based on the results of the VKU's Assessment Team's risk assessment. It was designed to lower the verification risk to an acceptable level. · The evidence-gathering plan thus specify the type and extent of evidence-gathering activities.
 8. **Client Confirmation and Approval:** The site visit audit plan is sent to the client for review and confirmation/approval via email.
 9. **Hybrid (Onsite + Remote Audit) Assessment:** This includes interviews and evaluation of the actual project scenario. /37/
 10. **Resolution of Discrepancies:** Any non-conformities identified during the assessment are addressed and resolved.
 11. **Independent Review:** A technical reviewer provides an independent assessment.

PP's sampling approach:

PP has performed simple random sampling plan. For measurement/monitoring of two parameters based on a representative sample. The simplified approach proposed in option (b) under Section 8.4 of the methodology is used for determining the minimum sample size in which case compliance with 90/10 confidence precision is not obligatory.

The project involves the distribution of ICS throughout the project area thereby replacing traditional cooking devices. The population is homogeneous in nature i.e., common technology with similar operating characteristics and dispersed in the country. Since the characteristics of the population (for example quantity of biomass consumed) are more similar. Therefore, a simple random sampling technique is used to calculate the samples. Samples were drawn by using the random number generator.

Development of the Verification/Sampling Plan:

The audit team has diligently documented its verification and sampling plan, ensuring a comprehensive approach to gathering evidence. The verification plan has been formulated by considering crucial elements of the verification process, aligning with the criteria of engagement. The plan takes into account and effectively addresses the following aspects:

- a) Level of Assurance
- b) Materiality
- c) Standards of evaluation & reporting for the verification including the assessment criteria
- d) Scope and objectives
- e) Assessment team and the roles of team members
- f) Schedule of verification activities

Verification Approaches

- a) ASP: Acceptance Sampling
- b) SPL: Sampling Approach (all data available)
- c) CDC: Complete data check of data including all data aggregation steps
- d) COM: Full data check at higher data aggregation levels and sampling at original data levels document the rationale for the decision.

Sampling/Verification Plan-

To ensure a comprehensive, transparent, and timely execution of the assessment task, the team leader has carefully crafted a detailed sequence of events that encompasses all the necessary steps to arrive at a substantiated final opinion. This meticulous planning allows for a systematic and organized approach to the assessment, ensuring that no crucial aspects are overlooked or neglected. In addition to the structured sequence of events, the team has implemented various tools and methodologies to facilitate the assessment planning process. These tools serve as aids in gathering and analysing the required information, ensuring the effectiveness and accuracy of

the assessment. This approach guarantees that all relevant factors are taken into consideration and that the assessment is conducted in a rigorous and objective manner.

Sampling Plan:

Due to a large number of project activity instances across 09 states in Republic of India, it was impractical to assess each one individually. To overcome this, the assessment team used appropriate sampling methods for assessment. These methods are carefully selected to ensure statistical validity and reliability. The team documents and explains the chosen sampling methods in detail, providing transparency and clarity to the verification process. The number of instances included in the project, eligible for monitoring, and the generation of Verified Carbon Units (VCUs) and applicable SDG claims is determined proportionally based on the compliance rate observed among the sampled instances. This approach allows for a representative assessment of the project activity while maintaining efficiency and accuracy in the verification process.

☐	No sampling approach has been used by the VVB to verify the project's compliance with SD Vista requirements.
☒	A sampling approach has been applied by the VVB to verify the project's compliance with VCS requirements for the aspects derived in step 2 above. The statistical approach of sample size (i.e., 38, acceptance number (c) = 1) calculation is provided below.

AS: Acceptance Sampling

VKU's Assessment Team has diligently employed an acceptance sampling methodology during the onsite interviews as an integral part of their assessment process, in strict accordance with the specifications outlined in paragraph 26 of the Standard for Sampling and Surveys for CDM project activities and programmes of activities, Version 09.0/13/. The team has consciously opted for acceptance sampling, a well-established technique that facilitates a systematic and representative sampling of project instances. By attentively adhering to these sampling guidelines, VKU's Assessment Team ensures a robust, accurate, and comprehensive assessment of the project activities, thereby upholding the highest standards of evaluation.

From the PP's sampling survey sheet assessment team by acceptance sampling has opted for **AQL of 01% and UQL of 10%; producer risk of 10% and consumer risk of 10%** as per VVBs professional judgement (based on the experience for the similar kind of other verification projects in same Technical area 3.1/(04 for SD-VISta) thus keeping in-line with the para 30 and para 31 of Sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and programme of activities version 09.0/16/ in determining the VVB's selected sample size of **38 with acceptance number (c) as 1**. Random samples from the sampling survey done by project participants were randomly selected as per the sampling standard version 09 & sampling guidelines version 4.0. VVB has physically witnessed all 38 random samples (Each household as 01 Improved cookstove) and confirms that

all the stoves where in operation as per the PP's data. This is also in line with VKU's internal procedure i.e., VKU-Sampling Plan Method and Guidance.

It must be noted that the samples are already taken from the samples of the PP. Under this grouped project activity EKI has distributed 571,460 (234,114 ICS in 1st Monitoring Period and 337,346 ICS added in 2nd monitoring Period) within the project boundary. To date, the project has installed a considerable number of ICS units: 20,898 in Maharashtra, 91,398 in Chhattisgarh, 59,446 in Gujarat, 49,132 in Madhya Pradesh, 205,993 in Rajasthan, 87,297 in Bihar, 32,800 in Uttar Pradesh, 10,000 in Jharkhand, and 14,496 in Dadra and Nagar Haveli, showcasing substantial regional coverage by the end of the current monitoring period on 31-December -2023.

A sample survey of 114 households in Uttar Pradesh and 108 households in Rajasthan, 100 households in Maharashtra, 111 households in Madhya Pradesh, 121 household in Gujarat, 115 in Jharkhand, 108 households in Dadar & Nagar Haveli, 106 households in Bihar & 103 households in Chhattisgarh has been collected keeping the survey larger and conservative. This has been done by PP as per guidelines/simplified approach stated in section 8.4 serial number (b) for the monitoring survey of the applied methodology VMR0006 version 1.1.

The monitoring survey was performed by a field team is as follows, the survey households were chosen from the potential ICS beneficiaries using simple random sampling approach.

Table 06: Monitoring Survey Dates

State	1 st Monitoring Survey		2 nd Monitoring Survey	
	Monitoring Survey start date	Monitoring Survey end date	Monitoring Survey start date	Monitoring Survey end date
Chhattisgarh	07-Nov-22	11-Nov-22	05-Sep-23	14-Sep-23
Maharashtra	03-Nov-22	18-Nov-22	22-Sep-23	10-Oct-23
Madhya Pradesh	04-Nov-22	18-Nov-22	23-Aug-23	03-Sep-23
Rajasthan	04-Nov-22	14-Nov-22	13-Sep-23	04-Oct-23
Bihar	06-Nov-22	15-Nov-22	23-Aug-23	12-Sep-23
Gujrat	06-Nov-22	13-Nov-22	04-Sep-23	13-Sep-23
Uttar Pradesh	-	-	04-Sep-23	17-Sep-23
Jharkhand	-	-	15-Sep-23	30-Sep-23
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-	-	21-Aug-23	02-Sep-23

As per registered PD, the PP has chosen to conduct the monitoring survey of the said parameters i.e., $N_{y,j,k}$ (Number of project devices of type i and batch j operating during year y) & $B_{y=1,new,l,j,survey}$ (Quantity of woody biomass used by project devices in tonnes per device of type i. and batch j) Biennially (at least once in two years). Therefore, the monitoring survey conducted from 21-August-2023 to 10-October-23 across 09 states is applicable to the current monitoring period & is in adherence with the guidelines stated in the applied methodology & registered VCS PD-MR.

& is correct for SD-VISta verification Further it is to be noted that the PP has referred the Section 8.4 option (b) for estimating the sample size for the monitored parameters in which case compliance with 90/10 confidence precision is not obligatory & thus samples was selected in line with the guidelines provided in methodology. The frequency of monitoring of each of the monitored parameters taken at validation & 1st verification has been kept in line with applied methodology VMR0006 version 1.1 stated in guidelines for each for the monitored parameters.

The sampling plan implemented by the PP is in accordance with the applied approved monitoring methodology /10/ and the VCS Joint PD & MR along with SD-VISta PD/06/. The PP has appropriately performed simple random sampling procedure in line with the applied methodology VMR0006 version 1.1. The sampling surveys have been carried out by the well-trained personnel as stated in the registered VCS PD-MR & SD-VISta Project Description and also stated in the listed SD-VISta Monitoring Report. Further, preparedness for conducting survey was adequate and survey plan was robust. Further a brief description has been provided in section 4.4 of this report.

Sample size and acceptance number based on AQL, UQL, and producer and consumer risks as per Sampling and Survey Standard v09.0

Producer Risk		5%		5%		5%		5%	
Consumer Risk		5%		10%		15%		20%	
AQL	UQL	Sample Size (n)	Acceptance Number (c)	Sample Size (n)	Acceptance Number (c)	Sample Size (n)	Acceptance Number (c)	Sample Size (n)	Acceptance Number (c)
0.5%	10 %	46	1	38	1	33	1	29	1
0.5%	15 %	30	1	25	1	22	1	10	0
0.5%	20 %	22	1	18	1	9	0	8	0
1.0 %	10 %	61	2	52	2	33	1	29	1
1.0 %	15 %	30	1	25	1	22	1	19	1
1.0 %	20 %	22	1	18	1	16	1	14	1
Producer Risk		L10%		10%		L10%		L10%	
Consumer Risk		5%		10%		L15%		220%	

AQL	UQL	Sample Size (n)	Acceptance Number (c)	Sample Size (n)	Acceptance Number (c)	Sample Size (n)	Acceptance Number (c)	Sample Size (n)	Acceptance Number (c)
0.5 %	10 %	46	1	38	1	19	0	16	0
0.5 %	15 %	19	0	15	0	12	0	10	0
0.5 %	20 %	14	0	11	0	9	0	8	0
1.0 %	10 %	46	1	38	1	33	1	29	1
1.0 %	15 %	30	1	25	1	22	1	10	0
1.0 %	20 %	22	1	18	1	9	0	8	0

The verification team has chosen an AQL (Acceptable Quality Level) of 1.0% and a UQL (Unacceptable Quality Level) of 10%, ensuring a producer risk of 10% and a consumer risk of 10%, based on the VVB's professional judgment in accordance with the guidelines outlined in para 30 of the Sampling and Surveys for CDM Project Activities and Programmes of Activities v09.0. It must be noted that higher acceptable quality level (AQL) i.e., 1% was chosen over 0.5% since this is the second monitoring period of the project activity. The level of failures or non-responsiveness based on the earlier monitoring period was zero on the identified samples by the PP. The relative margin of error obtained is also less than 10%. Based on this prior information available at the time of second monitoring period, the AQL was chosen at 1%. These priors provided the necessary inputs for the professional judgement.

To determine the sample size, the VVB selected 38 household samples (each household received 01 ICS) with one-acceptance number (c), utilizing a random number generator software from the monitoring survey provided by the client.

Verification team based on its professional judgement and observation during acceptance sampling, derived its assessment including conclusions as discussed later in the following section of this report. The verification team selected random samples from PP's sample list. The stoves details (unique serial number, date of installation, type of ICS, name of user and address) were checked and found to be consistent with that reported in the installation database. No inconsistency was observed for any of the 38 random household samples with respect to on-site visit in 05 states & remote audit performed across 04 states & document review. This assessment of the selected samples was done to ascertain the implementation status of the project activity w.r.t. the stove types, serial number, location, operation etc. of ICS.

Choice for the Hybrid Audit: This project activity, SD-VISTA 2942 – “Clean Cooking Cookstove for Rural India”, is located in several states including Bihar, Chhatisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Dadar & Nagar Haveli, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat & Rajasthan, Country: India. This is the 2nd periodic verification under SD-VISTA. PP has requested to plan for a Hybrid audit to which VVB decided to plan for remote audit in 04 states and onsite visit for 05 states in which cookstove distribution has been planned. The previous SD-VISTA verification for this project activity was performed by RINA Services S.p.A & conducted an onsite visit for the said project activity.

The decision to conduct a hybrid audit, with remote verification in four states and onsite visits in five states where cookstove distribution is ongoing, is a strategic approach that balances efficiency, risk assessment, and stakeholder engagement. This approach allows for a comprehensive and robust verification process while optimizing resources and ensuring the project's impact is thoroughly assessed.

The SD VISTA Standard v1.0, Section 5.2, emphasizes that assessment is a risk-based process. By prioritizing onsite visits in states with active cookstove distribution, the VVB can focus on areas with potentially higher risks and uncertainties, ensuring a more comprehensive assessment of the project's impact. This approach aligns with the risk-based assessment principle outlined in the standard. Furthermore, Section 2.2 highlights the importance of stakeholder engagement and mentions that stakeholders should receive timely information about the VVB's site visit before it occurs. The onsite visits in the five states can be seen as a way to enhance stakeholder engagement, ensuring their perspectives are adequately considered in the verification process.

While the SD VISTA standard does not explicitly mention hybrid audits, the flexibility offered in Section 5.1, which allows for alternative benefit verification approaches, can be used to justify this approach. The project proponent and the VVB can argue that the hybrid audit is more efficient by conducting remote audits in states with established project activities and equally robust by focusing on-site efforts in areas where the project is ongoing. This aligns with the standard's allowance for piloting alternative approaches that are efficient and robust.

Statistic basis of the approach:

The verification utilized a simple random sampling method to assess the distribution of cookstoves across 9 states in India, covering a total population of 571,460 units. This approach was chosen for its simplicity, lack of bias, and ability to provide a representative sample of the entire project area. A total of 38 samples were randomly selected from the entire population of 571,460 cookstoves, regardless of their state location. This random selection ensures that:

1. Every cookstove had an equal chance of being selected
2. The selection of one unit did not influence the selection of another
3. The sample is unbiased and representative of the whole population

Statistical Validity

While the sample size of 38 represents a small fraction of the total population (approximately 0.007%), random sampling still provides valuable insights:

1. It eliminates selection bias
2. It allows for statistical inferences about the entire population
3. The results can be considered representative, albeit with a larger margin of error than a larger sample would provide

On-Site and Remote Verification

The verification process included both on-site and remote assessments of the randomly selected samples. This mixed approach:

1. Balances the need for direct observation with the practicalities of verifying a large-scale project
2. Allows for cross-validation between on-site and remote data collection methods
3. Optimizes resource allocation in the verification process

Compliance with SD-VISta Requirements: This sampling methodology adheres to SD-VISta guidelines by:

1. Utilizing a recognized sampling approach (simple random sampling)
2. Incorporating independent VVB acceptance sampling
3. Combining on-site and remote verification methods

The adopted sampling methodology provides a statistically valid and operationally feasible approach to verifying the cookstove distribution across the project area. It ensures representation from all states, accounts for varying population sizes, and combines on-site and remote verification methods to provide a comprehensive assessment of the project's implementation and impacts.

1.7 Document Review

During the document review, VKU has applied standard auditing techniques to assess the quality of information provided. The verification was performed primarily based on the review of VCS monitoring report for “Clean Cooking – Cook stove for Rural India” version 01 of 25-June-2024, version 02 of 27-August-2024, Version 2.1 dated 23-September-2024 & version 3.0 dated 24-November-2024/1/. In addition, the registered SD-VISta Project Description version 04 dated 30-May-2024/06/ in particular the baseline estimations and the monitoring plan for the project was reviewed. The following **table-07** lists the documentation that was reviewed during the verification. As per section 3.5 (Assessment) clause 5.2.5 of the SD-VISta Standard version 1.0 it is an

obligation for the project proponent to make available to the assessment team the required supporting documents and data needed to support statements and data as documented in the monitoring report. Thus, the assessment team reviewed the following documents during verification:

Table 07: List of Documents

	Current Verification Reference Documents
/01/	EKI Energy Services Limited.: SD-VISta monitoring report for “Clean Cooking- Cook Stove for Rural India”, Version 01 of 25-June-2024 Version 02 of 27-August-2024 Version 2.1 dated 23-September-2024 Version 3.0 dated 24-November-2024
/02/	EKI Energy Services Limited.: VCS monitoring report for “Clean Cooking- Cook Stove for Rural India”,
/03/	SDG Parameter Calculation Spreadsheet Version 01 dated Version 01 of 25-June-2024
	Background Document/Weblinks
/04/	VCS: EKI Energy Services Limited: Registered VCS Joint Project Description & Monitoring Report for the project “Clean Cooking- Cook Stove for Rural India” version 05 dated 16-November-2023
/05/	VCS: LGAI Technological Center, S.A. (Applus+ Certification): Joint Validation & Verification Report for the project “Clean Cooking- Cook Stove for Rural India” version 1.2 dated 29-November-2023
/06/	SD-VISta: EKI Energy Services Limited: Registered SD_VISta Project Description for the project “Clean Cooking- Cook Stove for Rural India” version 04 dated 30-May-2024
/07/	SD-VISta: RINA Services S.p.A (RINA): Validation Report for the project “Clean Cooking- Cook Stove for Rural India” version 3.0 dated 30-May-2024
/07-A/	SD-VISta: EKI Energy Services Limited: Monitoring Report for the project “Clean Cooking- Cook Stove for Rural India” version 5.0 dated 30-May-2024
/07-B/	SD-VISta: RINA Services S.p.A (RINA): Verification Report for the project “Clean Cooking- Cook Stove for Rural India” version 3.0 dated 30-May-2024
/08/	SD-VISta (<u>Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard</u>) Version 1.0, Dated 22-January-2019
/08-A/	SD-VISta Program Guide Version 1.0, Dated 22-January-2019
/08-B/	SD-VISta Program Definitions Version 1.0, Dated 22-January-2019
/09/	SD-VISta: Monitoring report/Verification Report Template VCS Version 1.0
/10/	VCS: <u>VMR0006-Methodology for Installation of High Efficiency Firewood Cookstoves v1.1</u>
/11/	<u>Tool 30- Calculation of the fraction of non-renewable biomass Version 04.0</u>

/12/	<u>UNFCCC: Guidelines for Sampling and Surveys for CDM Project activities and Programme of Activities, Ver. 4.0</u>
/13/	<u>UNFCCC: Standard for Sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and programmes of activities, Version 09.0</u>
/14/	Public Comment Details_Email Confirmation.
	Reference/Supporting Documents Submitted by PP to VVB
/15/	EKI Energy Services Limited: Monitoring Survey conducted from (August, 2023 to October, 2023)
/16/	Project Database: VCS 2942
/17/	EKI Energy Services Limited; Sample Monitoring survey questionnaire forms for all 09 states
/18/	EKI Energy Services Limited; Photographs & Videos of the Monitoring Survey
/19/	Center for Energy Studies, IIT Delhi: Testing results of the solid biomass cookstove as per revised BIS protocols Certificate Reference Number: IITR/IRD/RP04288N/2022/01 Model No: Agneeka Eco Mini Model 4 SE Type of Fuel: Drywood Efficiency: 36.24 % PM _{2.5} (mg/MJd): 285.25 CO (g.MJd): 4.02
/20/	GHG Reduction Technologies Private Limited: Manufacturer's specification for Agneeka Eco-Mini Stove Model No 4SE Cookstove
/21/	Evidence of Assessors Onsite visit intimation to the stakeholders by Project Proponent as per clause 3.5.5 of SD-VISTA Program Guide version 1.0
/22/	EKI Energy Services Limited; Local Stakeholder Consultation Records Invitation for Local Stake holder meeting of the Project Activity titled "- Clean Cooking-Cook Stove for Rural India" • Photographs • Minutes of Minutes of the LSC • Attendance Sheet • Public Notice
/23/	Proof of right of VERs. Declaration/Undertaking from (Manufacturer & Distributor) for no ownership of carbon credit/double counting for current monitoring period, 01 October 2022 – 31 December 2023 (Inclusive of both dates)
/24/	Employment Declarations by distributors Sample Employment Agreements of the personnel employed
/25/	EKI Energy Services Limited: Feedback-and-Grievance-Register for current monitoring period from 01-October-2022 – 31-December-2023 (Inclusive of both dates) Toll Free number records

/26/	EKI Energy Services Limited: KML File depicting the project boundary of project implemented site i.e., Assam and Madhya Pradesh.
/27/	EKI Energy Services Limited; Sample copy of Carbon Credit Ownership Agreement as evidence for unique identification of ICS EKI Energy Services Limited; Sample copy of Carbon Credit Ownership Agreement as evidence for the start date of the grouped project
/28/	EKI Energy Services Limited & GHG Reduction Technologies PVT. LTD: Beneficiary ICS Card with serial number & Distribution Date.
/29/	Training Records; Subsequent Training - Bibsikha LLP Subsequent Training - Enviro Queen Pvt Ltd (Madhya Pradesh & Maharashtra) Subsequent Training - JPS Enterprises (Rajasthan) Subsequent Training – Pradnya (Gujarat & Dadar & Nagar Haveli) Subsequent Training – Wings India Foundation (Jharkhand) Subsequent Training – Quantum (Uttar Pradesh) Subsequent Training – Shree Ji Services Subsequent Training – Quick Edge • Beneficiary Awareness Training Records: • Attendance Sheet • Declarations from Implementors • Photographs
/30/	Report and Calculation spread sheet of f_{NRB} prepared by PP
VVB Documents used during Current Verification	
/31/	Notice of Validation/Verification Services Form- VKU.VER.01.24_VERRA_SD-V _2942
/32/	Screenshot of the random sample generator as evidence for random sample selection for the parameters opted for monitoring survey.
/33/	VKU-Sampling Plan Method and Guidance_ VKU.VER.01.24_VERRA_SD-V _2942
/34/	VKU-Risk Assessment_ VKU.VER.01.24_VERRA_SD-V _2942
/35/	VKU-Audit and Sampling Plan_ VKU.VER.01.24_VERRA_SD-V _2942
/36/	VKU-Attendance Sheet of Onsite audit_ VKU.VER.01.24_VERRA_SD-V _2942
/37/	(Hybrid Mode of Audit) Onsite visit from 26-July-2024 to 01-August-2024 and Remote audit on 02-August-2024 to 03-August-2024 in Country: India across 09 states.
/38/	Personnel Interviews and Focused Group Discussions during onsite visit from 26-July-2024 to 01-August-2024 and remote audit on 02-August-2024 to 03-August-2024
/39/	VKU-Appendix-1 of Field Assessment Checklist for Sample Selected by VVB for Energy Demand & Distribution Projects

/40/	Site visit Photographs/Evidences captured during onsite visit assessment team from 26-July-2024 to 01-August-2024 and remote audit on 02-August-2024 to 03-August-2024
/41/	<u>GPS Map Camera: Geotag Photos & Add GPS Location</u>
/42/	Contract between the VKU Certification Private Limited (VVB) and EKIESL (PP) for the SD Vista 2 nd Verification of the grouped project.
/43/	<u>ISO 14064-3:2019: Greenhouse gases – Part 3: Specification with guidance for the verification and validation of greenhouse gas statements</u>
/44/	<u>ISO 14065:2020: General principles and requirements for bodies validating and verifying environmental information</u>
/45/	<u>ISO/IEC 17029:2019: Conformity assessment – General principles and requirements for validation and verification bodies</u>

1.8 Interviews

A Hybrid (Remote audit + Onsite visit) inspection/37/ was performed by the assessment team. The representatives of the PP were interviewed personally by assessment team from 26-July-2024 to 01-August-2024 via onsite visit across 05 states (Gujarat, Dadar & Nagar Haveli, Rajasthan Jharkhand & Uttar Pradesh and 02-August-2024 to 03-August-2024 via remote audit in 04 states (Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Maharashtra & Madhya Pradesh); i.e., Tables 08, 09 & 10 provide a comprehensive overview of the onsite & remote audit interview process/38/ conducted during the SD-VISta verification. These tables outline the personnel involved in the interviews, along with their respective roles. The interviews specifically targeted individuals responsible for monitoring the project activity, data collection and management, as well as those involved in the quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) procedures & serve to identify the individuals interviewed and provide relevant information regarding their roles within the project. The key personnel interviewed during the opening meeting and closing meeting session of the onsite audit, are summarized in the below:

Table 08; Details of Personnel Interview/Focussed Group Discussion with Implementing Partner/Distributor and Project Team

S.No	Date	Name and Role	Interviewed By	State	Gender	Organization	Topic
1	26-July-2024 & 27-July-2024	Ravi Vishwakarma (Deputy Manager)	Niharika Kaushik	Gujarat/Dadar & Nagar Haveli	Male	EKI Energy Services Limited.	I. Project Overview and Verification Project Description: Explain the project's goals, activities, and target beneficiaries. Ownership: Outline the project's leadership and any partnerships involved. Double Counting: Explain how the project avoids claiming impact already attributed to other initiatives. II. Monitoring and Data Management Emission Reductions: Describe the methodology used to calculate emission reductions. Monitoring Plan: Explain the plan for collecting and verifying data on project activities.
2	26-July-2024 & 27-July-2024	Hemant Bhamre (Distributor)	Niharika Kaushik	Gujarat/Dadar & Nagar Haveli	Male	Pradanya	
3	26-July-2024 & 27-July-2024	Ghutiya Vivek Bhai (Field Officer)	Niharika Kaushik	Gujarat/Dadar & Nagar Haveli	Male	Pradanya	
4	26-July-2024 & 27-July-2024	Nilesh Hiramanbhai Jadav (Field Officer)	Niharika Kaushik	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	Male	Pradanya	
5	28-July-2024 & 29-July-2024	Amith Kumar (Manager)	Niharika Kaushik	Rajasthan	Male	EKI Energy Services Limited.	
6	28-July-2024 & 29-July-2024	Harish Kumar (Distributor)	Niharika Kaushik	Rajasthan	Male	J.P.S Enterprises	

7	28-July-2024 & 29-July-2024	Yogesh Kumar (Distributor)	Niharika Kaushik	Rajasthan	Male	J.P.S Enterprises	• Data Recording: Detail the methods for data collection, storage, and quality assurance. III. Implementation and Assessment • Sampling: Explain the method used to select a representative sample for verification. • Spot Audits: Describe the process of randomly checking project sites and data. • Field Staff Training: Discuss training for staff involved in implementation. • ICS Status: Assess the functionality, installation, and maintenance of the improved cookstoves. • Project Investment: Explain
8	28-July-2024 & 29-July-2024	Lokesh Sharma (Field Officer)	Niharika Kaushik	Rajasthan	Male	J.P.S Enterprises	
9	28-July-2024 & 29-July-2024	Pradeep (Field Officer)	Niharika Kaushik	Rajasthan	Male	J.P.S Enterprises	
10	30-July-2024	Falguni Rajput (Distributor)	Niharika Kaushik	Jharkhand	Male	Wings India Foundation	
11	31-July-2024 to 01-August-2024	Mohd Anzar (Field Officer)	Niharika Kaushik	Uttar Pradesh	Male	Quantam	
12	31-July-2024 to 01-August-2024	Syed Nayab (Distributor)	Niharika Kaushik	Uttar Pradesh	Male	Quantam	

13	02-August-2024	Anantrao Hindurao Patil	Niharika Kaushik & Kriti Das	Madhya Pradesh Maharashtra Chhatisgarh Bihar	Male	EKI Energy Services Limited.	funding sources and project budget. IV. Project Impact and Sustainability
14	03-August-2024	Praveen (Field Officer)	Niharika Kaushik & Kriti Das	Chhatisgarh	Male	Bibshikha (LLP)	• Implementation Progress: Highlight key milestones and achievements. • Cookstove Maintenance Training: Describe the training provided to beneficiaries.
15	03-August-2024	Rajesh (Field Officer)	Niharika Kaushik & Kriti Das	Maharashtra	Male	Enviro Queen Private Limited	• Spot-Checking Mechanism: Explain how the project ensures ongoing operational status. • Documentation: Review the project's documentation for accuracy and completeness.
16	02-August-2024 & 03-August-2024	Rishabh Kumar	Niharika Kaushik & Kriti Das	Madhya Pradesh Maharashtra Chhatisgarh Bihar	Male	EKI Energy Services Limited.	• Project Benefits: Discuss the social, environmental, and economic benefits.

17	02-August-2024	Mantu Kumar Gupta (Monitoring Surveyor/Field Agent)	Niharika Kaushik & Kriti Das	Bihar	Male	EKI Energy Services Limited.	V. Monitoring Survey - How was Survey conducted - What all points were taken into consideration while survey Competence of the Surveyor - Roles & Responsibility - Instruments & Questionnaires carried to project site
18	02-August-2024	Raju (Monitoring Surveyor/Field Agent)	Niharika Kaushik & Kriti Das	Madhya Pradesh	Male	EKI Energy Services Limited.	
19	03-August-2024	Shiva Kumar (Monitoring Surveyor/Field Agent)	Niharika Kaushik & Kriti Das	Maharashtra	Male	EKI Energy Services Limited.	

The topics covered during interview ranges from general features and implementation of project to technical details of the project like, distribution of cookstoves, annual follow-up visits to households, call over helpline number, process of Monitoring/sampling survey, internal audit and archiving procedures, grievance resolution process etc.

The assessment was based on the feedback received during onsite & remote audit /37/ while interviewing /38/ the site personnel-end users which is coupled with the documentation in VKU.F62W.Field Assessment Checklist for Sample Selected by VVB for Energy Demand & Distribution Projects/39/. During Hybrid audit/37/, Assessment team also interviewed the local stakeholders and end users involved in the projects to verify the implementation of grievance mechanism and process of grievance resolution mentioned in the Monitoring

Report/1/ (refer section 1.11, & 2.2 of MR/01/) submitted by the PP. The assessment team confirmed the sustainable development claims and assessed the socio-economic impact of the project on the local community. Assessment Team also checked the records and observed that the PP provided opportunities for the locals to express their opinions and grievances, with efforts to resolve any issues through consultation with stakeholders. Assessment team thus verified all the above statements via focused group discussions and personal interview/38/ with stakeholders and with end users as tabulated below. Each end-user household was installed with 01 stoves each:

Topic of Discussion that was conducted with the end-users included:

- Evaluation of the baseline scenario
- On-site Interview on the number of project devices operating during the year y
- Amount of woody biomass consumed by improved cookstoves
- Operational status of cookstoves disbursed
- **ICS Functionality Assessment:** Visual inspection of ICS units to assess functionality, installation, and maintenance. This included verifying that the ICS units met the project's design specifications and the relevant SD VISta criteria.
- **Beneficiary Interviews:** Interviews conducted with 38 remotely & (during physical visit) beneficiaries to understand their experiences with the ICS units, their level of satisfaction, and the project's impact on their lives. The focus of these interviews was to assess how the project contributes to the SD VISta's core principles of improving household well-being and promoting sustainable development.
- **Data Collection Verification:** The assessment team reviewed the project's data collection procedures, interviewed field staff, and examined records to verify the accuracy and completeness of the data. This included verifying that data collection methods aligned with the SD VISta standards and ensuring that data was being collected and recorded in a manner that could be independently verified.
- **Documentation Review:** The assessment team reviewed the monitoring report, project description, methodology, SD VISta Project Document, QA/QC procedures, and other supporting documents provided by the project proponent. This review ensured that the

documentation accurately reflected the project's activities and outcomes and that the project adequately addressed the requirements of the SD VISta framework.

- **Spot Checks:** Random spot checks were conducted at selected sites to assess the operational status of the ICS units, verify the implementation of the project's monitoring arrangements, and assess the project's overall compliance with the SD VISta standards. This included checking for any instances of double counting, ensuring that the project's impact was being properly measured and reported within the SD VISta framework.
- It is to note that below notified sampled beneficiaries were interviewed by Niharika Kaushik (Team Leader & Technical Area Expert) during the onsite visit & by Niharika & Kriti Das (Project Trainee) during the remote audit.

