


**Validation report for
GS4GG Programme of Activities
(Gold Standard for the Global Goals)**

BASIC INFORMATION

Title and GS reference number of the program of activities (PoA)	GS11009: TASC Clean Cooking PoA	
Version number of the validation report	2	
Completion date of the validation report	09/02/2022	
Version number of the PoA-DD to which this report applies	5.0	
Date when PoA-DD was uploaded for global stakeholder consultation	25/08/2020	
Coordinating/managing entity (CME)	The African Stove Company Ltd. (TASC)	
Host Party	Zambia Zimbabwe	
Applied methodologies and standardized baselines	Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralized Thermal Energy Consumption (TPDDTEC), version 3.1	
Mandatory sectoral scopes linked to the applied methodologies	3	
Certification Pathway (Project Certification/Impact Statements & Products)	Impact Statements and Products	
SDG Outcomes	SDG 1: No Poverty	Quantitative Impact
	SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	Qualitative Impact
	SDG 5: Gender Equality	Qualitative Impact
	SDG 7: Affordable & Clean Energy	Qualitative Impact
	SDG 8: Decent Work & Economic Growth	Quantitative Impact
	SDG 12: Responsible Consumption & Production	Quantitative Impact

	SDG 13: Climate Action	Quantitative Impact
Regular/Retroactive	Regular	
Name of the VVB	Earthood Services Private Limited	
Name, position and signature of the approver of the validation report	 Kaviraj Singh Managing Director	

SECTION A. Executive summary

The purpose of the PoA is to avail Improved cookstoves in Households which are efficient and meet the technology and measure requirements of the applied methodology TPDDTEC Version 3.1/7/ in Zambia & Zimbabwe, which may progress into other African countries in due time.

In the absence of the proposed programme of activities inefficient traditional/3-stone fire/charcoal stoves would be in continuous practice for cooking, which will lead to high consumption of fossil fuels & release of Particulate matter into the atmosphere.

The PoA (GS11009) is applying for design certification under GS4GG programme and the Coordinating/managing entity of the PoA is The African Stove Company Ltd. (TASC). The project will have a lifetime of 20 years.

Scope of Validation

The scope of the services provided by the Earthood Services Private Limited for the PoA is to perform validation of the PoA. The scope of validation is to assess the claims and assumptions made in the programme of activity design document (PoA-DD)/1/ against the GS4GG criteria, UNFCCC criteria, including but not limited to the Gold Standard Principles & Requirements/6/, Gold Standard Programme of Activities Requirements/2/, Gold Standard Community Services Activity Requirements/9/, CDM PS/3/for PoAs, CDM VVS/5/, applied GS impact quantification methodology and other relevant rules and requirements established for Gold Standard.

Validation Process and Methodology

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

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

Conclusion

The review of the PoA-DD/1/, supporting documentation and subsequent follow up actions has provided ESPL with sufficient evidence to determine the fulfilment of stated criteria. Earthood is of the opinion that the PoA "TASC Clean Cooking PoA" meets all the GS requirements, host country criteria and has correctly applied the GS approved methodology Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralized Thermal Energy Consumption (TPDDTEC), version 3.1/7/. Therefore, the PoA is recommended to GS for registration following the submission of the validation report.

SECTION B. Validation team, technical reviewer and approver
B.1. Validation team member

No	Role	Type of resource	Last name	First name	Affiliation (e.g., name of central or other office of VVB or outsourced entity)	Involvement in			
						Desk/document review	On-site inspection*	Interviews	Validation findings
1.	Team Leader and Meth. Expert	IR	Mahala	Deepika	Central office	Y	N	Y	Y
2.	Validator	IR	Vatsa	Vaishali	Central office	Y	N	Y	Y
3.	Technical, Meth Expert (TA3.1)	IR	Mahala	Deepika	Central office	Y	N	Y	Y
4.	Local Expert (Zambia)	EI	Chipompwe	Selwyn	Central office	N	N	N	Y
5.	Local Expert (Zimbabwe)	EI	Chuma	Munatsi	Central office	N	N	N	Y

*Remote site visit has been conducted for the current validation due to the COVID-19 restriction and the same has been discussed under section C.2 of this report

B.2. Technical reviewer and approver of the validation report

No.	Role	Type of resource	Last name	First name	Affiliation (e.g.name of central or other office of VVB or outsourced entity)
1.	Technical reviewer	IR	Guleria	Shifali	Central office
2.	Expert to TR	IR	Guleria	Shifali	Central office
3.	Approver	IR	Singh	Kaviraj	Central office

SECTION C. Means of validation
C.1. Desk/document review

The validation of the PoA was performed through the document review including review of PoA-DD/1/ version 02 dated 25/08/2020. The validation of the information provided in the PoA-DD was performed by using the various sources of information provided by the project participant. Additionally, cross checks were performed for information provided in the PoA-DD /1/ using information from sources other than the validation sources, the validation team's sectoral or local expertise and, if necessary, independent background investigations.

C.2. On-site inspection

Duration of on-site inspection: NA

No	Activity performed on-site	Site location	Date	Team member
1.	NA	NA	NA	NA

During the current PoA validation, the on-site visit was not possible due to the outbreak of COVID-19. Both the host country's Zambia/27/ and Zimbabwe/28/were experiencing high number of COVID-cases/10/ at the time of assessment being carried out. So, the validation team avoided the risk of getting infected during the physical onsite assessment.

It is important to note that the GS4GG has provided alternative measures relating to mandatory on-site visits for VVBs an audit which includes the following:

If site visit cannot be postponed due to significant impact of delaying the site visit on VVB and/or project developer due to timeline/commitment as per validation/verification or GS-VERs delivery agreement, VVB may replace mandatory on-site visits with remote audits. Therefore, in this validation due to the commitment of the project developer to the VVB as per the delivery timeline set under the signed contract, the site-visit could not be postponed, and the on-site inspection was replaced by remote audit.

The remote audit included the interview with the CME representative and the VPA implementer/28/.

C.2.1. Interviews with CME and local stakeholders

No.	Interviewee			Date	Subject	Team member
	Last name	First name	Affiliation			
1.	Barlow	George	TASC Limited (CME representative & VPA-implementer)	09/08/2021	Program design, Baseline scenario, ex-ante and monitored parameters	Deepika Mahala, Vaishali Vatsa

C.2.2. Questions asked by Team Members:

- PoA Description and Installed/Distributed Technology description
- Role and CME or any other entities in the implementation of PoA
- Provision to avoid double counting
- Type of fuel used in the baseline device
- General cooking practices in the host country
- Provision of soliciting feedback from the stakeholders

C.3. Sampling approach

VVB's sampling approach:

The VVB did not follow any sampling approach for the Validation of the PoA. Remote interview were conducted with the CME representative on 09/08/2021 to confirm, monitoring system of the PoA, provision to avoid double counting and the provision for soliciting feedback from the stakeholders.

C.4. Clarification requests (CLs), corrective action requests (CARs) and forward action requests (FARs) raised

Areas of validation findings	No. of CL	No. of CAR	No. of FAR
Compliance of the PoA-DD with the PoA Design Document		-	-
Identification of project type	-	-	-
General description of PoA	-	-	-
General Eligibility of the PoA under Gold Standard	-	-	-
- Assessment of the eligibility of the PoA under Gold Standard	-	-	-
- Project boundary, sources and GHGs	-	-	-
- Baseline scenario	-	-	-
- Target/Indicator for the SDGs	-	-	-
- Management System	-	-	-
- Application of methodology	-	-	-
- Deviation from methodology and/or methodological tool	-	-	-
- Clarification on applicability of methodology, tool and/or standardized baseline	-	-	-
- Demonstration of additionality	CL#01	-	-
- Eligibility criteria for VPA inclusion	-	CAR#01	-
Start date, crediting period type and duration	-		-
Safeguarding Principles Assessment	CL#01	-	-
Summary of stakeholder consultation	-	-	FAR#01
Sustainable development co-benefits	-	-	-
Grievance Mechanism	-	-	-
Others	-	-	-
Total	01	01	01

SECTION D. Validation findings
D.1. Compliance of the PoA-DD with the PoA Design Document

Means of validation	The Gold Standard for Global Goals prescribes a template for PoA-DD. Therefore, PP has used the Gold standards for global goals PoA-DD form version 1.1 /12/ which has been issued by Gold Standards on 14/10/2020. In addition, all the GS4GG requirements are included in accordance with the Principles and Requirements version 1.2 /6/.
Findings	No findings were raised.
Conclusion	The final PoA-DD /1/ is found to be in compliance with the applicable latest PoA-DD form/12/ and instructions contained therein.

