



Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard

IMPROVED COOKSTOVES IN LIBERIA



Document Prepared by

Carbon Check (India) Private Ltd.

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Client	Carbonibus S.r.l
Project Title	IMPROVED COOKSTOVES IN LIBERIA
Project Location	Liberia

Summary

CARBONIBUS S.R.L has appointed Carbon Check (India) Private Ltd., to carry out the validation of the project “IMPROVED COOKSTOVES IN LIBERIA”, with regard to the relevant requirements of SD VISTa Standard /B01-a/.

The project “IMPROVED COOKSTOVES IN LIBERIA”, is a project which employs VCS methodology; VMR0006 (version 1.1) /B02/. The project involves distribution of fuel-efficient stoves in Liberia. The project results in reducing the amount of non-renewable biomass used for cooking. Through reduction in non-renewable biomass consumption, the project will decrease greenhouse gas emissions.

The project contributes to the achievement of 09 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of United Nations through the positive impacts generated by the project activities. Additionally, the project is expected to achieve ~11,392,289 tCO_{2e} emissions reductions over the first crediting period of 7 years. This will contribute to SDG target 13 which is related to climate action.

The purpose and scope of validation

Purpose: The purpose of a validation is to have a thorough and independent assessment of the proposed project activity against the applicable SD VISTa requirements, in particular, the project's baseline, monitoring plan and compliance with the relevant SD VISTa and host party criteria. These are validated in order to confirm that the project design, as documented, is sound and reasonable and meets the identified criteria. Validation is a requirement for all SD VISTa projects and is seen as necessary to provide reasonable level of assurance to all the stakeholders of the quality of the project and its intended generation of emission reductions and real and measurable contribution to the SDG goals.

Scope: Validation scope is defined as an independent and objective review of the Project Description (PD). The PD is reviewed against the relevant criteria and guidance documents provided by SD VISTa which include the following: SD VISTa Program Guide /B01-b/, SD VISTa Standard /B01-a/, SD VISTa Program Definitions /B01-c/ applicable at the time of project registration, also assess the claims and assumptions made in the PD without limitation on the information provided by the project participants.

The method and criteria used for validation

The validation consists of the following four phases:

- I. A desk review of the project description documents
 - A review of data and information;
 - Cross checks between information provided in PD and information from sources with all necessary means without limitations to the information provided by the project proponent;
- II. Video interviews with project stakeholders
 - Interviews with relevant stakeholders in host country with personnel having knowledge with the project development via telephone, email or video interviews offsite;
 - Cross checking between information provided by interviewed personnel with all necessary means of the information provided by the project proponent;
- III. Reference to available information relating to projects or technologies similar to project under validation and review based on the approved methodology being applied for the appropriateness of formulae and accuracy of calculations.
- IV. The resolution of outstanding issues and the issuance of the final validation report and opinion.

During the validation 04 Clarification Requests (CLs) and 10 Corrective Action Requests (CARs) were raised and are successfully resolved by the PP.

Uncertainties associated with the validation: There are no uncertainties associated with the validation of the project activity. The validation has been done with a reasonable level of assurance.

Summary of the validation conclusion

Carbon Check (India) Private Ltd. concludes the validation with a positive opinion that the SD VSta Project “IMPROVED COOKSTOVES IN LIBERIA” as described in the PD /01-b/, conforms with all criteria applicable for validation set by the Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard and the SD VSta Program Guide, without any qualification nor limitation.

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1 VALIDATION PROCESS

1.1 Objective

CARBONIBUS S.R.L has appointed the VVB, Carbon Check (India) Private Ltd. to perform SD VISTA Validation for the project titled “IMPROVED COOKSTOVES IN LIBERIA”. This report summarizes the findings of validation of the project, performed on the basis of the SD VISTA Program Guide /B01-b/, SD VISTA Standard /B01-a/, SD VISTA Program Definitions /B01-c/. This report contains the findings and resolutions from the validation of the project.