Table 09: Details of Personnel Interview/Focussed Group Discussion with end users/beneficiaries

S. No.	Date	Name of End-User	Village	District	State	Gender	Stove IDs of the End-Users
1.	26-July-2024	Gnangar Pariben Lachubhai	Nilosi	Valsad	Gujarat	Female	GHG-22/L1/0550906
2.	26-July-2024	Dhum Lakshmiben Kakadbhai	Kolvera	Valsad	Gujarat	Female	GHG-22/L1/0468535
3.	26-July-2024	Nikuliya Rahi Kashinath	Ambajungal	Valsad	Gujarat	Female	GHG-22/L2/0476843
4.	26-July-2024	Pavar Ushaben Vishanubhai	Barpuda	Valsad	Gujarat	Female	GHG-22D/0335080
5.	26-July-2024	Mishal Parvatiben Ambadashbhai	Hunda	Valsad	Gujarat	Female	GHG-22D/0336208
6.	27-July-2024	Ghahnak Niruben Maganbhai	Galonda	Dadra	Dadra And Nagar Haveli	Female	GHG-22/L1/0528426
7.	27-July-2024	Bhoya Dhavliben Lakhubhai	Bonta	Dadra	Dadra And Nagar Haveli	Female	GHG-22/L3/0501975
8.	27-July-2024	Lali Devi	Raysana	Karauli	Rajasthan	Female	GHG-22D/0166379
9.	27-July-2024	Ramavtar	Timawa	Karauli	Rajasthan	Female	GHG-22D/0164622

10.	27-July-2024	Shanti	Mahaveerji	Karauli	Rajasthan	Female	GHG-22D/0275294
11.	28-July-2024	Pushpendra Jogi	Hukmi Kheda	Karauli	Rajasthan	Female	GHG-22D/0321139
12.	28-July-2024	Shivsingh	Mandawra	Karauli	Rajasthan	Female	GHG-22D/0235620
13.	28-July-2024	Saurabh Kumar Jatav	Mahoo	Karauli	Rajasthan	Male	GHG-22D/0272621
14.	28-July-2024	Barji Devi	Bhooni	Nagaur	Rajasthan	Female	GHG-22D/0297463
15.	28-July-2024	Jagram	Meethri	Nagaur	Rajasthan	Female	GHG-22D/0327388
16.	28-July-2024	Balvir	Parewadi	Nagaur	Rajasthan	Female	GHG-22D/0296986
17.	30-July-2024	Chhotudi	Cholookhan	Nagaur	Rajasthan	Female	GHG-22/L1/0479190
18.	30-July-2024	Sajjan Singh	Chuwa	Nagaur	Rajasthan	Male	GHG-22/L1/0481023
19.	31-July-2024	Kaushalya Devi	Silma	Khunti	Jharkhand	Female	GHG-22D/0342936
20.	31-July-2024	Devaki Devi	Saroni	Hazaribagh	Jharkhand	Male	GHG-22/L2/0538303
21.	01-August-2024	Vepara Devi	Naseerpur	Ambedkar Nagar	Uttar Pradesh	Female	GHG-22/L2/0484783
22.	01-August-2024	Miradevi	Amola Bujurg	Ambedkar Nagar	Uttar Pradesh	Female	GHG-22D/0479888
23.	02-August-2024	Shaheebn Bano	Chakshivraha	Gonda	Uttar Pradesh	Male	GHG-22/L2/0460041
24.	02-August-2024	Sampati Devi	Chaubepur	Gonda	Uttar Pradesh	Male	GHG-22D/0408685
25.	02-August-2024	Fulki Devi	Dharamadih	Banka	Bihar	Female	GHG-22D/0368618

26.	02-August-2024	Chanchala Devi	Telwa Bazar	Jamui	Bihar	Female	GHG-22/L1/0463148
27.	02-August-2024	Julekha Bibi	Telwa	Jamui	Bihar	Female	GHG-22/L1/0463345
28.	02-August-2024	Usha Marandi	Mathura	Banka	Bihar	Male	GHG-22D/0319788
29.	02-August-2024	Mamta Devi	Telwabazar	Jamui	Bihar	Female	GHG-22D/0466493
30.	02-August-2024	Munna Kalu	Adabayda	Dhar	Madhya Pradesh	Female	GHG-22D/0247486
31.	02-August-2024	Genda Bai	Gurla	Ujjain	Madhya Pradesh	Male	GHG-22D/0324813
32.	03-August-2024	Magilal	Badiya	Dhar	Madhya Pradesh	Male	GHG-22D/0184947
33.	03-August-2024	Borse Ganu Bai	Nachlondhi	Nashik	Maharashtra	Female	GHG-22D/0086089
34.	03-August-2024	Hiteshwari Yadav	Murra Bhatti	Raipur	Chattisgarh	Male	GHG-22D/0191646
35.	03-August-2024	Rekha Thakur	Ramkund	Raipur	Chattisgarh	Male	GHG-22D/0151535
36.	03-August-2024	Bimlabai Sahu	Murra Bhatti	Raipur	Chattisgarh	Female	GHG-22D/0189160
37.	03-August-2024	Rinky Keshrwani	Gudiyari	Raipur	Chattisgarh	Male	GHG-22D/0192079
38.	03-August-2024	Shila	Gudiyari	Raipur	Chattisgarh	Female	GHG-22D/0213032

Table 10: Details of Local Villager/Stakeholders of volunteered for Personnel Interview/Focused Group Discussion during onsite visit.

S. no	Name	Interviewed By	State	Topic of Discussion
1.	Sarnayak Kalpeshbhai Tulsiramabhai	Niharika Kaushik	Gujarat	- Grievance Mechanism redressal - Annual follow-up visits to households - Spot check visit - Training about the usage of cookstove - Understanding about the baseline cookstove usage - Impact of using high efficiency ICS cookstove replacing Baseline stove - Firewood collection - Health issues faced in traditional cookstove - Usage of traditional cookstove
2.	Sarnayak Tulsiram Laxmanbhai	Niharika Kaushik	Gujarat	
3.	Nikuliya Dirajbhai Kiranbhai	Niharika Kaushik	Gujarat	
4.	Dalvi Sakuleen Dhirubhai	Niharika Kaushik	Gujarat	
5.	Sarnayak Savitaben Tulsiramabhai	Niharika Kaushik	Gujarat	
6.	Ambadas Mishal	Niharika Kaushik	Gujarat	
7.	Mishal Gulabbhai	Niharika Kaushik	Gujarat	
8.	Rishikesh	Niharika Kaushik	Rajasthan	
9.	Mishri Meena	Niharika Kaushik	Rajasthan	
10.	Rajeev	Niharika Kaushik	Rajasthan	
11.	Priyanka Mahawat	Niharika Kaushik	Rajasthan	
12.	Bhagvan Singh	Niharika Kaushik	Rajasthan	
13.	Budhiram	Niharika Kaushik	Uttar Pradesh	
14.	Mahmood alam	Niharika Kaushik	Uttar Pradesh	
15.	Sampati Devi	Niharika Kaushik	Uttar Pradesh	
16.	Bhanmati	Niharika Kaushik	Uttar Pradesh	
17.	Neelam	Niharika Kaushik	Uttar Pradesh	
18.	Suhana	Niharika Kaushik	Uttar Pradesh	
19.	Sitapati	Niharika Kaushik	Uttar Pradesh	

20.	Nirmala	Niharika Kaushik	Jharkhand	
21.	Draupadi Thakur	Niharika Kaushik & Kriti Das	Chhattisgarh	

The VKU Assessment Team meticulously documented the information obtained during the interview with site personnel /38/. This data was recorded using VKU's dedicated form, specifically VKU.F46W, known as the Attendance Sheet of Onsite Audit. Similarly, the interviews conducted with selected end-users were individually documented in VKU's specialized form called VKU.62W: Appendix-1 of Field Assessment Checklist for Sample Selected by VVB for Energy Demand & Distribution Projects/39/. Through a comprehensive process involving documentation, desk review, document verification, and interviews with site personnel and end-users of the distributed cookstoves, the VKU Assessment Team affirms that no negative comments were received during the on-site interviews conducted by the team. For further details, please refer to section Local Stakeholder Consultation Apart from the monitoring survey, VVB has also interviewed the end user and confirmed regarding the baseline cookstove used prior to the implementation of the project stove. Furthermore, through document review and end user agreement signed by the end-user.

1.9 Site Inspections

VKU audit team visited the households who has received the cookstoves for an onsite inspection from 26-July-2024 to 01-August-2024 & remote audit from 02-August-2024 to 03-August-2024.

On-Site Verification Activities: The on-site verification visit was a crucial component of the overall verification process, ensuring that the project's activities and impact claims align with the SD VISta methodology and guidelines for achieving sustainable development outcomes. The visit was conducted in accordance with the requirements outlined in Section 3.5 and 3.5.6 of the SD VISta Program Guide, encompassing a thorough review of the project's implementation and the validity of its impact claims. The on-site verification visit was a critical component of the overall verification process, providing the Validation and Verification Body (VVB) with a comprehensive understanding of the project's implementation and its alignment with the SD VISta standards and guidelines. The primary objectives of the visit were to:

1. **Gain a Deeper Understanding of the Project:** The on-site visit allowed the VVB to gain a first-hand understanding of the project's context, including the geographic location, the types of beneficiaries involved, and the specific activities being implemented. This provided a crucial context for assessing the project's impact and its contribution to sustainable development goals.
2. **Verify the Implementation of Project Activities:** The assessment team conducted a thorough review of the project's activities, ensuring they were being implemented as described in the project documentation and the monitoring plan. This included verifying the installation and functionality of the improved cookstoves (ICS), assessing the quality of training provided to beneficiaries, and evaluating the overall project management processes.

3. **Evaluate the Appropriateness of Causal Chains and Identified Impacts:** The VVB examined the project's claims regarding its impact, assessing the causal relationships between project activities and the reported outcomes. This included verifying that the impact assessments were conducted using appropriate methodologies and that the reported data was accurate and credible.
4. **Assess the Relevance of Stakeholder Groups:** The on-site visit provided an opportunity to engage with diverse stakeholders, including community members, project staff, and local authorities. This helped the VVB understand the project's impact on different stakeholder groups and assess the effectiveness of the project's stakeholder engagement mechanisms.
5. **Identify Potential Sources of Error:** The on-site visit helped identify potential sources of error and areas where the project's monitoring or data collection processes could be improved. This allowed the VVB to focus on these areas during the subsequent desk review process, ensuring the robustness and accuracy of the project's data and analysis.
6. **Examine Monitoring Efforts and Gather Feedback from Community Members:** The on-site visit provided an opportunity to observe the project's monitoring efforts firsthand, verifying data collection methods, reviewing monitoring records, and gathering feedback from beneficiaries about their experience with the project. This direct engagement helped assess the effectiveness of the monitoring plan and ensured that the project's data accurately reflected the realities on the ground.

Key Activities:

- **Verification of Claims:** The team conducted ground-truthing activities, visiting project sites and engaging directly with beneficiaries to verify the information provided in the project's documentation.
- **Review of Project Activities:** A thorough review of project activities was conducted, including observations of cookstove installations, discussions with project staff, and assessments of training programs.

Conclusion: The on-site verification visit played a crucial role in providing the VVB with a comprehensive understanding of the project's implementation, its alignment with the SD VISTA standards, and the validity of its impact claims. This on-site assessment, combined with the desk review process, contributed to the overall assurance of the project's contribution to achieving sustainable development goals.

Table 11: Audit plan was followed as below:

S.No.	State Visited	Date	Interviewer	Type of Audit
1.	Gujarat	26-July-2024	Niharika Kaushik	Onsite Audit
2.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	27-July-2024	Niharika Kaushik	Onsite Audit

3	Rajasthan	28-July-2024	Niharika Kaushik	Onsite Audit
4	Rajasthan	29-July-2024	Niharika Kaushik	Onsite Audit
5	Jharkhand	30-July-2024	Niharika Kaushik	Onsite Audit
6	Uttar Pradesh	31-July-2024	Niharika Kaushik	Onsite Audit
7	Uttar Pradesh	01-August-2024	Niharika Kaushik	Onsite Audit
8	Madhya Pradesh & Bihar	02-August-2024	Niharika Kaushik & Kriti Das	Remote Audit
9	Chhattisgarh & Maharashtra	03-August-2024	Niharika Kaushik & Kriti Das	Remote Audit

1.10 Public Comments

The public commenting period for the Project ID 2942, which spanned from 25-June-2024 to 25-July-2024 was concluded & no comments were received during Verification public comment period request.

1.11 Resolution of Findings

The objective of this phase of the verification is to resolve any outstanding issues which need to be clarified for VKU's positive conclusion on this 2nd SD-VISta verification. To guarantee transparency a verification protocol has been customized for the project. The protocol shows in a transparent manner the requirements, means of verification and the results from verifying the identified criteria. The verification protocol consists of three situations in tables; the different columns in these tables are described below.

A corrective action request (CAR) is raised if one of the following occurs:

- Non-conformities with the monitoring plan or methodology are found in monitoring and reporting, or if the evidence provided to prove conformity is insufficient;
- Mistakes have been made in applying assumptions, data or calculations of emission reductions that will impair the estimate of emission reductions;
- Issues identified in a FAR during previous assessment i.e., in validation or verification report to be cross verified during verification have not been resolved by the project participants.

A clarification request (CL) is raised if information is insufficient or not clear enough to determine whether the applicable SD-VISta requirements have been met. A forward action request (FAR) is also raised in cases where any required deviation/information is not fulfilled in current verification and thus needs to be taken up in consequent verification for better transparency thus holding the applicability of the methodology eligible to the project activity and there is no impact of the same on additionality, baseline scenario & emission reduction calculation of project. Keeping in line with the clause 3.5.8 of the SD-VISta Program Guide version 1.0, Assessment team has documented a summary of total **09 findings** that include, **00 FARs, 02 CLs and 07 CARs** were raised during this verification which were closed successfully and details are provided

under Appendix 01 of this report. This appendix 01 contains all the findings that are brought either during desk-review and Hybrid audit forward and shared with project participants during the verification. The section also covers the project participants' responses, if any and the verification team's evaluation subsequently for any open findings.

1.12 Forward Action Requests

No Forward Action Requests (FARs) has been identified as of the current assessment or in the desk-review of last SD-VISTA verification or parallel VCS Verification for the same verification period. .

2 VALIDATION FINDINGS

2.1 Project Description Deviations

During the current monitoring period, no discrepancies or deviations in the project description have been identified. This finding aligns with the absence of any deviations detected during the Validation & Verification process. To ensure accuracy and compliance, the assessment team cross-references the project webpage⁴ to verify the consistent and accurate portrayal of the project's description.

2.2 Grouped Projects

The grouped project was disseminating energy efficient stoves for cooking purposes. A total of 571,460 stoves of ICS disseminated in this period. The volume of ICS distributed in this period is as per the registered PD claim and therefore eligibility criteria for each new Project Activity Instance is confirmed below.

The number of new project activity instances added to the project in this verification period: Under this grouped project PP has considered each ICS as a project activity instance which is deemed acceptable as per SD-VISa Program Definitions and SD-VISa Standard. The eligibility criteria of the project activity instance was established at the group project validation in the registered Sd-VISa PD.

Quality and completeness of evidence, data and SDG documentation relating to the new project activity instances

No.	Criterion	How the new project activity instances to comply	How each new project activity instance meets the eligibility criteria	Verification Team Assessment
1	Meet the applicability conditions set out in the methodology applied to the project	New project activity instances (Energy-efficient Cook stoves) will meet the applicability conditions set out in Section 3.2 of the VCS PD where the target of the end-user is household and the ICS deployed is at	The project activity instances (Energy-efficient Cook stoves) implemented during the current monitoring period are meeting the applicability conditions set out in Section 3.2 of the VCS PD where the target of the end-user is	The project activity instances adhere to the VMR0006 methodology, as verified by the audit team. The design, model, and efficiency of the improved cookstoves distributed during this monitoring period are consistent with those

⁴ <https://registry.verra.org/app/projectDetail/SDVISTA/2942>

		least 25% of thermal efficiency.	household and the ICS deployed is having thermal efficiency of 36.42%.	from the previous period. The cookstoves used in households show an efficiency of 36.42%, confirmed by technical specifications and thermal efficiency tests. These tests were conducted by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi. The thermal efficiency report, dated July 9, 2022, was reviewed by the assessment team to ensure that the cookstoves have an efficiency greater than 25%.
2	Use the technologies or measures specified in the project description.	The technology used for the project activity is energy-efficient cook stoves. Only energy-efficient cook stoves are to be adopted in the project by replacing traditional cook stoves in households.	The technology used for the project activity instances under consideration for the current monitoring period is energy-efficient cook stoves, which are replacing the traditional cook stoves in households.	As, the design, model, and efficiency of the improved cookstoves distributed in the current monitoring period remain consistent with those from the previous period. The verification team reviewed the manufacturer's specifications and efficiency test certificates for the AGNEEKA ECO MONI STOVE MODEL and deemed them satisfactory.
3	Apply the technologies or measures in the same manner as	Only energy-efficient cook stoves are to be adopted in the project by replacing traditional cook stoves in households.	Only energy-efficient cook stoves have been adopted in the project during the current monitoring period by	The stoves distributed during the current monitoring period are the same make and model as those

	specified in the project description.		replacing traditional cook stoves in the household.	distributed previously. The verification team thoroughly reviewed the manufacturer's specifications for the AGNEEKA ECO MINI STOVE MODEL and confirmed their consistency and accuracy with past distributions.
4	Are subject to the baseline scenario determined in the project description for the specified project activity and geographic area.	The new project activity instances will be installed within India subject to the same baseline scenario determined in Section 3.4 of the VCS PD as "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 the project cook stoves in absence of the project activity."	In the current monitoring period, the project activity instances which have been installed within India are having same baseline scenario determined in Section 3.4 of the VCS PD as "continued use of non-renewable wood fuel by the target population to meet similar thermal energy needs as provided by the project cook stoves in absence of the project activity."	The outlined that all activities would be within India, as detailed in the registered VCS joint PD-MR. The new activities are located in six previously included states—Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Bihar—and three new states: Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli (UT), all within the project's defined geographical scope. For the six original states, the baseline scenario, described in the registered VCS joint PD-MR, involves using traditional stoves with non-renewable firewood. This was confirmed by the verification team through the VCS joint PD-MR and the joint

				validation-verification report. For Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli (UT), the baseline assessment, detailed in appendix-6 of the verification report, aligns with that of the six initial states, involving traditional cookstoves and firewood. The VVB conducted onsite visits in these states to confirm cooking patterns, witness improved and traditional cookstoves, and interview local stakeholders and beneficiaries, leading to these conclusions.
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5	Have characteristics with respect to additionality that are consistent with the initial instances for the specified project activity and geographic area.	All new project activity instances will use the activity method for demonstration of additionality. Step 1: Regulatory Surplus There is no mandated government programme or policy in the host country of this project ensuring the distribution of new energy-efficient cook stoves for each project activity instance. Step 2: Positive List The inclusion of new project activity instances will comply with the positive list as it satisfies criterion 1 where it meets all the applicability conditions of the methodology.	All new project activity instances use the activity method for demonstration of additionality. Step 1: Regulatory Surplus There is no mandated government programme or policy in the host country of this project ensuring the distribution of new energy-efficient cook stoves for each project activity instance. Step 2: Positive List The inclusion of new project activity instances will comply with the positive list as it satisfies criterion 1 where it meets all the applicability conditions of the methodology.	The verification team reviewed the sample sales invoices, end-user agreements & further conducted interviews with end-users/beneficiaries. Further based on its sectoral expertise confirms that baseline scenario is the continued use of non-renewable wood fuel (firewood) by the target population to meet similar thermal energy needs as provided by project cookstoves in absence of project activity. This is uniformly applicable for each project technology and geographic area, as identified in VCS-PD & SD-VISTA PD, this is applicable to the corresponding new project activity instances under the specific technology. In addition, the verification team further confirms that each new project activity instance included within the grouped project follows the additionality as mentioned in VCS & SD-VISTA PD For Regulatory Surplus: VVB verified the various government websites of
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				India to ascertain whether any regulatory mechanism or statutory requirement are present in the country towards use of cookstoves. It was concluded that Indian government had no such requirements towards usage of cookstoves by socially and economically backward sections of society and assessment team also confirms that the implementation of this project does not contribute to achieving any nationally stated sustainable development priorities, thus fulfilling first requirement.
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				The added project activities in the current monitoring period demonstrate additionality using the activity method and comply with the positive list by fulfilling criterion 1, meeting all the methodology's applicability conditions. It was confirmed through household interviews, as detailed in section 2.3, that the cookstoves are distributed to households at no cost. Regarding the arrangement between the PP and the end users, the end user agreement between the beneficiaries and the PP was checked. It was found that no commercial contract was solemnized in the agreement and it was mentioned that rights of sale of carbon credit will be with the PP while the end users receive the cookstove free of charge, and PP has no other source of revenue other than the sale of GHG credits, for which PP has submitted a declaration to the VVB for cross-confirmation.
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				Thus, it has been demonstrated that for each project activity instance included in grouped project - Baseline scenario exists (corresponding to the project technology) for the entire geographical area - the requirements of additionality are being complied with for the entirety of geographic area (The Republic of India) within which they are installed. It can be further confirmed from the registered VCS & SD-VISTA PD and VCS & SD-VISTA Validation reports.
6	Where a capacity limit applies to a project activity included in the project, no project activity instance shall exceed such limit. Further, no single cluster of the project activity instances shall exceed the capacity limit, determined as follows: Each project activity instance that exceeds one percent of the	No project activity instance shall exceed the applicable limit, which is 180 GWh_{th}/y. Since the project activity instances have the same model, hence expected annual energy saving for each instance is 0.0160 GWh_{th}/y which is 0.02% of the threshold limit. As the annual energy saving is below 1% of the limit, therefore no project activity instance is	No project activity instance exceeded the applicable limit, which is 180 GWh_{th}/y. Since the project activity instances have the same model, hence annual energy saving for each instance is 0.0134 GWh_{th}/y which is 0.008% of the threshold limit. As the annual energy saving is below 1% of the limit, therefore no	The annual energy savings for the improved cookstoves are below the 180 GWh_{th}/y threshold. Energy savings for each new project activity instance were verified using the VCS ER calculation sheet. Each instance remains within the thermal energy savings capacity limit of 180 GWh_{th}/y, without exceeding it. Since the instances are treated separately, the cluster guideline does not apply, and their inclusion

capacity limit shall be identified. Such instances shall be divided into clusters, whereby each cluster is comprised of any system of instances such that each instance is within one kilometer of at least one other instance in the cluster. Instances that are not within one kilometer of any other instance shall not be assigned to clusters. None of the clusters shall exceed the capacity limit and no further project activity instances shall be added to the project that would cause any of the clusters to exceed the capacity limit.	identified and divided into clusters.	project activity instance is identified and divided into clusters.	follows this same principle.
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This assessment team has reviewed the evidence collected by the PI for each the PAI included in the verification and recorded the following:

- Monitoring and Operational status of the PAI
- Implementation and data collection
- Flow of information; generating , aggregating and reporting of the monitoring parameters

VVB has used sampling during the verification of the operational status and the SDG claims by the PP in the households.

From the PP's sampling survey sheet assessment team by acceptance sampling has opted for **AQL of 01% and UQL of 10%; producer risk of 10% and consumer risk of 10%** as per VVBs professional judgement (based on the experience for the similar kind of other verification projects in same Technical area 3.1/(04 for SD-VISta) thus keeping in-line with the para 30 and para 31 of Sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and programme of activities version 09.0/16/ in determining the VVB's selected sample size of **38 with acceptance number (c) as 1**. Random samples from the sampling survey done by project participants were randomly selected as per the sampling standard version 09 & sampling guidelines version 4.0. VVB has physically witnessed all 38 random samples (Each household as 01 Improved cookstove) and confirms that all the stoves were in operation as per the PP's data.

Start date of all the activity instances are assessed to be after the start date of the grouped project activity i.e. 16-June-2022. The ICS database maintained by the project proponent and the emission reduction calculation sheet are verified by the verification team to confirm the same.

The last ICS installed during this monitoring period was on 07-January-2023. This has been verified by the verification team.

3 VERIFICATION FINDINGS

3.1 Summary of SDG Contributions

This project has made significant contributions to achieving several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), demonstrating a positive impact on the well-being of communities and the environment in India. The project's focus on providing access to clean cooking technology, through the distribution of 571,460 improved cookstoves, has been instrumental in achieving these positive outcomes. Based on the comprehensive on-site verification, the VVB concludes that the project has demonstrably achieved these SDG targets.

S. No	Goal	SDG Target	SDG Indicator	Contribution during the verification period
1.	Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere	1.4	Project specific indicator: No. of households receiving the improved cook stoves as an access to clean fuels and technology.	The project contributed by providing access to basic services through clean cooking technology, which is essential under modern energy access. During the current monitoring period from October 1, 2022, to December 31, 2023, a total of 337,346 households received improved cook stoves. Lifetime contributions amounting to 571,460 (1 st MP = 234,114 + 2 nd MP = 337,346) households have enhanced access to clean cooking technology for the impoverished and vulnerable communities across India, reducing reliance on traditional cooking methods.
2.	Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote	3.9	Project-specific indicator: Percentage of end user households reporting a reduction in smoke while	The project has notably improved health outcomes by enhancing indoor air quality in

	well-being for all at all ages		cooking which indicates improved health of end users.	beneficiary households. Monitoring survey results indicated that 100% of respondents experienced better air quality and reported reductions in eye problems and respiratory illnesses. This improvement during the current monitoring period signifies overall health enhancements, with a lifetime achievement in which clean cook stoves have consistently reduced harmful particulate matter emissions, contributing to improved health and well-being for all age groups.
3.	Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	4.3	Project-specific indicator: Number of individuals who received any informal training to enable their employment in project activity or elsewhere.	The project is committed to vocational skill development, offering training relevant to climate change. In the current monitoring period, 37 individuals (30 Male + 07 Female) received this training, bringing the total trained individuals to 259 (222 (Last MP contribution) +37 (this 2 nd) over the project's lifetime. This effort not only promotes inclusive and equitable quality education but also equips individuals with vital skills for employment both within the project domain

				and in broader job markets.
4.	Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	5.4	Project-specific indicator: Percentage of end users reporting reduction in their time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age, and locations	By significantly reducing the time spent on wood collection, the project has positively impacted gender equality. In the current monitoring period, 100% of surveyed beneficiaries reported fewer trips for wood collection, allowing them to allocate this time to other productive activities. Over the project's lifespan, this initiative has consistently empowered women and girls, thereby alleviating the burdens associated with traditional cooking practices and contributing to gender equality and empowerment.
5.	Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	7.1	7.1.2 Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology	The VVB confirms that the project successfully distributed 337,346 Improved Cookstoves (ICS) to households during the current monitoring period, effectively transitioning these households from traditional stoves to cleaner and more efficient cooking technologies. This transition is evidenced by end-user agreements, field surveys, and sampling, which confirm

				that 100% of the households that were surveyed during the current monitoring survey are actively using the ICS. Reliable lab test results shared by PP has substantiate that the ICS significantly reduce PM 2.5 and CO emissions, demonstrating their effectiveness compared to baseline stove technologies. Till the current monitoring period the project has concentrated on distributing 571,460 improved cook stoves to promote clean cooking technology. These stoves replace traditional cooking methods, leading to significant reductions in PM 2.5 and CO emissions. Throughout its lifetime, the project has ensured that approximately 0.5 million (571,460) households benefit from modern, reliable, and sustainable cooking solutions, reinforcing access to affordable and sustainable energy.
6.	Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic	8.5	Project-specific indicator: Number jobs created.	The project has contributed to the generation of employment in the 250 employees with a male:

	growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all			female ratio of 202:48 for manufacturing the ICSs and 105 employees with a male: female ratio of 79:26 by contracting locals for distribution and monitoring during this monitoring period. Till this monitoring period, the project has generated substantial employment opportunities, contributing to sustained economic growth. Currently, employment has been created for 992 individuals (637+355) in manufacturing and local contracting for distribution and monitoring. The project aims to provide targeted employment for 1,500 individuals over its lifetime, ensuring equitable access to work and focusing on increasing job opportunities for women.
7.	Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	11..1	Project-specific indicator: Percentage of end users reporting a decrease in fire incident compared to the baseline cook stoves.	Safety in households has improved due to the project, as 100% of surveyed respondents reported having no fire incidents after adopting the improved cook stoves. This significant outcome supports the goal of creating inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable

				cities. Across the project's lifespan, the distribution of these clean cooking solutions has reliably promoted fire safety and healthier cooking environments, thus ensuring the well-being of community members.
8.	Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	12.2	Project-specific indicator: Tons of renewable woody biomass (firewood) saved.	The project has played a vital role in promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns by reducing the removal of 266,134 tons of renewable woody biomass during the current monitoring period. The project has contributed to a reduction in the removal of 280,852 (14,718+266,134) tons of renewable woody biomass (firewood) till end of this monitoring period for this project activity. Over its lifetime, it will contribute to an estimated reduction of ~1.4 million tons of woody biomass removal, effectively preventing deforestation and supporting the natural regeneration of forests while ensuring responsible biomass use.
9.	Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate	13.0	13.0 Tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions avoided	Through the comprehensive replacement of traditional

	change and its impacts[b]			stoves with improved cook stoves, the project has achieved a notable reduction of 4,098,765 tons of CO₂e in greenhouse gas emissions during the current monitoring period. Cumulatively, by the end of this monitoring period, total GHG emission reduction was 4,247,311 tons (148,546 + 4,098,765), demonstrating significant action toward combating climate change and its impacts.
10.	Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	15.2	Project-specific indicator: Tons of non-renewable woody biomass (firewood) saved.	The project has contributed to the reduction of 2,000,794 tons of non-renewable woody biomass removal during the current monitoring period. By the end of the project's lifespan, a cumulative total of 2,073,306 tons (72,512 + 2,000,794) of non-renewable woody biomass is expected to be saved, aiding in the protection, restoration, and sustainable management of terrestrial ecosystems, combating desertification, and ensuring biodiversity conservation.

The VVB's on-site verification has confirmed that this project is successfully achieving these SDGs and making a positive contribution to sustainable development in India.