D.2. Identification of project type

Means of validation	This PoA involves distributing Improved cookstoves to the communities in Zambia and Zimbabwe through the displacement of the baseline practice as much as possible. The PoA is a Type II (i.e., annual energy savings less than 180 GWhth per year) and the PoA-DD employs the GS methodology Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralized Thermal Energy Consumption (TPDDTEC), version 3.1/7/.
Findings	No findings were raised

Conclusion	<p>The validation team confirms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The process undertaken to describe the procedure and completeness of the project is described above. • The type of PoA is confirmed from the information provided in PoA-DD i.e., the PoA will reduce the GHG emission by disseminating the efficient improved cookstove and thereby replacing the inefficient traditional cookstoves. • The validation team confirms that the proposed GS PoA is implementing improved cookstoves to reduce GHG emissions which was also confirmed through the interviews of the end-users and CME as detailed under section C.3.1. of this report thus, meeting the applicability criteria of the applied methodology.
-------------------	---

D.3. General description of PoA

Means of validation	<p>The purpose of the PoA is to distribute ICS technologies in households by replacing the in-efficient traditional three-stone fired stoves. The PoA is expected to reduce the GHG emissions caused by the existing use of traditional three stone stove, reduce the GHG emissions, and reduce the time spent to fetch firewood by local residents.</p> <p>The PoA meets the eligibility criteria of the Gold Standard. The ICS under the PoA are aimed to be distributed in Zambia & Zimbabwe to the various communities and institutions. The CME for the PoA The African Stove Company Ltd. (TASC).</p> <p>The technical description of the PoA has been validated by assessing the third party Kuniokoa report /31/ and during the remote site interview. All the information was correctly mentioned in the PoA-DD /1/.</p> <p>The summary of the proposed PoA and the technology involved are described in the PoA-DD /1/ with sufficient details and clarity. The accuracy of the PoA description was determined based on the remote survey as part of validation audit, review of supporting documents (as mentioned in Appendix 3), and interaction with the project personnel. Some of the key technologies that are envisaged to be included under the PoA.</p> <p>The specification of the installed ICS under each VPA shall be cross-checked from the manufacturer’s specifications/13/ at the VPA level. The sustainable development goals and their outcome are transparently discussed under section A.4 of the PoA-DD/1/. The assessment team has checked and reviewed the PoA-DD/1/ with supportive evidence and found the details to be correct and the same has been assessed in detail under section D.9. The validation team confirmed that the PoA did not receive any ODA to support the development and implementation through a declaration /17/ submitted by the CME.</p> <p>The proposed GS PoA would introduce technologies that include thermal & energy efficient stoves which was found to be in-line with the requirements of the applied methodology TPDDTEC version 3.1/7/.</p> <p>VVB has interviewed the CME representative at the PoA level to understand about the monitoring system and implementation structure of the PoA.</p>
----------------------------	--

	<p>The design consultation was conducted on 04/02/2021/29/. The design consultation report has passed the design consultation review and was submitted by CME as evidence/29/ and is also mentioned in Section A.1 of General Description of PoA.</p> <p>Framework and Voluntary action: The PoA aims at disseminating ICS to the HHs with the co-ordination of CME and VPA implementer along with the support of local partners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of VPAs will be managed by CME and VPA implementer • Distribution of ICS will be done by VPA implementer with the support of local partners • VPA implementer will train the local partners for distribution of ICS and will ensure that end-user information is captured at the point of installation • Each of the ICS will have a Unique serial number and other end user information in order to avoid any kind of double counting. <p>The framework was confirmed through the interview of CME representative.</p> <p><u>Voluntary Action:</u></p> <p>The PoA is a voluntary action. This PoA does not seek national or regional incentives and there are no mandatory laws that require investment in installation of ICS in Zambia or Zimbabwe.</p>
Findings	No findings.
Conclusion	<p>The validation team confirms:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The process undertaken to validate the accuracy and completeness of the project is described above (under MoV). b. The project description contained in the PoA-DD/1/ of the proposed GS PoA is accurate and complete. c. The remote audit/33/was conducted by the validation team as described in this report. d. The validation team confirms that the proposed GS-PoA meets the eligibility criteria for TPDDTEC version 3.1/7/. <p>Moreover, the validation team confirms that the description of the proposed GS PoA, as contained in the PoA-DD/1/ sufficiently covers all relevant elements, is accurate, complete and it provides the reader with a clear understanding of the nature of the proposed GS-PoA.</p>

D.3.1. Project boundary, sources and GHGs

Means of validation	<p>The project boundary basically defines the physical and geographical boundary of the project facility, and it is well defined in the PoA-DD/4/ (section A2). The project boundary covers Zambia & Zimbabwe. Therefore, the project boundary covers all the points where all the ICS devices supplied in the host countries of Zambia & Zimbabwe. The project boundary is clearly defined in the PoA-DD/1/ in-line to the methodology/7/.</p>
----------------------------	---

	Emissions sources included in the project boundary have been appropriately included in the PoA-DD/1/. CO ₂ ,CH ₄ and N ₂ O emissions due to use of non-renewable biomass in the traditional stove for baseline scenario (for all the project locations) and the project scenario has reduced emissions, thus CO ₂ ,CH ₄ and N ₂ O are included.
Findings	No findings were raised
Conclusion	<p>The project boundary is mentioned in the PoA-DD/1/ and is validated by the validation team. Also, according to the validation team the sources and gases that are accounted are found to be appropriate according to the PoA.</p> <p>As per the remote audit assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project boundary is found to be in-line as mentioned • The sources, gases that are accounted are justified in context of the PoA.

D.3.2. Technology & Baseline scenario

Means of validation	<p>CME has applied an approved baseline and methodology TPDDTEC Version 3.1/7/ which is approved under GS4GG programme.</p> <p>The purpose of the PoA is to introduce energy-efficient, biomass fuel-based cookstoves (technology/measure) or Improved Cookstoves (ICS) within the host countries Zambia and Zimbabwe. This project comprises of technologies designed to provide ICS to HHs which are efficient and meet the technology and measure requirements of the applied methodology TPDDTEC Version 3.1/7/. In line with the applied methodology, the baseline scenario is "A baseline scenario is defined by the typical baseline fuel consumption patterns in a population that is targeted for adopting the new project technology."</p> <p>In Zambia, the majority of rural HHs depends on the solid fuels and traditional inefficient stoves as confirmed from the National Energy Policy report/42/ and in Zimbabwe the rural HHs were found to be dependent on wood-based cooking as per National Energy Policy, Zimbabwe in the baseline scenario/43/</p> <p>The baseline scenario will be demonstrated through baseline studies at the VPA level.</p> <p>The assessment team has reviewed the PoA-DD in line with the applied methodology and it is confirmed that the CME has correctly identified the baseline scenario.</p>
Findings	No findings were raised.
Conclusion	<p>The validation team based on the description provided above with regard to the assessment of the requirements confirms that:</p> <p>(a) All the assumptions and data used by the project participants are listed in the PDD/1/ and or annexures, including their references and sources.</p> <p>(b) All documentation used is relevant for establishing the baseline scenario and correctly quoted and interpreted in the PoA-DD/1/.</p>

	<p>(c) Assumptions and data used in the identification of the baseline scenario are justified appropriately, supported by evidence, and can be deemed reasonable.</p> <p>(d) Relevant national and/or sectoral policies and circumstances are considered and listed in the PoA-DD/1/.</p> <p>(e) The approved baseline methodology has been correctly applied to identify the most plausible baseline scenario and the identified baseline scenario reasonably represents what would occur in the absence of the proposed PoA.</p> <p>The validation team confirms that it has taken other steps and other sources of information used to cross-check the information contained in the PoA-DD/1/, wherever applicable, as listed above.</p>
--	---