The purpose of a validation is to conduct an independent assessment of the Project design in order to determine its compliance with the requirements of the SD VISTA Standard, as set out by the guidance documents listed in Section 2.1 of this report, including the appropriateness of the SD VISTA claims and the plan design for their monitoring. These are validated in order to confirm that the project design, as documented, is sound and reasonable and meets the identified criteria.

1.2 Scope and Criteria

The scope of the validation is the review of the sustainable development impacts generated by the project, their contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the benefits for people and prosperity and the benefits for the planet that they imply. With this aim, the audit assessed the project design, its management, the conditions of the stakeholders and the natural and ecosystem services at the project start, as well as the plans design for the monitoring of the project’s impacts. The SD Vista PD is reviewed against the relevant criteria and decisions by the SD VISTA Program. Carbon Check has employed a risk-based approach in the validation, focusing on the identification of significant risks and reliability of project monitoring and generation of emission reductions.

The validation is not meant to provide any consulting towards the project participants. However, stated requests for clarifications and/or corrective actions may have provided input for improvement of the project design.

The validation is carried out based on of the following requirements, applicable for this SD VISTA project:

- SD VISTA Program Guide (v1.0, dated 22/01/2019) /B01-b/,
- SD VISTA Standard (v1.0, dated 22/01/2019) /B01-a/,
- SD VISTA Program Definitions (v1.0, dated 22/01/2019) /B01-c/
- Other relevant rules, including the host country legislation

1.3 Level of Assurance

☒ Reasonable level of assurance

☐ Limited level of assurance

The threshold for quantitative materiality with respect to the aggregate of errors, omissions, and misrepresentations, individually or in the aggregate, for the reported SD VISta claim was limited to five percent, as required by section 5.2.3 of the SD VISta Standard /B01-a/.

1.4 Summary Description of the Project

The project “D IMPROVED COOKSTOVES IN LIBERIA”, located in Liberia, was initiated by CARBONIBUS S.R. L the Project Proponent (PP).

As per the SD Vista PD /01-b/, the objective of the project is to reduce emissions in Liberia by providing installing, and maintaining to sustainable energy technology i.e., energy efficient improved cookstoves (ICS), reducing demand for wood fuel, slowing local deforestation and empowering the community. In the project area traditional cooking methods using traditional cookstoves to prepare meals, driving unsustainable wood consumption. By replacing baseline stoves with energy efficient ICS technology and performing energy efficiency improvements in comparison to existing baseline cookstoves, the project reduces the emissions of GHGs through reduction in consumption of non-renewable biomass in individual households of Liberia.

The aim of the project is to:

- Reduce GHG emission from atmosphere by reducing the consumption of non-renewable biomass in individual households of Liberia through replacement of baseline stoves with energy efficient ICS technology.
- Contribute to reduction in deforestation and overall pressure on forest reserves through the reduction of demand for wood fuel, reduction of the erosion rate and biodiversity conservation.
- Contribute to the local sustainable development by offer training and working opportunities for local population during and after implementation of the project activity.

1.5 Audit Team Composition

Composition of Audit Team

According to the technical scopes and experiences in the sectoral or national business environment Carbon Check (India) Private Ltd, (herein after CCIPL) has composed a project team in accordance with the appointment rules of the CCIPL. The team collectively has knowledge of the requirements of CDM, VCS and GS. Carbon Check confirms that the audit team has no conflict of interest and furthermore is fully independent from all other aspects of the project.

The assessment team of CCIPL consists of the following personnel:

Role/Qualification	Last Name	First Name	Country
Team leader & Technical Expert	Agarwalla	Sanjay Kumar	India
Local Expert	Mcrina Zakaplay	Toe-Dahn	Liberia
Assessor	Mane	Dinesh	India
Trainee Assessor	Nadkarni	Tanvi	India
Trainee Assessor	Shirke	Rishika	India
Technical Reviewer	Chakraborty	Shivaji	India

Audit Team Experience:

The team composition is linked to the methodology and local experience in the host country.

