

The Myanmar Stoves Campaign (GS 1729)
The Myanmar Stoves Campaign VPA No. 1 (GS 2295)

Design Consultation Report Feedback under GS Version 2.2

Information on the request

Requested by: Orbis Analytics Ltd.
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Date of PoA submission: 02 April 2013
Date of GS feedback – I round: 01 May 2013
Date of GS feedback – II round: 16 May 2013

Document (s) provided and reviewed (I Round):

- PoA Design Consultation Report (uploaded on 02/04/2013)
- SLOW LIFE in Myanmar, VPA No.1 DD (Version no. 01, dated 20/02/2013, submitted on 30/04/2013)

Document (s) provided and reviewed (II Round):

- SLOW LIFE in Myanmar, VPA No.1 DD (Version no. 02, dated 08/05/2013, submitted on 08/05/2013)
- PoA Design Consultation Report (Version No.2, submitted on 08/05/2013)
- Other supporting documents (all submitted on 08/05/2013)

Project summary:

The purpose of this Micro Programme is to distribute fuel-efficient cook stoves across communities located in ecologically sensitive areas throughout Myanmar. These cook stoves will replace the rudimentary stoves and traditional three-stone fires presently used. Due to higher combustion efficiency of the fuel-efficient stoves over the rudimentary and traditional ones, there would be substantial saving in the wood being used as a fuel. This Programme of Activities (PoA) will reduce the GHG emissions and deforestation along with allowing the communities to have a greater disposable income and time to invest in productive activities.

Date of PoA Design Consultation: 24 January 2013

Date of PoA/VPA level stakeholder consultation: 14/12/2012 and 15/12/2012

Review results and conclusions:

The GS has reviewed the submitted project and identified a number of areas where additional information is necessary for the project to be in line with the Gold Standard requirements.

PoA Design Consultation Report feedback:

SECTION A: Programme Description
1. The CME is requested to provide the ODA Declaration Letter. Please refer to Annex D of GSv2.2 for more details.
Response by Project Proponent/CME (round 1)
The signed ODA declaration has been provided to Neha Rao at Gold Standard Foundation via email (8/5/13).
Response by GS (round 2)
Comment/Request closed. The ODA declaration form is available on the GS Registry.
SECTION B: Stakeholder Consultation Process
1. The CME is requested to discuss if any other methods than e-mails were used to contact the stakeholders and seek their feedback. The CME should also clearly mention the start date of the Design Consultation in the report.
2. The e-mail invitations suggest that the duration of the PoA Design Consultation was only 2 weeks. However, as per Annex F, GS v2.2, a minimum period of one month is required to be given to the stakeholders to comment on the design of the PoA. Please clarify why the duration of the PoA Design Consultation for this mPoA was limited to only 2 weeks.
3. The invitation track table indicates that very limited stakeholders were invited to provide feedback. Please note that the Gold Standard staff, Gold Standard international/local NGO supporters, technology manufacturers, as well as other CMEs having experience in implementation of cook-stove projects, local policy makers, etc. should have been invited to take part in the Design Consultation period. Please clarify.
4. The CME is requested to revise the category code of other local NGOs represented as 'Category F' in the invitation-tracking table. The Category F represents only the GS NGO Supporters. Local NGOs should be referred as Category D stakeholders.
5. The CME shall discuss clearly in the PoA Design Consultation Report whether the stakeholder consultations for the PoA will be carried out at the programme level or activity level.
Response by Project Proponent/CME (round 1)
1. The Design Consultation was conducted electronically due to the different locations of the stakeholders. Stakeholders were contacted via email on the 24th of January and a reminder email was sent out during February 6th to 8th to stakeholder who did not respond by then. In addition, phone calls were placed to a number of stakeholders to solicit their feedback. We have updated the Design Consultation report to clarify the start date of the consultation in section B.4.
2. The duration of the PoA Design Consultation was not limited to 2 weeks. To ensure timely

responses we included a date (Feb 8th) in our email invitation by which responses should be submitted to the CME. We received responses after that date and all responses were considered and included in the consultation. For example we received the response from Relief International on February 14th.