D.4. General Eligibility of the PoA under Gold Standard

D.4.1. Assessment of the eligibility of the PoA under Gold Standard

Means validation of	As per section 3.1.1 of the GS4GG Principles and Requirements includes the general criterion that applies to all the projects seeking Gold Standard Certification. The demonstration of the PoA meeting the eligibility criteria has been represented below:		
	Applicability Criteria as per Principles and Requirements	Justification from CME	Means of Validation
	a. Types of Project :	The PoA started implementation in Zambia in 24/07/2020 with the first ICS being distributed. It is one of the pre identified types as per section 3.1.1 (a) and automatically eligible for Gold Standard Certification as per section 4.1.3 of GS4GG Principles & Requirements	The aim of the PoA is implementing ICS in Zambia & Zimbabwe's Households and this is in line with para 3.1.1 (d) of Community Service Activity Requirements (Version 1.2)/7/. The start date of implementation has been determined through the first installation of ICS in Zambia/45/. The PoA is thus considered automatically eligible for gold standard certification as this comes under approved activity requirement (Community service activity requirements) which is in accordance with GS4GG Principles and Requirements paragraph 4.1.3. /6/.
b. Location of Project	Location of the project is Zambia and	According to para 3.1.1 (b) of Principles and Requirements,	

		<p>Zimbabwe in Section A.3 of PoA –DD.</p>	<p>version 1.2/6/, The project can be located in any part of the world. The PoA is located in Zambia as confirmed by the VVB during the remote interviews conducted on 09/08/2021 & 10/08/2021 and an independent platform https://www.latlong.net/. This is in accordance with GS4GG Principles and Requirements paragraph 3.1.1 (b)/6/.</p>
	<p>c. Project Area, Project Boundary and Scale</p>	<p>The boundary for the PoA in terms of a geographical area is defined as the political boundary of Zambia and Zimbabwe.</p> <p>All voluntary programme activities (VPAs) associated with this PoA will be implemented within the geographical boundary of the PoA.</p> <p>To avoid inclusion of any stove which is a part of another registered carbon project/ programme, all ICS under this programme shall have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An unique ID serial number • A GPS tag (where possible) • End User data (name/address/physical location/phone number/govt. ID number) • Records of baseline stove type and fuel type used <p>This data will uniquely identify the ICS, avoiding any double counting and trace its user for future monitoring and verification.</p>	<p>The project area will be the households of the communities that will benefit from the ICS that is supplied under the PoA and the geographical boundary of the PoA will be the Zambia & Zimbabwe.</p> <p>The VPAs included in the PoA will be implemented within Zambia and Zimbabwe.</p> <p>In-order to avoid the double counting project participant will maintain the following records:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stove with unique serial number • GPS tag wherever possible • End user information • Baseline stove type and fuel records <p>Thus, as the PoA meets this requirement. It is eligible under gold standards.</p>

	e. Host Country Requirements	This shall be defined at the VPA level according to the host country covered in a VPA.	This requirement will be defined and the VPA-level and will be confirmed then if it is meeting the eligibility criteria or not.
	f. Contact details	Contact details of organisation is given in the Appendix 1. The contact person Mr. Nick Marshall	The Project Developer has mentioned all the contact details of the participants involved in the Project under Annex 1 of the PoA-DD/6/. This is in accordance with GS4GG Principles and Requirements paragraph 3.1.1 (f)/6/.
	g. Legal Ownership	TASC shall retain full and uncontested ownership of the Products generated under GS certification by the PoA: This shall be confirmed via an End User Agreement signed at the time of distribution. Consent may be collected via the monitoring app etc. or collecting stakeholder feedback on this issue during local stakeholder consultation (LSC) or Stakeholder Feedback Round (SFR).	The Project Developer has full and uncontested legal ownership to the offsets generated by the PoA and this has been confirmed from the sample carbon transfer agreement submitted by the CME/20/. This is in accordance with GS4GG Principles and Requirements paragraph 3.1.1 (f)/6/.
h. Other rights	Not applicable	Not applicable	

i. Official Development Assistance (ODA) Declaration	No ODA is involved in the PoA.	It has been confirmed from the ODA declaration/17/ letter that no Official Development Assistance has been sought by the PoA. This is in accordance with GS4GG Principles and Requirements paragraph 3.1.1 (h)/6/.
--	--------------------------------	--

Eligibility Criteria Category	Required condition	CME's justification	VVB's justification
Eligible Project Types	All CSA Projects shall lead to climate change mitigation and/or adaptation by providing or improving access to services/resources at the household or community or institution level. Eligible services include electricity and energy, water and sanitation, waste management, housing, etc.	The goal of the proposed PoA is to distribute ICS in the households in Zambia and Zimbabwe	The PoA involves distribution of ICS in the HHs of Zambia and Zimbabwe. Thereby improving access to the cleaner energy. Thus, PoA in-line to para 2.1.2 of community service requirements/9/ was found to be meeting the required eligibility criterion.
GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA - Type of project	(b) End-use energy efficiency: Project activities that reduce energy requirements as compared to baseline scenario without affecting the level and quality of services or products, where the end-user of the	The PoA involves distribution of energy efficient ICS.	PoA involves distribution of ICS by replacing the use of traditional stoves in the HHs of Zambia and Zimbabwe. Thus, as the implementation of this PoA provides access

		<p>products and services are clearly identified and when the physical intervention is required at the user end. For example, efficient cooking, heating, lighting, etc.</p>		<p>to energy efficient ICS to the end-user. The required condition as stated under para 3.1.1 (b) of community services activity requirement was found to be met.</p>
	<p>GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA – Project Area, Boundary and scale</p>	<p>Project Area and Boundary shall be defined in line with the applicable Impact Quantification Methodologies and Product Requirements.</p>	<p>The project area is location of ICS End Users in the Host Country of the VPA, defined by a GPS location (where possible).</p> <p>The project boundary is the geographical boundary of the Host Countries.</p> <p>The PoA is a large scale PoA with each independent subsystem (in case of PoA = ICS) contributing to less than 1% of the methodology threshold.</p>	<p>The project area is defined as the geographical boundaries of Zambia and Zimbabwe where the ICS will be distributed in the HHs</p> <p>The project boundary is the geographical boundary of Zambia and Zimbabwe as confirmed during the project participant’s interview.</p> <p>The PoA is a large scale PoA as each of the distributed ICS is contributing to less than 1% of the methodology threshold.</p> <p>The required condition as stated under para 3.1.2. of community services activity requirement was found to be met.</p>

	<p>GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA – Legal Ownership</p>	<p>(a) Projects involving the distribution of a large number of devices for services such as heating, cooking, lighting, electricity generation, water treatment technology such as water filter, etc. shall provide a clear description of the ownership of the Products that are generated under Gold Standard Certification all along the investment chain. In line with the FPIC requirement, the proofs that end-users are aware of and willing to give up their rights on Products shall be provided.</p> <p>The transfer of Product ownership shall be discussed during local stakeholder consultations for projects.</p>	<p>The ownership of carbon credits lies with the CME. This will be confirmed via the End User Agreement collected at the point of distribution (refer Eligibility under GS4GG section above).</p> <p>This has been discussed during LSC and distribution sensitization meetings.</p>	<p>End-user agreement will be provided to each of the end user confirming the ownership of the carbon credits which lies with the CME.</p> <p>Through the sensitization meeting videos/16/ it was confirmed that end-users were informed about the ownership of the carbon credits.</p> <p>The required condition as stated under para 3.1.4. of community services activity requirement was found to be met.</p>
		<p>All the conditions listed under principles and requirements /6/ and Community services activity requirements/9/ were found to be met. Thus, the PoA is meeting the eligibility criteria under Gold standard and Community services activity requirements/9/.</p>		
<p>Findings</p>	<p>No Finding</p>			
<p>Conclusion</p>	<p>The VVB has accepted and validated the general eligibility criteria that applies to all PoAs seeking Gold Standard Certification. The eligibility of the PoA is found to be valid in accordance with the section 3.1.1 of GS4GG principles and requirements version 1.2/6/.</p>			

D.4.2. Target/Indicator for the SDGs

Means validation of	Sustainable Development Goals	Most relevant SDG Target	SDG Impact Indicator (Proposed or SDG Indicator)	VVB Assessment
	SDG 1: No Poverty	1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance	Via distribution of ICS, the PoA avoids cooking on traditional stoves. This results in increased access to basic services (efficient cooking), new technology (improved stoves) and reduces poverty by reducing purchased fuel consumption.	1.4.1 Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services
SDG 3: Good Health and Well Being	3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.	Via distribution of ICS, the PoA results in reduction in exposure to indoor air pollutants associated with biomass fuel based traditional cooking.	3.9.1 Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution.	The efficient ICS distributed under PoA reduced the smoke by 70% as confirmed from the manufacturer specification /13/. Thereby reducing the indoor air pollution and the illnesses associated with it.