Sanjay Kumar Agarwalla: He is an appointed Team Leader and Technical Expert for technical area 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 3.1, 4.1, 5.1, 5.2, 8.1, 9.1, 9.2 and 13.1. He is having more than 20 years of experience, which involves more than 10 years of industrial experience and almost ten years in climate change. He worked in various capacities at Kesoram Rayon, Durgapur Chemicals Limited, Gensol Consultants, TUV Rheinland India Pvt. Ltd. and LRQA. He is involved in more than 100 GHG audits including validation/verification/post registration changes.

Toe-Dahn Mcrina Zakaplay: She is the local expert of Liberia and has relevant social and cultural expertise of the host country.

Dinesh Mane: He is an appointed Team Leader and Technical Expert for technical area 1.2, 3.1, 13.1. He is local expert for India. He is having more than 20 years of experience, which involves experience in the environmental services industry. Certification Bodies, Chemical Industries, Project management and technical skills in areas viz., Environment, Energy, Occupational Health and Safety, GHG offset projects Validation and Verification, ISO Audits (IMS) Renewable Energy and waste management. He worked in various capacities at TUV Rhineland India Pvt. Ltd. He is involved in more than 50 GHG audits including validation/verification/post registration changes.

Tanvi Nadkarni: Tanvi is qualified as Trainee Assessor and involved in various validations and verifications under CDM, VCS and GCC projects. She has also attended Several VERRA & Gold Standard DOE webinar trainings including training on GS4GG. She holds a Master of Science degree in Environmental Studies from S.K. Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Mumbai.

Rishika Shirke: Rishika is qualified as Trainee Assessor and involved in various validations and verifications under VCS, GS and GCC projects. She has also attended Several VERRA & Gold Standard DOE webinar trainings including training on GS4GG. She holds a Master of Science degree in Environmental Studies from S.K. Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Mumbai.

Shivaji Chakraborty: Qualified lead assessor and internal technical reviewer for offset projects validations and verifications under CDM, VCS and Gold Standard (GS) and actively been involved in the validation and verification or internal technical review of more than 200 offset projects. He is qualified as technical expert for TA 1.1, 1.2 & 3.1, under CDM Sectoral Scope categorization. He has a professional experience of more than 18 years in various capacities.

1.6 Method and Criteria

The validation includes a thorough and independent assessment of the proposed project against the applicable SD VISTA requirements, in particular, SDG Impacts, project's baseline, monitoring plan and the project's compliance with relevant SD VISTA and host party criteria.

CC IPL confirms that sufficient evidence was presented for the SD VISTA claims and that there is a clear audit trail that contains the evidence and records that validate the stated contributions to the project activity the SDG Goal, targets and chosen indicators.

The validation involves assessment of the project and confirming that the project meets the applicability conditions and also assess the SDG claims and assumptions made in the PD, without limitation on the information provided by the project participants.

Strategic risk analysis and delineation of the sampling/verification and evidence-gathering plan:

CC IPL shall employ the following verification process:

1. Conflict of interest review at the time of contract review;
2. Selection of Audit Team at the time of contract review;
3. Listing of PD for GSC by SD Vista;
4. Development of the verification plan and sampling plan;
5. Desktop review and evaluation of SD Vista requirements;
6. Follow-up interaction with the client; and final statement and report development.

The assessment process utilizes to gain an understanding of the:

- SD Vista PD and related SD Vista requirements
- Implementation of SD Vista project
- Determination of the baseline situation,
- monitoring plan,
- Data and parameters monitored.
- Implementation of any sampling plan,
- Verify the collection and handling of data/evidence.
- Availability of the evidence

Development of the Verification/Sampling Plan:

The audit team has formally documented its verification/ sampling plan as well as determine the evidence-sampling plan. The verification plan is developed based on key elements of the verification process as per the criteria of engagement. Based on items discussed above and agreed upon with the client in the signed contract, the plan identified the CC IPL audit team, addresses the following:

1. Level of assurance¹
2. Materiality
3. Standards of evaluation and reporting for the verification including the assessment criteria.
4. Scope and objectives
5. Assessment team and the roles of team members;
6. Schedule of verification activities and

Video interviews

It also provides an outline of the verification process and established project deliverables. This verification plan also includes a sampling plan, which is designed to evaluate all project elements in areas of high risk of inaccuracy or non-conformance.