3. We feel that we have received a good number of high quality comments from relevant organisations with a presence in Myanmar. We considered organisations from the NGO supporters list (excel file available on GS website) that we believe are relevant to the project. The focus was on relevant organisations which operate in Myanmar and know about the very particular circumstances and challenges for developing a cookstove project in the country. By looking at publicly available Design Consultation Reports we felt comfortable with this approach as they also did not show significantly more participants. The relevant Ministry participated in our Design Consultation while local policy makers have participated in the Local Stakeholder Consultation. We believe this approach is consistent with official GS guidelines. We would be delighted to include a larger group of stakeholders including all NGO supporters of Gold Standard in the upcoming Stakeholder Feedback Round.
4. Category codes of other local NGOs has been revised and changed in the report.
5. The Design Consultation Report has been updated in section B.1. to clarify that Local Stakeholder Consultations will be carried out at the activity level. In addition, we specified that for comparable project activities (e.g. same region, same technology, same baseline conditions) only one representative Local Stakeholder Consultation is required. In this case the CME has to provide a justification in the VPA-DD. In our conversations with Gold Standard Foundation staff it was confirmed that "Grouping" of project activities was supported.

Response by GS (round 2)

1. **Comment/Request closed.**
2. **Comment/Request closed.**
3. **Comment/Request closed.**
4. **Comment/Request closed.**
5. **Comment/Request closed.**

SECTION C: Outcome of the consultation process

The CME shall please ensure that the comments given are taken into consideration and that appropriate mitigations are provided for the project risks mentioned.

Response by Project Proponent/CME (round 1)

The majority of comments received during the Design Consultation have been positive and supportive of the activity. The most frequent concerns were related to the sustainability of the project and the use of local products. We have provided detailed responses to these comments in the Design Consultation Report (see answers to comments 1 and 2 regarding sustainability and 4, 12 and 16). We would like to reiterate that we will only work with western technology partners with a strong interest in partnering with local stove manufacturers and provide technology transfer and education in order to start producing a high quality product in Myanmar in the future.

Response by GS (round 2)

1. **Comment/Request closed.**

OTHERS
The CME shall please revise the template of the PoA Design Consultation Report to be in line with the documentation required for GS v2.2. Please refer to Annex AK, GS v2.2 for more details.
Response by Project Proponent/CME (round 1)
We have provided our updated PoA Design Consultation Report using the current template provided in Annex AK, GS v2.2.
Response by GS (round 2)
Comment/Request closed.

VPA Stakeholder Consultation Meeting feedback:

SECTION A: General description of the micro programme activity (VPA)
1. As per Annex C, GS v2.2, ' <i>Activities involving a large amount of small, distributed heating, cooking or electricity generation devices using renewable energy sources shall provide The Gold Standard Foundation with a clear description of the transfer of credits ownership all along the investment chain, and with proof that end-users are aware of and are willing to give up their rights on emission reductions.</i> ' Hence, the CME is requested to provide emission reductions transfer agreements/any other relevant proof to meet the eligibility criteria.
Response by Project Proponent/CME (round 1)
During the Local Stakeholder Consultation the project was explained in detail. The basic elements of climate change and carbon markets were explained and powerpoint slides were shown to help understand the broad concepts. During the explanations the transfer of the carbon asset from the end user to the project was discussed. Quote from Bawdigone meeting notes (page 26): "The certificates allow the project to earn an income on the carbon emissions avoided. For that, the end user will sign a contract when he buys the FES to transfer the rights to the carbon emissions avoided to the project so they can be sold." The presentation used during the meetings is provided as a separate PDF. The emission reductions transfer agreement is part of the cookstove sale agreement. The agreement is provided as a separate PDF.
Response by GS (round 2)
Comment/Request closed. However, as a Forward Action Request # 1 , the signed copies of the emission reductions transfer agreement will be checked at the time of internal validation.