				Thus, SDG indicator 3.9.1 was found to be met.
	SDG 5: Gender Equality	5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate	<p>In the poorest communities, the burden of collecting and/or purchasing fuel for cooking often falls on women and children. By reducing fuel collection and cooking time, the PoA provides women in project households with more time to invest in other productive economic development activities.</p> <p>5.4.1 Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location</p>	<p>ICS distributed under this PoA is more efficient than the traditional three stone stove. Thus, the amount of fuel required is less as compared to the traditional stove and thereby reducing the time investment in purchasing or collecting the wood which is generally done by Women or children.</p> <p>The time saved from this can be used in other productive activities by the women and children. Thus, SDG indicator 5.1.4. was found to be met.</p>
	SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and	The PoA involves dissemination of efficient, modern technology for cooking and helps in using	PoA involves distribution of efficient ICS to the HHs in

		modern energy services	available energy sources more efficiently. 7.1.2 Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology	Zambia and Zimbabwe thereby providing the access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services to the end-users. Thus, SDG Indicator 7.1.2. was found to be met as the end-users have primary reliance on the clean technology.
	SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value	The PoA will generate employment in the Host Country in distribution, logistics, management and monitoring activities. 8.5.1 Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age and persons with disabilities	The PoA implementation will generate employment opportunities in Zambia and Zimbabwe thereby increasing the hourly earnings of the men and women. Thus, SDG Indicator 8.5.1 was found to be met.
	SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production	12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources	Via distribution of ICS, the PoA will reduce the consumption of non-renewable biomass in participant households by as much as 50%, depending on stove model.	PoA aims at reducing the fuel wood consumption by disseminating efficient ICS as the ICS uses less wood as compared to

			12.2.2 Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP	the traditional stove. Thereby achieving SDG indicator 12.2.2.
	SDG 13: Climate Action	13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning	The PoA contributes towards avoidance of GHG emissions by reducing the use of non-renewable biomass in cooking. Amount of CO ₂ e emissions reduced by the project per year.	The PoA due to reduction in the fuel wood consumption and more efficiency reduces the GHG emissions. Thus, SDG Indicator 13.2 was found to be met.
Findings	No findings were raised			
Conclusion	The assessment team confirms that the project is eligible for GS4GG as per the requirements of GS4GG/6/.			

D.4.3. Management System

Means of validation	<p>The Management plan is explained in section B.1 of the PoA-DD/04/ is correctly applied to the PoA.</p> <p>The roles & responsibility of CME & VPA implementers are well defined. CME's role is primarily with the documentation at both PoA & VPA level, training of the Implementers in both host countries of Zambia & Zimbabwe, Communications with Stakeholders, GS & VVBs. Managing and collating the project data as well as overseeing monitoring exercises & calculating ERs & upgrading PoA Management systems whenever required. CME will have a project database where all the end-user's information is stored.</p> <p>VPA implementer's roles involve implementation of the VPAs by distributing the ICS through their network of distribution with the help of local partners. Collecting & recording the distribution data in accordance with the PoA management systems. Also, to notify the end users about</p>
----------------------------	---

	<p>the ownership of the ERs generated by ICS and co-ordinating the ex-post monitoring of distributed ICS as per the monitoring plan/1/.</p> <p>They will keep a record that will be finalized at the point of installations and this electronic database will be regularly updated with information such as Details of end users addresses & name, of PoA/VPA, monitoring parameters, Date of Installations or maintenance records, Unique IDs of each installed device that are to be maintained under VPA.</p> <p>The PoA also has an elaborate system for avoidance of double counting through the process of allocating a unique serial ID to each ICS, capturing of GPS-coordinates, the exact type of ICS distributed. Along with all unique information of the ICS beneficiaries including name, location, government ID etc. The PoA will go through the cross-check of various carbon registries to confirm that the PoA is not included in any other voluntary or compliance standards programme as well as the project area does not overlap with that of another Gold Standard and other voluntary or compliance standard programme of a similar nature. CME will also work to improve the management of the projects as it progresses. Internal audits will be held that will address all shortcomings to the PoA. The assessment team confirmed that management of PoA is detailed and therefore sufficient.</p> <p>The validation team confirms that the points identified by the CME and as mentioned in the PoA-DD/1/are in line with the management of PoA effectively. SDGs will be monitored at VPA level mentioned in section A.4 of PoA-DD/1/.</p>
Findings	No findings were raised
Conclusion	<p>The validation team confirms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The clear division of responsibilities will lead to successful delivery of the project. • The PoA-DD/1/ ensure any potential gaps during or after the installations will be monitored & tracked by VPA implementers. • The CME will be able to implement the Management plan. • The VPA implementers will execute the PoA on the Host countries.

D.4.4. Application of methodology

Means of validation	Applicability Criteria	CME Justification	VVB Assessment
	<p>This methodology is applicable to programmes or activities introducing technologies and/or practices that reduce or displace greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the thermal energy consumption of households and non-domestic premises.</p> <p>Examples of these technologies include the introduction of improved biomass or fossil fuel</p>	<p>The PoA involves distribution of fuel efficient improved cookstoves ("ICS") in the households in Zambia and Zimbabwe.</p>	<p>The PoA aims at distributing the ICS to the HHs of Zambia and Zimbabwe which is efficient than the traditional stove as confirmed from the Kuniokoa Stove test report/31/ and Manufacturer specification of the ICS/13/.</p> <p>Thus, the applicability condition was found to be met.</p>

	<p>cookstoves, ovens, dryers, space and water heaters (solar and otherwise), heat retention cookers, solar cookers, bio-digesters</p>		
	<p>The project boundary needs to be clearly identified, and the technologies counted in the project are not included in any other voluntary market or CDM project activity (i.e. no double counting takes place). In some cases, there may be another similar activity within the same target area. Project proponents must therefore have a survey mechanism in place together with appropriate mitigation measures so as to prevent any possibility of double counting.</p>	<p>The project boundary and provisions to avoid double counting are mandatory eligibility criteria # 1 and #2 for inclusion of a VPA. Any VPA included in the PoA will automatically meet compliance with this methodology requirement.</p>	<p>The project boundary is defined clearly under section D.3.1 of this report. Eligibility condition #1 and #2 will be checked to ensure this.</p>
	<p>The technologies each have continuous useful energy outputs of less than 150kW per unit (defined as the total useful energy delivered from start to end of operation of a unit divided by time of operation). For technologies or practices that do not deliver thermal energy in the project scenario but only displace thermal energy supplied in the baseline scenario, the 150kW threshold applies to the displaced baseline technology.</p>	<p>Under eligibility criteria #7, the ICS capacity is limited to 1.8GWhth energy savings per annum which is deemed much less than 150kW equivalent.</p>	<p>The PoA aims at disseminating the ICS by displacing the traditional three stone fire stove. The ICS will result in energy savings per annum. Eligibility criteria #7 will be checked at the VPA level to ensure this.</p>
	<p>Using the baseline technology as a backup or auxiliary technology in parallel with the improved technology introduced by the project activity is permitted as long as a mechanism is put into place to encourage the removal</p>	<p>The PoA provides a subsidized ICS technology that offers a 'step-change' in the efficiency of cooking in end user households. Training will be provided to end users during 'sensitization</p>	<p>PoA aims at replacing the traditional three stone stove with the improved cookstove. The HHs have been made aware to use the ICS through the sensitization meeting videos/16/ which is regarding the</p>