Verification Plan-

In order to ensure a complete, transparent and timely execution of the assessment task, the team leader has planned the complete sequence of events necessary to arrive at a substantiated final opinion. Various tools have been established in order to ensure an effective assessment

¹ Section 5.2.3 of the SD VISTA Standard, v1.0 states that the VVB shall “select samples of data and information to be validated or verified to provide a reasonable level of assurance as defined in ISO 14064:3 (2006) and to meet the materiality criteria. Quantitative materiality demands that the threshold for materiality with respect to the aggregate of errors, omissions and misrepresentations, individually or in the aggregate, for any reported SD VISTA claim and/or SD VISTA assets shall be limited to five percent. Qualitative materiality demands that the validation and verification determine whether a project conforms to program rules and methodological criteria. In qualitative scenarios, professional judgment shall be used to determine whether non-compliances with the program rules or methodological criteria is material.”

planning.

Step 1- Identification of Materiality threshold

Check the relevant box against applicable threshold level	Threshold	Related to
☒	5 %	Quantitative materiality demands that the threshold for materiality with respect to the aggregate of errors, omissions and misrepresentations, individually or in the aggregate, for any reported SD VISTA claim and/or SD VISTA assets shall be limited to five percent

Step 2- Identification of risks, their level and assessment

No.	Risk that could lead to material errors, omissions or misstatements	Assessment of the potential risk		Assessment of the records/information/interview with personnel to check controls/ mitigation measures
		Risk level	Justification	
1.	SDG Contributions-Incorrectly identified, not plausible with the project and risk associated with the project	High	SDGs Incorrectly identified, not plausible with the project and risk associated with the project.	The risk will be mitigated by reviewing the claims in the SD Vista PD, UN SDG list and its assessment based on SD vista requirements. The plausibility of the related SDG contributions can be further cross-checked with the project specific evidence, literature review related to the host country/region and interviews with the related stakeholders.
2.	Stakeholders process including identification and their input on the project has not appropriate conducted.	high	This is a measure risk which could deviate the project's compliance with SD Vista requirements	The risk can be mitigated by reviewing all the records of LSC including identification and further cross checking the information with the SD Vista PD and video interviews with sample stakeholders.
3.	Project design: Information on project design without adequate controls	high	Project design incorrectly described thus leading to incorrect delineation of the baseline scenario, casual change,	The risk will be mitigated by reviewing the claims in the SD Vista PD and its assessment based on SD vista requirements. The background documents including any baseline survey/report by third

	related to data, evidences (project/sector related)		threats to the project	party (such as those related country specific fNRB study) shall cross-checked with the project specific evidence, literature review related to the host country/region and interviews with the related stakeholders.
4.	Accuracy of the monitoring plan for the monitoring of benefits for people and prosperity on planet	medium	Inadequately delineated monitoring plan may lead non-compliance of the SD Vista principle during ex-post verification	The risk due to accuracy of the monitoring plan will be ensured by reviewing the SD Vista PD, SD Vista requirements, sampling tool applied and ensuring feasibility/appropriateness of the monitoring plan by means of video interviews with the PP, their associates and the end users.
5.	Competence of personnel involved in conducting monitoring including surveys and any testing such as WBT	medium	Interview of the personnel involved and check the training records / accreditation certificates (applicable in case of institutions) involved in conducting such tests/monitoring.	The risk will be mitigated by reviewing the training records of the personnel involved in the conducting such surveys/tests and by following the monitoring responsibilities. For institutions involved in conducting such tests their accreditation certificates will be checked to establish their competence for conducting such tests. The training records and certificates will be reviewed which will also be confirmed during the video interviews.
6.	Lack of documented procedures on anti-discrimination, training needs, equal work opportunities, worker's right, EHS aspect, grievance receipt & addressal policy including any whistle blower policy, anti-	high	Lack of these documented procedures would lead to non-compliance of key SD Vista requirements.	Cross-check all the SOPs of PP including the means of its implementation and checking the records/cross verifying by video interviews.