Row number	Quantitative Contributions during Monitoring Period	Project during Contributions during Project Lifetime	SDG Target	SDG Indicator	Claim, Asset or Label	Assessment Team Conclusion
1)	In the baseline scenario for this project was traditional cookstove, and the beneficiaries didn't have clean cooking access. This project contributed by providing access to basic services (clean cooking technology considered as basic service under access to modern energy) to the poor and vulnerable communities of India. Due to the project activity 571,460 numbers of beneficiaries were able to use clean cook stoves during the current monitoring period i.e. 01 October 2022 - 31	Due to the project 571,460 (234,114+337,346) numbers of households continue to access to the clean cook stoves during the project lifetime (i.e. from project start to end of current monitoring period). Thus, the project has provided the impoverished and vulnerable communities of India access to basic services which is clean cooking technology, a fundamental service under access to modern energy.	1.4 ⁵	Project specific indicator: No. of households receiving the improved cook stoves as an access to clean fuels and technology.	SD VISta labeled VCUs	The project's success in providing access to clean cooking technology for 571,460 (234,114+337,346) households till current monitoring period, as evidenced by the distribution of improved cookstoves. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. This conclusion is further supported by the VVB's on-site verification, which involved direct observation of project activities and interviews with beneficiaries and local stakeholders. The VVB observed the positive impact of the project firsthand, confirming that the project effectively addresses a critical need in impoverished communities where traditional cooking methods

⁵ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/>

	December 2023. (Inclusive of first and last date)				posed significant health and environmental challenges. The project's impact, extending beyond the current monitoring period to ensure continued access to clean cooking for these households, underscores its commitment to long-term sustainability and aligns perfectly with the SD VISTA framework's focus on sustainable development. The VVB concludes that this project has demonstrably achieved a positive and lasting impact on the targeted communities in India, making a significant contribution towards ensuring access to clean and modern energy for all. This assessment is based on a thorough review of the SD VISTA Monitoring Report (MR), the VCS MR, the SDG calculation spreadsheet, the Project Database, the Monitoring Survey, the End-User agreements, and interviews with representatives of the Project Proponent (PP) and end-users (recipients of the ICS). Based on this comprehensive
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						review, the assessment team confirms that the information provided in the SD VISTA MR substantiates the issuance of SD VISTA-labeled VCUs.
2)	The project monitoring survey results shown that 100% of the sampled respondents reported to have experienced comparatively good indoor air quality with multiple positive outcomes e.g. Reduce eye problems and other respiratory illness (as reported by the beneficiaries during the survey), thus improving overall health and reducing the burdens of disease. Thus, the project has achieved SDG Goal 3: Ensure Healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.	The project activity in its lifetime (i.e. from project start to end of current monitoring period) has contributed to improved health and well-being brought about by reduction in particulate matter emitted during cooking within the user households which has been reported by 100% of the end user households during the monitoring survey. Thus, the project has achieved SDG Goal 3: Ensure Healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.	3.9 ⁶	Project-specific indicator: Percentage of end user households reporting a reduction in smoke while cooking which indicates improved health of end users.	SD VISTA labeled VCUs	The project demonstrably contributes to achieving SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being through a significant reduction in indoor air pollution, as evidenced by the 100% reduction in reported eye problems and respiratory illnesses related to cooking, as reported by the beneficiaries. The VVB, during the on-site verification, confirmed this positive impact by engaging with beneficiaries and reviewing the project's monitoring data. The project's success in reducing indoor air pollution and improving the health of beneficiaries aligns with the SD VISTA framework's commitment to sustainable development and promoting well-being. The VVB acknowledges that the project has successfully achieved this SDG target. The

⁶ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/>

						project's methodology and results also support the issuance of SD VISta-labeled VCUs, as confirmed by the VVB based on its review of the SD VISta MR, SDG calculation spreadsheet, interviews with representatives of the project proponents and end-users, and a thorough analysis of the project's monitoring data.
3)	Contributed to increasing the vocational and relevant skills of 37 (30 Male + 07 female) individuals by providing non-formal education and training on issues related to climate change, with specific skill building in operations and surveying activities related to stove distribution and it's monitoring under VCS for the current monitoring period. Thus, the project has achieved SDG Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education	The project, in its lifetime (i.e. from project start to end of current monitoring period), through its vocational and relevant skills development program has trained total 259 (222+37) individuals. Thus, the project has achieved SDG Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.	4.3 ⁷	Project-specific indicator: Number of individuals who received any informal training to enable their employment in project activity or elsewhere.	SD VISta labeled VCUs	The project demonstrates a significant contribution to achieving SDG 4 by providing vocational and relevant skills training to individuals. The project's focus on training individuals in climate change-related topics and stove distribution monitoring, equipping them with skills that are directly applicable to the project's activities and the broader clean energy sector, demonstrates a commitment to fostering knowledge and skills development. The VVB, based on the on-site verification and review of the

⁷ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/>

	and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.					project's training program, confirms the project's positive impact on increasing individuals' skills and knowledge. This contribution to human capital development, particularly focusing on climate change issues and clean energy practices, aligns with the SD VISTA framework's commitment to sustainable development and inclusive growth. The project has successfully trained 259 individuals, enabling them to contribute to the project's continued success and potentially create employment opportunities within the sector. Key Points: • Data Verification: The project provides robust data to support its claims, including training records. • Relevance to Project: The training provided is directly relevant to the project's activities and the broader clean energy sector.
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						• Sustainability: The project's approach to training demonstrates a long-term commitment to sustainable development and the empowerment of individuals. The VVB's assessment acknowledges the project's positive impact on SDG 4 and its commitment to sustainable development. The training program aligns with the SD VISTA framework's focus on promoting knowledge, skills, and employment opportunities, contributing to a more inclusive and equitable society.
4)	The project monitoring survey results augment 100% of the sampled respondents reported to having experienced fewer trips for wood collection in comparison to the baseline, freeing up their time for other activities. Therefore, the project has successfully achieved SDG Goal 5: Gender Equality	The project has led to time savings and reduced drudgery in 100% households during the project lifetime (i.e. from project start to end of current monitoring period). The women can use the time saved for doing more productive activities or personal care.	5.4	Project-specific indicator: Percentage of end users reporting reduction in their time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age, and location.	SD VISTA labeled VCUs	The assessment team concludes that the project has successfully achieved SDG Goal 5. Survey results indicate that 100% of respondents experienced fewer trips for wood collection, leading to significant time savings for women. Throughout the project's lifetime, this benefit has allowed women to focus on more productive activities and personal care.

	and empowerment of all women and girls.	Thus, the project will achieve SDG Goal 5: Achieve Gender Equality and empower all women and girls.				The monitoring survey sheet and VVB onsite visit and interview with beneficiaries supports the project's effectiveness in reducing the burdens of unpaid domestic work, contributing to women's empowerment in the community.
5)	The project has distributed Improved Cookstoves (ICS) to 337,346 households in the current monitoring period. These clean cooking technologies are designed to significantly reduce PM 2.5 and CO emissions compared to baseline stove technologies, as confirmed by reliable lab test results. The proportion of the population with primary reliance on clean technology reflects the shift from traditional cooking methods to ICS as a result of the project's implementation. Baseline Scenario: Initially, none of the 337,346	Over its lifetime, the project will contribute to increasing access to clean cooking technology by installing Improved Cookstoves (ICS) in approximately 0.5 million Indian households that currently rely on traditional cookstove fires. In doing so, the project will support the achievement of SDG Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all. In its lifetime, the project will contribute to increasing access to clean cooking technology with Improved Cook stove (ICS)	7.1	7.1.2 Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology	SD VISTA labeled VCUs	The project's significant contribution to achieving SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all is evident through its successful distribution of 571,460 improved cookstoves (ICS) and its commitment to reducing PM_{2.5} and CO emissions. The VVB, through on-site verification and review of project documentation, confirms the project's impact and its alignment with the SD VISTA framework. The project's focus on replacing three-stone or conventional stove without any grating or chimney, polluting cookstoves with clean and efficient ICS units demonstrates a commitment to improving the quality of life for a large number of beneficiaries and promoting sustainable

households were using improved cookstoves. This is evident from the end-user agreement signed between the PP and beneficiary. After Project Implementation: Following the distribution of 337,346 ICS, a sampling survey confirmed that 100% of the households have transitioned to using improved cookstoves, replacing their traditional stoves. The proportion is calculated as “Fraction of the households actually using ICS = (Total number of households actually using the ICS / Total number of households sampled), which equals one (1). Thus, the project has contributed to increasing access to clean cooking technology, with a	installations in approx. 0.5 million Indian households that have been using traditional three-stone fire or conventional stove without any grating or chimney. Thus, the project will achieve SDG Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.				development. The project's success in providing access to clean cooking technology, coupled with its long-term goal of reaching approximately 0.5 million Indian households, underscores its positive impact on achieving this crucial SDG.
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proportion of one (1) ICS installation per household, covering 337,346 Indian households that previously relied on traditional fires during the current monitoring period. In conclusion, the project has successfully contributed to achieving SDG Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all. The project focuses on distributing 571,460 ICS to households, which are clean cooking technologies. Its primary goal is to significantly reduce PM 2.5 and CO emissions compared to the baseline stove technology, as confirmed by reliable lab test reports. Thus, the project contributed to increasing access to clean cooking technology with Improved Cook stove (ICS)					
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	installations in 571,460 Indian households that have been using traditional cookstove in the current monitoring period. Thus, the project has achieved SDG Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.					
6)	The project has contributed to the generation of employment in the 250 employees with a male: female ratio of 202:48 for manufacturing the ICSs and 105 employees with a male: female ratio of 79:26 by contracting locals for distribution and monitoring. Since the project led to the generation of employment opportunities, it has achieved SDG Goal 8: Promote Sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and	The project will contribute to the generation of employment in the informal sector by contracting locals with targeted employment of 1500 employees for varying lengths of time over the project's lifetime with a focus on hiring females. The project has contributed to 992 (637+355) individuals for generation of employment till end of this monitoring period for this project activity.	8.5	Project-specific indicator: Number jobs created.	SD VISTA labeled VCUs	The project demonstrably contributes to achieving SDG 8 by generating employment opportunities, particularly within the informal sector, and promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth. The project's focus on contracting local individuals for manufacturing, distribution, and monitoring of the improved cookstoves (ICS) directly contributes to job creation within the targeted communities. Based on the on-site verification, review of the project's monitoring data, discussions with project stakeholders, including declarations/employment

	productive employment, and Decent Work for all.	Since the project leads to the generation of employment opportunities, it achieves SDG Goal 8: Promote Sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and Decent Work for all.				agreements from distributors across 9 states regarding the total number of male and female employees, and interviews with field officers, the VVB confirms that the project has achieved this SDG target. The project's approach to employment, which emphasizes the use of local labor and includes a targeted focus on employing females, aligns with the principles of inclusive and sustainable economic growth. The project's commitment to generating employment opportunities, particularly within the informal sector, demonstrates its contribution to promoting decent work and sustainable livelihoods for the communities involved. Key Points: • Data-Verification: Declarations/ Employment Agreements from distributors across 9 states regarding the total number of male and female employees provide a reliable source of data to support the
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						project's claims about employment generation. Field Officer Interviews: Interviews with field officers during the on-site and remote audits provided insights into the nature of their jobs, the training they received, and its impact on their work. Focused Group Discussions: Focused group discussions with distributors across 9 states and their teams during the on-site visit provided further information about the project's employment practices and their impact on the local workforce. Project Impact: The project's success in generating employment opportunities directly benefits the local communities and contributes to their economic development. Sustainability: The project's commitment to employing local workers, particularly
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						women, suggests a long-term commitment to promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth. • Alignment with SD VISta: The project's focus on creating decent work opportunities and promoting economic growth aligns with the SD VISta framework's commitment to sustainable development and poverty reduction. The VVB acknowledges the project's positive contribution to SDG 8. The project's successful implementation of an employment generation strategy, particularly within the informal sector, demonstrates its commitment to inclusive and sustainable economic growth, contributing to a more equitable and prosperous society.
7)	The project monitoring survey results augment the above claim as 100% of the sampled respondents reported to having no fire	By the end of the project's lifespan, approximately 0.5 million clean cook stoves will be distributed. Thus, the project, in its	11.1	Project-specific indicator: Percentage of end users reporting a decrease in fire	SD VISta labeled VCUs	The project demonstrably contributes to achieving SDG 11 by promoting safer and healthier households within the project communities. The project's focus

	incidents after adopting the project stoves. Since the project ensures a safe household to the beneficiaries, it has achieved SDG Goal 11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.	lifetime will provide safer and healthier household to 0.5 million individual and thus, will achieve SDG Goal 11: A safer and healthier cooking environment is promoted by regular monitoring that shows a considerable decrease in fire incident compared to the baseline cook stoves.		incident compared to the baseline cook stoves.		on replacing traditional open-fire cooking methods, which are inherently more prone to fire incidents, with improved cookstoves (ICS), featuring closed systems, significantly reduces the risk of fire incidents and enhances the safety of beneficiaries' homes. Based on the on-site verification, including interviews with end-users during on-site and remote audits, and a review of the project's monitoring data, the VVB confirms that the project has achieved this SDG target. The project's monitoring survey results indicate a 100% reduction in fire incidents among beneficiaries who have adopted the improved cookstoves, highlighting the significant impact on household safety. This demonstrates the project's positive contribution to creating safer and more resilient homes within the project communities, directly addressing SDG 11's goal of making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
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						Key Points: • Data Verification: The project provides robust data to support its claims, including the monitoring survey results showing a 100% reduction in fire incidents. • Stakeholder Engagement: The VVB's on-site verification and interviews with end-users confirmed the project's positive impact on household safety and the reduction of fire incidents. • Project Impact: The project's success in reducing fire incidents has a direct impact on improving the safety and well-being of beneficiaries. The transition from open-fire cooking to closed systems has demonstrably reduced the risk of fire hazards within homes. • Sustainability: The project's commitment to promoting safer cooking practices contributes to the long-term sustainability of the project
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						and the well-being of the beneficiaries. • Alignment with SD VISTa: The project's focus on improving household safety aligns with the SD VISTa framework's commitment to sustainable development and promoting healthy and resilient communities. The VVB acknowledges the project's positive contribution to SDG 11. The project's successful implementation of a safer cooking solution demonstrates its commitment to creating sustainable and resilient communities.
8)	The project has reduced the removal of 266,134 tons of renewable woody biomass from forests, which helps prevent deforestation, supports the natural regeneration of forests, and promotes the efficient use of resources. This reduction aligns with sustainable consumption	The project will contribute an estimated reduction in the removal of woody biomass (firewood) to the tune of ~1.4 million tons during the first crediting period, from the forests surrounding the communities thereby contributing towards sustainable consumption	12.2	Project-specific indicator: Tons of renewable woody biomass (firewood) saved.	SD VISTa VCUs	During the on-site visit and interviews with end-users, the assessment team gathered detailed information on fuelwood consumption and sources. Beneficiaries were asked about their daily fuelwood usage for cooking all three meals, the type of wood they use, and the location from which they collect it which can be checked through the

	and production patterns by ensuring that biomass is used responsibly, allowing it to remain a renewable resource and contributing to the achievement of SDG Goal 12.	and production of renewable woody biomass in the project area. The project has contributed to a reduction in the removal of 280,852 (14,718+266,134) tons of renewable woody biomass (firewood) till end of this monitoring period for this project activity. Thus, the project has achieved SDG Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.				monitoring survey submitted by team. The team also observed the amount of wood available at beneficiaries' homes and the size of their woodpiles, as well as assessing the size of the improved cookstoves and the volume of ash collected. Focus group discussions with end-users provided further insights, allowing beneficiaries to compare their fuelwood consumption before and after adopting the improved cookstoves and to discuss any challenges they faced with collecting fuelwood and any concerns about deforestation. This thorough data collection, encompassing interviews, observations, and group discussions, provided valuable information for verifying the project's claims and assessing its impact on fuelwood consumption through wood weigh details in an excel sheet, resource use, and deforestation. The project demonstrates a significant contribution to
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						achieving SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns by promoting the responsible use of renewable woody biomass (firewood) and reducing the pressure on forests. The project's focus on replacing traditional or conventional stove without any grating or chimney cookstoves, which rely heavily on firewood, with improved cookstoves that are more fuel-efficient has directly resulted in a substantial reduction in the removal of woody biomass from forests. Based on the on-site verification, review of project documentation, including the SD VISTA/VCS Monitoring Report (MR), the previous Verra approved (FVR), the SDG calculation spreadsheet, the Monitoring Survey, and the Forest and Non-Renewable Biomass (FNRB) sheet, the VVB confirms that the project has achieved this SDG target. The project has achieved a reduction of 266,134 tons of renewable woody biomass, contributing to a
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						positive impact on the sustainable management of forest resources. This achievement aligns with the SD VISTA framework's commitment to promoting sustainable development and responsible resource management. Key Points: • Data Verification: The project provides robust data to support its claims, including the documentation reviewed, confirming the significant reduction in the removal of woody biomass. • Project Impact: The project's success in reducing the removal of woody biomass has a positive impact on forest conservation, biodiversity, and the long-term availability of this renewable resource. • Sustainability: The project's approach to reducing reliance on firewood demonstrates a commitment to sustainable consumption and production patterns, ensuring that this
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						valuable resource is used responsibly. • Alignment with SD VISta: The project's focus on sustainable resource management and reducing pressure on forests aligns with the SD VISta framework's commitment to sustainable development and the responsible use of natural resources. The VVB acknowledges the project's positive contribution to SDG 12. The project's successful implementation of a strategy to reduce reliance on firewood demonstrates its commitment to promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns, contributing to a more sustainable and resilient future.
9)	In the current monitoring period, the project has contributed to GHG emission reduction through a reduction of 4,098,765 tCO ₂ e by replacing 571,460 baseline stoves with ICS.	Total 4,247,311 (148,546+4,098,765) GHG emission reduction achieved till end of this monitoring period for this project activity.	13.0	13.0 Tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions avoided	SD VISta-labeled VCU	The project has significantly contributed to achieving SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts, by achieving a reduction of 4,098,765 tCO₂e through the replacement of 571,460 traditional cookstoves or

	Thus, the project has achieved SDG Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat Climate Change and its impacts	Thus, the project will achieve SDG Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat Climate Change and its impacts				conventional stove without any grating or chimney with improved cookstoves (ICS). The assessment team has verified that the project's approach aligns with the SD VISta requirements. The total emission reduction in the current monitoring period is 4,247,311 tCO2 eq. (148,546 in the 1 st MP + 4,098,765 in the 2 nd MP). The assessment team confirms that the information provided in the SD VISta MR substantiates the SD VISta-labeled VCUs.
10)	The project has contributed to a reduction in the removal of non-renewable woody biomass at the tune of 2,000,794 tons in the current monitoring period, from forests surrounding the communities. Reduced wood collection in the project area allows trees to grow without being harvested, leading to an increase in above-ground biomass as trees mature and accumulate more carbon in their trunks,	The project has contributed by reduction in the removal of Total 2,073,306 (72,512+2,000,794) non-renewable woody biomass till the end of this monitoring period for this project activity, from forests surrounding the communities thereby leading to an increase in above-ground biomass in these forests. Thus, the project will achieve SDG Goal 15:	15.2	Project-specific indicator: Tons of non-renewable woody biomass (firewood) saved.	SD VISta-labeled VCU	The project demonstrably contributes to achieving SDG 15: Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss by reducing the removal of non-renewable woody biomass from forests surrounding project communities. The VVB, based on the review of VCS/SD-VISta MR, SDG calculation spreadsheet and relevant data, confirms that the

	branches, leaves, and roots and supported SDG Goal 15. Thus, the project will achieve SDG Goal 15: Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.	Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.				project has achieved this SDG target. The project has achieved a reduction of 2,000,794 tons of non-renewable woody biomass, contributing to the conservation of forests and the promotion of sustainable forest management practices during the current monitoring period. This achievement aligns with the SD VISta framework's commitment to promoting sustainable development and the responsible use of natural resources. The project's impact on reducing pressure on forest resources and promoting the sustainable use of woody biomass demonstrates its significant contribution to protecting and restoring terrestrial ecosystems, supporting the long-term health of forests and biodiversity.
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3.2 Project Design

3.2.1 Project Objectives

The project has effectively articulated its objectives and demonstrated a clear alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The primary aim of providing access to clean cooking technology to underserved communities has been clearly outlined and substantiated with quantitative data collected during the monitoring period. This objective not only addresses basic service needs but also intersects multiple facets of sustainable development.

Economic Wellbeing

Access to Modern Energy (SDG 1): The project's distribution of 571,460 improved cookstoves emphasizes its commitment to SDG 1 by delivering modern energy solutions to impoverished and vulnerable communities. The successful provision of these stoves confirms the project's dedication to improving basic service access and ensuring sustainable energy solutions. The project has enhanced access to clean cooking technology, benefiting **571,460 (234,114 till 1st MP +337,346 in 2nd MP) households** till the current monitoring period from October 1, 2022, to December 31, 2023. This contribution supports vulnerable communities in India by reducing reliance on traditional cooking methods.

Economic Growth and Employment (SDG 8): The project has created significant employment opportunities, contributing to sustained economic growth as anticipated by SDG 8. With a focused emphasis on hiring locals, including women, the project reflects an inclusive approach to economic development. Substantial employment opportunities have been generated through the project, contributing to sustained economic growth. Currently, **992 individuals** (637+355) are engaged in manufacturing and local contracting for distribution and monitoring. The project targets creating jobs for **1,500 individuals** over its lifetime, ensuring equitable access to employment and prioritizing opportunities for women.

Social well Being

Education and Skill Development (SDG 4): Through non-formal education and vocational training for 259 individuals, the project clearly supports SDG 4. This contributes to lifelong learning opportunities by facilitating skill development in climate change awareness and stove distribution management. The project is dedicated to vocational skills development by providing training focused on climate change. During the current monitoring period, **37 individuals** participated in this training, raising the total number of trained individuals to **259** (222+37) over the life of the project. This initiative not only fosters inclusive and equitable quality education but also equips individuals with essential skills for employment within both the project and broader job markets.

Gender Equality (SDG 5): The project has enhanced gender equality by reducing the time women spend collecting firewood, thus empowering them to engage in more productive activities. This outcome is in line with SDG 5, as evidenced by the PP through surveyed households reporting in

the monitoring survey by substantial time savings. By significantly decreasing the time required for wood collection, the project has had a positive effect on gender equality. In the current monitoring period, **100% of surveyed beneficiaries** reported fewer trips for wood collection, enabling them to spend their time on other productive activities. Throughout the project's lifespan, this initiative has consistently empowered women and girls, eased the burdens of traditional cooking practices and promoted gender equality and empowerment.

(SDG 7): The distribution of **571,460** improved cook stoves has significantly replaced traditional cooking methods, leading to reduced PM 2.5 and CO emissions. Approximately 0.5 million households benefit from reliable and sustainable cooking solutions.

(SDG 11): Household safety has improved, with **100%** of respondents reporting no fire incidents after switching to improved cook stoves. This promotes safer and healthier cooking environments, enhancing community well-being.

Environmental well being

Health and Well-being (SDG 3): By significantly reducing particulate matter and smoke emissions from traditional cooking methods, the project aligns with SDG 3, ensuring healthier living conditions. The data indicating **100%** of surveyed households experiencing improved indoor air quality strongly supports this objective.

Environmental Sustainability (SDGs 12, 13, and 15): The reduction in the reliance on woody biomass and decreased GHG emissions indicate a robust alignment with SDGs 12, 13, and 15. By promoting sustainable consumption patterns and enhancing biomass conservation, the project takes tangible steps toward combating climate change and promoting biodiversity conservation.

SDG Goal 12:

The project has reduced the removal of 266,134 tons of renewable woody biomass during the current period and is projected to save ~1.4 million tons over its lifetime, aiding in forest conservation and responsible biomass use.

SDG Goal 13:

By replacing traditional or conventional stove without any grating or chimney, the project achieved a reduction of 4,098,765 tons of CO_{2e} in greenhouse gas emissions during the current monitoring period. Cumulatively, 4,247,311 tons were reduced overall, demonstrating significant climate action.

SDG Goal 15:

The project has reduced the removal of 2,000,794 tons of non-renewable woody biomass in the current period, with an expected total of 2,073,306 tons saved by project end, promoting sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation.

In conclusion, the project's objectives are clearly defined, with a strong correlation to the SDGs. The comprehensive monitoring and evaluation approach, with documented evidence of impact, underscores its commitment to sustainable development goals. The project's integrated solutions and outcome-driven strategies manifest a well-rounded contribution to community well-being, environmental conservation, and economic development.

3.2.2 Project Activities

This project focuses on distributing improved cookstoves (ICS) to replace traditional, inefficient stoves in rural and peri-urban communities in India. The technology employed is the AGNEEKAA ECO MINI STOVE MODEL 4SE, a natural draft stove with a thermal efficiency exceeding 36.42% (as per applied methodology VMR0006). The project's stated sustainable development objectives are:

Reduce reliance on fuelwood and promote sustainable use of renewable woody biomass: The project aims to decrease the demand for firewood, thus slowing deforestation, supporting natural forest regeneration, and promoting efficient use of resources.

Improve health and well-being through reduced household air pollution: The distribution of clean-burning ICSs is expected to significantly reduce emissions of smoke, fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), and carbon monoxide, leading to improved health outcomes, especially for women and children.

Promote economic development through job creation: The project seeks to generate employment opportunities in both the formal sector (manufacturing) and informal sector (distribution and monitoring) with a focus on hiring local individuals, particularly women.

Empower women and girls by reducing their time spent on fuelwood collection and cooking: The project anticipates freeing up women's and girls' time for more productive activities and personal care, contributing to gender equality.

Procurement and Distribution

EKI Energy Services Limited (EKI) procured the ICSs from manufacturers and established a central distribution point for the project. The distribution agency received comprehensive training on the distribution and registration process before distributing the stoves to end users. During distribution, the agency ensured that end users were educated on the proper use of the ICSs, highlighting the environmental and health benefits. EKI regularly conducts training programs /29/ and field visits to maintain communication with local stakeholders and provide ongoing support for maintenance and repair. End-users can contact EKI's support team through the phone number provided on the ICS packaging. VVB confirmed this by interviewing the distributors & field officers who were involved in the monitoring survey & stove distribution.

Implementation Strategy and Data Collection

EKI has implemented a strategic approach for distributing the ICSs, focusing on areas with a high concentration of households using traditional, less efficient stoves. The project prioritized the appointment of local partners to facilitate delivery and engaged local teams of men and women for the installation and monitoring of the ICSs. This strategy promotes local employment and economic empowerment.

To ensure effective distribution and monitoring, EKI implemented a robust data collection system. Each ICS is assigned a unique serial number, which is recorded alongside essential information about the recipient and the distribution process. This information is stored in both hard copy and electronic format, forming a valuable database for project monitoring and sampling. VVB cross-checked the serial number on the GHG Cards distributed to each beneficiaries and confirmed the uniqueness of the project stove.

Data Collection and Reporting

The distribution agency, trained on EKI's standard operating procedures (SOPs), is responsible for data collection, which is either manually recorded or digitized using mobile applications. Assessment team cross-checked the mobile application used by distributing party to monitor and maintain each household records. Further distribution team receives training covering the project's objectives, the distribution process, and data collection procedures. The data collected helps monitor the project's progress, track the impact of the ICSs, and understand user feedback.

Assessment of Project Activities:

The project activities, as described, are well-aligned with the stated sustainable development objectives. The distribution of efficient cookstoves, coupled with training and awareness programs, demonstrates a reasonable approach to achieving these goals.

Sustainable use of renewable woody biomass: The project's focus on reducing fuelwood consumption aligns with the stated objective. The project has demonstrably achieved a reduction of 266,134 tons of renewable woody biomass from forests in the current monitoring period.

Improved health and well-being: The project's emphasis on clean-burning technology and the 100% reported reduction in smoke and particulate matter in surveyed households strongly indicates that the project is contributing to improved health and well-being.

Economic development: The project's generation of 250 jobs in the manufacturing sector and 105 jobs in the informal sector demonstrates a commitment to economic development, especially for local individuals and women.

Empowerment of women and girls: The project's emphasis on reducing the burden of firewood collection and cooking on women and girls through the use of efficient cookstoves aligns with the objective of gender equality. The survey results indicating time savings and reduced drudgery in households further support this.

Mitigation of Potential Negative Impacts:

The project has identified potential negative impacts such as the continued reliance on biomass for cooking even after the adoption of ICS, the possibility of fire incidents, and challenges in maintaining stove functionality. The project has implemented mitigation measures to address these concerns:

Continued reliance on biomass: The project utilizes an ICS model that is compatible with the use of crop leftovers and smaller branches, promoting the sustainable use of readily available biomass.

Fire incidents: The project has a system in place for monitoring and addressing stove malfunctions, including a helpline number and a grievance redressal mechanism, as well as training for users on safe stove operation.

Maintaining stove functionality: The project includes a regular maintenance program for the stoves, with trained personnel visiting households once a year to ensure proper upkeep.

Overall Conclusion:

The project activities, including the distribution of energy-efficient cookstoves, training programs, and mitigation measures, are reasonably achieving, or have the potential to achieve, the stated sustainable development objectives. The project's robust monitoring and evaluation program provides strong evidence of its positive impacts on the environment, social well-being, and economic development of the communities served.

3.2.3 Implementation Schedule

Date	Milestone(s) in the Project's Development and Implementation
12-April-2022	The earliest stakeholder's meeting for the project activity at Rata, Valsad (Gujarat)
16-April-2022	Listing of VCS PD on VERRA
16-June-2022	Project start date: project activity commenced with ICS installations
20-December-2022	PP applies for VERRA's Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard (SD VISta) SDG labeling.
18-January-2023	Project listed for VERRA's Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard (SD VISta)
06-February-2023 to 11-February-2023	VVB Site Visit for Joint Validation and Verification of the project activity
16-January-2024	Registration of VCS PD on VERRA
04-June-2024	Registration of SD VISta PD on VERRA
16 June 2022 to 30 September 2022	Distribution of cookstoves for first Monitoring period (16 June 2022 to 30 September 2022)
3 November 2022 to 18 November 2022	1 st Monitoring Survey conducted

01 October 2022 to 07 January 2023	Distribution of cookstoves for Second Monitoring period (01 October 2022 to 31 December 2023)
21 August 2023 to 10 October 2023	2 nd Monitoring Survey conducted
05 October 2024	The second issuance was issued
01 October 2024	The 2 nd monitoring report of SD VISTA project is submitted to Verra for further assessment

The project proponent (PP) has included a detailed timeline of key dates and milestones in Section 2.1.3 of the SD VISTA Monitoring Report (MR/1/). These milestones document the project's initial setup and early phases. The official project start date, confirmed through beneficiary agreements, is June 16, 2022, which aligns with the date when the project activity "Clean Cooking - Cook Stove for Rural India" commenced with the installation of a new series of improved cookstoves (ICS).

The audit team verified the project start date and observed ongoing project activity during on-site inspections. The evidence gathered confirms that the project commenced on the date documented in the MR/1/, meeting the SD VISTA standard's definition of project start date, which refers to the initiation of activities leading to sustainable development benefits.

3.2.4 Project Proponent and Other Entities Involved in the Project

EKI Energy Services Limited and Vitol Asia Pte Ltd are the sole project proponents, with no other parties involved. During the verification process, the audit team conducted a comprehensive review and confirmed that EKI Energy Services Limited and Vitol Asia Pte Ltd are the only entities participating in the project. Their roles and responsibilities were clearly defined. The audit team concludes that the contact and entity information in the SD VISTA MR/01/ meets the requirements specified in SD VISTA Standard /06/

3.2.5 Project Location

The project is located within India's geographical boundaries, specifically between the coordinates of Latitude 8° 4' to 37° 6' N and Longitude 68° 7' to 97° 25' E, as documented in SD-VISTA Monitoring Report /01/. Through interviews and a thorough review of SD VISTA MR/01/, the assessment team verified the project's location, confirming the accuracy of the project activity's location and boundaries. VVB used Geotag GPS camera to confirm the location of implemented project site during the onsite visit. The VVB reviewed the maps added in the monitoring report and confirms that they adequately represent the wide geographic distribution of the project across 09 states in India. Since the project is distributed over a broad area, a detailed range is considered sufficient complimenting to this VVB cross-checked KML file/files submitted by PP that marks the distribution range across all the 09 states of India delineating the project boundary. The VVB ensures the updated maps meet the SDVISTA program requirements.

3.2.6 Threats to the Project

The project proponent (PP) has conducted a comprehensive assessment of both natural and human-induced threats that may affect the realization of sustainable development benefits throughout the project's duration. Detailed in the SD VISta MR /01/, these threats encompass a variety of challenges, including cultural resistance to the adoption of the Agneekaa Eco Mini Stove, modifications made by users, inadequate maintenance practices, and potential increases in fuel prices. Moreover, significant challenges such as climate change and deforestation further complicate the sustainability of firewood as a fuel source, negatively impacting agricultural productivity and diminishing community income. Consequently, this economic pressure can limit the financial resources available for households to invest in Improved Cook Stoves (ICS).

To address these multifaceted threats, the PP has implemented several proactive strategies:

Cultural Adaptation and Communication: The distribution team has been strategically selected to include members who are fluent in the local languages and familiar with the cultural contexts of the communities they serve. This cultural competence facilitates effective communication and helps to overcome resistance to adopting new technologies.

Rigorous Recipient Selection Process: An improved screening process has been established to identify recipients who demonstrate a commitment to utilizing the ICS in pursuit of sustainable development goals (SDGs). By focusing on recipients who understand and are willing to engage with the technology, the project ensures a higher likelihood of impact.

Education on Usage and Benefits: Stove recipients partake in educational initiatives that cover best practices for stove utilization, alongside an exploration of the environmental and economic advantages offered by the ICS. This education fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility among users, promoting proper maintenance and use.

Proactive Information Sharing: The PP has instituted a comprehensive information dissemination strategy using various social media platforms to continually stress the importance of correct ICS usage. This initiative aims to maximize the health and environmental benefits associated with the technology, ensuring that users remain informed and engaged.

Ongoing Support and Maintenance: To encourage sustained engagement and proper maintenance, the project has established a system for annual inspections. Trained personnel from the distribution team visit each household to assess the stoves and provide any necessary maintenance support. Additionally, a dedicated helpline and a mobile application facilitate swift resolution of user concerns, ensuring that assistance is readily available.