	<p>of the old technology (e.g. discounted price for the improved technology) and the definitive discontinuity of its use. The project documentation must provide a clear description of the approach chosen and the monitoring plan must allow for a good understanding of the extent to which the baseline technology is still in use after the introduction of the improved technology.</p>	<p>meetings' to encourage them to move away from their traditional inefficient appliances.</p> <p>If baseline stoves are found operational during ex-post monitoring, emission reductions would be adjusted accordingly.</p>	<p>adoption of ICS in place of traditional three stone stove.</p> <p>Also, for the HHs whose baseline stove will be found to be operational along with the ICS during the monitoring process the ERs will be adjusted accordingly.</p> <p>Thus, this criterion is applicable.</p>
	<p>The project proponent must clearly communicate to all project participants the entity that is claiming ownership rights of and selling the emission reductions resulting from the project activity. For technology producers and the retailers of the improved technology or the renewable fuel in use, this must be communicated by contract or clear written assertions in the transaction paperwork. If the claimants are not the project technology end users, the end users will need to be informed and notified that they cannot claim for emission reductions from the project.</p>	<p>The signed End User Agreement confirms that the rights of ownership of VERs from the ICS usage lie with the CME.</p>	<p>The sample end-user agreement/20/ was checked and confirmed that the rights of ownership of VERs from the ICS usage lie with the CME.</p>
	<p>Project activities making use of a new biomass feedstock in the project situation (e.g. shift from non-renewable to green charcoal, plant oil or renewable biomass briquettes) must comply with relevant Gold Standard specific requirements for biomass related project activities, as defined in the latest version of the</p>	<p>No new biomass feedstock usage is envisaged in the project activity.</p>	<p>PoA does not involve use of biomass feedstock in the project scenario. Thus, this condition is not applicable.</p>

	<p>Gold Standard rules. If the biomass feedstock is sourced from a dedicated plantation, the criteria must apply to both plantations established for the project activity AND existing plantations that were established in the context of other activities but will supply biomass feedstock.</p>		
	<p>Adequate evidence is supplied to demonstrate that indoor air pollution (IAP) levels are not worsened compared to the baseline, and greenhouse gases emitted by the project fuel/stove combination are estimated with adequate precision. The project fuel/stove combination may include instances in which the project stove is a baseline stove.</p>	<p>The test reports of one of the initial stove models to be distributed under the PoA, Burn Kuniokoa are provided, as per which the IAP parameters CO and PM2.5 are tested. The value of CO = 8.27 g/MJ and PM 2.5 = 275.5 mg/MJ.</p> <p>This is significantly less than 3-stone fires.</p>	<p>IAP Parameters have been duly tested for the initial models that have been distributed under the PoA and it was confirmed from the test reports shared that the IAP are comparatively much better than what it was during the baseline stove.</p>
	<p>Records of renewable fuel sales may not be used as sole parameters for emission reduction calculation, but may be used as data informing the equations in section 2.0 of this methodology. These records need to be correlated to data on distribution and results of field tests and surveys confirming (a) actual use of the renewable fuel and usage patterns (such as average fraction of non-renewable fuels used in mixed combustion or seasonal variation of fuel types), (b) GHG emissions, (c) evidence of CO levels not deteriorating (d) any further factors effecting</p>	<p>Renewable fuels are not used in the project scenario. The fuel used in the project is non-renewable and is harvested by end-users. Further, any renewable component is considered in the fNRB parameter calculation and ERs are adjusted accordingly.</p>	<p>In the project scenario only non-renewable fuel is used in the project stoves. As no renewable fuel is used in project scenario.</p>

	emission reductions significantly.		
Findings	No findings.		
Conclusion	The Validation team confirms the application of the approved methodology Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralized Thermal Energy Consumption (Version 3.1)/5/ and confirms that no deviation to the methodology was observed.		

D.4.5. Deviation from methodology and/or methodological tool

Means of validation	Compliance of monitoring plan with respect to the monitoring methodology/7/ has been reviewed by the document review, review of the data and information presented, review of the monitoring plan, monitoring methodology including the applicable tool(s), evaluation of data management and the quality assurance and quality control system. The applicability of the methodology was found to be fulfilled, no deviation from methodology was observed.
Findings	No finding was raised
Conclusion	The validation team confirms that no deviation from the selected methodology was applied in the validation of the proposed GS PoA.

D.4.6. Clarification on applicability of methodology, tool and/or standardized baselines

Means of validation	The validation team did not find any event/observation, which may raise concern about the applicability or application of the methodology on the PoA.
Findings	No finding was raised.
Conclusion	The validation team confirms that no clarification was needed on the selected methodology.

D.4.7. Eligibility criteria for inclusion

Means of validation	The eligibility criteria for the inclusion of VPA in the PoA is as follows:		
	Applicability Criteria as per methodology	Justification from CME	MoV
	Geographical boundaries & Target area Condition: Each VPA shall involve installation of ICS within the geographical boundary of PoA.	Monitoring database, listing the location of ICS distributed under the VPAs and GPS location of End User household (where possible)	The eligibility criterion for inclusion of corresponding VPAs in the proposed GS-PoA are defined in accordance with the project standard for PoA, para 124(a)/3/. The criterion is verifiable as well as sufficiently objective and comprehensive to permit the assessment of the inclusion of corresponding VPAs in the PoA
Double Counting	All ICS distributed in the VPA shall have:	Each ICS cookstove will have a unique ID, GPS	

	<p>Condition: Each VPA shall be added to the monitoring database with a unique set of distribution data.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unique ID serial number • GPS tag • End User data (name/address/physical location/phone number/govt. ID number - where possible) • Records of baseline stove type and fuel type used to uniquely identify the ICS, avoiding any double counting and traces its user for future monitoring and verification. <p>This distribution data will be held securely in the monitoring database.</p>	<p>Tag, End-user database which is crucial to keep records of emissions within the project boundary. A double counting declaration is provided by CME/24/. The distribution data with the all the end-user information will be maintained by CME.</p>
	<p>Exclusiveness of VPA, The VPA shall not previously be registered as a project activity or included as a VPA in any other registered PoA, or deregistered as a VPA of a PoA.</p>	<p>Confirmation by CME</p>	<p>The purpose of the PoA is to introduce energy-efficient, biomass fuel-based cookstoves (technology/measure), or Improved Cookstoves (ICS), within the host countries Zambia & Zimbabwe and it has to be cross-checked from the various registries at the VPA-level and confirm that VPAs are neither registered as project activities with other offset schemes, included in other registered PoAs/26/</p> <p>Thus, the applicability criterion was found to be met.</p>
	<p>Specification of the technology/measure Condition: Type - The VPA will promote dissemination of improved biomass ICS in PoA. Capacity - The rated annual thermal energy savings of ICS included</p>	<p>Technical details of the ICS (including thermal efficiency and energy) will be provided in the baseline emissions calculations of the specific VPA. As specific VPA may have ongoing distribution of ICS, and new stove models may be introduced during the crediting period of the VPA, this may be checked at the time of subsequent verification.</p>	<p>The specifications of the installed technology will be cross-checked from the manufacturer's specifications/13/ at the VPA level.</p> <p>The introduction of new stoves models will be checked in the subsequent verification of the PoA.</p> <p>Thus, the applicability criterion was found to be met.</p>

	<p>under the VPAs shall not be more than 1.8GWth.</p>		
	<p>Start Date</p> <p>Condition: Date on which first ICS was installed under the VPA. The start date of any proposed VPA will be on or after the start date of the PoA</p>	<p>The date of the End User Agreement for the first ICS distributed in the VPA, as entered into the Monitoring Database.</p>	<p>The start date of the VPA will be defined by the date of first ICS distributed in the VPA which will be confirmed through the end-user agreement and added to the monitoring database. Thus, the applicability criterion was found to be met.</p>
	<p>Applicability of the methodologies</p> <p>Condition: VPA must follow TPDDTEC version 3.1. The applicability criteria of the methodology are listed in section B.2 of the PoA-DD. Technology related requirements stipulated by the methodology have been specified in criteria #4 above.</p>	<p>Applicability of the methodology is described in Section B of the VPA-DD.</p>	<p>Section B of the VPA-DD will describe the applicability conditions of the methodology as described under section D.4.4 of this report. Thus, the criterion was found to be met.</p>
	<p>Additionality</p> <p>Condition: VPAs will apply the Positive List justifications (see Section C of PoA-DD):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ICS shall be distributed to households <p>The rated annual</p>	<p>ICS shall be distributed to households substantiated via the monitoring database.</p> <p>This is covered in criteria #4 above.</p>	<p>The purpose of the PoA is to introduce energy-efficient, biomass fuel-based cookstoves (technology/measure), or Improved Cookstoves (ICS), within the host countries Zambia & Zimbabwe and will be captured in the monitoring database. The additionality has been assessed in detail under section D.5 of this report.</p>