	corruption, statutory & customary rights, addressal of conflicts & disputes, abiding laws of the land at the Project proponent & their associates end			
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Sampling Plan:

☒	No sampling approach has been used by the VVB to verify the project's compliance with SD Vista requirements.
☐	A sampling approach has been applied by the VVB to verify the project's compliance with SD Vista requirements for the aspects derived in step 2 above. The statistical approach of sample size calculation is provided below.

The overall validation was conducted using Carbon Check's internal procedures. Hence, CCIPL confirms that the stated SD VISTA claims in the Project Description are correct.

1.7 Document Review

During the document review, CCIPL has applied standard auditing techniques including but not limited to document reviews and video interviews, review of the applicable/applied methodology and its underlying formulae and calculations to assess the quality of information provided.

This report contains the findings and resolutions from the validation and a validation opinion on the proposed project thus confirming the project design as document is sound and reasonable and meets the stated requirements and identified criteria.

The SD VISTA project description, emission reduction calculation spread sheet and supporting documents related to the project design and baseline were reviewed as per SD VISTA Standard /B01-a/ requirements. The desk review included:

- A review of the data and information presented to verify completeness and consistency in accordance with SD VISTA Standard /B01-a/ requirements;
- A review of the project description and monitoring criteria, paying particular attention to the SDG impacts claim for this project activity related requirements.
- A review of the monitoring plan and the project's compliance with relevant SD VISTA criteria.

Furthermore, the assessment team of CCIPL used additional documentation by third parties like host-party legislation, technical reports referring to the project design or to the basic conditions and technical data.

The SD VISta PD /01/ was initially reviewed and CCIPL requested the PP to present the supporting information and documents. The documents reviewed by CCIPL are listed below in Appendix 1. Through the process of validation, the revised SD VISta PD /01/ and the supporting documents were evaluated to confirm the actions taken by the PP to the CARs and CLs issued by the assessment team of CCIPL.

The table in Appendix 1 outlines the documentation reviewed during the validation.

1.8 Interviews

Interviews with PP representatives and local stakeholders were undertaken on 21-April -2023 by onsite visit by the local expert under virtual presence of other validation team members including team leader / technical expert, using video calls to confirm the information as outlined in the table below and to resolve issues identified in the document review.

The key personnel interviewed and, the main topics of the interviews are summarized in the table below:

	Date	Name	Organisation	Topic
/a/	21-April-2023	Umberto Malesci	Carbonibus S.r.l	• Project Design • Project start date and Project Location • Baseline Scenario • Baseline Identification and Additionality • Monitoring and reporting documentation • Quality Assurance – Management and operating system • Social and Environmental Impacts • Compliance with relevant laws • ICS distribution plan • Technology used in project stove and its technical specifications
/b/	21-April-2023	Kate Bakal		
/c/	21-April-2023	Tim Bauer		
/d/	21-April-2023	Nathan Lorenz		
/e/	21-April-2023	Rohit Lohia	Climate Secure	• Project Design • Project start date and Project Location • Baseline Scenario • Baseline Identification and Additionality • Monitoring and reporting documentation
/f/	21-April-2023	Ashutosh Tiwari		
/g/	21-April-2023	Rishabh Pathania		

				• Quality Assurance – Management and operating system • Social and Environmental Impacts • Compliance with relevant laws
/h/	21-April-2023	Moses Gballey	Local Stakeholder - entrepreneur	• Discussion on sustainability aspects of the project activity and confirmation on other SD Vista requirements. • Discussion on the local stakeholders meeting, stakeholder's engagement process and grievance addressal mechanism. • Discussion on the SDG Contributions (Qualitative & Quantitative) of the project. • Discussion on the expected impacts on the stakeholders.
/i/		Royston Gbelia	Local Stakeholder - SJedi Green Energy	
/j/		Lily Saab	Local Stakeholder - Leap network	
/k/		Amaziah Tardeh	Local Stakeholder - entrepreneur agriculture	