SECTION C: Stakeholder comments
1. The CME is requested to provide scanned copies of the hand delivered invitations in local language. 2. The CME is requested to provide the stakeholder category codes for the invitation-tracking table provided on page no. 12 of the VPA-DD. The CME shall also provide the invitation-tracking table for the second LSC meeting. 3. The CME is requested to discuss if any other methods like newspaper advertisements, radio announcements, were used too to inform the stakeholders about the consultation meeting. 4. The invitation-tracking table suggests that the Gold Standard Staff, Gold Standard international/local NGO supporters were not informed about any of the two stakeholder consultation meetings. Please clarify. 5. The evaluation forms should be clearly identified by the reviewers. Hence, the CME is requested

to provide evaluation forms (with English translation) for both the stakeholder consultation meetings.

6. The CME is requested to clarify why the stakeholder consultation meetings were conducted before the PoA Design Consultation, which should be the first step as per Annex F, GSv2.2.

7. The CME is requested to confirm the start date of the VPA again in the VPA-DD. Start date corresponds to the earliest date at which either the implementation or construction or real action of a project begins (further guidance provided in paragraph 67 of CDM EB 41st meeting report is applicable). The start date of the activity would define if the VPA is regular or retroactive in nature.

Response by Project Proponent/CME (round 1)

1. Copy of the invitation in local language provided in separate PDF attachment. We also included it in the updated VPA-DD (Section C.1., page 17). Although not specifically requested, we also added the translated version of the detailed agenda (Section C.1., page 15).
2. We updated the VPA-DD and added the stakeholder category codes to the invitation tracking table for the meeting in Pyawbwe. Regarding the meeting in Bawdigone village due to the circumstances an invitation tracking table was not maintained. All participants belonged to category A. Mercy Corps staff together with the Village Development Council announced the Local Stakeholder meeting during a regular community event. Copies of the invitation, Non-technical Summary, agenda and evaluation form were provided to interested community members. You can see from the participant list that there is a strong interest in the project as at least 77 people attended the meeting.
3. Please note comments above in Point 2. In Bawdigone, stakeholders had to be informed in person and via the Village Development Council due to the remoteness of the villages. Most villages have only one telephone and are cut off from news as newspapers hardly reach their community and only few people can afford radio and the batteries to power them. In Pyawbwe, Mercy Corps staff hand delivered invitations for the meeting to relevant local authorities and locally present NGOs. They also invited local stove manufacturers, market traders and members of Village Development Councils.
4. The Local Stakeholder Consultation in Myanmar was discussed with Gold Standard staff and advice was sought via email on 23 November 2012 as to who should be specifically invited. Given there is no Gold Standard Foundation staff currently in Myanmar we did not invite Gold Standard staff.
5. Evaluation forms and translations have been provided in separate PDF attachment. Due to the large number of completed forms we decided to only include the scanned copies from Pyawbwe in the report (pages 24-25). We have updated the report and added a table with all answers received from both Local Stakeholder Consultations in English language (VPA-DD pages 21-24).
6. The deviation from the usual sequence of meetings was due to travel arrangements. We were in Myanmar during December for field tests and product demonstrations and were able to perform the Local Stakeholder Consultations during that time. In doing so we reduced time commitments of all project participants most importantly of local families. The Design Consultation can be conducted electronically. The project design was discussed in meetings with several organisations in Yangon before the Local Stakeholder Consultation and based on that feedback we did not expect a need for important changes to project

design. Results from the Design Consultation confirmed our expectation and no changes to project design are required.

7. The VPA is of regular nature. We understand that with satisfactory passing of the Local Stakeholder Consultation process we would be able to start ordering and distributing cookstoves before POA registration date without falling into the retroactive track. We expect that the start date of the VPA would be the 15th of July 2013. We clarified this in the VPA-DD Section A.4.2.1. and A.4.3.1. and in the Design Consultation report Section A.3.

Response by GS (round 2)

1. Comment/Request closed.

2. Comment/Request closed. However, the CME is strongly recommended to maintain the required documents for all future LSC meetings of the VPAs.

3. Comment/Request closed.

4. Comment/Request closed. However, the CME is recommended to send a copy of meeting invitation for all future VPAs.

5. Comment/Request closed.

6. Comment/Request closed.

7. Comment/Request closed.

Conclusion – The GS opinion is that the PoA can be listed after the above clarifications and corrective actions have been taken care of in a satisfactory way alongside an approved LSC report for the activity(ies) accompanying the PoA.