	<p>thermal energy savings of ICS included under the VPAs shall not be more than 1.8GWth</p>		<p>Thus, the applicability criterion was found to be met.</p>
	<p>Official Development Assistance (ODA)</p> <p>Condition: Affirmation that funding from Annex I Parties, if any, does not result in a diversion of ODA</p>	<p>A Declaration from CME and VPA Implementer will be made that no funds for official development assistance will be used for program implementation</p>	<p>An ODA declaration/17/ was shared by the PP declaring that no funds for official development assistance will be used for program implementation. Thus, the criterion was found to be met.</p>
	<p>Target group and Distribution mechanism</p> <p>Condition: Target Group: Households Distribution Mechanism: Via VPAI / local partners</p>	<p>The ICS by virtue of their size, output and design are usable only in households. The monitoring database will confirm distribution to households. A bespoke distribution mechanism will be defined in each VPA-DD.</p>	<p>Implementation is on a VPA level and therefore the monitoring records will be maintained at VPA level. The monitoring database will be checked to confirm the target group and distribution mechanism followed by PP.</p>
	<p>Sampling</p> <p>Condition: VPAs under the program will adhere to all sampling requirements in TPDDEC, version 3.1</p>	<p>VPAs will follow the monitoring plan described in PoA-DD as applicable. Cross-VPA monitoring may be deployed in which case the requirements of the CDM Standard for Programme of Activities will be followed.</p>	<p>Implementation is on a VPA level and therefore the VPA monitoring plan will be described at the VPA level.</p>
	<p>SSC Threshold</p> <p>Condition: Not applicable as per section B.1 above</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
	<p>Eligibility of Technologies</p> <p>Condition: As per TPDDEC, version 3.1: "Examples of these</p>	<p>VPAs will include improved biomass cookstoves as defined by being >20% thermal efficiency in the manufacturer's specifications</p>	<p>The thermal efficiency of the ICS distributed under the PoA is 41.6% as per the Kuniokoa stove test report which is more than 20%. Thus, the technologies included</p>

	<p>technologies include the introduction of improved biomass or fossil fuel cookstoves, ovens, dryers, space and water heaters (solar and otherwise), heat retention cookers, solar cookers, bio-digesters, safe water supply and treatment technologies that displace the boiling of water, thermal insulation in cold climates, etc.”</p>		<p>under VPAs will meet the following criterion.</p>
	<p>Conditions to be met by each VPA regarding SDG outcomes assessment</p> <p>Condition: SDG outcomes, and the methods of monitoring these outcomes, are defined in the PoA-DD Section A.4</p>	<p>VPAs will include the SDG outcomes in the monitoring parameters and report on these in each monitoring report.</p>	<p>SDG outcomes will be assessed under each monitoring parameters at the VPA level and the same will be included in each monitoring report.</p>
	<p>Conditions to be met by each VPA regarding safeguarding principles</p> <p>Condition: Safeguarding Principles, and the methods of monitoring these principles, are defined in the PoA-DD Section E</p>	<p>VPAs will include the Safeguarding Principles in the monitoring parameters and report on these in each monitoring report</p>	<p>This will be done at the VPA level.</p>
	<p>Conditions to be met in</p>	<p>VPAs will apply the applicability and eligibility</p>	<p>The applicability criteria and eligibility criteria</p>

	multi-country PoAs	criteria bespoke for each Host Country included in the PoA	discussed in the PoA-DD under section B.2. and B.3. respectively for each of the host country will be applied by each of the VPAs at the time of inclusion.
Findings	None		
Conclusion	The validation team has cross checked the parameters and values related to the emission reduction and confirmed that justification of the mentioned values is correct.		

D.5. Demonstration of additionality

Means validation	of	<p>At PoA-Level: CME has confirmed during the remote interviews that PoA is a voluntary programme and Zambia doesn't have any mandatory programme for the dissemination of improved cookstoves. There is no external funding/17/ is available except the revenue from GS and CDM.</p> <p>VPA-level: The applied methodology TPDDEC Ver 3.1/7/, "As per GS4GG Community services activity requirements/9/, Version 1.2, Para 4.1.9, Projects that meet any of the following criteria are considered as deemed additional and therefore are not required to prove Financial Additionality at the time of design certification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive list (Annex B of this document) • Projects located in LDC, SIDS, LLDC • Microscale projects <p>For Zambia, it was confirmed UN list of LDC/44/ that it is an LDC, thus in-line to the para 4.1.9(b) of CSA/9/ all the Zambian VPAs are automatically additional.</p> <p>For Zimbabwe VPAs in line with the methodology, para 1.1.3 of GS4GG Community services activity requirements, Version 1.2, /9/. Project activities solely composed of isolated units where the users of the technology/ measure are households or communities or institutions and where each unit results in ≤ 1.8 GWhth of energy savings per year or ≤ 600 tonnes of emission reductions per year. The systems planned to be distributed will demonstrated to have energy savings ≤ 1.8 GWhth at the time of inclusion through eligibility criteria #4 and #7.</p> <p>Documentation of barriers is not required for the positive list of technologies and PoA types that are defined as automatically additional. The proposed PoA is a large scale. As per annex B para 1.1.3 It falls under the positive list of projects irrespective of its scale and the project is auto additional.</p> <p>The assessment team has reviewed the details provided in PoA-DD and also the documentary evidence followed by the remote site visit and confirm that the PoA is a large scale PoA with each independent sub-system contributing to less than 1% of the methodology threshold and is of the opinion that the project PoA is additional.</p>
-------------------------	-----------	---

Findings	CL#01 was raised and resolved
Conclusion	<p>The validation team confirms that all the documented evidence listed and reviewed during the validation process are found correct and is able to confirm that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The GS benefits were considered necessary in the decision to undertake the project as a proposed PoA. • All the assumptions and data used by the project participants are listed in the PoA-DD, including their references and sources; • All underlying assumptions are appropriate and reasonable in context of the PoA. • The capacity and technology details are correct and in line with the requirements for Auto additional projects.

D.6. Start date, crediting period type and duration

Means of validation	<p>The start date of the PoA is 23/03/2021 as this was the date when the Design Consultation report was first submitted to GS4GG/32/.</p> <p>The operational lifetime of the project is 20 years. The lifetime of the project was found to be in-line with the para 3.1.3.GS4GG PoA requirements/2/ which states that the PoA duration shall not exceed 20years.</p> <p>The VPA will have a renewal crediting period of 5 years which was found to be in-line with the requirements mentioned in para 4.1.7 of the Community service activity requirements.</p>
Findings	CAR#01 was raised and resolved
Conclusion	<p>The project start date as stated in PoA-DD/1/ has been validated as per the definition of start date given in the CDM glossary terms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A crediting period of 5 years has been selected by the CME. • The PoA duration is indicated in the PoA-DD that of 20 years.

D.7. Safeguarding Principles Assessment

D.7.1. Justification of Safeguarding Principles Assessment at PoA level

Means of validation	The Safeguarding Principles Assessment has been undertaken by the CME at the VPA level.
Findings	No findings were raised
Conclusion	Safeguarding principles assessment has been conducted by the CME at the VPA level.

D.7.2. Assessment of Safeguarding principles, if undertaken at PoA level

Means of validation	N/A as this has been conducted at the VPA level
Findings	N/A as this has been conducted at the VPA level
Conclusion	N/A as this has been conducted at the VPA level

D.8. Summary of Stakeholder consultation

Means of validation	The Design Consultation was conducted electronically by inviting the stakeholders via email or through calls in-line to the COVID-19 interim measures. The invitation was sent out to all the relevant stakeholders on
----------------------------	--

	<p>04/02/2021/19/ both for Zambia and Zimbabwe. 30-day duration was provided to the stakeholders for sharing their feedback on the project and the design consultation process was then concluded on 03/03/2021.</p> <p>In-line to the covid-19 interim measures/14/ no physical stakeholder consultation meeting has been conducted yet and is planned to be conducted by the CME in 2021 thus, FAR#01 has been raised during the current validation in order to confirm if all the relevant stakeholders required by the stakeholder consultation requirements have provided their feedback or not during the first verification of the PoA.</p> <p>The LSC meeting will be conducted at VPA Level.</p>
Findings	FAR#01 has been raised.
Conclusion	The Validation team confirmed that the CME has conducted stakeholder's consultation process in-line to the requirements set under COVID-19 interim measures/14/.