1.9 Site Inspections

Carbon Check has conducted an on-site inspection with the help of local expert onsite and other team members available on video call, along with local expert for discussion with PP and local stakeholders. A reasonable level of assurance has been maintained through the alternative means of video calls used for the purpose of validation as follows:

- An assessment of the implementation and operation of the proposed project through video interviews with the representatives of project proponent.
- Confirmation of the pre-project scenario
- Confirmation of the SDGs impacts and monitoring and controlling instruments and operational arrangements.
- Assessment of the project boundaries
- Assessment of the monitoring provisions by checking the monitoring arrangement.

The on-site audit visit was conducted in a hybrid mode (including physical as well as remote assessment by the validation members). As the project started implementation after the on-site visit, it was not possible to conduct end-users' interviews by the VVB team. During the audit visit on 21-April-2023, the VVB team conducted interviews with the PP representatives and local stakeholders at Monrovia, Liberia. These were undertaken physically by the local expert under virtual presence of other validation team members including team leader / technical expert, using audio + video calls. Thus, the VVB team was able to confirm the relevant project information as outlined in the table above in section 1.8 and resolve issues identified in the document review.

The list the auditing technique(s) used for the assessment of this validation in assessing the information, CCIPL applied the means of validation, including, but not limited to are as below:

- i Cross checks between information provided in the PD and information from third-party or publicly available sources other than those used; if necessary, independent background investigations.
- ii Telephone, video interviews with relevant stakeholders in the host country, such as personnel with knowledge of the Project design and implementation;
- iii Cross checks between the information provided by interviewed personnel (i.e. by checking sources or other interviews) to ensure that no relevant information has been omitted;
- iv Review, based on the selected methodologies, the selected standardised baselines and other applied methodological regulatory documents, of the appropriateness of formulae and accuracy of calculations;
- v Where no means of validation is specified, the VVB applied the standard auditing techniques.
- vi The VVB also used other external standard auditing techniques for validation, as referred to in sections 7.1.3 and 9.1.3 of the CDM VVS-PA.
- vii Reference to recently released ISO and ISEAL guidance documents for carrying out local expert onsite audits without compromising the reliability and effectiveness of the certification process.

CC IPL ensured that local expert Mr. Toe-Dahn Mcrina Zakaplay, has as a minimum the following competencies:

- a. Basic knowledge of the local context
- b. Basic auditing techniques
- c. Knowledge and well versed with the electronic modes selected for remote assessment
- d. Interview techniques
- e. Speak the language of the interviewees (librarian)
- f. Sufficiently speak a language spoken by the Team Leader (English)

These minimum competencies of the local expert provided reasonable degree of confidence to the Validation team leader on the ability of the local expert to physically conduct the audit under remote supervision of the team leader/technical expert.

The Team Leader provided the local expert training on:

- a. Project-specific and relevant standard-specific requirements,
- b. Interview techniques
- c. The information to be collected on-site,
- d. The reporting format
- e. The channel of communication through which information shall be transferred from local expert onsite audit and during the future course of exchanges. The alternative means used for the validation is remote interviews as well as document reviews. In the opinion of CC IPL, the alternative means used are justified and they are sufficient for the purpose of validation.

The hybrid means used for the purpose of validation with Local expert present onsite and other members of Validation team virtually present, conducted interviews in order to assess the information included in the SD VISta PD. During the desk review, the relevant records in consistent with the SD VISta PD were checked, comparing the relevant evidence and interview with the PP representative through video interviews.

The validation team based on the above confirms that the validation based on desk review and hybrid mode of on-site audit are sufficient for the purpose of validation.

1.10 Public Comments

The public commenting period for the project was from 04-April-2023 to 04-May-2023.

No comment has been received during the public comment period.