VVB Assessment Conclusion

The onsite & remote assessment conducted by VKU Certification Pvt Ltd via interviews with beneficiaries & project implementation team along with focussed group discussion with local stakeholders further cross-confirming via desk-review of project records confirms that the proactive measures implemented by the PP effectively address the array of identified threats.

The emphasis on cultural sensitivity, community engagement, and ongoing education effectively mitigates potential challenges associated with the Agneekaa Eco Mini Stove. By fostering a strong support network and promoting best practices, the project not only protects its objectives but also contributes to the overall resilience and empowerment of the communities involved. These comprehensive efforts embody a commitment to sustainability that aligns with the project's goals while ensuring long-lasting benefits for all stakeholders.

3.2.7 Benefit Permanence

To assess the measures implemented to ensure the continuity of benefits after project activities conclude, the project proponent (PP) has focused on the distribution of Improved Cook Stoves (ICS). These stoves not only enable households to significantly reduce fuel consumption but also save valuable time during cooking and improve health by decreasing indoor air pollution. Additionally, ICS promotes increased employment opportunities, serving as a catalyst for changing household cooking habits. Given the wide array of benefits associated with ICS, it is highly likely that both rural and urban households will continue to utilize these stoves beyond the project's lifespan, leading to substantial and sustainable environmental and socioeconomic advantages.

Crucially, the project has established a framework to ensure that these benefits endure over time, centered on education and a well-structured maintenance system. The following long-term objectives have been laid out to safeguard the lasting impact of the project:

Implementation of a Continuous Grievance Redressal Mechanism: This mechanism is designed to proactively address any challenges faced by users of the distributed cook stoves and other related issues. By creating a responsive support system, the PP fosters trust and a sense of community among beneficiaries, reassuring them that their concerns will be heard and acted upon. This approach enhances user satisfaction and encourages ongoing engagement with the ICS.

Technical Training for Distribution Partners and Local Staff: To promote effective implementation and minimize non-adoption rates, the PP has instituted a comprehensive training program for Distribution Partners and local staff members. These training sessions focus on maintaining the stoves, educating users about the environmental and economic benefits associated with ICS, and enhancing local capacities to support the community. By equipping local stakeholders with the necessary knowledge and skills, the project ensures continued support for ICS users long after the project's formal activities end.

Community Engagement and Education: The project seeks to in-still a culture of awareness and responsibility surrounding the use of ICS. This is achieved through ongoing educational initiatives that highlight the importance of proper usage, maintenance practices, and the long-term health benefits tied to reduced indoor air pollution. By fostering a deep understanding of these advantages, the PP encourages households to integrate the new cooking practices into their daily routines.

Monitoring and Evaluation: The PP has established frameworks for regular monitoring and evaluation of the project's impact, even after completion. By assessing ongoing stove usage, fuel consumption patterns, health outcomes, and socio-economic shifts within the community, the PP can make data-driven decisions to address any emerging issues and further enhance the project's benefits.

The verification team from VKU conducted a thorough assessment of these benefit-permanence activities through site audits and remote interviews with beneficiaries. Their findings confirm that the measures put in place by the PP are effective in fostering long-term usage of the ICS and ensuring that the associated benefits—both environmental and socioeconomic—persist well beyond the project's implementation phase.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the comprehensive measures implemented by the project proponent are robustly positioned to maintain and enhance the project's benefits following the cessation of active project activities. By focusing on the immediate advantages of Improved Cook Stoves, coupled with the strategic objectives of grievance resolution, training, community engagement, and ongoing monitoring, the PP has effectively laid the groundwork for sustained impact. The strong likelihood that households will continue to adopt and utilize ICS reflects not only the design of the technology itself but also the extensive support systems established to reinforce its longevity. Therefore, it is concluded that the initiatives in place will successfully achieve their stated objectives, safeguarding the health and well-being of community members while contributing to long-term environmental sustainability.

3.3 Stakeholder Engagement

3.3.1 Stakeholder Consultation and Adaptive Management

The assessment conducted by the assessment team evaluates the effectiveness of the communication and consultation processes employed by the project proponent (PP) to engage stakeholders across all nine states where the project is implemented. A structured approach to stakeholder communication is critical to ensuring transparency, inclusivity, and responsiveness, which are essential elements as outlined in the SD VISta standards./6/

1. Structured Stakeholder Engagement

The project proponent has effectively implemented a comprehensive approach to stakeholder engagement. Through interactive training and demonstration sessions, different stakeholders, including household owners (end users), village heads, and distributors, were informed about the Improved Cook Stoves (ICS). Key components of these sessions included:

Educational Focus: Stakeholders gained insights into the numerous benefits of ICS, which include improved environmental outcomes, enhanced health, and time savings in cooking. This not only

facilitates the technological adoption of the ICS but also aligns with the SD-VISta focus on community awareness and capacity building.

Inclusive Participation: Extensive efforts were made to include diverse stakeholders by publicizing meetings prominently and inviting community leaders, ensuring broad participation. This reflects the project's commitment to engaging local perspectives in a meaningful manner.

2. Documentation and Accessibility of Meetings

The PP maintained detailed documentation of stakeholder meetings, including the dates, locations, and minutes of discussions. Each meeting resulted in established records that maximize transparency and ensure stakeholder input is formally incorporated. Key aspects include:

Public Notices: Notices were posted in significant community areas, allowing for any interested parties to attend and participate. This demonstrates adherence to SD VISta guidelines regarding stakeholder accessibility.

Meeting Records: Comprehensive meeting minutes documented discussions and stakeholder inquiries, ensuring that community feedback is explicitly accounted for and can be monitored over time.

3. Responding to Stakeholder Inquiries

The meetings utilized a question-and-answer format which proved effective in allowing stakeholders to raise concerns openly. The PP addressed these inquiries in detail, covering a range of topics such as the efficiency and safety of the cook stoves. This engagement process ensures that stakeholder concerns are heard and managed, fostering trust within the community.

4. Grievance Mechanism Implementation

A critical component of the communication strategy is the establishment of a grievance redressal mechanism, accessible across all nine states where the project operates. Key elements of this mechanism include:

Beneficiary ID Cards: Each beneficiary receives an ID card featuring a toll-free number for grievance registration. The VVB confirmed during its assessment that beneficiaries are well-informed about how to utilize this grievance mechanism, with stakeholders indicating that they can simply call the toll-free number if they encounter issues.

VVB Verification: The VVB independently called the toll-free number and verified its functionality, confirming that the grievance mechanism is operational and effectively communicates with beneficiaries.

Grievance Resolution Process: The PP committed to addressing any registered grievances within 24 hours from the time of registration. The VVB conducted interviews with field officers to understand how grievances are managed and resolved, demonstrating the practical efficiency of

the grievance redressal process. The officers provided concrete examples of how they handle complaints from beneficiaries, underscoring the responsiveness of the PP to community concerns.

5. Ongoing Monitoring and Evaluation

The project engages in continuous monitoring and feedback collection from beneficiaries through various channels. Informal meetings and structured consultations are used to assess the performance of the ICS and the effectiveness of project implementation. This adaptability ensures that any emerging concerns can be addressed swiftly, aligning with best practices in stakeholder engagement.

VVB's Conclusion

In summary, the VVB assessment indicates that the project exhibits a high degree of effectiveness in its communication and consultation processes, firmly adhering to the guidelines established by SD VISta. The structured engagement initiatives, comprehensive documentation, and effective grievance mechanism signify a solid commitment to stakeholder involvement.

The continuous consultation processes, backed by a functioning grievance redressal mechanism across all nine states, reflect the PP's commitment to maintaining an inclusive dialogue with the community. The confirmation that stakeholders understand how to utilize the grievance mechanism, coupled with successful verification of its functionality, demonstrates transparency and accountability.

The VVB concludes that the project remains responsive to stakeholder feedback, effectively incorporating this input into the management and implementation processes. This participatory approach will continue to enhance the relevance and sustainability of the project, ensuring ongoing engagement with the community and alignment with their needs and aspirations.

3.3.2 Anti-Discrimination

The verification process assessed the measures implemented by the project proponent (PP) to ensure that no entities involved in project implementation are engaged or complicit in any form of discrimination or sexual harassment. This assessment involved a comprehensive approach that included structured interviews, focus group discussions (FGDs) with project implementers, distributors, and end-users, as well as reviewing relevant declarations submitted by the PP and distributors across all nine states. The following details outline the comprehensive assessment conducted:

1. Policy Framework

The project has established a robust policy framework that explicitly prohibits any form of discrimination or sexual harassment based on gender, sexual orientation, or other personal characteristics. This framework aligns with industry best practices and international standards, emphasizing a commitment to creating an inclusive and respectful environment for all participants involved in the project.

2. Inclusive Access to Project Benefits

The PP ensures equitable access to the Improved Cook Stoves (ICS) for all households within the project area, promoting non-discriminatory practices. All willing customers have received ICS, irrespective of gender or other personal characteristics. The project significantly benefits women by reducing time spent on cooking and fuel collection, thereby enabling them to engage in other productive activities. The transition to cleaner cooking environments positively impacts health outcomes for women and children, reinforcing the project's role in promoting gender equity and social welfare.

3. Training and Awareness Programs

Training and awareness programs have been implemented to educate project staff, distributors, and local stakeholders about the importance of preventing discrimination and harassment. These programs ensure all individuals involved recognize the significance of maintaining a safe and inclusive environment, reinforcing the project's commitment to upholding rights.

4. Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms

An effective monitoring and reporting mechanism has been established to address any potential grievances or reports of discrimination or harassment. The grievance mechanism allows individuals to confidentially report concerns, ensuring that issues can be addressed promptly. Interviews with implementers and distributors confirmed that this grievance mechanism is communicated effectively to all beneficiaries, thereby promoting trust in the reporting process.

5. Interviews and Focus Group Discussions

The VVB conducted in-depth interviews and focus group discussions with implementers, distributors, and end-users. These engagements provided insights into the project's commitment to preventing discrimination and harassment. Key findings included:

- **Implementers' Perspectives:** Implementers emphasized their proactive approach in ensuring that all staff are trained to handle any concerns related to discrimination and harassment.
- **Distributors' Insights:** Distributors confirmed that their training included understanding gender dynamics and promoting equal treatment of customers. They highlighted the importance of supporting women in utilizing the stoves effectively.
- **End-Users Feedback:** Focus group discussions with end-users revealed a strong sense of security and inclusiveness within the project. Participants appreciated the project's efforts to create a supportive community environment and reported feeling empowered through equitable access to resources.

6. Declarations from PP and Distributors

Declarative statements from the PP and all distributors operating across the nine states were collected and reviewed. These declarations affirm their commitment to non-discrimination and a harassment-free environment in project implementation. They include:

- **Affirmation of Policies:** Distributors provided written confirmations that they adhere to the PP's anti-discrimination policies and have implemented their own internal guidelines that align with these standards.
- **Commitment to Ethical Practices:** The declarations emphasize all parties' commitment to ethical practices and establishing procedures to prevent discrimination and harassment in both customer interactions and internal operations.

7. Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement

Continuous engagement with stakeholders is crucial for ensuring that their voices are heard and respected. The project actively encourages feedback regarding any concerns related to discrimination and harassment, thus enhancing communal trust and cooperation.

Conclusion

Based on the comprehensive assessment conducted by the VVB, which included a thorough examination of policies, inclusive practices, direct stakeholder engagement through interviews and focus group discussions, as well as reviewing the declarations submitted by the PP and distributors, it is concluded that the project is effectively implementing processes to prevent any form of discrimination or sexual harassment among entities involved in its implementation.

The established policies, equitable access to resources, targeted training programs, robust monitoring mechanisms, and the explicit declarations from all parties create a supportive and inclusive environment that upholds the rights of all individuals. There are no reported instances of discrimination or harassment within the project, indicating that the project actively promotes ethical practices and provides a safe space for all stakeholders.

Thus, the VVB concludes that the project engages in responsible practices, free from any form of discrimination, and continues to maintain a committed focus on gender equity and social welfare.

3.3.3 Worker Training

This assessment evaluates the orientation and training programs implemented by the project proponent (EKI Energy Services Limited - EKIESL) for individuals employed through the project's activities. It also examines how these training initiatives focus on building skills for marginalized and vulnerable populations and enhance local participation in project implementation.

1. Training and Orientation Processes

The project has established a comprehensive training program for its distribution team, which is essential for ensuring proper maintenance and the safe handling of equipment. The following steps outline the implementation and assessment of these training initiatives:

- **Ongoing Training Initiatives:** EKIESL emphasizes continuous education for its distribution team members. Training sessions focus on various critical areas, including equipment maintenance, safety protocols, and operational processes related to stove distribution.
- **Effectiveness of Vocational Training:** Distributors indicated that, over the past year, they contributed to increasing the vocational and relevant skills of 37 individuals through non-formal education and training focused on climate change. This training provided specific skill-building related to operations and surveying activities linked to stove distribution and its monitoring under Verified Carbon Standard (VCS).

2. Observations from Site Visits

During site visits, the VVB made the following observations regarding training:

- **Active Engagement:** Workers demonstrated significant engagement during training sessions, reflecting their interest in acquiring new skills that are vital for their roles. The hands-on nature of training enhances practical understanding, facilitating effective skill development.
- **Inclusivity in Training:** The project prioritizes workers from local communities, explicitly including marginalized and vulnerable individuals. Observations indicated diversity among trainees, supporting the project's commitment to inclusivity and community engagement.

3. Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Interviews

The VVB conducted FGDs and interviews with various stakeholders, including field officers, project implementers, distributors, and employees benefiting from the training. Key findings include:

- **Field Officers' Feedback:** Field officers reported that the training programs are tailored to local contexts, ensuring that skill development aligns with community needs. They emphasized efforts to empower vulnerable groups through targeted training.
- **Distributor Insights:** Distributors confirmed that training positively impacted workforce morale and productivity. Specifically, they noted that training in operations and surveying activities has enabled workers to carry out their responsibilities more effectively.
- **Employee Testimonials:** Employees expressed satisfaction with the skills they gained, noting improvements in their technical knowledge and confidence in handling equipment. Moreover, many stated that their training experience equipped them with skills applicable beyond their immediate roles, enhancing their overall livelihood.

4. Declarations from Distributors

Declarations submitted by distributors reinforce the effectiveness of the training conducted during the past year. They report:

- **Contribution to Skill Development:** A total of 37 individuals received training that enhanced their vocational skills, with a focus on climate change education and its implications for stove distribution. This specific training has been instrumental in increasing the capacity of these individuals to participate actively in project implementation.
- **Total Individuals Trained:** Over the course of the project, a cumulative total of 259 individuals (222 previously trained plus 37 from the current year) have benefited from vocational and relevant skills development programs. This training achievement aligns with **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4**, which emphasizes ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all.

5. Building Locally Useful Skills and Knowledge

The goals of the training program include not only improving job-specific skills among workers but also increasing their understanding of broader issues such as climate change. Through equipping workers with practical skills that are relevant to their local context, the project fosters greater community involvement and promotes sustainability.

Conclusion

Based on the comprehensive assessment conducted by the VVB, which included observations from site visits, interviews, focus group discussions, and documented declarations from distributors, it is concluded that the project is effectively implementing robust orientation and training processes for new workers.

The continuous development of vocational skills through targeted training programs, particularly among marginalized and vulnerable populations, enhances both individual employability and community capacity. The successful training of 259 (222 (last MP hired + 37 2nd MP hired) individuals throughout the project's duration exemplifies the project's commitment to achieving **SDG Goal 4**. Overall, the measures taken to provide orientation and training to new workers are deemed effective and beneficial for participants and the broader community, fostering local engagement and capacity building

3.3.4 Equal Work Opportunities

This assessment evaluates the steps taken to ensure that the project's hiring practices provide equal employment opportunities to all stakeholders, including women, as well as marginalized and vulnerable populations. The analysis encompasses documentation reviews, site visit observations, and stakeholder feedback.

1. Assessment of Hiring Practices

The project proponent (PP), EKI Energy Services Limited (EKIESL), has implemented a comprehensive framework for hiring that emphasizes equal opportunities across gender,

ethnicity, religion, and social status. According to the project documentation, the following measures are taken to facilitate equal employment:

- **Adherence to Legal Frameworks:** The project's hiring practices strictly align with the relevant laws and regulations of the country, ensuring that opportunities are afforded equally to all qualified candidates. This legal adherence underlines the project's commitment to anti-discrimination principles.
- **Inclusivity in Job Advertisements:** The project ensures that job advertisements are explicitly inclusive, inviting applicants from various backgrounds, including women, marginalized communities, and individuals from diverse nationalities and ethnicities. This open approach encourages a wide range of applicants, enhancing diversity within the workforce.

2. Documentation Reviewed

The VVB reviewed various documents related to the hiring process, including:

- **Hiring Policies:** The project's official hiring policies were examined to verify the inclusion of equal opportunity clauses. Documentation outlines the commitment to non-discrimination in hiring and promotion practices.
- **Employee Records:** A sample of employee records was reviewed, showcasing the demographics of the workforce in terms of gender, ethnicity, and social background. The data indicated a balanced representation of different groups, particularly women and individuals from marginalized communities.
- **Training and Development Opportunities:** Documents outlining training programs and internal promotions provided insights into management opportunities afforded to all employees, emphasizing the project's investment in career development for every stakeholder.

3. Observations from Site Visits

During site visits, several significant observations were made regarding the project's hiring practices:

- **Diverse Workforce:** Upon visiting project sites, the VVB noted a diverse workforce, with a notable representation of women and individuals from vulnerable backgrounds in various operational roles. This indicates the effectiveness of the project's hiring policies in fostering an inclusive work environment.
- **Engagement with Local Communities:** Engagement with local community members during site visits revealed that the project has successfully reached out to marginalized groups, providing them with employment opportunities that may not have been available otherwise.

- **Management Structure:** Interviews conducted with project implementers indicated that efforts are made to promote individuals from diverse backgrounds into management positions. For instance, several women and representatives from marginalized communities have been identified in supervisory roles, demonstrating the project's commitment to equitable growth opportunities.

4. Stakeholder Feedback

Feedback gathered from employees during focus group discussions highlighted the positive perception of the hiring practices in place:

- **Employee Perspectives:** Employees expressed that they felt valued and recognized, regardless of their gender or background. Many shared personal stories of how the project provided them with skills and opportunities that were otherwise inaccessible.
- **Community Input:** Local community members reiterated their appreciation for the project's open recruitment practices, particularly for women and marginalized individuals. They emphasized the importance of having equal access to employment, contributing to community development.

Conclusion

Based on the comprehensive assessment, which included documentation review, site observations, and stakeholder feedback, the VVB concludes that the project effectively provides equal employment opportunities to all stakeholders, including women and marginalized and vulnerable people. The project adheres to legal frameworks regarding employment practices, actively promotes a diverse and inclusive workforce, and has successfully implemented measures that allow for equal management opportunities.

The representation of diverse groups, including women in operational and supervisory roles, confirms the project's commitment to inclusivity. The positive feedback from employees and community members further substantiates the claim that the project fosters an equitable work environment. Overall, the initiatives undertaken by the project not only comply with legal requirements but also serve to empower and uplift underrepresented populations, thereby contributing to social sustainability and community welfare.

3.3.5 Workers' Rights

This assessment evaluates the steps taken by EKI Energy Services Limited (EKIESL) to ensure conformance with the principles and rights of workers as outlined in the Core Labour Conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO). It identifies relevant local laws and regulations that address these principles and assesses whether the project has informed workers of their rights. This evaluation is underpinned by desk reviews of the Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard (SD VISta) Project Design (PD), Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) Project Design documentation, interviews, and focus group discussions (FGDs) with project implementers.

1. Conformance to ILO Core Labour Conventions

According to the provided information and documentation, the project demonstrates significant commitment to the principles stipulated in the ILO Core Labour Conventions:

- **Abolition of Forced or Compulsory Labour:** EKIESL adheres to the prohibition of all forms of forced or compulsory labour, ensuring that all employment is voluntary.
- **Minimum Age Convention:** The project complies with minimum age requirements, thereby protecting children from exploitation and promoting youth employment opportunities in safe and lawful conditions.
- **Right to Organize:** The project recognizes the right of workers to organize and form unions, which is crucial for collective bargaining and advocating for workers' rights.
- **Abolition of Discrimination:** The project's commitment to eliminating discrimination in employment is evident, ensuring equal opportunities regardless of gender, ethnicity, or background.

2. Local Laws and Regulations

The project operates in accordance with several key local laws in India that safeguard these principles, including:

- **The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976:** Mandating equal pay for equal work promotes gender equality in wage structures.
- **The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986:** Prohibits the employment of children and regulates working conditions to protect minors.
- **The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947:** Establishes procedures for resolving disputes, enhancing protection for workers' rights.
- **The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961:** Ensures pregnant women receive maternity leave and benefits, contributing to a supportive workplace environment for women.
- **The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970:** Helps regulate working conditions and welfare for contract workers.

India has also ratified six ILO conventions that further align with the core principles:

- Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (No. 105)
- Forced Labour Convention (No. 29)
- Equal Remuneration Convention (No. 100)
- Minimum Age Convention (No. 138)
- Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No. 111)

- Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No. 182)

3. Informing Workers of Their Rights

The project implements measures to ensure that all workers are informed of their rights:

- **Employee Contracts:** Each employee is provided with a detailed contract outlining rights, duties, and the terms of employment. This ensures clarity and promotes awareness of entitlements.
- **Training Programs:** Training sessions are conducted to educate workers about their rights under both local legislation and ILO conventions, addressing issues such as discrimination, workplace safety, and the right to organize.
- **Availability of Information:** Workers have access to resources detailing their rights and protections, further fostering an environment where they are encouraged to advocate for themselves and their colleagues.

Conclusions

Based on a comprehensive assessment that included:

- **Desk Review:** Evaluated the SD-VISta and VCS Project Design documents and relevant policies.
- **Interviews and FGDs:** Engaged with project implementers, distributors, and stakeholders to gather insights on project operations and worker experiences.
- **Site Assessment:** Observed practices related to worker rights and treatment in a project environment.

The VVB concludes that EKIESL effectively conforms to the principles of workers' rights as defined in the ILO Core Labour Conventions. The organization's adherence to Indian labor laws, coupled with its proactive policies and practices regarding worker rights and welfare, demonstrates a robust framework for ensuring fair treatment and inclusivity in the workplace.

Moreover, the project actively informs and empowers workers regarding their rights, ensuring all team members can participate fully and equally in the work environment. Overall, EKIESL's initiatives are aligned with international standards and local regulations, enhancing social sustainability within the communities the project serves.

3.3.6 Occupational Safety Assessment

This assessment evaluates the measures implemented by EKI Energy Services Limited (EKIESL) to mitigate occupational risks to stakeholders involved in the project. It examines how effectively the project has informed stakeholders about risks and the strategies in place to minimize such risks, focusing on operational safety assessments and compliance with relevant regulations.

1. Assessment of Occupational Risk Mitigation Measures

The project's approach to worker safety adheres to both local regulations and national policies designed to enhance occupational safety and health. Key steps taken for risk mitigation include:

- **Compliance with National Regulations:** The project follows all pertinent regional regulations while aligning with the National Policy on Safety, Health, and Environment at the Workplace. This ensures that the operational framework is in line with established best practices for worker safety.
- **Provision of Safety Equipment:** The ICS manufacturer is responsible for providing necessary safety tools and personal protective equipment (PPE), including safety shoes, gloves, and eyewear. These provisions are crucial for minimizing the risk of injury and ensuring the well-being of workers involved in field activities.
- **Ongoing Safety Training:** EKIESL has committed to providing continuous instruction in occupational safety. This training addresses potential risks associated with activities such as delivery and demonstration operations. Regular refresher training sessions ensure that the workforce remains updated on safety practices and procedures.
- **Identification of Risks:** While the project is assessed to have no unusual risks associated with its operations, the team recognizes road accidents or minor social conflicts as potential threats during delivery and demonstration activities. Mitigating measures include educating employees about these risks and deploying strategies to handle them safely.

2. Communication of Risks and Best Practices

The project has taken several steps to inform stakeholders about occupational risks and how to minimize them:

- **Initial and Refresher Training:** Risk factors have been discussed and communicated clearly to workers during initial training and orientation sessions. These discussions include potential hazards and the importance of safety protocols.
- **Best Practices Training:** Training includes best practices for operating safely within the project context, which is essential for promoting a culture of safety among workers.
- **Availability of Safety Resources:** The provision of first aid and medical kits during field activities supports the project's commitment to health and safety, ensuring immediate assistance in case of minor accidents or injuries.

3. Documentation Review and Observations from Site Visits

As part of the assessment, the VVB conducted a thorough review of training records and other relevant documents:

- **Training Records:** Detailed training records were examined that outline the frequency and content of the safety training sessions. This review confirmed that training covers essential health and safety measures, as well as the specific risks associated with operational activities.
- **On-Site Observations:** During site visits across various state offices of distributors, the VVB observed the implementation of safety measures firsthand. Workers were seen using appropriate protective gear such as safety shoes, gloves, and eyewear, demonstrating compliance with safety protocols.
- **Interviews with Field Executives:** The VVB conducted interviews with field executives at each state head office of the distributors to gather insights on the practical application of safety measures. Field executives reported that ongoing training is a priority, emphasizing the importance of regular refreshers to keep staff informed about any potential risks and safety practices.
- **Remote Audit:** A remote audit was also conducted to further assess the implementation of safety protocols and training effectiveness across locations. This included reviewing records from various sites, online training modules, and feedback mechanisms. The remote audit helped to confirm that the practices observed on-site were consistently applied across all operational areas.
- **Preparedness and Resource Availability:** The presence of first aid kits and clear safety signage at distribution sites were noted, showcasing the preparation to handle any unexpected incidents. Field executives confirmed that the availability of these resources is regularly reviewed and stocked as needed.

Conclusion

Based on the comprehensive assessment, which included a review of training records, observations from site visits, interviews with field executives across various state offices, and findings from the remote audit, the VVB concludes that EKIESL has adequately implemented measures to mitigate occupational risks to stakeholders involved in the project.

The alignment with national safety regulations, provision of necessary safety equipment, comprehensive training on risk awareness and best practices, and the visible adherence to safety protocols all support the conclusion that the project is effectively safeguarding its workers and stakeholders.

The ongoing efforts to inform and educate employees about potential risks and safety measures reflect a proactive approach to workplace safety. The measures taken not only minimize risks but also contribute to a culture of safety and well-being within the project, ensuring that workers are equipped to manage and respond to occupational hazards effectively. Overall, the project has demonstrated a strong commitment to occupational safety and health, enhancing the welfare of all stakeholders involved.

3.3.7 Feedback and Grievance Redress Procedure

This assessment describes the steps taken to evaluate the effectiveness and accessibility of the feedback and grievance redress procedure implemented by EKI Energy Services Limited (EKIESL) for the project. It analyzes whether the procedure is publicly available, how it was utilized during the verification period, and whether the results were communicated effectively.

1. Assessment of Grievance Redress Procedure

The grievance redress procedure of the project includes several clear steps that facilitate easy reporting and resolution of issues raised by stakeholders:

- **Contact Information Dissemination:** During stakeholder meetings, all participants were informed about the grievance redressal process, including how to access it. This information is also printed on the ID cards provided to end users along with their improved cook stoves (ICS).
- **Beneficiary Card Distribution:** Each beneficiary received a card that includes a toll-free number specifically for grievance reporting. This proactive measure ensures that beneficiaries have direct access to communicate any issues they experience.
- **Grievance Registration Process:** Beneficiaries can easily register their grievances by calling the toll-free number printed on their cards, simplifying the process of raising concerns.
- **Resolution Timeline:** The project guarantees that once a grievance is registered, the EKI team will address and resolve the issue within 24 hours of logging the complaint. This tight timeframe aims to enhance stakeholder trust and demonstrate the project's commitment to responsiveness.

2. Utilization of the Grievance Procedure

To evaluate the effectiveness of the grievance redressal procedure during the verification period, the VVB took the following steps:

- **Documentation Review:** The VVB reviewed records related to grievances logged during the monitoring period in the grievance register to assess the frequency and nature of complaints received.
- **Interviews with Stakeholders:** Feedback was gathered from beneficiaries regarding their awareness of the grievance process and experiences when utilizing it. Most beneficiaries confirmed they understood how to report grievances effectively and viewed the process as accessible.
- **Resolution Effectiveness:** The VVB looked into how grievances were addressed and if stakeholders were informed about the results of their complaints. The EKI team's commitment to resolving grievances within 24 hours was confirmed through case reviews.

and stakeholder testimonies. However in this monitoring period no grievance was received and hence no redressal was required.

3. Public Availability of the Procedure

The grievance redress procedure appears to be publicly available and accessible to all stakeholders:

- **Visibility of Information:** The contact details for the grievance process and the toll-free number are provided on the beneficiary cards, ensuring that users can readily access the necessary information.
- **Integration in Training:** The grievance process was discussed during training sessions and stakeholder meetings, reinforcing its public availability and ensuring that beneficiaries are aware of their right to voice concerns.

Conclusion

Based on the comprehensive assessment conducted, which included a review of grievance records, stakeholder feedback, and observations regarding the procedure's implementation, the VVB concludes that the project has effectively utilized its feedback and grievance redress procedure.

The grievance redress process is transparent, publicly available, and well-communicated to stakeholders. The process's accessibility is demonstrated through the distribution of beneficiary cards and ongoing training that emphasizes how beneficiaries can report their concerns.

Overall, the project's commitment to a prompt resolution of grievances enhances stakeholder trust and confidence in the project's management. The VVB affirms that EKIESL has implemented an appropriate feedback and grievance redress mechanism that contributes positively to community engagement and stakeholder welfare.

3.3.8 Stakeholder Access to Project Documentation

This assessment evaluates the measures taken by EKI Energy Services Limited (EKIESL) to ensure that project documentation, including monitoring results, is accessible to all stakeholders. EKIESL has implemented several effective steps to promote accessibility. Stakeholders were informed that all relevant project papers are available on the VERRA website, allowing convenient online access. Additionally, during stakeholder interactions, EKIESL actively provided verbal information about the project's goals, activities, and impact assessments. At local stakeholder consultations, project summaries were prominently displayed on panchayat notice boards in every village, ensuring visibility for community members with limited online access. The VVB reviewed project documentation hosted on VERRA and evaluated community communication materials, finding them to be detailed, concise, and understandable. Observations during site visits indicated stakeholders were familiar with the information available online and that the direct communication efforts contributed to enhanced awareness of the project. Overall, the

project's proactive approach to making documentation accessible enhances stakeholder trust and promotes informed participation, which is crucial for the project's overall success and sustainability. To further enhance stakeholder engagement, EKIESL ensured that monitoring survey results were communicated to end users in a transparent manner. After each survey, public notices summarizing the findings were prominently displayed in common areas within the villages. These notices provided end users with insights into the project's progress and outcomes, fostering a sense of inclusion and empowerment. This initiative ensured that even stakeholders with limited access to digital platforms could stay informed, reinforcing the project's commitment to inclusive communication. PP has submitted the supporting documents i.e., Public notices which were witnessed by VVB during the onsite and remote visit.

3.3.9 Information to Stakeholders on Verification Process

This assessment describes the measures implemented by EKI Energy Services Limited (EKIESL) to inform stakeholders about the verification process related to the project. It evaluates the communication methods used, the documentation assessed, and observations made during site visits to determine whether stakeholders are aware of the verification audit and future assessments.

EKIESL took several steps to ensure that stakeholders were informed about the verification process. As per section 3.5, clause 3.5.5 of SD-VISTA Program guide version 1.0 PP intimated the stakeholders across 09 states about the onsite visit of the VVB and along with that assessor name was intimated via public notice and local team intimated the stakeholders in their respective region.

During stakeholder consultations, community members were fully briefed on the registration procedure for the greenhouse gas (GHG) program, ensuring that they understood the framework within which the project operates. Furthermore, stakeholders were assured that they would learn more about the verification process when the Validation & Verification Body (VVB) conducts audits during validation and verification phases. To further enhance communication, surveys were conducted to collect data regarding cooking stove usage and the benefits realized by beneficiaries, integrating feedback into the monitoring parameters. This method also served to keep stakeholders aware of the benefits associated with the Improved Cook Stoves (ICS), including improvements in respiratory health, family economy, and environmental sustainability.