D.9. Sustainable development co-benefits

Means of validation	<p>The PoA will positively contribute to the following SDG's</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SDG 1- No poverty: as this PoA will provide easy access to clean energy for all the end-users. The reduction in the fuel consumption cost has reduced the poverty 2. SDG3- Good health and well-being: As the project involves reduction of smoke levels in the indoor thereby promoting good health and well-being 3. SDG 5 – Gender Equality: Project reduces the burden of collecting the wood-fuel thereby saving the time and helping the women in investing their time in the other productive tasks. 4. SDG 7- Affordable and clean energy: Project reduces use of wood-fuel and also improves the indoor air quality by reducing the production of GHG emission. 5. SDG 8- Decent work and economic growth: Project results in generating the employment. 6. SDG 12- Responsible consumption and production: Project ICS reduced the amount of wood-fuel required in the stove thereby reducing the consumption of wood-fuel. 7. SDG 13- Climate action: The PoA will reduce the GHG emissions by replacing the traditional three stone stove which utilizes more fuel and time to cook whereas the project ICS reduced the fuel consumption and improvises the efficiency of the stove. <p>The CME has mentioned the contribution of the project towards these SDG's clearly in the PoA-DD. The assessment team has checked the details during remote site audit and found that the details as discussed are correct.</p>
Findings	No findings were raised.
Conclusion	SDG impacts are well discussed in the PoA-DD. The validation team confirms the technology which is implemented reflects the good practice in the host country also contributing to sustainable development of the host country.

D.10. Grievance Mechanism at PoA Level

Means of validation	An e-mail ID for the continuous Input or Grievance Mechanism throughout the lifetime of PoA & at PoA level is established & is cookstoves@tasc.je & a mandatory GS contact is help@goldstandard.org . For grievances at VPA level, it can be lodged locally with VPA implementers.
Findings	No findings were raised.
Conclusion	The Grievances are discussed in the PoA-DD/4/. The validation team confirms the expression book which is available in all sites & a working email ID, reflects the good practice in the host countries

SECTION E. Internal quality control

The draft validation report prepared by the validation team was reviewed by an independent technical review team to confirm if the internal procedures established and implemented by ESPL were duly complied with and such opinion/conclusion is reached in an objective manner that complies with the applicable CDM and GS4GG rules/requirements. The technical review team is collectively required to possess the technical expertise of all the technical area/sectoral scope the PoA relates to. All team members of technical review team were independent of the validation team.

The technical review process may accept or reject the validation opinion or raise additional findings in which case these must be resolved before requesting for registration. The technical review process is recorded in the internal documents of ESPL, and the additional findings get included in the report.

The final report approved by the technical reviewer is authorized by Managing Director and issued to CME and/or submitted for request for registration, as appropriate on behalf of ESPL.

SECTION F. Validation opinion

ESPL was contracted by The African Stove Company Ltd. (TASC) for validation of the PoA "GS 11009 TASC Clean Cooking PoA"/1/. The validation was performed on the basis of rules and requirements defined by UNFCCC for the CDM project activities and GS4GG rules and requirements/6/.

The PoA involves distribution of technologies that PoA will introduce energy-efficient, biomass fuel-based cookstoves (technology/measure), or Improved Cookstoves (ICS), compatible with the requirements of the applied methodology TPDDTEC version 3.1/7/ in the host countries of Zambia & Zimbabwe and is assessed against latest valid GS4GG requirements/6/. The reduction in the amount of fuel consumption by the not burning non-renewable biomass to purify water, reduces CO₂ emissions that are real, measurable and mainly helps in mitigating climate change while providing ICS.

The proposed GS PoA is likely to achieve the anticipated emission reductions stated in the PoA-DD/1/ provided the underlying assumptions do not change.

ESPL has informed the project participants of the validation outcome through the draft validation report.

ESPL applied the following validation process and methodology using a competent validation team;

- the desk review of documents and evidence submitted by the project participant in context of the reference GS4GG and CDM rules and guidelines issued by CDM EB and GS secretariat,
- undertaking/conducting remote site visit, interview or interactions with the representative of the project participant,
- reporting audit findings with respect to clarifications and non-conformities and the closure of the findings, as appropriate and
- preparing a draft validation opinion based on the auditing findings and conclusions

The review of the PoA-DD, supporting documentation, subsequent follow-ups actions (interviews) has provided ESPL with sufficient/insufficient evidence to determine the fulfilment of stated criteria and the gold standard certified project design status will be achieved by successfully undergoing validation and design review.

Appendix 1. Abbreviations

Abbreviations	Full texts
General	
BE	Baseline Emission
CAR	Corrective Action Request
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CL	Clarification Request
CO2	Carbon di oxide
CP	Crediting Period
DR	Desk Review
EB	Executive Board
ESPL	Earthood Services Private Limited
FAR	Forward Action Request
GHG	Green House Gas
GSC/GSP	Global Stakeholder Consultation Process
GSGG	Gold Standard for the Global Goals
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
KP	Kyoto Protocol
LoA	Letter of Approval/Authorization
LSC	Local Stakeholder Consultation Process
MoC	Modalities of Communication
MoV	Means of Validation
MP	Monitoring Plan

N2O	Nitrous Oxide
PCP	Project Cycle Procedure
PE	Project Emission
PoA DD	Programme of Activities Design Document
PP	Project Participant
PS	Project Standard
RFR	Request for Registration
tCO2e	Tonnes of Carbon di oxide equivalent
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
V	Version
VVS	Validation and Verification Standard

Appendix 2. Competence of team members and technical reviewers

Competence Statement			
Name	Deepika Mahala		
Country	India		
Education	M. Sc. (Environmental Management), GGSIP University B.Sc. Hons. (Chemistry), Sri Venkateshwar College, DU		
Experience	5 Years +		
Field	Climate Change		
Approved Roles			
Team Leader	YES		
Validator	YES		
Verifier	YES		
Methodology Expert	ACM0002, AMS.I.D., AMS.I.A, AMS.III.AV, AMS.II.G		
Local expert	YES (India)		
Financial Expert	NO		
Technical Reviewer	YES		
TA Expert	YES (TA 1.2 & TA 3.1)		
Reviewed by	Shreya Garg	Date	15/04/2021
Approved by	Anshika Gupta	Date	15/04/2021

Name	Vaishali Vatsa		
Education	M.Sc. (Environmental Studies and Resource Management), TERI University		
Experience	4 months		
Field	Climate Change		
Approved Roles			
Team Leader	NO		
Validator	Yes		
Verifier	Yes		
Methodology Expert	NO		

Local expert	NO		
Financial Expert	NO		
Technical Reviewer	NO		
TA Expert (X.X)	NO		
Trainee	NO		
Reviewed by	Shreya Garg	Date	30/12/2019
Approved by	Anshika Gupta	Date	02/01/2020

Competence Statement			
Name	Selwyn Chipompwe		
Country	Zambia		
Education	Higher Diploma in Agriculture		
Experience	4 years +		
Field	Agriculture		
Approved Roles			
Team Leader	NO		
Validator	NO		
Verifier	NO		
Methodology Expert	NO		
Local expert	YES (Zambia)		
Financial Expert	NO		
Technical Reviewer	NO		
TA Expert	NO		
Reviewed by	Abhishek Mahawar	Date	01/03/2018
Approved by	Ashok Kumar Gautam	Date	01/03/2018

Name	Munatsi Chuma		
Education	Bachelor's degree in Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering		
Experience	2+ years		
Field	Power and Electricity		
Approved Roles			
Team Leader	No		
Validator	No		
Verifier	No		
Methodology Expert	No		
Local expert	Yes (Zimbabwe)		
Financial Expert	No		
Technical Reviewer	No		
TA Expert	No		
Reviewed by	Shreya Garg	Date	15/06/2020
Approved by	Ashok Kumar Gautam	Date	15/06/2020

Competence Statement			
Name	Shifali Guleria		
Education	M.Sc. (Environmental Studies and Resource Management), TERI University		
Experience	2+ year		
Field	Climate Change		
Approved Roles			
Team Leader	YES		
Validator	YES		
Verifier	YES		
Methodology Expert	YES (AMS-I.A., AMS-II.G., AMS-III.A.V., AMS-I.D, ACM0002)		
Local expert	YES		
Financial Expert	NO		
Technical Reviewer	YES		
TA Expert	YES (1.2, 3.1)		
Reviewed by	Shreya Garg	Date	09/07/2020
Approved by	Ashok Gautam	Date	09/07/2020