1.11 Resolution of Findings

This section summarizes the findings from the validation of the project activity. In this section the findings from the document review, assessments and video interviews are provided.

Material discrepancies identified in the course of the validation are addressed either as CARs, CLs or FARs.

Corrective action requests (CAR) are issued, where:

- The project participants have made mistakes that will influence the ability of the project activity to achieve real, measurable, verifiable, and additional emission reductions and SDG claims.
- The applicable VCS/SD VISTA requirements have not been met.
- There is a risk that emission reductions and SDG claims cannot be monitored or calculated/quantified.

A **Clarification request (CL)** may be issued if information is insufficient or not clear enough to determine whether the applicable VCS/SD VISTA requirements have been met.

A total of 04 CLs and 10 CARs had been raised. Please refer to Appendix 4 below for the details of the CARs/CLs and their closure.

1.12 Forward Action Requests

No Forward Action Requests (FARs) were raised during validation.

2 VALIDATION FINDINGS

2.1 Summary of SDG Contributions

The project contributes to the achievement of 09 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of United Nations through the positive impacts generated by the project activities. Please refer the table below for detailed assessment:

S.No.	Estimated Project Contribution by the End of Project Lifetime	SDG Target	SDG Indicator	Net Impact on SDG Indicator	Claim, Asset or Label	Assessment
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1	Household expenditures on purchased cooking fuel will get reduced with usage of project ICS owing to its increased efficiency. Thus, project ICS shall result in money savings in beneficiary households. The project will distribute ICS in Liberia and will lead to reduction of poverty in the beneficiary households. Quantifiable contribution: ~978 LRD monthly savings on purchased cooking fuel after switching to project ICS	1.4	Project Specific Indicator – Average monthly household savings due to reduction in expenditure on purchase fuel after shifting to project technology	Implement activity to Increase	Claim	The assessment team confirms that the information provided in this table is complete with respect to SD VISTA requirement. Furthermore, following the SD Vista PD template requirement, since this is project's self-defined measure for tracking benefits and does not align with an official SDG indicator. Hence PP has rightly not provided an indicator number. Instead, a project-specific indicator that relates to the most appropriate SDG target has been provided; checked and deemed appropriate to the VVB. Furthermore, since it was not feasible, or the project does not have the resources or desire to monitor the parameters necessary to directly attribute a project's impacts to a quantifiable change in the indicator, PP has written "implemented activities to increase"; which is deemed in line with the SD Vista requirement. The conclusion above is based on review of the SD Vista PD /01/, supporting documents, interviews with representatives of the PP and Local Stakeholders (recipient of the ICS). Thus, assessment team confirms that the information provided in the SD VISTA PD substantiate the SD VISTA- claim.
2	The indoor pollutants emissions attributed to	3.9	Project Specific Indicator – % users reporting Reduction in	Implement activity to increase	Claim	The assessment team confirms that the information provided in this table is complete with

	inefficient burning of solid biomass fuels in the beneficiary households will be reduced. The project ICS shall aid improved combustion of solid biomass fuel thereby reducing smoke and Particulate matter (PM) emissions. The project will free the beneficiary households from exposure to smoke / PM associated with traditional cooking. Quantifiable contribution: >75% beneficiaries reporting reduced exposure to smoke / PM emission after switching to project ICS		Smoke/PM emissions			respect to SD VISta requirement. Furthermore, following the SD Vista PD template requirement, since this is project's self-defined measure for tracking benefits and does not align with an official UN defined SDG indicator. Hence PP has rightly not provided an indicator number. Instead, a project-specific indicator that relates to the most appropriate SDG target has been provided; checked and deemed appropriate to the VVB. Furthermore, since it was not feasible, or the project does not have the resources or desire to monitor the parameters necessary to directly attribute a project's impacts to a quantifiable change in the indicator, PP has written "implemented activities to increase" in the column corresponding to 'net impact on SDG indicator'; which is deemed in line with the SD Vista requirement. The conclusion above is based on review of the SD Vista PD /01/, review of supporting documents. , interviews with representatives of the PP and Local Stakeholders (recipient of the ICS). Thus, assessment team confirms that the information provided in the SD VISta PD substantiate the SD VISta- claim.
3	The project activity is targeting to provide formal and/or non-formal education and	4.3	4.3.1 Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal	increase	Claim	The assessment team confirms that the information provided in this table is complete with respect to SD VISta