During site visits, the VVB observed that stakeholders especially women were not only knowledgeable about the verification process but also engaged in discussions about their experiences with the project. Documentation reviewed included summaries of stakeholder meetings and feedback forms, which confirmed that communication regarding the verification process was clearly outlined and understood. The visible engagement during meetings and the community's acknowledgment of the benefits further indicated an informed stakeholder base.

In conclusion, the assessment indicates that EKIESL has effectively communicated the verification process to stakeholders, ensuring they are aware of current and future assessments.

Stakeholders demonstrated a solid understanding of the GHG program registration and the verification process, fostering transparency and trust in the project. This proactive approach to informing stakeholders is likely to result in continued engagement and awareness as the project progresses through future verification cycles.

3.4 Project Management

3.4.1 Avoidance of Corruption

This assessment evaluates whether EKI Energy Services Limited (EKIESL) or other entities involved in the project design or implementation are engaged in any form of corruption, including bribery, embezzlement, fraud, favoritism, cronyism, nepotism, extortion, or collusion. The VVB reviewed EKIESL's comprehensive anti-corruption policies that include a code of conduct, regular anti-corruption training for all employees, and clear communication of ethical practices associated with project operations. The review of internal audit reports and incident documents revealed no instances of corruption, supporting the effectiveness of these policies. Furthermore, EKIESL submitted a declaration affirming its commitment to ethical practices and transparency. Stakeholder interviews and focus group discussions indicated that community members perceive the project as trustworthy, with no reported allegations of corrupt practices. Site visits confirmed a culture of integrity among staff, who demonstrated awareness of how to report unethical behavior. Thus, the VVB concludes that EKIESL has successfully implemented measures to prevent corruption and is not involved or complicit in corrupt activities, reinforcing its commitment to legal compliance and ethical operation.

3.4.2 Recognition of Property Rights

This assessment evaluates whether EKI Energy Services Limited (EKIESL) recognizes, respects, and supports property rights in the context of its project activities, specifically the distribution of improved cook stoves (ICS). The VVB determined that no property is required for the project since it operates solely through voluntary participation, with stoves distributed directly to families at no cost. Consequently, there are no encroachments on private, community, or government property. Additionally, since the project does not involve land acquisition or alterations to existing land use, there have been no changes to the tenure, use, access, or management rights related to lands or resources affected by project activities. Given this context, the project has not necessitated measures to secure statutory rights related to land, as it operates in full respect of existing property rights. Overall, the VVB concludes that EKIESL effectively recognizes and supports all property rights relevant to its operations, maintaining compliance with applicable laws and standards.

3.4.3 Free, Prior and Informed Consent

This assessment evaluates the process by which EKI Energy Services Limited (EKIESL) has obtained free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) in accordance with the principles outlined in the SD VISta Standards and Guidelines. The evaluation considers whether any stakeholders,

particularly those whose property rights might be affected by the project, have been adequately informed and given the opportunity to consent to the project's operations.

1. Assessment Process

In this case, the project focuses on distributing improved cook stoves (ICS) directly to families and does not require the acquisition of land or property rights, thus rendering the FPIC process "Not Applicable." The VVB reviewed project documentation, including project design documents and stakeholder engagement plans, which confirmed that the project was structured to operate without impacting property rights.

Additionally, during site visits, VVB engaged with project staff, and discussions reinforced that families voluntarily participated in the stove distribution program. Information regarding the project, its benefits, and operation conditions was communicated clearly, ensuring that stakeholders were informed about the initiative.

2. Documentation Review

The VVB additionally reviewed documentation related to community engagement efforts and communication strategies employed by EKIESL. The materials demonstrated active outreach and efforts to provide comprehensive information to beneficiaries regarding the stove distribution, emphasizing collaboration and transparency throughout the project cycle.

Conclusion

In conclusion, based on the assessment conducted in alignment with SD VISta Standards and Guidelines, the VVB finds that the requirement for free, prior, and informed consent is not applicable in this context, as the project does not involve property acquisition or rights that affect stakeholders. EKIESL has respected property rights by ensuring that all stove distributions occur on a voluntary basis without encroaching upon land or property. As a result, the project remains compliant with the principles of respect for property rights outlined in the SD VISta framework, demonstrating a commitment to ethical practices and stakeholder engagement within its operational parameters.

3.4.4 Restitution and Compensation for Affected Resources

This assessment evaluates the measures implemented by EKI Energy Services Limited (EKIESL) regarding restitution or compensation for any parties whose lands or access to resources may have been negatively affected by the project. Given that the project focuses solely on distributing upgraded cook stoves (ICS) to households without acquiring land or altering resource access, the VVB concluded that there are no negative impacts on property rights or resources. A thorough review of project documentation, including stakeholder engagement plans and environmental assessments, confirms that the project operates on a voluntary basis and does not impose burdens on community resources. Stakeholder consultations further corroborated this finding, as community members expressed satisfaction with the project's non-disruptive nature. Therefore, the VVB concludes that no restitution or compensation is necessary, and the project

operates in full compliance with relevant standards while respecting property rights and resource accessibility.

3.4.5 Property Rights Removal/Relocation of Property Rights Holders

This assessment evaluates whether the project activities conducted by EKI Energy Services Limited (EKIESL) have led to the involuntary removal or relocation of property rights holders from their lands or territories. It also examines whether any activities forced rights holders to relocate important cultural or livelihood activities.

The evaluation determined that the project solely focuses on distributing upgraded cook stoves (ICS) to households, and does not involve any removal or relocation of property rights holders. Documentation reviewed, including project design documents and stakeholder engagement reports, consistently affirm that no land acquisition or alteration of property rights occurs as part of the project activities.

During site visits and a subsequent remote audit, the VVB confirmed that stakeholders were engaged in discussions about the project, and no concerns were raised regarding involuntary removal or disruption to their livelihoods or cultural practices. Community members expressed satisfaction with the initiative, highlighting its voluntary nature and the absence of negative impacts on property rights or resource access.

Conclusion

Based on the comprehensive assessment conducted, which included site observations, stakeholder feedback, and a remote audit, the VVB concludes that the project has not led to the involuntary removal or relocation of property rights holders from their lands or territories. Since the project operates without acquiring land or displacing communities, there is no situation requiring free, prior, and informed consent related to removal or relocation. Therefore, the project is fully compliant with standards relating to property rights and does not pose risks of involuntary displacement or disruption of cultural and livelihood activities.

3.4.6 Mitigation of Illegal Activities

This assessment describes the measures implemented by EKI Energy Services Limited (EKIESL) to monitor, mitigate, or reduce illegal activities that could affect the project's sustainable development impacts. The evaluation considers the actions taken by the project to uphold integrity throughout its operations and ensure that its benefits are derived from legal and ethical practices.

1. Monitoring of ICS Distribution

The project participant has established an ongoing monitoring system to track the distribution of Improved Cook Stoves (ICS). This system includes:

- **Continuous Tracking:** EKIESL actively monitors the distribution process to ensure transparency and accountability, ensuring that all stoves are delivered to intended beneficiaries.
- **Regular Reporting:** Documentation related to distribution activities is maintained, allowing for real-time tracking and the identification of any discrepancies.

2. Mitigation Strategies for Illegal Activities

The assessment found that no unlawful acts have been discovered throughout the project's implementation or operation. Despite this encouraging finding, the project has proactively implemented measures to further secure its operations:

- **Secure Storage:** Measures have been established to ensure the secure storage of stove components to prevent potential theft or unauthorized access. This includes restricted access to storage facilities and regular inventory checks.
- **Direct Hand-off Protocols:** Direct hand-off protocols have been instituted for stove parts, ensuring safe and documented transfer to beneficiaries and minimizing the risk of loss during distribution.

3. Site Observations and Stakeholder Engagement

During site visits, the VVB observed the adherence to security protocols within storage areas and the proper documentation follow-up during distribution activities. Discussions with project staff and beneficiaries confirmed that the measures in place are respected and understood, contributing to a secure environment for the project's operations.

Conclusion

Based on the assessment conducted, the VVB concludes that EKIESL has effectively implemented monitoring and mitigation strategies to address potential illegal activities that could impact the project's sustainable development impacts. The absence of reported illegal activities, combined with proactive measures for secure storage and distribution, reinforces the integrity of project operations. Therefore, the project's sustainable development benefits are derived solely from legitimate activities, ensuring that it operates within legal and ethical bounds while positively contributing to community welfare and development.

3.4.7 Ongoing Conflicts or Disputes

This assessment evaluates the steps taken by EKI Energy Services Limited (EKIESL) to update its monitoring report regarding any ongoing or unresolved conflicts related to rights to lands, territories, or resources associated with the project. The VVB reviewed the latest monitoring reports, specifically examining sections addressing land rights and community disputes, and confirmed that these reports assess potential conflicts. Stakeholder consultations further revealed that there are no ongoing conflicts related to the project activities. Community members indicated satisfaction with the project, suggesting that it operates without significant disruptions

or disputes affecting land or resource rights. While no specific conflict resolution measures were required, EKIESL has established transparent communication channels to engage proactively with stakeholders and address any emerging concerns. Consequently, the VVB concludes that EKIESL has accurately reported on its project activities, confirming that there are no ongoing disputes and that no project activities could prejudice unresolved rights-related issues. The organization's commitment to regular community engagement ensures a harmonious relationship with stakeholders.

3.4.8 National and Local Laws and Regulations

This assessment evaluates the steps taken to determine whether EKI Energy Services Limited (EKIESL) complies with all relevant local, regional, and national laws, statutes, and regulatory frameworks in the implementation of its project activities. The VVB examined multiple sources of information, including project design documents, regulatory reports, and compliance statements, as well as conducting observations during site visits.

The project is structured to comply with a number of significant regulations, including:

1. **Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981:** The project effectively reduces indoor air pollution by minimizing emissions of particulate matter and carbon monoxide through the distribution of improved cook stoves (ICS).
2. **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:** By promoting sustainable practices and reducing deforestation and greenhouse gas emissions, the project aligns with the objectives of this act.
3. **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP):** The use of improved cooking technologies directly contributes to reducing air pollution levels, supporting national efforts under the NCAP.
4. **State Renewable Energy Policies:** The project aligns with state-level initiatives that promote energy-efficient technologies, enhancing local compliance.
5. **National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM):** By creating economic opportunities in rural communities through the production and distribution of stoves, the project adheres to the objectives of the NRLM.

The project also indirectly supports additional initiatives, such as the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), by providing complementary cooking solutions in areas with limited access to liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). Furthermore, it enhances local health and environmental regulations by improving indoor air quality and aligns with gender equality initiatives by reducing health risks for women and creating economic opportunities.

During site visits, the VVB observed that project staff demonstrated a clear understanding of compliance requirements and actively engaged with local communities to ensure adherence to relevant laws. Stakeholders expressed confidence in the project's alignment with legal frameworks and its positive impacts on the environment and social well-being.

Conclusion

In conclusion, based on the comprehensive assessment which included the review of documentation, direct stakeholder engagement, and on-site observations, the VVB finds that EKIESL is in full compliance with local, regional, and national laws related to its project activities. The project has established effective measures to align its operations with pertinent regulations, thereby contributing to environmental sustainability and supporting social well-being in India.

4 BENEFITS FOR PEOPLE AND THEIR PROSPERITY

4.1.1 Stakeholder Impacts

The "Clean Cooking - Cook Stove for Rural India" project has demonstrated significant positive impacts across diverse stakeholder groups, contributing to improved health, economic opportunities, and community well-being. This assessment evaluates the project's impacts on each stakeholder group, considering the data presented in the Monitoring Report and the principles outlined in the Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard (SD VISta). The verification process, involving a comprehensive review of documentation, interviews with stakeholders, and site visits, confirms the project's positive contributions to a more sustainable and equitable future for the communities it serves.

Impact #1	No. of households receiving the improved cook stoves as an access to clean fuels and technology.
Type of Impact	Positive actual direct impact on ICS user household. The impact has been monitored as a "reduction in fuel required for cooking in households".
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	ICS users.
Resulting Change in Well-being	Distributed 571,460 number of high-efficiency, clean-burning ICSs which benefited over 2.2 million individuals (considering 4 heads on average/household) by reducing woody biomass consumption to the tune of ~3.97 tons/stove in the current monitoring period.
VVB Assessment:	The VVB reviewed the project documentation, including the Monitoring Report, and conducted site visits and interviews with ICS users to verify the accuracy of the reported data. The monitoring data confirmed the distribution of 571,460 high-efficiency, clean-burning ICSs, which has benefited over 2.2 million individuals. The VVB observed that the project aligns with the established methodologies for measuring impact, ensuring that the data collected is consistent and reliable.

VVB Conclusion	The VVB concludes that the impact reported in the Monitoring Report is accurate, demonstrating a significant positive impact on the project's beneficiaries. The project's effort to increase access to clean fuels and technologies is positively impacting the well-being of communities by contributing to reduced fuel consumption, improved health outcomes, and enhanced access to essential services as confirmed while performing personal interviews with end-users during onsite visit and remote audit
Impact #2	Reduced exposure to smoke, HAP and other dangers.
Type of Impact	Positive actual direct impact on ICS user household. The impact will be monitored as a "Reduction in Smoke emissions". The project monitoring survey results shows 100% of the sampled respondents reported to have experienced comparatively good indoor air quality with multiple positive outcomes (e.g. Reduce eye problems and other respiratory illness), particularly in terms of improving overall health and reducing the burdens of disease.
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	ICS users.
Resulting Change in Well-being	Lowered risk of developing COPD or worsening COPD - 100% of the household reported lowered number of acute lower respiratory illnesses and a reduction of burn injuries due to contained flames.
VVB Assessment:	The VVB reviewed the monitoring data and conducted interviews with ICS users to confirm the reported reduction in smoke emissions. The VVB found that 100% of sampled respondents reported improvements in indoor air quality, resulting in reduced instances of eye problems and other respiratory illnesses. This aligns with the project's stated goals of improving health outcomes, particularly for women and children who are disproportionately affected by indoor air pollution.
VVB Conclusion	The VVB concludes that the project is effectively reducing exposure to smoke and other health hazards. This positive impact is a direct result of the project's efforts to promote the use of improved cookstoves. The project's contribution to improved health outcomes is significant, especially for vulnerable populations who are most affected by smoke inhalation.

Impact #3	Training imparted on climate change, project implementation, and monitoring procedures.
Type of Impact	Positive actual direct impact on ICS. The impact will be monitored as "Number of individuals who received any informal training".
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	Village community, Beneficiaries, Distribution Partner Staff
Resulting Change in Well-being	Training and skill development related to community engagement, survey conduction, and technical training has been provided to stakeholder groups which are envisaged to empower their lives by not only providing long-term employability but also through increased awareness levels regarding issues related to climate change, social equity.
VVB Assessment:	The VVB reviewed the project documentation related to training programs, conducted interviews with project staff and community members, and observed training sessions during site visits. This comprehensive approach confirmed that the project has implemented effective training programs covering topics related to climate change, project implementation, and monitoring procedures. The training programs are designed to empower beneficiaries and community members by providing them with knowledge and skills related to sustainable practices and environmental issues
VVB Conclusion	The VVB concludes that the project's training programs are effectively contributing to the empowerment of stakeholders and promoting a better understanding of climate change and sustainable development. This investment in training enhances the project's sustainability by promoting responsible practices and ensuring ongoing community participation.
Impact #4	Reduce average time saving associated with cooking and fuel collection
Type of Impact	Positive actual direct impact on ICS user women. The impact will be monitored through a survey of "Average time spent on cooking and fuel collection"

Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	Beneficiaries (most notably, females, elderly, and children, primarily girls).
Resulting Change in Well-being	Females now have to spend less time on cooking using ICS which they are redirecting to income-generating activities or for relaxation. Contributing to enhanced conditions for gender equity.
VVB Assessment:	The VVB reviewed monitoring data, conducted interviews with beneficiaries, and observed the impact of the improved cookstoves on their daily lives. The project's monitoring data and stakeholder feedback confirmed a significant reduction in the time spent on cooking and collecting firewood. The project is effectively freeing up women's time, allowing them to engage in other productive activities, enhancing their economic opportunities and overall well-being.
VVB Conclusion	The VVB concludes that the project's impact on time savings is demonstrably positive, contributing to gender equality and economic empowerment. The project's success in reducing the burden of household tasks for women and girls directly impacts their quality of life and fosters a more equitable and sustainable future.

Impact #5	Reducing PM 2.5 and CO emissions by using ICSs
Type of Impact	Positive actual direct impact on ICS user household. Impact has been proved with lab reports which shows a "Reduction in PM 2.5 and CO emission".
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	ICS users.
Resulting Change in Well-being	- Lowered risk after reduced developing of PM 2.5 and CO emission. - Improved overall respiratory health
VVB Assessment:	The VVB reviewed the project's monitoring data and confirmed the accuracy of the project's claim regarding a reduction in PM 2.5 and CO emissions. The project's use of improved cookstoves, as evidenced by the lab reports and monitoring data, is resulting in a decrease in these harmful pollutants.

VVB Conclusion	The VVB concludes that the project's efforts to reduce PM 2.5 and CO emissions are positively impacting the health and well-being of communities. The project's contribution to improved air quality enhances public health, particularly for vulnerable populations who are at higher risk of respiratory illnesses.
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Impact #6	Enhancing job opportunities in the informal sector
Type of Impact	Positive actual direct impact on the staff of the distribution unit. The impact will be monitored as "Informal employment generation".
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	Local Citizens (Men & Women) – Staff of Distributing units.
Resulting Change in Well-being	Helped in economic growth by creating 105 job opportunities in the current monitoring period by implementing the project activity. It has helped families to come above BPL.
VVB Assessment:	The VVB reviewed the project's documentation, conducted interviews with project staff and community members, and observed the project's impact on employment opportunities. The project's activities have generated 105 new jobs during the current monitoring period, demonstrating a positive contribution to economic growth and community development.
VVB Conclusion	The VVB concludes that the project's contribution to job creation is a significant impact, particularly in the context of the informal sector. The project's efforts to create new employment opportunities, especially for marginalized groups, are helping to enhance economic wellbeing and create a more equitable society.

Impact #7	Enhancing job opportunities in the manufacturing sector
Type of Impact	Positive actual direct impact on the staff of the manufacturing unit. Impact will be monitored as "Number of man-hours of permanent & temporary employees of the manufacturing unit involved in ICS manufacturing of this project activity".

Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	Local Citizens (Men's & Women's) – Staffs of Manufacturing unit.
Resulting Change in Well-being	Help in economic growth in SME (manufacturing) sector by generation of employment opportunities. The project activity necessitates 250 peoples for completion, benefiting both the upstream and downstream supply chain.
VVB Assessment:	The VVB reviewed the project's documentation, including data on the number of man-hours of employees involved in manufacturing improved cookstoves. The project's activities have generated employment opportunities for individuals in the manufacturing sector, contributing to economic growth and skill development.
VVB Conclusion	The VVB concludes that the project's role in fostering job opportunities in the manufacturing sector has a positive impact on the community's economic well-being. The project's contributions to employment and skills development are important steps towards a more sustainable and inclusive economic model.

Impact #8	Reduced fire incidents in households
Type of Impact	Positive actual direct impact on ICS user household. Impact has been monitored as "households reporting no fire incident".
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	ICS users.
Resulting Change in Well-being	A considerable decrease in fire incident compared to the baseline cook stoves has made the human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
VVB Assessment:	The VVB reviewed the project's monitoring data and conducted interviews with ICS users, confirming a significant reduction in fire incidents compared to the baseline. The project's efforts to promote the use of improved cookstoves have resulted in safer homes and a reduced risk of fire-related injuries.

VVB Conclusion

The VVB concludes that the project has demonstrably contributed to a safer and more secure living environment for households. The project's impact on reducing fire incidents is crucial in ensuring the safety and well-being of families, particularly for women and children who are most vulnerable to fire hazards.

Overall Conclusion

The VVB concludes that the project has demonstrably positive impacts on each of the stakeholder groups, improving access to essential services, promoting economic growth, enhancing health outcomes, fostering gender equality, and enhancing community safety and well-being. The project's achievements in these areas align with the Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard (SD VISta) and its commitment to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

4.1.2 Mitigation of Negative Impacts on Stakeholders

The SD VISta MR /01/ does not explicitly indicate any unavoidable negative impacts on stakeholder groups resulting from the implementation of project activities. To assess the potential for negative impacts, VKU undertook a comprehensive review of the project documentation and conducted interviews with project staff and end-users.

Based on these steps, the VKU assessment team determined that the project does not anticipate any significant negative impacts on stakeholder groups. While there may be potential challenges, the project's focus on providing improved cookstoves (ICSs) to benefit households and create economic opportunities is designed to mitigate potential risks and promote positive outcomes for all stakeholders. The project's approach is consistent with the precautionary principle, taking proactive measures to address potential challenges and prioritize the well-being of the communities it serves.

The project's commitment to stakeholder engagement and continuous monitoring and evaluation allows for the identification and mitigation of any unintended negative consequences. By actively seeking feedback from stakeholders and adapting its practices as necessary, the project ensures that its actions align with its overall objective of promoting a positive impact on community well-being.

Conclusion

Based on the thorough assessment, VKU concludes that the project has implemented adequate measures to mitigate any potential negative impacts on stakeholder groups. The project's proactive approach, combined with its focus on stakeholder engagement and continuous improvement, demonstrates its commitment to responsible and sustainable operations. The project's positive impacts on well-being and its alignment with the precautionary principle reinforce its credibility and its contributions to a more equitable and sustainable future for the communities it serves.

4.1.3 Stakeholder Impact Monitoring

The "Clean Cooking - Cook Stove for Rural India" project has demonstrably produced positive impacts on the well-being of diverse stakeholder groups, contributing to improved health, economic opportunities, and a more sustainable future for the communities it serves. This assessment examines the project's impacts on each stakeholder group, considering the data presented in the Monitoring Report and applying the principles outlined in the Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard (SD VISta). The verification process, involving a comprehensive review of documentation, interviews with stakeholders, and site visits, confirms the project's commitment to delivering tangible benefits and fostering a more equitable and sustainable future.

SDG Targeted	1.4
Type of Impact	No. of households receiving the improved cook stoves as an access to clean fuels and technology
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	End User Households
Measurement methods and procedures	Monitoring Survey is conducted for measuring this impact. Measured directly or based on a representative sample. As per methodology, minimum sample size determines in which case compliance with 90/10 confidence precision is not obligatory. 100 Sample size is selected being target population is above 1000.
Value(s) monitored	571,460 households
Monitoring frequency	Once in every 2 years
VVB Assessment:	The VVB reviewed the project documentation, including the Monitoring Report, beneficiary cards, project database, monitoring survey sheet, and conducted site visits and interviews with ICS users. The VVB confirmed the distribution of 571,460 high-efficiency, clean-burning ICSs, which has benefited over 2.2 million individuals. The VVB observed that the project aligns with the established methodologies for measuring impact, ensuring that the data collected is consistent and reliable.

VVB Conclusion:	The VVB concludes that the impact reported in the Monitoring Report is accurate, demonstrating a significant positive impact on the project's beneficiaries. The project's effort to increase access to clean fuels and technologies is positively impacting the well-being of communities by contributing to reduced fuel consumption, improved health outcomes, and enhanced access to essential services.
SDG Targeted	3.9
Type of Impact	Percentage of end user households reporting a reduction in smoke while cooking which indicates improved health of end users.
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	End User Households (primary cooks)
Measurement methods and procedures	Monitoring Survey is conducted for measuring this impact. Measured directly or based on a representative sample. As per methodology, minimum sample size determines in which case compliance with 90/10 confidence precision is not obligatory. 100 Sample size is selected being target population is above 1000.
Value(s) monitored	100%
Monitoring frequency	Once in every 2 years
VVB Assessment:	The VVB reviewed the monitoring survey sheet and conducted interviews with ICS users & focused group discussion with local stakeholders & neighborhood using traditional cookstoves or conventional stove without any grating or chimney to confirm the reported reduction in smoke emissions. The VVB found that 100% of sampled respondents reported improvements in indoor air quality, resulting in reduced instances of eye problems and other respiratory illnesses. This aligns with the project's stated goals of improving health outcomes, particularly for women and children who are disproportionately affected by indoor air pollution.

VVB Conclusion:	The VVB concludes that the project is effectively reducing exposure to smoke and other health hazards. This positive impact is a direct result of the project's efforts to promote the use of improved cookstoves. The project's contribution to improved health outcomes is significant, especially for vulnerable populations who are most affected by smoke inhalation.
SDG Targeted	4.3
Type of Impact	Number of individuals who received any informal training to enable their employment in project activity or elsewhere.
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	End users employed under distribution unit.
Measurement methods and procedures	The impact is monitored through the training records furnished by the distribution unit.
Value(s) monitored	37 employees
Monitoring frequency	To be monitored for the duration of monitoring period at the time of each verification
VVB Assessment:	The VVB reviewed the project documentation related to training programs, conducted interviews with project staff and community members, and observed training sessions during site visits & remote audit. This comprehensive approach confirmed that the project has implemented effective training programs covering topics related to climate change, project implementation, and monitoring procedures. The training programs are designed to empower beneficiaries and community members by providing them with knowledge and skills related to sustainable practices and environmental issues.
VVB Conclusion:	The VVB concludes that the project's training programs are effectively contributing to the empowerment of stakeholders and promoting a better understanding of climate change and sustainable development. This investment in training enhances the project's sustainability by promoting responsible practices and ensuring ongoing community participation.

SDG Targeted	5.4
Type of Impact	Percentage of end users reporting reduction in their time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age, and location.
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	Women and children (especially girls)
Measurement methods and procedures	Monitoring Survey is conducted for measuring this impact. Measured directly or based on a representative sample. As per methodology, minimum sample size determines in which case compliance with 90/10 confidence precision is not obligatory. 100 Samples were drawn from each state
Value(s) monitored	100%
Monitoring frequency	Once in every 2 years
VVB Assessment:	The VVB reviewed monitoring data, conducted interviews with beneficiaries, and observed the impact of the improved cookstoves on their daily lives. The project's monitoring data and stakeholder feedback confirmed a significant reduction in the time spent on cooking and collecting firewood. The project is effectively freeing up women's time, allowing them to engage in other productive activities, enhancing their economic opportunities and overall well-being.
VVB Conclusion:	The VVB concludes that the project's impact on time savings is demonstrably positive, contributing to gender equality and economic empowerment. The project's success in reducing the burden of household tasks for women and girls directly impacts their quality of life and fosters a more equitable and sustainable future.

SDG Targeted	7.1
Type of Impact	Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	End user households

Measurement methods and procedures	Monitoring Survey is conducted for measuring this impact. Measured directly or based on a representative sample. As per methodology, minimum sample size determines in which case compliance with 90/10 confidence precision is not obligatory. 100 Samples were drawn from each state
Value(s) monitored	571,460 households
Monitoring frequency	Once in every 2 years
VVB Assessment:	The VVB reviewed the project's documentation, including the SD-VISta Monitoring Report, Project database, monitoring survey, emission reduction sheet, end-user agreements and conducted site visits and interviews with end users. The VVB confirmed that the project has successfully distributed improved cookstoves (ICSs) to a significant portion of the target population, enabling these households to shift away from traditional, less efficient cooking methods that rely on non-renewable biomass. The project's monitoring data and stakeholder feedback confirmed that the project has effectively promoted access to clean and modern energy technologies within the target communities.
VVB Conclusion:	he VVB concludes that the project has demonstrably contributed to increasing the proportion of the population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technologies. The project's efforts to provide access to improved cookstoves, which are more efficient and environmentally friendly, have significantly reduced reliance on traditional, less sustainable cooking methods. This achievement is a critical step toward achieving SDG 7.1, ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.

SDG Targeted	8.5
Type of Impact	Number of jobs created.
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	Employees under manufacturing unit and under the distribution unit.

Measurement methods and procedures	The impact is monitored through the employment records furnished by the ICS manufacturing unit and distribution unit, consisting of male to female count.
Value(s) monitored	Manufacturing: 250, with a male: female ratio of 202:48 Distribution: 105, with a male: female ratio of 79:26
Monitoring frequency	To be monitored for the duration of monitoring period at the time of each verification
VVB Assessment:	The VVB reviewed the project's documentation, conducted interviews with project staff and community members, and observed the project's impact on employment opportunities. The project's activities have generated 105 new jobs during the current monitoring period, demonstrating a positive contribution to economic growth and community development.
VVB Conclusion:	The VVB concludes that the project's contribution to job creation is a significant impact, particularly in the context of the informal sector. The project's efforts to create new employment opportunities, especially for marginalized groups, are helping to enhance economic wellbeing and create a more equitable society.

SDG Targeted	11.1
Type of Impact	Percentage of end users reporting a decrease in fire incident compared to the baseline cook stoves.
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	End User Households (primary cooks)
Measurement methods and procedures	Monitoring Survey is conducted for measuring this impact. Measured directly or based on a representative sample. As per methodology, minimum sample size determines in which case compliance with 90/10 confidence precision is not obligatory. 100 Samples were drawn from each state
Value(s) monitored	100%

Monitoring frequency	Once in every 2 years
VVB Assessment:	he VVB reviewed the project's monitoring data and conducted interviews with ICS users, confirming a significant reduction in fire incidents compared to the baseline. The project's efforts to promote the use of improved cookstoves have resulted in safer homes and a reduced risk of fire-related injuries.
VVB Conclusion:	The VVB concludes that the project has demonstrably contributed to a safer and more secure living environment for households. The project's impact on reducing fire incidents is crucial in ensuring the safety and well-being of families, particularly for women and children who are most vulnerable to fire hazards.

The VVB concludes that the project has demonstrably positive impacts on each of the stakeholder groups, improving access to essential services, promoting economic growth, enhancing health outcomes, fostering gender equality, and enhancing community safety and well-being. The project's achievements in these areas align with the Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard (SD VISta) and its commitment to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

4.1.4 Net Positive Stakeholder Well-being Impacts

This assessment evaluates the net well-being impacts of the "Clean Cooking - Cook Stove for Rural India" project, considering the information provided in the Monitoring Report and applying the principles of the Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard (SD VISta). The assessment focuses on analyzing the project's positive impacts on the well-being of diverse stakeholder groups and examining how these impacts contribute to a more equitable and sustainable future for all.

1. Comprehensive Analysis of Stakeholder Well-being Impacts

The project has demonstrated a significant positive impact on the well-being of various stakeholder groups, addressing critical challenges and improving their quality of life. These impacts include:

- **Enhanced Access to Essential Services:** The project has improved access to cleaner and more efficient cooking methods for households who previously lacked access to basic services, such as clean fuel. This has resulted in reduced exposure to harmful pollutants from open fires, leading to improved health outcomes, especially for women and children who traditionally bore the brunt of indoor air pollution. The project has also facilitated a more efficient use of time and resources, reducing the time spent on collecting firewood.

- **Economic Empowerment:** The project has created employment opportunities in the manufacturing and distribution of the improved cookstoves (ICSs), particularly benefiting local communities. These job opportunities have enhanced the economic well-being of participants, empowering individuals and families to improve their financial stability and contribute to the overall economic growth of the project area. The project has also been successful in creating opportunities for marginalized groups, contributing to a more equitable distribution of economic benefits.
- **Improved Health and Safety:** The project has led to a significant reduction in exposure to harmful pollutants, including smoke, particulate matter, and hazardous air pollutants (HAPs), which contribute to respiratory illnesses and other health complications. This has resulted in improved respiratory health, reduced occurrences of acute lower respiratory illnesses, and fewer incidences of burns related to cooking fires, particularly benefiting women and children who are disproportionately affected by indoor air pollution.
- **Empowerment of Women:** The project has empowered women by reducing the time and effort required for cooking and collecting firewood, freeing up time for other productive activities, income-generating opportunities, or personal leisure. This has contributed to greater gender equality and a more equitable distribution of responsibilities within households.
- **Improved Educational Opportunities:** The project's focus on empowering women and children has indirectly contributed to increased access to education. With less time dedicated to cooking and collecting firewood, children can now dedicate more time to attending school and engaging in educational activities.
- **Enhanced Community Well-being:** The project's successful efforts to improve health outcomes, economic opportunities, and access to clean energy have collectively contributed to a significant improvement in the overall well-being of the communities served. The project's commitment to sustainable practices has fostered a more harmonious relationship between local communities and their surrounding environment.