Appendix 3. Documents reviewed or referenced

S.No.	Author	Title	References to the document	Provider
1.	The African Stove Company Ltd. (TASC)	PoA-DD	Version 5.0 dated 03/02/2022	CME
2.	GS4GG	PoA Requirements	Version 1.2 dated October,2019	CME
3.	UNFCCC	Standard: CDM PS for PoA	Ver. 2.0	Others
4.	UNFCCC	Standard: CDM PCP for PoA	Ver. 2.0	Others
5.	UNFCCC	Standard: CDM VVS for PoA	Ver. 2.0	Others
6.	GS4GG	Principles and requirements for GS4GG	Version 1.2	Others
7.	Gold standard	TPDDTEC	Version 3.1.	Others
8.	GS4GG	GS4GG Stakeholder consultation and engagement requirements	Version 1.2 Dated Oct 2019	Others
9.	GS4GG	Community Services Activity Requirements	Version 1.2 Dated Oct 2019	Others
10.	Business Insider	Link: https://www.businessinsider.in/politi	Last accessed: 06/07/2021	Others

		cs/india/news/check-out-the-10-most-affected-countries-with-the-highest-number-of-coronavirus-cases/slidelist/76275918.cms#slideid=76276067		
11.	The African Stove Company Ltd. (TASC)	PoA Design consultation feedback matrix (Zambia)	Dated: 04/02/2021	CME
12.	GS4GG	GS PoA-DD Form	Version 1.1	Others
13.	Burn	Kuniokoa Manufacturer Specification Link: https://burnstoves.com/products/wood-stoves/kuniokoa	-	Others
14.	GS4GG	Interim Measures	Version 3.0	Others
15.	UNFCCC	Standard for Sampling and surveys for CDM project Activities	Version: 9.0	CME
16.	The African Stove Company Ltd. (TASC).	Sensitization Meeting videos	-	CME
17.	The African Stove Company Ltd. (TASC).	ODA Declaration	Dated: 24/06/2021	CME
18.	UNFCCC	Guidelines for Sampling and surveys for CDM programme of activities	Version: 4.0	Others
19.	The African Stove Company Ltd. (TASC)	PoA Design consultation feedback matrix (Zambia)	Dated: 04/02/2021	CME
20.	The African Stove Company Ltd. (TASC)	sample carbon transfer agreement between and end-users	-	CME
21.	The African Stove Company Ltd. (TASC)	Distribution database	-	CME
22.	IPCC	2006 IPCC default values	2006	Others
23.	The African Stove Company Ltd. (TASC)	Training Records	-	CME
24.	The African Stove Company Ltd. (TASC)	Double counting Declaration	23/06/2021	CME
25.	The African Stove Company Ltd. (TASC)	Declaration showing this project as no new registration	23/06/2021	CME
26.	The African Stove Company Ltd. (TASC)	Exclusiveness of the VPA	04/05/2021	CME
27.	Centre for Disease control	Covid restriction Zambia Link: https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/covid-3/coronavirus-zambia	23/08/2021	Others

28.	Wego	Covid restriction Zimbabwe Link: https://blog.wego.com/zimbabwe-travel-restrictions-and-quarantine-requirements/	23/08/2021	Other s
29.	The African Stove Company Ltd. (TASC)	Design Consultation Report	14/02/2021	CME
30.	The African Stove Company Ltd. (TASC)	CME and VPA Implementer agreement	-	CME
31.	Kenya Industrial Research and development Institute	Kuniokoa Stove test report	19/11/2017	CME
32.	GS4GG	Email for first PoA submission	23/03/2021	CME
33.	ESPL	RSV Documentation Videos Images	09/08/2021- 10/08/2021	CME
34.	TASC	ICS Handout Flier	-	CME
35.	IJRC	Zambia's ratification to human rights Link: https://ijrcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Zambia.pdf	15/09/2017	Other s
36.	IJRC	Zimbabwe's ratification to Human rights Link: https://ijrcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Zimbabwe.pdf	15/09/2017	Other s
37.	IPOSI-NET	Employment Contracts	Various	CME
38.	UNCAC	Zimbabwe's ratification to Human rights Link: https://uncaccoalition.org/files/cso-review-reports/year2-zimbabwe-report.pdf	2013	Other s
39.	UNCAC	Zambia's ratification to Human rights Link: https://uncaccoalition.org/files/cso-review-reports/year1-zambia-summary.pdf	2013	Other s
40.	Ministry of Labour and Social security	Zambia's Labour Laws Link: https://www.mlss.gov.zm/	2019	Other s
41.	ILO	Zimbabwe's Labour Laws Link: https://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/101341/122052/F-1580002831/ZWE101341.pdf	2015	Other s
42.	Ministry of Energy	National Energy Policy, Zambia	2019	Other s
43.	Ministry of Energy	National Energy Policy, Zimbabwe	-	Other s
44.	UNCTAD	List of LDC		

		https://unctad.org/topic/least-developed-countries/list		
45	TASC	First Installation- database entry with photo and signature	24/07/2020	Other

Appendix 4. Clarification requests, corrective action requests and forward action requests

CL ID	01	Section no.	D.5.	Date :16/05/2021
Description of CL				
<p>1. In-line to para 4.1.2 of the PoA requirements CME shall demonstrate additionality of proposed PoA by establishing that in the absence of Gold Standard Certification related finance (i) the proposed CPA/VPA would not be implemented, or (ii) the mandatory policy/regulation would systematically not be enforced and that noncompliance with those requirements is widespread in the country/region, or (iii) that the PoA will lead to a greater level of enforcement of the 5 existing mandatory policy/regulation or to a greater level of adoption of an existing voluntary scheme under section B.1 of the PoA-DD version 2.3. (open)</p> <p>2. In-line to para 2.1.4 of the safe-guarding principles and requirements CME shall provide responses to the following questions set out for the PoA following the below guidance:</p> <p>(a) 'Yes' – Meaning that the risk or expected issue identified in the assessment question is relevant to the Project and context. The Requirements apply and adherence shall be demonstrated. All information must be included in the Monitoring & Reporting Plan and future Monitoring Reports.</p> <p>(b) 'Potentially' – Meaning that the risk or expected issue may be relevant at some point in the Project's cycle but is not necessarily relevant now and/or may never arise. The Requirements apply but the Project Developer may justify why these Requirements do not need to be demonstrated as being met.</p> <p>(c) 'No' – Meaning that the risk or expected issue is not relevant to the Project. Justification shall be provided to support this conclusion, with evidence provided where required.(Open)</p>				
Project participant response				Date : 29/07/2021
<p>1. The CME has added information on PoA level additionality. The PoA is a purely voluntary initiative and is not implemented in response to any mandatory policy/regulation.</p> <p>1. The Safeguarding Principles and requirements section has been amended to comply with the requirements of the Gold Standard Safeguarding Principles and Requirements.</p>				
Documentation provided by project participant				
VVB assessment				Date : 23/08/2021
<p>1. CME in-line to para 4.1.2 of the PoA requirements has now demonstrated related to PoA level additionality under section B.1 of the PoA-DD.</p>				

2. CME has now revised the Safeguarding Principles and Requirements sections in-line to the para 2.1.4 of the safe-guarding principles and requirements document.

Thus, CL#01 stands closed.

Table 2. CARs from this validation

CAR ID	01	Section no.	D.6	Date	:16/07/2021
Description of CAR					
1. Under section D.2 of the PoA-DD version 2, information with respect to PoA crediting period was found to be missing					
Project participant response					Date
CME has added information on the PoA crediting period in Section D.2. of the PoA-DD					: 29/07/2021
Documentation provided by project participant					
PoA-DD version 3					
VVB assessment					Date
The information related to the crediting period was found to be added under section D.2 of the PoA-DD.					:23/08/2021
Thus,CAR#01 stands closed.					

Table 3. FARs from this validation

FAR ID	01	Section no.	D.8.	Date	: 25/05/2021
Description of FAR					
In-line to the mandatory requirement stated under para 6.1.1 of stakeholder consultation requirements as no physical stakeholder consultation meeting has been conducted for the PoA due to COVID-19 outbreak. The physical meeting is planned to be conducted by the CME in 2021/2022. VVB involved in the first verification of the PoA shall confirm if all the relevant stakeholders required by the stakeholder consultation requirements were part of the physical stakeholder consultation meeting and have provided their feedback.					
Project participant response					Date
NA					: DD/MM/YYYY
Documentation provided by project participant					
NA					
VVB assessment					Date
NA					: DD/MM/YYYY