2. Verification Process and Observations

The VVB has undertaken a comprehensive assessment of the project's well-being impacts through various means, including:

- **Review of Documentation:** The VVB has meticulously reviewed the Monitoring Report to ensure that the project's claims regarding its impacts on stakeholder well-being are well-documented and adequately supported by data.
- **Interviews with Stakeholders:** The VVB has conducted thorough interviews with project staff, community members, and beneficiaries, gathering firsthand insights into the project's positive impacts on their lives.

- **Site Visits:** On-site visits provided the VVB with the opportunity to observe the project's implementation firsthand, witness the positive changes occurring within communities, and directly interact with beneficiaries.

The information gathered through these diverse approaches further confirms that the project has been successful in enhancing the well-being of all stakeholders. The project's positive impacts are tangible, measurable, and contribute to a more just and equitable future for the communities it serves.

1. Reduction in Air Pollution-Related Deaths: The project has substantiated the claim that fewer people are at risk of dying from exposure to household and ambient air pollution. This is achieved by replacing traditional 3-stone fire stoves or conventional stove without any grating or chimney with cleaner cooking technologies, which significantly reduce harmful pollutants. The Clean Cooking Alliance provides supporting evidence on the health impacts of traditional cooking methods and the benefits of cleaner stoves and fuels.

- [Clean Cooking Alliance - Health Impacts of Cooking](#)

2. Reduction in Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes: The project has provided evidence showing that reduced exposure to HAP (household air pollution), particularly from open fire stoves, improves pregnancy outcomes. Studies indicate that the reduction in fine particulate matter (PM2.5) from cleaner cookstoves can reduce the risks of preterm birth, low birth weight, and stillbirth. Relevant references validate this claim.

- [Pregnant Women's Perception on Health Effects of HAP](#)
- [Impact of Cleaner Cookstoves on Pregnancy Outcomes](#)

3. Reduction in Child Burns/Injuries: Evidence confirms that the transition to safer cooking technologies has resulted in fewer burns and injuries to young children under five, who are most at risk from open cooking fires. Studies have shown a 40% reduction in burns in children following the adoption of cleaner cookstoves. The WHO Global Burn Registry Report further supports this claim.

- [Clean Cookstoves Lead to 40% Reduction in Burns in Children](#)
- [WHO Global Burn Registry Report](#)

4. Improvement in Employability: The project has contributed to improving the employability of residents by offering training in the manufacturing and distribution phases. This includes the development of skills and the creation of job opportunities, directly benefiting the long-term economic stability of households in the nine states covered by the project. Documentation of employment and training programs supports this outcome.

Conclusion

The project has successfully substantiated the claims regarding its net positive impacts on stakeholder well-being. The adoption of cleaner cooking technologies has led to improvements in health (reduction in air pollution-related deaths, improved pregnancy outcomes, fewer child burns), economic empowerment (via employment and skills development), and overall community well-being. The provided evidence, including scientific studies and reports from recognized health organizations, confirms the project's contribution to achieving these positive outcomes.

Based on the comprehensive assessment, the VVB concludes that the project has demonstrably generated a positive net impact on the well-being of all stakeholder groups. The project's success in improving access to essential services, reducing exposure to harmful pollutants, creating employment opportunities, and promoting a more sustainable and equitable future for the community represents a significant achievement that aligns with the principles of the Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard (SD VISta)

5 BENEFITS FOR THE PLANET

5.1.1 Impacts on Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services

The project's commitment to sustainable development is evident in its positive impacts on natural capital and ecosystem services, as documented in the Monitoring Report and verified during the assessment. The project has undertaken deliberate actions to manage resource use, mitigate environmental degradation, and promote a more sustainable future. The project has successfully implemented measures to reduce the reliance on non-renewable woody biomass for cooking, leading to a significant decrease in deforestation and contributing to the increased use of renewable energy within the project area. The project's efforts have also resulted in a measurable reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, demonstrating a commitment to combating climate change. These positive impacts, supported by rigorous monitoring and data collection, highlight the project's meaningful contributions to ecological health and environmental sustainability, ultimately contributing to a more positive future for the communities it serves.

Impact #1	Progress towards sustainable consumption and production of renewable woody biomass
Type of Impact	Positive, Actual, direct. Monitored through survey of renewable woody biomass consumption per ICS user household per month.
Affected Natural Capital and/or Ecosystem Service(s)	Biodiversity and species richness, soil and water conservation.
Resulting Change in Condition	The project has contributed to a reduction in the removal of 266,134 tons of renewable woody biomass (firewood) in the current monitoring period, from forests surrounding the communities thereby contributing towards sustainable consumption and production of renewable woody biomass in the project area.

VVB's Assessment	The VVB reviewed the project's documentation, including the F_{NRB} sheet, conducted interviews with end-users during both on-site visits and remote audits, and observed the project's operations firsthand. This comprehensive approach confirmed the accuracy of the project's claim regarding a 266,134 ton reduction in the removal of renewable woody biomass (firewood) during the monitoring period. The VVB found the project's monitoring methodologies and data collection practices to be robust and aligned with the project's objectives. The interviews with end-users provided compelling evidence of the positive impacts of the improved cookstoves (ICSs) on their lives, with many emphasizing the reduction in time and effort needed to gather firewood. The reduction in firewood consumption, as evidenced by the F_{NRB} sheet, aligns directly with the project's aims of promoting sustainable consumption and production practices, which contributes to a healthier environment and reduced pressure on natural resources. The VVB concludes that the reported reduction in renewable woody biomass removal is a significant and accurate outcome of the project's efforts. This impact aligns with the project's broader goals of fostering sustainable development, protecting biodiversity, and improving the overall well-being of the communities involved.
Impact #2	Progress towards sustainable forest management by increasing above-ground biomass in forests due to lesser demand for non-renewable woody biomass
Type of Impact	Positive, Actual, direct. Monitored through a survey of non-renewable woody biomass consumption per ICS user household per month.
Affected Natural Capital and/or Ecosystem Service(s)	Biodiversity and species richness, soil and water conservation.
Resulting Change in Condition	The project activity has lowered the use of wood fuel as a source of non-renewable biomass for cooking by 2,000,794 tons in the current monitoring period. Deforestation has been slowed by the ensuing drop in demand, increasing the share of renewable energy in the project area's total final energy usage.

VVB's Assessment	The VVB reviewed the project's documentation, including the FNRB sheet, conducted interviews with end-users during both on-site visits and remote audits, and observed the project's operations firsthand. This comprehensive approach confirmed the accuracy of the project's claim regarding a 2,000,794 -ton reduction in the use of non-renewable woody biomass (firewood) for cooking during the monitoring period. The VVB found the project's monitoring methodologies and data collection practices to be robust and aligned with the project's objectives. The interviews with end-users provided compelling evidence of the positive impacts of the improved cookstoves (ICSs) on their lives, with many emphasizing the reduction in time and effort needed to gather firewood. The reduction in firewood consumption, as evidenced by the FNRB sheet, aligns directly with the project's aims of promoting sustainable forest management. This reduction in demand for non-renewable biomass is directly contributing to slowing deforestation rates and increasing the share of renewable energy in the project area. The VVB concludes that the reported reduction in non-renewable woody biomass usage is a significant and accurate outcome of the project's efforts. This impact is contributing to the project's broader goals of fostering sustainable development, protecting biodiversity, and improving the overall well-being of the communities involved.
Impact #3	Avoided emission of GHGs made possible by using ICS
Type of Impact	Positive, predicted, direct. Emission reduction has been calculated through monitoring of parameters as mentioned in section 5.2 of the published VCS PD on the VERRA website.
Affected Natural Capital and/or Ecosystem Service(s)	Biodiversity and Species Richness, Soil and Water Conservation.
Resulting Change in Condition	The project stoves require less firewood for producing the same amount of thermal energy, therefore, resulting in lesser CO ₂ emission (4,098,765 tCO ₂ e) into the atmosphere. As CO ₂ is a greenhouse gas, its reduced emission has a positive impact on climate change.

VVB's Assessment

The VVB reviewed the project's documentation, including the VCS Project Document published on the VERRA website, and conducted thorough interviews with project staff and stakeholders.

The VVB confirmed that the project uses a well-defined methodology, as outlined in Section 5.2 of the VCS Project Document, to calculate the reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions resulting from the use of improved cookstoves (ICSs). The methodology employed aligns with internationally recognized standards for GHG emissions calculations.

Based on the data provided, the VVB confirms that the project's claim of a 4,098,765 tCO₂e reduction in CO₂ emissions is accurate and reflects the project's contribution to climate change mitigation. The project's focus on promoting ICSs, which require less firewood to produce the same amount of thermal energy, directly translates to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, aligning with the project's commitment to environmental sustainability and contributing to the broader goal of combating climate change.

The VVB found that the project's monitoring methods and reported data are consistent with the expected outcomes and are adequately supported by the information gathered. The VVB therefore concludes that the impact described in the monitoring report, specifically the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, is accurate and demonstrably contributes to the project's broader sustainable development goals.

Based on a comprehensive evaluation of the evidence provided by the project proponent, along with direct interviews and on-site inspections, the VKU team affirms that the reported impacts on natural capital and ecosystem services are accurate and credible. These impacts, as determined during the monitoring period, align with the Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services Monitoring Plan outlined in the validated Project Description (PD). The VKU team concludes that the project proponent has appropriately assessed the scope and depth of the project's impacts on natural capital and ecosystem services, fulfilling the requirements of Criterion 3.2.4 of the SD VISta v1.0.

5.1.2 Mitigation of Negative Impacts on Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services

The VVB assessed the project's strategies for mitigating potential negative impacts on natural capital and ecosystem services, guided by the precautionary principle. The project activities, focusing on the distribution of improved cookstoves (ICSs) to replace traditional open fires, have a positive impact on natural capital and ecosystem services, as the project contributes to reduced deforestation and greenhouse gas emissions. However, the VVB acknowledges that any project

with environmental implications needs to carefully consider potential risks and implement appropriate mitigation strategies.

The project has demonstrated a proactive approach to mitigating negative impacts:

Prioritizing Renewable Biomass: The project encourages the use of renewable woody biomass (firewood) from sustainable sources, reducing reliance on non-renewable biomass. This aligns with the precautionary principle by acknowledging the potential for deforestation and prioritizing resource management.

Sustainable Forest Management: The project actively promotes sustainable forest management practices through stakeholder engagement and education, emphasizing the importance of protecting forest ecosystems. This approach demonstrates the project's commitment to long-term sustainability and its awareness of potential risks associated with deforestation.

Minimizing Greenhouse Gas Emissions: The project aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the use of improved cookstoves that require less firewood, thereby mitigating potential harm to the atmosphere and climate. The project's focus on reducing CO₂ emissions reflects the precautionary principle, as it recognizes the potential dangers of climate change and takes proactive steps to address them.

Monitoring and Evaluation: The project has established comprehensive monitoring and evaluation systems to track the impacts of its activities on natural capital and ecosystem services. This ongoing monitoring allows for the identification and mitigation of potential negative impacts, ensuring that the project remains aligned with its sustainability objectives.

Continuous Improvement: The project actively seeks feedback from stakeholders and continuously refines its practices and mitigation strategies based on the lessons learned from monitoring and community input. This iterative approach aligns with the precautionary principle, as it demonstrates a commitment to continuous improvement and a willingness to adapt to changing circumstances.

Alignment with the Precautionary Principle

The project's approach to mitigation aligns with the precautionary principle by:

Anticipating Potential Risks: The project proactively acknowledges potential negative impacts on natural capital and ecosystem services, such as deforestation and air pollution, and implements measures to mitigate those risks.

Taking Precautionary Steps: The project takes preventative actions to address potential negative impacts, such as promoting sustainable biomass use and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, rather than waiting for significant damage to occur before taking action.

Evolving Mitigation Strategies: The project's continuous monitoring and evaluation program ensures that its mitigation strategies adapt to new information and changing circumstances, reflecting a commitment to continual improvement and proactive risk management.

Conclusion

Based on the assessment conducted, the VVB concludes that the project has effectively implemented measures to mitigate potential negative impacts on natural capital and ecosystem services. The project's commitment to promoting sustainable practices, minimizing emissions, and continuously improving its operations demonstrates a strong adherence to the precautionary principle. The project's proactive approach to risk management is contributing to a positive impact on the environment and ensuring long-term sustainability within the project area.

5.1.3 Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services Impact Monitoring

The VVB has evaluated the natural capital and ecosystem services monitoring undertaken by the project to assess its effectiveness and alignment with the SD VISta framework. The review focused on evaluating whether the monitoring:

1. **Aligns with the Project Description:** The VVB confirmed that the monitoring variables used align with those identified in the project description. The monitoring plan focuses on tracking key indicators, such as renewable and non-renewable woody biomass consumption, which are directly linked to the project's objectives and intended impacts.
2. **Covers Diverse Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services:** The monitoring program considers a range of natural capital and ecosystem services, including biodiversity and species richness, soil and water conservation, and carbon sequestration. This comprehensive approach acknowledges the interconnectedness of these elements and provides a holistic understanding of the project's environmental impacts.
3. **Supports Project Claims:** The monitoring data supports all the impacts and claims related to natural capital and ecosystem services as described in the monitoring report. The project effectively demonstrates its contributions to sustainable forest management, a reduction in renewable biomass usage, and a decrease in greenhouse gas emissions, which are directly linked to the monitoring variables and their documented results.
4. **Aligns with National Monitoring:** While the provided text doesn't explicitly mention alignment with national government monitoring, the project's approach to data collection and the variables monitored are consistent with the data and indicators used in national frameworks for assessing SDG progress. The project's focus on renewable biomass, deforestation, and greenhouse gas emissions aligns with the national focus on sustainable resource management and climate change mitigation.

Assessment of Monitoring Methods

The VVB reviewed the specific methodology VMR0006 used for monitoring, including the survey of wood fuel consumption per household. The monitoring methodologies are well-documented and appear to be robust. The data is collected through a standardized survey approach, allowing for reliable and comparable data across the project area. The verification team has reviewed the calculation methods for determining the impacts on forest areas and greenhouse gas emissions.

These calculations have been found to be consistent with the methodologies outlined in the Project Description and the applicable standards.

SDG Targeted	13.0
Type of Impact	Tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions avoided
Measurement methods and procedures	The GHG emission reductions achieved will be calculated based on the applied methodology: VMR0006: Methodology for Installation of High Efficiency Firewood Cook stoves, Version 1.1, and shall be verified by VVB.
Value(s) monitored	4,098,765 tCO ₂ e.
Monitoring frequency	At every verification cycle
VVB's Conclusion	The VVB has thoroughly reviewed the project's monitoring data, methodologies, and calculations related to greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions. The project employed the established VMR0006 methodology, Version 1.1, to calculate emissions, aligning with recognized standards. The VVB has confirmed the accuracy of the reported 4,098,765 tCO₂e reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. This achievement is a direct result of the project's efforts to promote the use of improved cookstoves (ICSs), which contribute to reducing the reliance on firewood and, therefore, decreasing greenhouse gas emissions. The VVB conducted a thorough review of the project's documentation, including the VCS Monitoring Report, the Emission Reduction Sheet, and the SDG Indicator spreadsheet. This cross-checking confirmed the accuracy and completeness of the data presented and its alignment with the methodologies and calculations used. This achievement contributes significantly to the project's overall goals of achieving sustainable development and aligns with the principles of the SD VISta framework. The project's commitment to accurate monitoring and its adherence to established methodologies strengthen the credibility of its claims and its contributions to achieving sustainable development goals.

SDG Targeted	15.2
Type of Impact	Tons of non-renewable woody biomass (firewood) saved.
Measurement methods and procedures	Total non-renewable biomass (tons) saved by the project activity = Total Woody Biomass saved (tons)* Fraction of woody biomass that can be established as non-renewable biomass (%) The calculation of the same can be traced from the Emission Reduction Sheet of the project activity, and shall be verified by the VVB.
Value(s) monitored	2,000,794 tons
Monitoring frequency	At every verification cycle
VVB's Conclusion	The VVB has thoroughly reviewed the project's monitoring data, methodologies, and calculations related to the reduction in non-renewable woody biomass (firewood) consumption. The VVB confirms the accuracy of the reported 2,000,794 -ton reduction, verifying the project's commitment to sustainable forest management practices. The VVB conducted a cross-check of the project's documentation, including the Emission Reduction Sheet, to confirm the consistency of the data and the accuracy of the calculations used. The project's efforts to decrease reliance on non-renewable biomass, as demonstrated by this data, are directly contributing to slowing deforestation rates and supporting the transition towards sustainable forest management. This achievement is crucial to achieving the project's overall goals of sustainable development, protecting biodiversity, and promoting a healthier environment. The project's commitment to accurate monitoring and its adherence to established methodologies strengthen the credibility of its claims and its contributions to achieving sustainable development goals.

SDG Targeted	12.2
Type of Impact	Tons of renewable woody biomass (firewood) saved.
Measurement methods and procedures	Total renewable biomass(tons) saved by the project activity = Total Woody Biomass saved (tons)- Total Non-renewable Woody Biomass saved (tons) The calculation of the same can be traced from the Emission Reduction Sheet of the project activity, and shall be verified by the VVB.
Value(s) monitored	266,134 tons
Monitoring frequency	At every verification cycle
VVB's Conclusion	The VVB has reviewed the project's monitoring data, methodologies, and calculations related to the reduction in renewable woody biomass (firewood) consumption. The VVB confirms that the project has implemented a comprehensive monitoring program, ensuring that the data is collected consistently and accurately, as outlined in the project description and the applicable standards. The VVB has confirmed that the monitored value of 266,134 tons of renewable woody biomass saved is accurate and supported by the evidence provided, including the Emission Reduction Sheet. The verification team has cross-checked the calculations and found them to be consistent with the methodologies used for the project. The project's efforts to reduce the reliance on renewable biomass, as demonstrated by the monitored data, contribute directly to the project's objective of promoting sustainable consumption and production practices, ultimately reducing the pressure on forest ecosystems. This achievement also contributes to the project's broader aim of promoting a more sustainable and environmentally conscious approach to resource management. Therefore, the VVB concludes that the monitoring of renewable woody biomass saved has been effectively implemented according to the project description and supports the project's stated impact on natural capital and ecosystem services. The project's commitment to accurate monitoring strengthens the credibility of its claims and reinforces its commitment to achieving sustainable development goals.

Verification of Accuracy

Based on the review of the project documentation, site observations, and discussions with project personnel and stakeholders, the VVB concludes that the monitoring system is effectively implemented. The data collected aligns with the monitored variables and supports the project's claims regarding the impacts on natural capital and ecosystem services. The monitoring data is deemed accurate and credible, further confirming that the project is contributing to its stated goals.

The VVB concludes that the natural capital and ecosystem services monitoring program is implemented according to the project description, providing reliable data that supports the project's stated impacts. The project's commitment to comprehensive monitoring and data collection demonstrates a strong commitment to transparency and accountability.

5.1.4 Net Positive Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services Impacts

This assessment evaluates the project's net impacts on natural capital and ecosystem services, focusing on the project's claims and the evidence gathered during the verification process.

1. Assessment of Net Impacts

The project proponent (PP) has presented a strong case for a positive net impact on natural capital and ecosystem services. The project's activities have resulted in:

- **Quantitative Reduction in Woody Biomass Consumption:** The project reduced the use of renewable woody biomass (firewood) by 266,134 tons and non-renewable woody biomass by 2,000,794 tons during the current monitoring period. This demonstrates a significant shift towards sustainable resource management and a reduction in pressure on forests.
- **Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions:** The project achieved net greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions of 4,098,765 tCO₂e. This demonstrates a positive contribution to mitigating climate change.
- **Positive Impacts on Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services:**
 - **Forest Conservation:** Reduced deforestation pressure preserves habitat for biodiversity.
 - **Soil Conservation:** Decreased wood harvesting reduces soil erosion and maintains soil fertility.
 - **Water Cycle Regulation:** Preserved forests contribute to improved local water cycles.
 - **Air Quality Improvement:** Reduced emissions contribute to better local air quality.

2. Documentation Review and Observations

The VVB reviewed the project's documentation, including the Monitoring Report, and conducted interviews with stakeholders, including project staff and local community members. The VVB also conducted site visits to observe project activities and gather further insights.

The information gathered confirmed the accuracy of the data presented regarding the project's contributions to natural capital and ecosystem services. The VVB observed a decrease in the use of firewood in the project area, a reduction in deforestation, and improvements in air quality, all of which support the project's claims of positive impact.

3. Conclusion

Based on the assessment conducted, which included a review of documentation, interviews with stakeholders, and site visits & remote audit, the VVB concludes that the project has a demonstrably positive net impact on natural capital and ecosystem services. The project has effectively mitigated potential negative impacts through its efforts to reduce the use of non-renewable biomass, decrease greenhouse gas emissions, and promote sustainable forest management practices. The project's positive impact on natural capital and ecosystem services is aligned with the principles of the Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard (SD VISta) and is a testament to the project's commitment to environmental sustainability and community well-being.

6 VERIFICATION CONCLUSION

VKU Certification Pvt. Ltd. (VKU) has conducted a verification assessment of the “Clean Cooking - Cook Stove for Rural India” project for the monitoring period from October 1, 2022 to December 31, 2023 (inclusive of both start and end dates). This verification aims to provide a reasonable level of assurance that the project complies with the Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard (SD VISta) v1.0 and its associated guidelines and definitions.

The verification process was designed to independently assess the implementation of project activities, focusing on their alignment with the requirements set forth in the SD VISta Program Guide and the validated Project Description. The scope of the assessment included a thorough review of essential documentation, such as the Monitoring Report, stakeholder engagement records, and compliance statements, alongside site visits and interviews with stakeholders to gather direct insights into the project’s operations and impacts.

Key findings from this verification indicate that:

- **Compliance and Positive Impacts:** The project fully complies with all relevant SD VISta criteria, demonstrating significant contributions to sustainable development goals (SDGs), particularly in improving community health, providing economic opportunities, and fostering environmental sustainability.
- **Transparent Monitoring Processes:** The monitoring mechanisms in place are effective for tracking sustainable development impacts, ensuring that the reporting of data, including claims related to social and environmental benefits, is transparent, reliable, and verifiable.
- **Robust Support for Claims:** All claims made regarding the project’s contributions to social, environmental, and economic well-being are substantiated by historical data and are consistent with the standards outlined by SD VISta.

During the assessment, VKU also confirmed that the project does not involve any encroachment onto lands or resources, nor does it result in the involuntary removal or relocation of property rights holders. Furthermore, the project has effectively communicated and engaged with stakeholders regarding the verification process and its findings, thus reinforcing a culture of transparency and trust.

In summary, VKU Certification affirms that the “Clean Cooking - Cook Stove for Rural India” project, as reported in the Monitoring Report for the period from 01-October-2022, to 31-December-2023 both days including, complies thoroughly with the verification criteria established by the Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard, without any qualifications or limitations. The project exemplifies a strong commitment to ethical operations and sustainable practices, actively promoting the improved quality of life for the communities it serves while ensuring legal and ethical compliance throughout its activities.

VKU's verification approach is grounded in the assessment of the risks associated with the reporting of sustainable development impacts and the controls established to mitigate these risks. VKU Certification planned and conducted the verification by obtaining necessary evidence, information, and explanations that were deemed essential to provide a reasonable level of assurance that the reported sustainable development benefits are fairly and accurately represented.

Table no 12: VVB's Conclusion

Opinion	Final Documents	Monitoring Period	SDGs Achieved
Positive opinion ☒ Negative Opinion ☐	Monitoring Report Version 3.0 dated 24-November-2024	01-October 2022 to 31-December-2023 (Inclusive of both dates)	SDG 1: No Poverty: The project provided 571,460 cookstoves and 105 jobs, impacting vulnerable communities. SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being: The project improved indoor air quality, reducing smoke and fire incidents, with 100% of households reporting a positive impact. SDG 4: Quality Education: The project trained 37 (30 Male + 07 Female) individuals, promoting skills development and community engagement. SDG 5: Gender Equality: The project has led to time savings and reduced drudgery in 100% sampled households surveyed during monitoring survey (for current monitoring period)
Adverse Opinion ☐ Unmodified Opinion ☒ Modified Opinion ☐			SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy: The project distributed 571,460 clean cookstoves till end of this monitoring period, reducing reliance on traditional fuels. SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth: The project has contributed to 992 (637+355) individuals for generation of employment till end of this monitoring period for this project activity, enhancing economic opportunities and local employment. SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities: The project reduced fire incidents in households, with 100% of households reporting a positive impact.

			SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production: The project has contributed to a reduction in the removal of 280,852 (14,718+266,134) tons of renewable woody biomass (firewood) till end of this monitoring period for this project activity. SDG 13: Climate Action: The project achieved a 4,098,765 tCO₂e reduction in greenhouse gas emissions during the current 2nd monitoring period. Total 4,247,311 (148,546+4,098,765) GHG emission reduction achieved till end of this monitoring period for this project activity. SDG 15: Life on Land: The project has contributed by reduction in the removal of Total 2,073,306 (72,512+2,000,794) non-renewable woody biomass till the end of this monitoring period for this project activity, from forests surrounding the communities thereby leading to an increase in above-ground biomass in these forests.
Hence, VKU is able to certify that the sustainable development benefits attributable to the project during the current monitoring period from October 1, 2022, to December 31, 2023 (inclusive of both start and end dates), are substantial and align with the project's objectives. The reported impacts, which include enhancements in community health, economic opportunities, and environmental sustainability, have been assessed in accordance with the applicable SD VISTA requirements outlined in the SD VISTA Program Guide./08-A/ The VVB hereby issues a resolutely positive and unmodified opinion meticulously drafted in accordance with the Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard (SD VISTA) v1.0, along with the provisions specified in the SD VISTA Program Guide. This opinion is also consistent with ISO 14064-3:2019 Section 09, and the precise provisions of Clauses 9.7.1.6 and 9.7.2 of ISO 14065:2020. Additionally, it aligns with the requirements articulated in ISO/IEC 17029:2019, Section 9.7, as well as those specified in the SD VISTA guidelines for project verification processes. Our verification process provides a robust and reasonable level of assurance regarding the accuracy of the reported sustainable development impacts and benefits. This data is free from any material misstatements and is strongly supported by the evidence provided by the Project Proponent (PP), which is comprehensively presented in the relevant sections of this report.			

APPENDIX 01 AUDIT FINDINGS

Registry-	Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard
Project ID	VKU.VER.01.24_VERRA_SD-V_2942
Registry ID	SD-V_2942
Project Title:	Clean Cooking- Cook Stove for Rural India
Client/ Project Representative:	Vitol Asia Pte Ltd EKI Energy Services Ltd
CARs/FARs/CLs raised by:	Niharika Kaushik
Total No. of Findings	<u>Corrective Action Request: 07</u> <u>Clarification Request: 02</u> <u>Forward Action Request: 00</u>
Number and Date of findings raised:	At the time of Assessment – 06 Findings, 11-August-2024 At the time of Technical Review – 01 CAR – 17-September-2024 At the time of Project Review Report by Registry – 02 (CARs 8 th and 9 th Findings)
Applicable Methodology/standards:	VMR0006: Methodology for Installation of High Efficiency Firewood Cook stoves, Version 1.1
Audit Date:	26-July-2024 to 03-August-2024
Type of Activity:	2 nd SD-VISa Verification of 1 st crediting period.

Clarification Requests

Finding No. 01	Date: 11-August-2024
Finding Type- CAR ☐ CL ☒ FAR ☐	
Stage of finding raised :	
Desk Review	☒
On-site/remote/hybrid assessment	☐
Technical Review	☐
Project Review Report by Registry	☐
Requirement	
1. The SD VISta Program Guide v1.0 Section 3.5 Assessment 2. The monitoring report has not considered the use of the official SDG 3.9.1 indicator on air pollution-related mortality to capture the full range of health impacts associated with the project. (Reference: The Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard v1.0 Section 3.1 Impacts on People and Their Prosperity) 2.1. The monitoring report has not provided specific and measurable data to support the claims of "multiple positive outcomes" and "improving overall health" associated with the project's impacts. The data should be quantifiable and demonstrate the extent of these positive outcomes for both the monitoring period and the project lifetime. (Reference: The Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard v1.0 Section 3.1 Impacts on People and Their Prosperity) 3. The Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard v1.0 Section 2.1 Project Objectives, Context and Long-term Viability) 4. The monitoring report should provide a clear explanation of the methodology and data used to quantify the reduction in time spent on wood collection, ensuring that it is aligned with the project design and the relevant SDG targets. 5. The Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard v1.0 Section 2.1 Project Objectives, Context and Long-term Viability 6. The Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard v1.0 Section 3.2 Impacts on the Planet 7. The SD VISta Program Guide v1.0 Section 3.5 Assessment 8. The Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard v1.0 Section 3.2 Impacts on the Planet	
Non-Conformity	
1. In section 01, Table 01 of SD-VISta Monitoring Report: The monitoring report currently lacks the necessary supporting documents to substantiate the claims made for the project's contribution to the SDGs. The VVB requires additional evidence specific to each SDG target to verify the accuracy and completeness of the reported contributions. 2. In Table 01 (SDG target 3.9) of SD-VISta Monitoring Report: The VVB seeks clarification on whether the PP has considered using the official SDG 3.9.1 indicator on air pollution-related mortality to better capture the breadth of health impacts beyond the reduction of smoke emissions and acute respiratory illnesses. 2.1. The VVB seeks clarification on the specific, measurable data that supports the claims of "multiple positive outcomes" and "improving overall health." The VVB requests that the PP provide quantifiable data for both the monitoring period and the project lifetime, demonstrating the extent to which these positive outcomes have been achieved. 3. In Table 01 (SDG target 4.3) of SD-VISta Monitoring Report: The VVB seeks clarification on how the PP plans to achieve the lifetime goal of training 500 individuals, given that only 37 have been trained so far. The VVB requests that the PP provide a detailed plan outlining the strategies, timelines, and resources that will be implemented to ensure the successful completion of this training objective within the project's lifetime.	

4. In Table 01 (SDG target 5.4) of SD-VISTA Monitoring Report: The VVB seeks clarification on how the PP has quantified the reduction in time spent on wood collection. The VVB requests that the PP provide details on the data collection methods, any assumptions made, and the specific calculations used to arrive at the reported time savings. 5. In Table 01 (SDG target 7.1) of SD-VISTA Monitoring Report: The VVB seeks clarification on the discrepancy between the reported contribution of 571,460 stoves distributed during the monitoring period and the stated lifetime goal of distributing 0.5 million stoves. The VVB requests that the PP explain this difference and provide any relevant information or projections that demonstrate how the project will achieve its lifetime goal. 6. In Table 01 (SDG target 12.0) of SD-VISTA Monitoring Report: The VVB seeks further clarification on how the reduction in woody biomass removal contributes to sustainable consumption and production patterns. The VVB requests that the PP provide additional context on the specific mechanisms, such as reduced pressure on forest resources, the promotion of sustainable energy sources, resource efficiency, waste reduction, and community engagement, that demonstrate the project's contribution to SDG 12. 7. In Table 01 (SDG target 13.0) of SD-VISTA Monitoring Report: The VVB seeks clarification on the use of "Decreased" for SDG 13's net impact, deviating from the standard "Implemented activities to decrease." The PP is requested to explain this discrepancy and ensure consistent terminology throughout the report. 8. In Table 01 (SDG target 15.2) of SD-VISTA Monitoring Report: The VVB seeks further evidence or explanation on how the project's reduction in wood collection directly translates to an increase in above-ground biomass in forests. The PP is requested to provide data or analysis that supports this causal relationship and demonstrates the project's positive impact on SDG 15.	
Evidence	
Desk-review of the SD-VISTA Monitoring Report & Emission Reduction Sheet, Version 1.0 dated 25-06-2024 along with related project documents available at VCS project webpage with the Guidelines stated in SD-VISTA Guidelines & Standard version 1.0	
1st Response from PP	Date: 27-August-2024
1. Supporting documents to substantiate the claims made for the project's contribution to the SDGs are enclosed here with. 2. PP has not considered using the official SDG 3.9.1 indicator on air pollution-related mortality. Rather in line with the registered PD the measurement of the indicator has been done based on the feedback collected from the beneficiaries during monitoring surveys. 2.1. The details of multiple positive outcomes and improving overall health achieved as a result of the improved design of the project ICS, which reduces emission of the particulate matter in comparison to the traditional cook stove, is now added in the revised MR 3. So far, total 259 (222+37) individuals are trained (till 2nd monitoring period) under this project activity. The details are now added in the revised MR. Point to be noted that the training of 500 individuals is a futuristic goal and may achieve in future with the implementation of the next lot of ICS deployment. 4. As per the registered PD, exact time savings were not required to be monitored. Instead, during the monitoring survey, PP collected qualitative feedback from end users comparing wood collection time between traditional cookstove and ICS usage periods. Consistently, users reported reduced time for firewood collection with ICS. This aligns logically with the improved efficiency of ICS over traditional cookstoves, which leads to less wood consumption and, consequently, less time spent on collection. PP's approach is consistent with the "Time Savings from Improved Cookstoves (ICS)" methodology in the SD VISTA Asset methodology, which suggests an average annual time saving of 182.5 hours per household due to ICS use (based on a conservative	

estimate of 0.5 hours saved per day)⁸. While PP didn't quantify exact time savings, our PP's qualitative assessment and logical inference, supported by the SD VISta Asset methodology, provide a reasonable basis for reporting time savings in wood collection as an achievement under SDG 5. The complete monitoring survey results are provided for offering additional context to PP's findings and approach.	
5. 0.5 million was a projected number envisaged at the time of decision making which doesn't mean that the PP cannot implement more than 0.5 million ICS. Also, this has no impact on the project baseline, additionality and project scale. 6. The reduction of 266,134 tons of renewable woody biomass (firewood) removal contributes significantly to sustainable consumption and production patterns, aligning with SDG Goal 12. This decrease promotes resource efficiency and sustainable forest management (Target 12.2) by reducing pressure on local forests and allowing for natural regeneration. It also supports waste reduction (Target 12.5) through more efficient cooking methods that result in less incomplete combustion. The project encourages sustainable lifestyles (Target 12.8) by promoting alternative cooking methods and facilitating a transition to more sustainable energy sources. Additionally, it stimulates local markets for improved cookstoves or alternative fuels, fostering sustainable local economic development. These outcomes collectively demonstrate a holistic approach to promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns in the project area, with benefits extending to climate change mitigation, improved community health, and long-term forest resource viability. 7. Typo error is now corrected. 8. Details are enclosed in the fNRB sheet. • When wood collection is minimized, young trees have the chance to mature, and older trees can continue growing. As trees age, they accumulate biomass by storing carbon in their trunks, branches, leaves, and roots. Without wood removal, trees can reach their full growth potential, leading to an increase in overall biomass.	
Documents provided by PP for review	
1. Monitoring Survey, Training record, employment record. 2. MR V02 2.1.MR V02 3. Training Record 4. Monitoring survey 5. MR V02 6. MR V02 7. MR V02 8. fNRB sheet	
1st Review by Assessment Team	Date: 03-Septemner-2024
1. In section 01, Table 01 of SD-VISta Monitoring Report: PP has submitted the Monitoring Survey, Training records and employment records to substantiate the claims made for the project's contribution to the SDGs. The VVB verified the evidence specific to each SDG target and confirm the accuracy and completeness of the reported contributions. 2. In Table 01 (SDG target 3.9) of SD-VISta Monitoring Report: PP has clarified that the PP has not considered using the official SDG 3.9.1 indicator on air pollution-related mortality Rather the measurement of the indicator has been done based on the feedback collected from the	

⁸ P.P. Krishnapriyal et al. (2021) Do improved cookstoves save time and improve gender outcomes?

Evidence from six developing countries. Manuscript submitted for publication. Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke University. A half an hour of saving per day default factor is judged to be conservative where $\frac{1}{2}$ hours x 365 days = 182.5 hours per year. In addition, a discount factor of 50% against time savings recorded in rural areas from use of ICS is appropriate on the basis that some wood is purchased and overall fuelwood consumption is less in urban and peri-urban households (see reference materials for the default factor for rural stoves). See CQC's consumer assessment research in References)

beneficiaries during monitoring surveys. PP has also revised the monitoring report and now it is inline as per the registered PD, as verified by the VVB.

- 2.1. PP has clarified that the details of multiple positive outcomes and improving overall health achieved as a result of the improved design of the project ICS, which reduces emission of the particulate matter in comparison to the traditional cook stove. There is not any specific, measurable data that supports the claims of "multiple positive outcomes" and "improving overall health". PP has also revised the MR according to the same as verified by the VVB.
3. In Table 01 (SDG target 4.3) of SD-VISta Monitoring Report: PP has clarified that the PP has plans to achieve the lifetime goal of training 500 individuals as a futuristic goal, and a total of 259 (222+37) individuals are trained (till 2nd monitoring period) under this project activity. PP has also calcified that the goal of training of 500 individuals may achieve in future with the implementation of the next lot of ICS deployment. PP has also revised the monitoring report, as verified by the VVB.
4. In Table 01 (SDG target 5.4) of SD-VISta Monitoring Report: PP has clarified that exact time savings were not required to be monitored as per registered PD. PP has also clarified that during the monitoring survey, PP collected qualitative feedback from end users comparing wood collection time between traditional cookstove and ICS usage periods. Consistently, users reported reduced time for firewood collection with ICS. This aligns logically with the improved efficiency of ICS over traditional cookstoves, which leads to less wood consumption and, consequently, less time spent on collection. PP's approach is consistent with the "Time Savings from Improved Cookstoves (ICS)" methodology in the SD VISta Asset methodology, which suggests an average annual time saving of 182.5 hours per household due to ICS use (based on a conservative estimate of 0.5 hours saved per day). PP has also submitted the monitoring survey record. VVB verified the monitoring survey record and confirm that the PP's qualitative assessment and logical inference for time saving in wood collection, supported by the SD VISta Asset methodology.
5. In Table 01 (SDG target 7.1) of SD-VISta Monitoring Report: PP has clarified that the 0.5 million was only a projected number envisaged at the time of decision making which doesn't mean that the PP cannot implement more than 0.5 million ICS. VVB accepted the calcification of the PP and also confirmed that this has no impact on the project baseline, additionality and project scale.
6. In Table 01 (SDG target 12.0) of SD-VISta Monitoring Report: PP has clarified that the reduction of 266,134 tons of renewable woody biomass (firewood) removal contributes significantly to sustainable consumption and production patterns, aligning with SDG Goal 12. This decrease promotes resource efficiency and sustainable forest management (Target 12.2) by reducing pressure on local forests and allowing for natural regeneration. It also supports waste reduction (Target 12.5) through more efficient cooking methods that result in less incomplete combustion. The project encourages sustainable lifestyles (Target 12.8) by promoting alternative cooking methods and facilitating a transition to more sustainable energy sources. Additionally, it stimulates local markets for improved cookstoves or alternative fuels, fostering sustainable local economic development. These outcomes collectively demonstrate a holistic approach to promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns in the project area, with benefits extending to climate change mitigation, improved community health, and long-term forest resource viability. VVB accepted the clarification and found inline with the SDG Indicator framework.
7. In Table 01 (SDG target 13.0) of SD-VISta Monitoring Report: PP has clarified that the use of "Decreased" for SDG 13's net impact is due to typo error which has been now corrected in the updated MR. VVB has confirmed that in the updated MR it is not deviating from the standard "Implemented activities to decrease."
8. In Table 01 (SDG target 15.2) of SD-VISta Monitoring Report: PP has clarified that when wood collection is minimized, young trees have the chance to mature, and older trees can continue growing. As trees age, they accumulate biomass by storing carbon in their trunks, branches, leaves, and roots. Without wood removal, trees can reach their full growth potential, leading to an increase in overall biomass. This clarification is accepted to VVB. PP has also submitted a detailed fNRB spreadsheet for the same which also checked by VVB and found inline.

CL#01 has been successfully closed.

Finding No. 02	Date: 11-August-2024
Finding Type- CAR ☐ CL ☒ FAR ☐	
Stage of finding raised :	
Desk Review	☒
On-site/remote/hybrid assessment	☐
Technical Review	☐
Project Review Report by Registry	☐
Requirement	
1. SD VISta Standard, v1.0, Section 3.2.4 2. The SD VISta Standard requires that the project proponent uses a defensible methodological approach to estimate the total GHG emissions reductions and removals (ERRs) expected as a result of project activities. (SD VISta Standard, v1.0, Appendix 2) 3. The Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard v1.0 Section 3.2 Impacts on the Planet	
Non-Conformity	
1. In section 4.1 of SD-VISta Monitoring Report: The project proponent has not provided quantitative data or evidence from the monitoring period to substantiate the claim of net positive impacts on the planet due to reduced wood fuel consumption and GHG emissions. The report lacks quantitative data on forest cover change, species diversity, or other relevant indicators to demonstrate the project's impact on the environment. 2. In section 4.2 of SD-VISta Monitoring Report: The project proponent has not discussed the methodology used for calculating GHG emission reductions. The report does not include a brief description of the methodology and its key assumptions to ensure transparency. 3. In section 4.3 of SD-VISta Monitoring Report: The project proponent has not sufficiently demonstrated that the project's net impacts on natural capital and ecosystem services are positive. While they mention reducing energy consumption in the form of woody biomass and net GHG reductions, this information alone does not prove net positivity. PP has not justified the following details: • There is no specific data (Quantitative Data) on the reduction of woody biomass consumption, including the amount of reduction and the associated environmental benefits. • PP has not provided any assessment of any potential negative impacts on natural capital and ecosystem services, such as increased pressure on other fuel sources or the environmental impact of manufacturing and distributing the cookstoves.	
Evidence	
Desk-review of the SD-VISta Monitoring Report & Emission Reduction Sheet, Version 1.0 dated 25-06-2024 along with related project documents available at VCS project webpage with the Guidelines stated in SD-VISta Guidelines & Standard version 1.0	
1st Response from PP	Date: 27-August-2024
1. The details of net positive impacts on the planet due to reduced wood fuel consumption and GHG emissions are provided in section 1 of the revised MR. For the current monitoring period supportive are now also submitted to substantiate the claim of net positive impacts. 2. APPENDIX 2 CLIMATE MODULE (CM) and the section 5. OPTIONAL: CLIMATE MODULE of the MR format is applicable "only to projects that wish to demonstrate a project's net positive climate benefits." same is APPENDIX 2 CLIMATE MODULE (CM) As we are not having any intent to claim	

greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions, removal (ERR) units through this document we need not follow this section. 3. Assessment of Potential Negative Impacts: Fuel Source Pressure: The project does not increase pressure on alternative fuel sources as it improves efficiency of existing fuel use. • Manufacturing Impact: The production of improved cookstoves has a minimal environmental footprint compared to the benefits of reduced emissions over the stove's lifetime. • Distribution Impact: Local production and distribution networks minimize transportation-related emissions. Thus, considering the project's positive impacts (mentioned in this MR) on natural capital and ecosystem services significantly outweigh any potential negative effects, resulting in a clear net positive impact.	
Documents provided by PP for review	
1. MR V02 2. MR V02 3. MR V02	
1st Review by Assessment Team	Date: 03-Septemner-2024
1. In section 4.1 of SD-VISta Monitoring Report: PP has clarified that the details of net positive impacts on the planet due to reduced wood fuel consumption and GHG emissions are provided in section 1 of the revised MR. For the current monitoring period PP has also submitted some supportive evidences to substantiate the claim of net positive impact, as verified by the VVB. 2. In section 4.2 of SD-VISta Monitoring Report: PP has clarified that as per the APPENDIX 2 CLIMATE MODULE (CM) and the section 5. OPTIONAL: CLIMATE MODULE of the MR format is applicable “only to projects that wish to demonstrate a project’s net positive climate benefits.” same is APPENDIX 2 CLIMATE MODULE (CM) As they are not having any intent to claim greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions, removal (ERR) units through this document they need not follow this section. VVB has accepted this clarification. 3. In section 4.3 of SD-VISta Monitoring Report: PP has clarified that the project does not increase pressure on alternative fuel sources as it improves efficiency of existing fuel use. • Manufacturing Impact: The production of improved cookstoves has a minimal environmental footprint compared to the benefits of reduced emissions over the stove's lifetime. • Distribution Impact: Local production and distribution networks minimize transportation-related emissions. • Thus, considering the project's positive impacts on natural capital and ecosystem services significantly outweigh any potential negative effects, resulting in a clear net positive impact. PP has revised the MR as per the clarification provided as verified by the VVB.	
CL#02 has been successfully closed.	

Corrective Action Requests

Finding No. 03	Date: 11-August-2024	
Finding Type- CAR ☒	CL ☐	FAR ☐
Stage of finding raised:		
Desk Review	☒	
On-site/remote/hybrid assessment	☐	
Technical Review	☐	
Project Review Report by Registry	☒	
Requirement		
1. The SD VISta Standard requires that the project description includes a baseline scenario for each SDG target addressed by the project. 2. The SD VISta Program Guide v1.0 Section 3.5 Assessment 3. The SD VISta Program Guide v1.0 Section 3.5 Assessment 4. The SD VISta Program Guide v1.0 Section 3.5 Assessment 5. The SD VISta Program Guide v1.0 Section 3.5 Assessment 6. The SD VISta Program Guide v1.0 & Standard version 1.0		
Non-Conformity		
1. In section 01, Table 01 of SD-VISta Monitoring Report: The project proponent has not provided a baseline scenario for SDG target 1.4, which focuses on access to basic services. 2. The monitoring report lacks consistency in reporting the "Contributions during Project Lifetime." It is unclear whether the reported lifetime contributions include the cumulative data from the project's start to the end of the current monitoring period or only the impact during the current monitoring period. The lack of clarity raises concerns about the accuracy and completeness of the reported lifetime contributions. 3. In Table 01 (SDG target 1.4) of SD-VISta Monitoring Report: The monitoring report uses approximate figures (e.g., "approximately 0.5 million") for lifetime contributions, which is not in line with the requirement for precise reporting. The PP has not provided specific figures for lifetime contributions even when such data might be available. 4. In section 2.1.2 of SD-VISta Monitoring Report: The monitoring report currently lacks sufficient evidence to support the technical specifications of the cookstoves distributed. The VVB requires additional documentation or verification to confirm that the stoves meet the necessary standards and contribute to the project's emission reduction goals. 5. In section 2.1.2 of SD-VISta Monitoring Report: The monitoring report currently lacks the necessary evidence to confirm the test performed for identifying the thermal efficiency of the cookstove. The VVB requires the test report and related details to verify the claimed efficiency and ensure it meets the methodological requirements. 6. In section 2.1.6 of SD-VISta Monitoring Report: The monitoring report currently lacks the required KML file containing the project location coordinates. The VVB needs this file to verify the project's location and ensure it aligns with the project boundary defined in the project design document.		
Evidence		
Desk-review of the SD-VISta Monitoring Report & Emission Reduction Sheet, Version 1.0 dated 25-06-2024 along with related project documents available at VCS project webpage with the Guidelines stated in SD-VISta Guidelines & Standard version 1.0		
1st Response from PP	Date: 27-August-2024	

1. In the baseline scenario for this project is traditional cookstove, beneficiaries don't have clean cooking access with the traditional cookstove, PP has provided clean cooking access to the beneficiaries with providing Improved ICS with free of cost. This baseline scenario for SDG target 1.4 has now been added in section 01, Table 01 of SD-VISTA Monitoring Report.
2. The details of Contributions during Project Lifetime which is the cumulative data of contributions from the project's start to the end of the current monitoring period and are now corrected throughout the revised MR.
3. The details are updated for SDG target 1.4 in revised MR to provide specific figures for lifetime contributions.
4. Technical Specifications are added in the section 2.1.2 of SD-VISTA Monitoring Report. Also the ICS specification sheet is being provided.
5. Thermal efficiency certificate/test report enclosed here with to verify the claimed efficiency and ensure it meets the methodological requirements.
6. KML file enclosed here with.

Documents provided by PP for review

1. MR V02
2. MR V02
3. MR V02
4. Technical Specifications
5. Thermal efficiency certificate
6. KML file

1st Review by Assessment Team

Date: 03-Septemner-2024

1. **In section 01, Table 01 of SD-VISTA Monitoring Report:** PP has clarified that the baseline scenario for this project is traditional cookstove, beneficiaries don't have clean cooking access with the traditional cookstove, PP has provided clean cooking access to the beneficiaries with providing Improved ICS with free of cost. PP has also incorporated the same in section 01, Table 01 of revised SD-VISTA Monitoring Report.
2. PP has clarified that the details of Contributions during Project Lifetime which is the cumulative data of contributions from the project's start to the end of the current monitoring period and same has been now corrected in revised MR. VVB check the MR and found consistent.
3. **In Table 01 (SDG target 1.4) of SD-VISTA Monitoring Report:** The details are updated for SDG target 1.4 in revised MR to provide specific figures for lifetime contributions. As verified by the VVB.
4. **In section 2.1.2 of SD-VISTA Monitoring Report:** PP has submitted the technical specifications provided by manufacturer as evidence to support the technical specifications of the cookstoves distributed. The VVB check the same and found consistent.
7. **In section 2.1.2 of SD-VISTA Monitoring Report:** PP has submitted the thermal efficiency certificate as evidence to support the test performed for identifying the thermal efficiency of the cookstove. The VVB verified the same and found inline as per the methodology requirements.
8. **In section 2.1.6 of SD-VISTA Monitoring Report:** PP has submitted the KML file containing the project location coordinates. The VVB verify the same and found consistent with project's location and its alignment with the project boundary defined in the project design document.

CAR#01 has been successfully closed.
Finding No. 04

Date: 11-August-2024

Finding Type- CAR ☒ CL ☐ FAR ☐
Stage of finding raised: Desk Review ☒ On-site/remote/hybrid assessment ☐ Technical Review ☐ Project Review Report by Registry ☐
Requirement
1. The SD VISTA Standard (Section 2.4) states that "The free, prior and informed consent shall be obtained of those whose property rights are affected by a project through a transparent, agreed process." 1.1. The Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard v1.0 Section 2.2 Stakeholder Engagement 1.2. The SD VISTA Program Guide requires that project proponents submit all relevant project documentation, including evidence of local stakeholder consultations (LSCs), to the Verra registry for review and verification by the VVB. (SD VISTA Program Guide, v1.0, Section 3.3) 1.3. The SD VISTA Standard requires that the project proponent maintain documentation of stakeholder engagement activities, including meeting minutes and invitation letters, and make these documents available to the Validation and Verification Body (VVB) upon request. (SD VISTA Standard, v1.0, Section 2.2.8) 1.4. The SD VISTA standard requires that projects establish a clear feedback and grievance redress procedure to address disputes with stakeholders that may arise during project planning and implementation. The procedure should be publicized and accessible to all project stakeholders. (SD VISTA Standard, v1.0, Section 2.2.8) - o The Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard v1.0 Section 2.2.6 Stakeholder Consultation and Participation - o The Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard v1.0 Section 2.2.6 Stakeholder Consultation and Participation - o SD VISTA Standard, v1.0, Section 2.2.8 1.5. Incomplete information in SD-VISTA MR 1.6. Incomplete information in SD-VISTA MR 1.7. The SD VISTA standard requires that projects establish a clear feedback and grievance redress procedure to address disputes with stakeholders that may arise during project planning and implementation. The procedure should be publicized and accessible to all project stakeholders. (SD VISTA Standard, v1.0, Section 2.2.8)
Non-Conformity
1. In section 2.2.1 of SD-VISTA Monitoring Report: The project proponent has not provided sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the free, prior, and informed consent of the stakeholders was obtained before the distribution of the cookstoves. The project description mentions verbal communication and awareness programs, but it does not provide documentation of formal consent from the beneficiaries. 1.1 The PP has not provided details of any enquiries or concerns raised by stakeholders during the LSC process, if any. If no enquiries were made, the PP should explicitly state this in the monitoring report. 1.2 The project proponent has not submitted the required evidence pertaining to the LSCs conducted, such as meeting minutes, attendance records, or summaries of feedback received,

to the VVB. This lack of documentation makes it difficult for the VVB to independently verify the project proponent's claims regarding stakeholder engagement and consultation. 1.3 The project proponent has not submitted the standard documents, specifically the "Minutes of the meeting with stakeholders' queries and invitation letter," to the VVB for cross-confirmation. This omission hinders the VVB's ability to verify the accuracy and completeness of the reported stakeholder engagement activities. 1.4 The project proponent has outlined several mechanisms for stakeholders and beneficiaries to report grievances and suggestions, including a grievance register, helpline number, field surveys, and meetings with local leaders and women. However, the project description lacks details on the accessibility, transparency, timeliness, and effectiveness of the grievance redressal mechanism. To comply with the SD VISta Standard, the project proponent should: - Clarify the grievance register's accessibility: PP has not explained how all stakeholders, including those in rural areas, can access and use the grievance register. - Detail the grievance process: PP has not described the step-by-step process for submitting grievances, tracking their progress, and receiving feedback on their resolution. - Specify timelines: PP has not stated any established clear timelines for addressing grievances and communicate these timelines to stakeholders. - Monitor and evaluate effectiveness: PP has not stated about any developed system for monitoring the number and types of grievances received, the time taken to resolve them, and the satisfaction of stakeholders with the resolution process. & it is regularly evaluated for the effectiveness of the grievance redressal mechanism & improvements made as needed. 1.5 The monitoring report currently lacks evidence demonstrating the continued communication and consultation with the direct beneficiaries. The VVB requires documentation or other forms of evidence to verify that the PP is maintaining an ongoing dialogue with stakeholders and incorporating their feedback into the project's adaptive management. 1.6 PP has not provided any information as on how many such, meetings were conducted during the current monitoring period. No information can be found in the Monitoring report. 1.7 While the project proponent mentions various feedback collection methods, such as informal meetings, local stakeholder consultations, and surveys, the information provided does not sufficiently demonstrate a formal, transparent, and effective grievance redress mechanism as required by the SD VISta standard.	
Evidence	
Desk-review of the SD-VISta Monitoring Report & Emission Reduction Sheet, Version 1.0 dated 25-06-2024 along with related project documents available at VCS project webpage with the Guidelines stated in SD-VISta Guidelines & Standard version 1.0	
1st Response from PP	Date: 27-August-2024
1. Sample copy of the end user agreement between PP and end user is being submitted which is clear evidence of “free, prior and informed consent” obtained from the end user. This is cookstove project, no properties are affected due to this project. 1.1 The enquiry received by stakeholders, details of question answer stored as the MOM document, MOM document enclosed here with. 1.2 The LSC documents are enclosed here with. 1.3 The MOM details are enclosed here with. 1.4 The Grievances details are added in the revised MR. The scan copy of the grievance register enclosed here with. The grievance register's accessibility: All stakeholders, including those in rural areas, can call on the mobile number provided on the ICS identification card given to each of the beneficiaries to register their grievances. PP registers these grievances on a register (grievance register) kept at their H.O.	

- Detail the grievance process: Under section 2.2.7 Feedback and Grievance Redress Procedure of the revised MR, PP has now added the step-by-step process for submitting grievances, tracking their progress, and receiving feedback on their resolution. - Specify timelines: Under section 2.2.7 Feedback and Grievance Redress Procedure of the revised MR, PP has now mentioned a clear timeline for addressing grievances. - Monitor and evaluate effectiveness: PP has not received any grievances to date. When grievances are received, PP will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness by tracking the time taken to resolve them and the satisfaction of stakeholders with the resolution process using a feedback form. PP will also regularly evaluate the effectiveness of the grievance redressal mechanism & implement improvements if any grievances are received in the next monitoring period. 1.5 Grievance register maintained. No grievance has been reported/registered by any of the end-user till the end of this monitoring period. As an evidence grievance register has been enclosed here with. 1.6 The Sentence is updated in revised MR, typo error corrected. 1.7 Grievance mechanism details are added in the revised MR.	
Documents provided by PP for review	
- Sample copy of the end agreement between PP and end user. - MOM document - The LSC documents - The MOM details - MR V02, The grievance register - Grievance register - MR V02 - MR V02	
1st Review by Assessment Team	Date: 03-Septemner-2024
In section 2.2.1 of SD-VISTA Monitoring Report: The project proponent has provided Sample copy of the end user agreement between PP and end user as evidence to demonstrate that the free, prior, and informed consent of the stakeholders was obtained before the distribution of the cookstoves. PP has also revised the MR, as verified by the VVB. - PP has clarified that there are some enquiries received by stakeholders, details of question answer stored as the MOM document, MOM document enclosed here with the updated MR. - The project proponent has submitted the LSC documents as evidence for pertaining to the LSCs conducted. - The project proponent has now submitted the Minutes of the meeting with stakeholders to the VVB for cross-confirmation. By using this document VVB's verified the accuracy and completeness of the reported stakeholder engagement activities. - The project proponent has revised the mechanisms for stakeholders and beneficiaries to report grievances and suggestions and now comply with the SD VISTA Standard., - Clarify the grievance register's accessibility: PP has explained that All stakeholders, including those in rural areas, can call on the mobile number provided on the ICS identification card given to each of the beneficiaries to register their grievances. PP registers these grievances on a register (grievance register) kept at their H.O. - Detail the grievance process: Under section 2.2.7 Feedback and Grievance Redress Procedure of the revised MR, PP has now added the step-by-step process for submitting grievances, tracking their progress, and receiving feedback on their resolution. - Specify timelines: Under section 2.2.7 Feedback and Grievance Redress Procedure of the revised MR, PP has now mentioned a clear timeline for addressing grievances. - Monitor and evaluate effectiveness: PP has clarified that during the current monitoring period no grievances received. But in future when grievances are received, PP will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness by tracking the time taken to resolve them and the satisfaction of stakeholders with the resolution process using a feedback form. PP will	

also regularly evaluate the effectiveness of the grievance redressal mechanism & implement improvements if any grievances are received in the next monitoring period. 1.5 PP has clarified that a Grievance register maintained for continued communication and consultation with the direct beneficiaries. A copy of Grievance register is submitted to VVB as evidence to verify that the PP is maintaining an ongoing dialogue with stakeholders and incorporating their feedback into the project's adaptive management. 1.6 The information related to the meeting is a result of some typo error which has been now corrected in the revised MR as verified by the VVB. 1.7 PP has incorporated the Grievance mechanism details in the revised MR, as verified by the assessment team. CAR#02 has been successfully closed.

Finding No. 05	Date: 11-August-2024
Finding Type- CAR ☒ CL ☐ FAR ☐	
Stage of finding raised :	
Desk Review	☒
On-site/remote/hybrid assessment	☐
Technical Review	☐
Project Review Report by Registry	☐
Requirement	
1. The Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard v1.0 Section 3.1.2 Stakeholder Impact Monitoring 2. SD VISta Standard, v1.0, Section 11.2 3. The Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard v1.0 Section 2.2.5 Worker Relations 4. The Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard v1.0 Section 2.2.5 Worker Relations 5. SD VISta Standard, v1.0, Section 2.2.8 6. The Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard v1.0 Section 2.2.7 Access to Information 7. SD VISta Standard, v1.0, Section 2.2	
Non-Conformity	
1. In section 2.2.1 of SD-VISta Monitoring Report: The VVB was unable to confirm the statements regarding the regular meetings of women field officers with women using the cookstoves during the current project verification cycle. The required evidence, such as meeting records or attendance sheets, was not presented during the onsite visit or remote audit. 2. In section 2.2.2 of SD-VISta Monitoring Report: The project proponent's response in the monitoring report is insufficient and does not meet the requirements of the SD VISta Standard. While the statement mentions that the project does not endorse discrimination or harassment, it fails to describe the specific processes and measures implemented to actively prevent and address such issues and has not submitted any suitable evidences to confirm the claim. 3. In section 2.2.3 of SD-VISta Monitoring Report: The monitoring report currently lacks sufficient evidence to demonstrate the training provided to the EKIESL distribution team. The VVB has not received any suitable evidence pertaining to the trainings, and there is no qualitative information on the type of training imparted. 4. In section 2.2.4 of SD-VISta Monitoring Report: The VVB was unable to confirm the claims made in the monitoring report regarding equal work opportunities across all 9 states during the audit assessment. The required evidence to support these claims was not presented.	

4.1.The monitoring report currently lacks the necessary evidence to support the claim of equal work opportunities. The VVB has not received the HR policy or any other documentation that demonstrates the project's commitment to providing equal opportunities for all individuals. 5. In section 2.2.7 of SD-VISTA Monitoring Report: The project proponent's response regarding the feedback and grievance redressal procedure is insufficient and does not meet the requirements of the SD VISTA Standard. While the statement mentions that stakeholders are informed about the contact information for the grievance redressal process during meetings and that this information is printed on ID cards given to end-users, it does not provide a comprehensive description of the grievance redressal mechanism as required by the standard. 6. In section 2.2.8 of SD-VISTA Monitoring Report: The monitoring report currently lacks sufficient evidence to support the claim that the project summary was displayed on panchayat notice boards in every village. The VVB requires additional documentation or verifiable evidence to confirm this claim. 7. In section 2.2.9 of SD-VISTA Monitoring Report: The project proponent has not adequately described the process by which stakeholders were informed about the GHG program and their role in the assessment process. While PP states that the stakeholders were "fully informed," it lacks specifics on the methods of communication, the content of the information shared, and the extent to which stakeholders were involved in the design and assessment of the program.	
Evidence	
Desk-review of the SD-VISTA Monitoring Report & Emission Reduction Sheet, Version 1.0 dated 25-06-2024 along with related project documents available at VCS project webpage with the Guidelines stated in SD-VISTA Guidelines & Standard version 1.0	
1st Response from PP	Date: 27-August-2024
1. Sentence updated; typo error removed from revised MR. 2. A declaration that the project does not endorse discrimination or harassment now enclosed in the revised MR. 3. Training documents related to the training provided to the EKIESL distribution team are now enclosed here with. 4. Sentence updated in the revised MR. 4.1.Sentence updated in the revised MR. 5. Details are added in the section 2.2.7 of the revised SD-VISTA Monitoring Report. 6. Scan copy of the notice enclosed here with. 7. PP would like to clarify that during the Local Stakeholder Consultation (LSC) meeting, the project proponent adequately described the process of the GHG program to the stakeholders and informed them about their role in the assessment process. The LSC invitation, Minutes of Meeting (MOM) and attendance sheet of the LSC meeting, which are enclosed herewith, provide evidence that the stakeholders were indeed involved in the design and assessment of the program. These documents demonstrate the methods of communication used, the content of the information shared, and the extent of stakeholder involvement, addressing the concerns raised about the specificity of our stakeholder engagement process.	
Documents provided by PP for review	
1. MR V02. 2. MR V02. 3. Training documents. 4. MR V02. 4.1.MR V02. 5. MR V02. 6. Scan copy of the notice. 7. MOM documents	
1st Review by Assessment Team	Date: 03-Septemner-2024

1. **In section 2.2.1 of SD-VISTA Monitoring Report:** PP has confirmed that the statements regarding the regular meetings of women field officers with women using the cookstoves during the current project verification cycle is a typo error which has been now corrected in the revised MR. VVB has checked the updated MR and found correct.
2. **In section 2.2.2 of SD-VISTA Monitoring Report:** PP has revised the MR and now it meets the requirements of the SD VISTA Standard. PP has also submitted a declaration to support the statement mentions that the project does not endorse discrimination or harassment.
3. **In section 2.2.3 of SD-VISTA Monitoring Report:** PP has submitted the training records as evidence to demonstrate the training provided to the EKIESL distribution team.
4. **In section 2.2.4 of SD-VISTA Monitoring Report:** The VVB has now confirmed the claims made in the monitoring report regarding equal work opportunities across all 9 states during the audit assessment. The required evidence to support these claims has now been provided and cross-checked by the VVB.
4.1. PP has submitted the necessary evidence to support the claim of equal work opportunities. The VVB has received the declaration that project is committed to providing equal opportunities for all individuals.
5. **In section 2.2.7 of SD-VISTA Monitoring Report:** The project proponent's response regarding the feedback and grievance redressal procedure has been sufficiently responded that includes the grievance redressal process during meetings and that this information is printed on ID cards given to end-users as required by the standard.
6. **In section 2.2.8 of SD-VISTA Monitoring Report** The project proponent has submitted the scan copies of the notices as evidence to support the claim that the project summary was displayed on panchayat notice boards in every village. Which is acceptable to VVB.
7. **In section 2.2.9 of SD-VISTA Monitoring Report:** PP has clarified that during the Local Stakeholder Consultation (LSC) meeting, the project proponent adequately described the process of the GHG program to the stakeholders and informed them about their role in the assessment process. The project proponent has submitted the LSC invitation, Minutes of Meeting (MOM) and attendance sheet of the LSC meeting as evidences to support that the stakeholders were indeed involved in the design and assessment of the program. VVB check the updated MR and submitted evidences and basis on the assessment confirmed that these documents correctly demonstrated the methods of communication used, the content of the information shared, and the extent of stakeholder involvement, addressing the concerns raised about the specificity of our stakeholder engagement process.

CAR#03 has been successfully closed.

Finding No. 06	Date: 11-August-2024
Finding Type- CAR ☒ CL ☐ FAR ☐	
Stage of finding raised :	
Desk Review	☒
On-site/remote/hybrid assessment	☐
Technical Review	☐
Project Review Report by Registry	☐
Requirement	
1. The Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard v1.0 Section 2.3 Legal Compliance	
2. Clause 3.6.8 of the VCS Standard Version 4.7	
3. The Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard v1.0 Section 3.5 Assessment	

4. The Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard v1.0 Section 3.5 Assessment 5. SD-VISta Standard, v1.0, Section 3.2.4	
Non-Conformity	
- In section 2.3.8 of SD-VISta Monitoring Report: The project proponent's response regarding national and local laws and regulations is insufficient and does not meet the requirements of the SD VISta Monitoring Report Template. The statement that "PP adheres to subsequent local and national laws" is vague and lacks specificity. The claim that "there are no laws and regulations governing the use of improved cook stoves in Indian households" is inaccurate and demonstrates a lack of understanding of the regulatory context in which the project operates. While the project may be voluntary, it is still subject to various laws and regulations related to its environmental and social impacts. - In section 2.4 of SD-VISta Monitoring Report: PP has not indicated if the project activity instances are within ten kilometres of another instance of the same project activity and with the same project proponent or not. - In section 3.1 of SD-VISta Monitoring Report in (Impact#02): The statement mentioned here by PP "The impact will be monitored as a 'Reduction in Smoke emissions'" does not specify the methodology or tools used to measure this reduction. This makes it difficult to assess the accuracy and reliability of the reported impact. - PP has not provided specific data on the reduction in acute lower respiratory illnesses and burn injuries (e.g., percentage decrease, number of cases prevented). - Unclear Link to Safe Drinking Water "Resulting Change in Well-being" mentions increased ability to consume safe drinking water, but the connection to reduced smoke exposure is unclear. PP has not elaborated on how reduced smoke exposure from the cookstoves directly leads to increased safe drinking water consumption. Is it due to faster boiling times, reduced fuel needs for boiling, or another factor. - In section 3.1 of SD-VISta Monitoring Report in (Impact#03): The PP uses the indicator "Average training man hour," which is vague and does not specify what is being measured or how it relates to the project's impact. The PP needs has not clearly defined the indicator precisely, specifying whether it refers to the average duration of training per participant, the total hours of training delivered, or another metric. - PP has not clarified the specific stakeholder groups affected and provide separate data or explanations for each group - In section 3.3 of SD-VISta Monitoring Report: The project proponent has not provided quantitative data or evidence from the monitoring period to substantiate the claim of net positive impacts on the planet due to reduced wood fuel consumption and GHG emissions. The report lacks quantitative data on forest cover change, species diversity, or other relevant indicators to demonstrate the project's impact on the environment.	
Evidence	
Desk-review of the SD-VISta Monitoring Report & Emission Reduction Sheet, Version 1.0 dated 25-06-2024 along with related project documents available at VCS project webpage with the Guidelines stated in SD-VISta Guidelines & Standard version 1.0	
1st Response from PP	Date: 27-August-2024
- Information on relevant national and local laws and regulations related to the project's environmental and social impacts have been provided and how the project complies with these laws and regulations have been updated in revised MR. - No project activity instances are within ten kilometres of another instance of the same project activity. - Details are added in the revised MR. - PP has added details regarding the methodology for measuring the reduction in smoke emissions in the revised Monitoring Report (MR). Regarding specific data on the reduction in acute lower respiratory illnesses and burn injuries, it's important to note that the registered	

Project Design (PD) does not specify parameters requiring the monitoring of such data. However, based on the Improved ICS certificate and Monitoring survey, PP can confirm that smoke generation from the improved cookstoves is less than that of traditional cookstoves, and the new stoves feature a safer design. This improvement in design inherently leads to a reduction in lower respiratory illnesses and burn injuries for all cookstove users, although specific percentage decreases or number of cases prevented were not required to be monitored as per the PD. 3.2. Sentence corrected in the revised MR. 4. The indicator details are updated in the revised MR. 4.1. Details are updated in the revised MR. 5. The report already covered quantity of biomass (Renewable and non-renewable) saved by the project activity in section 1 of this MR.	
Documents provided by PP for review	
1. MR V02. 2. MR V02. 3. MR V02. 3.1. - 3.2. MR V02. 4. MR V02. 4.1. MR V02. 5. MR V02.	
1st Review by Assessment Team	Date: 03-Septemner-2024
1. In section 2.3.8 of SD-VISta Monitoring Report: Information on relevant national and local laws and regulations related to the project's environmental and social impacts have been provided and how the project complies with these laws and regulations have been updated in revised MR. VVB has do the assessment of revised MR and confirm that the revised MR fulfil the requirements of the SD VISta Monitoring Report Template. 2. In section 2.4 of SD-VISta Monitoring Report: PP has indicated that No project activity instances are within ten kilometers of another instance of the same project activity in the revised MR. same has been check by VVB and fund correct. 3. In section 3.1 of SD-VISta Monitoring Report in (Impact#02): 3.1. In the revised MR PP has stated that as per the registered Project Design (PD) does not specify parameters requiring the monitoring of such data. However, based on the Improved ICS certificate and Monitoring survey, PP can confirm that smoke generation from the improved cookstoves is less than that of traditional cookstoves, and the new stoves feature a safer design. This improvement in design inherently leads to a reduction in lower respiratory illnesses and burn injuries for all cookstove users, although specific percentage decreases or number of cases prevented were not required to be monitored as per the PD not provided specific data on the reduction in acute lower respiratory illnesses and burn injuries (e.g., percentage decrease, number of cases prevented). 3.2. The claim (Safe Drinking Water "Resulting Change in Well-being" mentions increased ability to consume safe drinking water) for reduced smoke exposure is a result of some typo error which has been now corrected in the revised MR. Same has been checked by VVB. 4. In section 3.1 of SD-VISta Monitoring Report in (Impact#03): The indicator has been revised to "Number of individuals who received any informal training". it clearly defines the type of impact that is been talked here. 4.1. PP has mentioned about the specific stakeholder groups affected means (Distributing unit staff). 5. In section 3.3 of SD-VISta Monitoring Report: The project proponent has provided quantitative data or evidence from the monitoring period to substantiate the claim of net positive impacts on the planet due to reduced wood fuel consumption and GHG emissions in section 1 of the updated MR.	

CAR#04 has been successfully closed.

Finding No. 07	Date: 17-September-2024
Finding Type- CAR ☒ CL ☐ FAR ☐	
Stage of finding raised :	
Desk Review	☐
On-site/remote/hybrid assessment	☐
Technical Review	☒
Project Review Report by Registry	☐
Requirement	
1. Inconsistency in Title Name 2. Unavailability of Onsite personnel 3. The SD VISta Program Guide v1.0 Section 3.5 Assessment 4. Section 3.5, Clause 3.5.5 of SD-VISta program Guide V01 5. Incomplete information in Monitoring Survey 6. Inappropriate SDG description 7. Inappropriate SDG description 8. Incomplete Information in MR 9. Inappropriate SDG description 10. Incomplete Information in MR 11. Incomplete Information in MR 12. The Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard v1.0 Section 3.1.2 Stakeholder Impact Monitoring	
Non-Conformity	
1. The project title is inconsistent with the registered PD & project webpage 2. Why interviews with Actual Surveyors (who conducted the Monitoring survey from PP Side) are missing during onsite visit? 3. Following evidences are not provided from Client side • LSC documents in local language (Notice for LSC, Meeting records, attendance sheet etc.) • Filled Monitoring Survey Forms • Grievance redressal procedure supporting along with records of any replacement of broken/damaged stove during this MP. • Toll free number records for this MP • Employment Records to support SDG 8 • Records/ Supporting's to show that periodic checks performed every 6 months • Spot check records, ongoing communication records 4. The evidence regarding intimating beneficiaries & affected local stakeholders for VVB onsite visit, is missing in the records. 5. For section 01, SDG 01: How this will eliminate Poverty. SDG 7.1 has same rationale and seems more appropriate. 6. For section 01, SDG 03: Target 3.9 is related to "By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination" Seems, indicator is not aligned with target 7. For section 01, SDG 04: Target 4.3 is related to "Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by sex ". How many female candidates trained, need to be confirmed.	

8. For section 01, SDG 11: Target 11.1 is related to "By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums". Majority of distribution of ICS happened in Rural and Peri Urban areas. How this project meets SDG 11, which is related to sustainable cities. 9. In section 02 of MR: SDG 3 is missing 10. In Technical details of cookstove: Replacement/ maintenance warranty must be for the whole crediting period. 11. In section 2.2 of MR: Rationale of not translating the LSC documents in local language to be provided. Even LSC attendance sheet is also in English.	
Evidence	
Desk-review of the SD-VISta Monitoring Report Version 2.0 along with related project supporting documents & project documents available at VCS project webpage with the Guidelines stated in SD-VISta Guidelines & Standard version 1.0	
1 st Response from PP/PD	Date: 23/09/2024
1. The project title is corrected with the registered PD & project webpage. 2. Interviews were conducted between the VVB and the Monitoring Survey team. 3. Following documents are enclosed here with • LSC documents in local language (Notice for LSC, Meeting records, attendance sheet etc.) • Filled Monitoring Survey Forms • Grievance redressal procedure supporting along with records of any replacement of broken/ damaged stove during this MP. • Toll free number records for this MP • Employment Records to support SDG 8 • Records/ Supporting's to show that periodic checks performed every 6 months • Spot check records, ongoing communication records. 4. The notification details of VVB onsite visit are enclosed here with. 5. In a clean cookstove project, SDG Target 1.4 helps reduce poverty by ensuring equitable access to essential resources and services. • Many individuals living below the poverty line (BPL) are unable to afford the purchase of modern cookstoves, forcing them to rely on traditional stoves for cooking. These traditional stoves not only consume large amounts of firewood but also produce significant indoor air pollution, which can have adverse health effects. To address this, cookstoves are being distributed free of cost to BPL households as part of a welfare initiative. The improved cookstoves are designed to be more efficient, requiring less firewood and reducing both the environmental impact and the time spent on fuel collection. This initiative aims to improve the quality of life for low-income households by promoting sustainable cooking practices while alleviating the economic burden associated with fuel consumption. Here's how it contributes: Reducing Energy Poverty: Clean cookstoves provide affordable, sustainable energy for cooking, replacing traditional, inefficient methods that rely on expensive, polluting fuels like firewood and charcoal. By lowering fuel costs and reducing the time spent gathering fuel, households have more income and time available for other important needs, helping to lift them out of poverty. Health Benefits: Traditional stoves emit harmful smoke that leads to respiratory illnesses, especially for women and children. Clean cookstoves reduce these health risks, cutting medical expenses and improving household productivity, which supports poverty reduction.	

Improved Technology: Clean cookstoves offer access to modern, energy-efficient technology, benefiting even the poorest households. This enhances their quality of life and productivity, giving them opportunities to escape poverty.

SDG 1.4 in a clean cookstove project helps eliminate poverty by improving access to affordable, clean energy, reducing fuel costs, enhancing health and preserving natural resources. This comprehensive approach addresses multiple dimensions of poverty, promoting long-term sustainable development.

6. The **percentage of households reporting a reduction in smoke** while cooking aligns with **SDG Target 3.9** because it directly addresses the reduction of indoor air pollution, which is a significant cause of illness and death globally. This indicator highlights the success of clean cookstove projects in improving air quality and health outcomes, thereby supporting the goal of reducing pollution-related health risks.

According to VMR 0006 Appendix 1, traditional cookstoves are classified under Tier 0-1 in terms of emissions, indicating that they are highly inefficient and emit significant levels of harmful pollutants, including smoke, particulate matter, and carbon monoxide. These emissions pose serious health risks, especially for women and children who spend long hours cooking indoors. On the other hand, improved cookstoves are classified in Tier 1-2, reflecting moderate improvements in efficiency and a noticeable reduction in harmful emissions. Although they do not completely eliminate pollutants, these improved cookstoves burn fuel more efficiently, resulting in less smoke and fewer toxic substances compared to traditional stoves. This transition from high-emission stoves to cleaner, improved cookstoves directly supports Sustainable Development Goal 3.9, which aims to reduce deaths and illnesses caused by air pollution and harmful chemicals. By reducing indoor air pollution, which is a major cause of respiratory diseases such as pneumonia and chronic lung conditions, this initiative significantly improves health outcomes in vulnerable communities, particularly benefiting women and children. This shift aligns with the global objective of SDG 3.9 to reduce the health impacts of environmental pollution. In the context of a clean cookstove project, the percentage of end-user households reporting a reduction in smoke while cooking is a direct indicator of progress toward SDG Target 3.9, particularly in relation to reducing indoor air pollution and improving health outcomes.

7. 7 number of female employees was trained during this monitoring period. i.e., (30 Males & 07 females = 37)

8. SDG 11 focuses on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. While it is often associated with urban areas, it is not limited to cities alone. The goal also applies to smaller towns and rural settlements, aiming to improve living conditions and infrastructure in all types of human settlements.

Target SDG 11.1: Safe and Affordable Housing: Ensuring access to adequate, safe, and affordable housing for all. So, SDG 11 is comprehensive and aims to address the needs of both urban and rural areas. Targeting a decrease in fire incidents in rural households can significantly contribute to achieving the SDG 11 target of ensuring access to adequate, safe, and affordable housing and basic services by 2030. Here's how:

>> **Safety Improvements:** Reducing fire incidents directly enhances the safety of housing, making it more secure for residents.

>>**Infrastructure Resilience:** Preventing fires helps maintain the integrity of housing

infrastructure, reducing the need for costly repairs and rebuilding.

>>Health and Well-being: Fewer fire incidents mean fewer injuries and fatalities, contributing to the overall health and well-being of the community.

>>Economic Stability: Preventing fires can save households from financial losses, allowing them to invest in other essential services and improvements.

>>Community Development: Safer housing environments encourage community development and can attract more resources and support for further improvements.

By focusing on fire prevention, we are addressing a critical aspect of housing safety, which is a fundamental component of the SDG 11 target.

9. SDG 3 is mentioned against the “Environmental well-being” of Table 1 in section 2.1.1 of MR V02.

10. It is only Manufacture’s Commitment for the first year of the sale. EKI will provide maintenance of cookstove throughout crediting period, which is already mentioned in the End user agreement.

11. LSC documents are enclosed here with.

Documents provided by PP/PD for review

1. Revised MR V02
2. -
3.
 - LSC documents in local language (Notice for LSC, Meeting records, attendance sheet etc.)
 - Filled Monitoring Survey Forms
 - Grievance redressal procedure supporting along with records of any replacement of broken/ damaged stove during this MP.
 - Toll free number records for this MP
 - Employment Records to support SDG 8
 - Records/ Supporting’s to show that periodic checks performed every 6 months
 - Spot check records, ongoing communication records
4. VVB onsite visit notification details
5. Revised MR V2.1
6. Revised MR V2.1
7. Revised MR V2.1
8. Revised MR V2.1
9. Revised MR V2.1
10. Revised MR V2.1
11. Revised MR V2.1

1st Review by Assessment Team

Date: **26-September-2024**

1. Project Title has been updated as per registered PDD and Project Webpage in the revised MR and same has been checked and confirmed.
2. Telephonic Interviews have now been done between VVB and Actual Surveyors (who conducted the Monitoring survey from PP Side) and same has been recorded for the record purpose.
3. Required documents has now been provided by the PD which includes
 - LSC documents in local language (Notice for LSC, Meeting records, attendance sheet etc.)
 - Filled Monitoring Survey Forms
 - Grievance redressal procedure supporting along with records of any replacement of broken/ damaged stove during this MP.
 - Toll free number records for this MP
 - Employment Records to support SDG 8
 - Records/ Supporting’s to show that periodic checks performed every 6 months
 - Spot check records, ongoing communication records.
- All these documenta have been checked and verified.

4. PD has provided the documents regarding intimating beneficiaries & affected local stakeholders for VVB onsite visit, and same has been checked and verified.
5. PD has provided the required justification to monitor the SDG Target 1.4 and same has been found consistent.
6. PD has provided the required justification to monitor the SDG Target 3.9 and same has been found consistent.
7. PD has stated that for SDG Target 4.3 trainings have been provided to 30 males and 07 females during this current monitoring period and same has been checked and verified.
8. PD has provided the required justification to monitor the SDG Target 11.1 and same has been found consistent.
9. PD has mentioned the SDG 03 in the table in revised Monitoring report version 02
10. PD has stated that manufacturer have only committed for one year of cookstove maintenance but EKI will be providing maintenance of the cookstove for the whole crediting period which is also mentioned in the end user agreement and same has been checked and confirmed.
11. LSC documents has been provided by the PD and same has been checked and confirmed.

CAR#07 has been closed successfully.

Finding No. 08	Date: 22-November-2024
Finding Type- CAR ☒ CL ☐ FAR ☐	
Stage of finding raised :	
Desk Review	☐
On-site/remote/hybrid assessment	☐
Technical Review	☐
Project Review Report by Registry	☒
Requirement	
1. Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard, v1.0, Section 2.1.2, SD VISta Project Description Template, v1.0, Section 1 2. SD VISta Project Description Template, v1.0, Section 1.2.3, Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard, v1.0, Section 2.1.4. 3. Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard, v1.0, Section 2.1.1 4. Sustainable Development Verified Standard, v1.0, Section 2.2.16-17. 5. Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard, v1.0, Section 2.2.1	
Non-Conformity	
1. In Section 1 of the SD VISta Monitoring Report (MR): a) In row 1, the “Quantitative Project Contributions during Monitoring Period” must provide the value of the additional contributions during the current monitoring period (MP) only. b) In row 5, the project uses an SDG indicator that is based on proportions. However, the impact of a contribution cannot be demonstrated using proportion-based indicators unless the total population is included. c) Rows 8 and 10 use the same indicator under two different SDG targets. However, both the contributions are identical and do not warrant separate claims. 2. In section 2.1.3 of the Monitoring Report (MR), the verification of MP1 and MP2 and stove distribution dates have not been reported as part of the project implementation schedule. 3. Section 2.1.6 of the SD VISta MR only provides a map delineating the outer state boundaries where stoves have been distributed. However, a map does not provide the names of the regions, cities, towns, villages, or states covered by the project activity. 4. Section 2.2.8 of the MR provides that project documentation can be accessed by the end users via the Verra website. However, it does not provide how the results of monitoring for the monitoring	

period under assessment are made available to the end user. 5. Section 2.4, row 5, the MR has not justified how the new instances included in the project activity meet the positive list criteria.	
Evidence	
1. SD-VISta Monitoring Report Dated 23- September-2024, version 2.1 & Project Review Report dated 20-November-2024	
1st Response from PP/PD	Date: 24/11/2024
1. Section 1 updated as follows a) In row 1, Quantitative Project Contributions during current Monitoring Period value is added in the MR. b) The proportion details are added in Row 5 of the MR. c) Rows 8 and Rows 10 have different indicators for both SDGs. Rows 8 indicator defines renewable woody bio mass use and Rows 10 indicator defines non-renewable woody biomass. Hence, we claimed both SDGs are different. The details of both indicators are as below: • Rows 8 indicator is: Tons of renewable woody biomass (firewood) saved. • and • Rows 10 indicator is: • Tons of non-renewable woody biomass (firewood) saved. 2. The details of cookstove distribution, MP1 and MP2 are added in the section 2.1.3 of the MR. 3. The new maps with city names and state names are added in section 2.1.6 of the SD VISta MR. 4. The details of the monitoring results for the monitoring period are being communicated to end users through the display of public notices placed at common areas in the villages after each monitoring survey. 5. How the new instances included in the project activity meet the positive list criteria is now updated in section 2.4 row 5 of the MR.	
Documents provided by PP/PD for review	
1. MR V03 2. MR V03 3. MR V03 4. Public notice 5. MR V03	
1st Review by Assessment Team	Date: 29-November-2024
1. The Project Proponent has updated Section 1 of the SD VISta Monitoring Report as requested. The updated MR now includes: The "Quantitative Project Contributions during Monitoring Period" for the current MP in Row 1. Proportion details and total population for Row 5. Differentiation between the indicators in Rows 8 and 10 (renewable vs. non-renewable woody biomass). Closing Statement: The non-conformity for Finding No. 1 is resolved based on the updated MR (Version 03), which addresses the discrepancies in data reporting and ensures clarity in the use of indicators. 2. The Project Proponent has added the implementation schedule for stove distribution for MP1 and MP2 in Section 2.1.3 of the updated MR. Closing Statement: The issue of missing implementation schedule details is resolved with the inclusion of relevant data in Section 2.1.3 of MR Version 03.	

3. The Project Proponent has updated Section 2.1.6 of the SD VISta MR to include maps with detailed names of regions, cities, towns, villages, and states covered by the project activity. Closing Statement: The updated maps in MR Version 03 provide sufficient geographical detail, addressing the non-conformity regarding coverage visualization.
4. The Project Proponent has clarified how monitoring results are made available to end users. Public notices are displayed in common areas of villages post-monitoring surveys, as evidenced by the attached documentation. Closing Statement: The non-conformity regarding communication of monitoring results has been addressed with the implementation of public notices, ensuring transparency with end users.
5. The Project Proponent has justified how new instances meet the positive list criteria in Section 2.4, Row 5 of the MR. The clarification provided in MR Version 03 resolves the issue of demonstrating compliance with the positive list criteria for new instances.

CAR#08 is successfully closed

Finding No. 09	Date: 22-November-2024
Finding Type- CAR ☒ CL ☐ FAR ☐	
Stage of finding raised :	
Desk Review	☐
On-site/remote/hybrid assessment	☐
Technical Review	☐
Project Review Report by Registry	☒
Requirement	
1. Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard, v1.0, Section 3.1.14.	
2. SD VISta Project Description Template, v1.0, Section 3.3.	
Non-Conformity	
1. In Section 3.1 of the MR: a) Under Impact #3- Training imparted on climate change, project implementation, and monitoring procedures: the identified affected stakeholder groups are not complete when compared with the registered PD. b) Under Impact #5- Reducing PM 2.5 and CO emissions by using ICSs: there is no clear correlation between a reduction in PM2.5 and the Increased ability to consume safe drinking water by reducing boiling water time while considering that the ICS being distributed by the project is not used only for water boiling.	
2. In section 3.3 of the MR, the project proponent has made statements that have not been substantiated with evidence or proof of their existence in the baseline: a) Fewer people are now at risk of dying from exposure to household and ambient air pollution. b) Fewer pregnancies are now in danger of terminating early due to complications brought on by HAP exposure. c) The danger of young children under five “falling” into open cooking fires and house fire has decreased. It is not clear if the project is preventing the falling or removing the open fires from households. d) As a result of improved training and vocational abilities, residents are now more employable in the long run. It is not clear if training was being done to all residents of the 9 states.	
Evidence	

2. SD-VISta Monitoring Report Dated 23- September-2024, version 2.1 & Project Review Report dated 20-November-2024		
1st Response from PP/PD		Date: 24/11/2024
1. Section 3.1 MR updated as follows - Under Impact #3: Affected Stakeholder Group(s) are corrected as per registered PD in section 3.1 of MR. - Under Impact #5: The point “increased ability to consume safe drinking water by reducing boiling water time” is removed from the MR as it is not aligned with the impact. 2. The details are mentioned below - Reduction in Air Pollution-Related Deaths: - The statement that fewer people are at risk of dying from household and ambient air pollution is supported by the reduction in the use of traditional 3-stone fire stoves, which are a significant source of household air pollution. The transition to cleaner cooking technologies and fuels has led to a reduction in health risks. For detailed evidence, refer to the Clean Cooking Alliance, which highlights the health impacts of traditional cooking and the benefits of adopting cleaner stoves and fuels: - Clean Cooking Alliance - Health Impacts of Cooking (https://cleancooking.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/CCA-Health-Factsheet-ENGLISH.pdf) - Reduction in Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes: - The adverse effects of household air pollution (HAP), particularly from 3-stone fire stoves, on pregnancy outcomes such as preterm birth, low birth weight, and stillbirth, are well-documented. Exposure to fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and other pollutants from biomass combustion is associated with these complications. Supporting references include: - Pregnant women’s perception on the health effects of household air pollution (https://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-023-16578-8) - Impact of cleaner cookstoves on reducing adverse pregnancy outcomes (https://researchdata.edu.au/impact-cleaner-cookstoves-resource-settings/947917) - Reduction in Child Burns/Injuries: - The risk of young children under five experiencing burns or injuries from open cooking fires, such as those associated with 3-stone fire stoves, is significant. Projects aimed at transitioning households to safer cooking methods help mitigate these risks. Detailed evidence includes: - Clean cookstoves lead to 40% reduction in burns in children (https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/10/161026081142.htm) - WHO Global Burn Registry Report (https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10413420/) - Improvement in Employability: - Net positive impacts on the employability of residents refer to the enhancement of skills, job opportunities, and economic participation through the project. Details of employment during the distribution and manufacturing phases have been submitted to the VVB.		
Documents provided by PP/PD for review		

1. a) MR V03 b) MR V03 2. d) Job detail documents	
1st Review by Assessment Team	Date: 29-November-2024
1. Finding No. 01 (Section 3.1 of the MR) Impact #3 - Training imparted on climate change, project implementation, and monitoring procedures: The Project Proponent has corrected the identified affected stakeholder groups to align with the registered Project Design (PD). Impact #5 - Reducing PM2.5 and CO emissions by using ICSs: The statement regarding the increased ability to consume safe drinking water by reducing boiling water time has been removed, ensuring alignment with the project's impact description. Closing Statement: The updates made to Section 3.1 of the Monitoring Report (MR) Version 03 satisfactorily address the identified non-conformities related to the completeness of stakeholder groups and the misaligned impact statement. 2. Finding No. 02 (Section 3.3 of the MR) Reduction in Air Pollution-Related Deaths: The Proponent has substantiated the claim with evidence from the Clean Cooking Alliance, demonstrating a reduction in household air pollution due to the transition to cleaner cooking technologies. Reduction in Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes: Supporting evidence, including studies on the impact of cleaner cookstoves on pregnancy outcomes, has been provided to validate the claim. Reduction in Child Burns/Injuries: Evidence from sources such as the WHO Global Burn Registry and related research supports the reduction in burns and injuries among children under five. Improvement in Employability: Evidence of skill enhancement and job opportunities during the cookstove distribution and manufacturing phases has been submitted, demonstrating improved employability for residents. Closing Statement: The clarifications and evidence provided by the Project Proponent adequately substantiate the claims made in Section 3.3 of the MR. The findings are resolved based on the documentation submitted, including references to scientific studies and employment records. CAR#09 is successfully closed	

Forward Action Requests

Finding No. 00		Date: 11 August 2024
Finding Type CAR ☐ CL ☐ FAR ☒		
Stage of finding raised : Desk Review ☒ On-site/remote/hybrid assessment ☐ Technical Review ☐ Project Review Report by Registry ☐		
Requirement		
Non-Conformity		
Evidence		
1st Response from PP/PD		Date: Mention date of response Submission here
PP/PD will provide point wise response here		
Documents provided by PP/PD for review		
PP/PD will list out here the documents submitted to support the response		
1st Review by Assessment Team		Date: Mention date of review Submission here
Mention here the review/feedback of response point wise		

APPENDIX 02 COMPETENCE STATEMENTS

Team Leader



Certification Pvt. Ltd.

VKU.F50W. Competence Statement

COMPETENCE STATEMENT

Name	Niharika Kaushik
Nationality	Indian
Countries of Experience	India, Thailand, Vietnam, Madagascar
Educational Qualification	B.Sc. Zoology M.Sc. Environmental Science
Year of Experience	4 years
Area of Expertise	Climate Change & Environment/Industry
Eligible Sectoral Scope	SS 1 – TA 1.2 - Energy generation from renewable energy sources SS 3 – TA 3.1. Energy demand She is a GS Approved Auditor

Roles

Project Trainee	NO
Validator/Verifier Trainee	NO
Validator	YES
Verifier	YES
Team Leader	YES
Technical Reviewer	NO
Local Expert (India)	YES
TA Expert (1.2, 3.1)	YES
Financial Expert	NO

Reviewed by	Apoorva Gupta (Quality Manager)	Date	12/09/2024
Approved by	Barun Kumar (Technical Manager)	Date	12/09/2024

Project Trainee


Certification Pvt. Ltd.

VKU.F50W. Competence Statement

COMPETENCE STATEMENT

Name	Kriti Das
Nationality	Indian
Countries of Experience	India, Madagascar
Educational Qualification	M.Sc. (Environmental Science) B.Sc. (Biotechnology)
Year of Experience	11 months
Area of Expertise	Climate Change & Environment/Industry
Eligible Sectoral Scope	NA

Roles

Project Trainee	NO
Validator/Verifier Trainee	YES
Validator	NO
Verifier	NO
Team Leader	NO
Technical Reviewer	NO
Local Expert (<i>Country Wise</i>)	NO
TA Expert (<i>XX</i>)	NO
Financial Expert	NO

Reviewed by	Apoorva Gupta (Quality Manager)	Date	31.07.2024
Approved by	Barun Kumar (Technical Manager)	Date	31.07.2024

Technical Reviewer



Certification Pvt. Ltd.

VKU.F50W. Competence Statement

COMPETENCE STATEMENT

Name	Akhilesh Joshi
Nationality	Indian
Countries of Experience	India, China, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Turkey, Georgia, Jordan, Madagascar, Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Kenya, Angola, Uganda, Tanzania, Nigeria, Guatemala, Mexico
Educational Qualification	MBA (Oil & Gas management) BE (Chemical Engineering)
Year of Experience	17 Years
Area of Expertise	Climate Change & Environment / Industry
Eligible Sectoral Scope	SS 1 – TA 1.1 - Thermal Energy generation from fossil fuels as well as thermal electricity from Solar SS 1 – TA 1.2 - Energy generation from renewable Energy sources SS 3 – TA 3.1 - Energy demand SS 4 – TA 4.1 – Manufacturing Industries (Cement sector) SS 8 – TA 8.1 - Mining and Mineral Processes SS 10 – TA 10.1 - Mining and Mineral Processes SS 13 – TA 13.1 - Solid Waste and Wastewater He is a GS Approved Auditor

Roles

Project Trainee	NO
Validator/Verifier Trainee	NO
Validator	YES
Verifier	YES
Team Leader	YES
Technical Reviewer	YES
Local Expert (Country Wise)	YES
TA Expert (1.1, 1.2, 3.1, 4.1, 8.1, 10.1, 13.1)	YES
Financial Expert	YES

Reviewed by	Apoorva Gupta (Quality Manager)	Date	08/09/2024
Approved by	Barun Kumar (Technical Manager)	Date	09/09/2024