	training to resources involved in the project activity. Quantifiable contribution: 50 people provided with formal and/or non-formal education or training.		education and training in the previous 12 months, by gender.			requirement. Furthermore, following the SD Vista PD template requirement, PP has rightly provided an indicator number for this SDG; checked and deemed appropriate to the VVB. The conclusion above is based on review of the SD Vista PD /01/, supporting documents, interviews with representatives of the PP and Local Stakeholders (recipient of the ICS). Thus, assessment team confirms that the information provided in the SD VISta PD substantiate the SD VISta-claim.
4	The project ICS shall save time in cooking activities (by faster cooking) as well as save time in fuel procurement (reduced collection time or reduced fuel purchase trips to market) due to reduced fuel consumption. This shall save time spent by the women involved in these activities (unpaid work) to be utilized in more productive and income generating tasks. The project will lead to helping beneficiary households in saving time in cooking activities (by faster cooking) as well as fuel procurement (reduced collection time or reduced fuel	5.4	5.4.1 Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age, and location	decrease	Claim	The assessment team confirms that the information provided in this table is complete with respect to SD VISta requirement. Furthermore, following the SD Vista PD template requirement, PP has rightly provided an indicator number for this SDG; checked and deemed appropriate to the VVB. The baseline value provided by the project proponent for this indicator is found to be reasonable to the validation team. The conclusion above is based on review of the SD Vista PD /01/, supporting documents, interviews with representatives of the PP and Local Stakeholders (recipient of the ICS). Thus, assessment team confirms that the information provided in the SD VISta PD substantiate the SD VISta- claim.

	purchase trips to market). Quantifiable contribution: up to 2-3 hours saved per day per household from cooking / fuel procurement activities					
5	The project activity by distributing ICS will provide access to clean cooking with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology. The project ICS will be made available free of cost to beneficiary households. The project will lead to project households getting access to clean cookstoves (ICS) by the end of its lifetime. Quantifiable contribution: 0.5 million ICS distributed, >75% usage rate	7.1	7.1.2 Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology.	Increase	Claim	The assessment team confirms that the information provided in this table is complete with respect to SD VISTA requirement. Furthermore, following the SD Vista PD template requirement, since the project's measure for tracking benefits is aligned with an official SDG indicator. Hence PP has rightly provided the SDG indicator number. The same has been checked and deemed appropriate to the VVB. Furthermore, as the quantification of benefits of the indicator will be monitored directly by monitoring the of ICS distributed in project activity , PP has written "increase" in the column corresponding to 'net impact on SDG indicator'. , PP has written "increase"; which is deemed in line with the SD Vista requirement. The conclusion above is based on review of the SD Vista PD /01/, supporting documents /08/, interviews with representatives of the PP and Local Stakeholders (recipient of the ICS). Thus, assessment team confirms that the information provided in the

						SD VISTA PD substantiate the SD VISTA- claim.
6	The project will create local jobs opportunities in operational and management roles, as well as in manufacturing, distribution, and logistics. Quantifiable contribution: 25 jobs created	8.5	Project Specific Indicator – Number of Jobs Created	Increase	Claim	The assessment team confirms that the information provided in this table is complete with respect to SD VISTA requirement. Furthermore, following the SD Vista PD template requirement, since the project's measure for tracking benefits is as per selected project specific indicator. Hence PP has rightly selected the project specific indicator . The same has been checked and deemed appropriate to the VVB. Furthermore, as the quantification of benefits of the indicator will be monitored directly by monitoring the number of their jobs in project activity , PP has written “increase” in the column corresponding to ‘net impact on SDG indicator’. , which is deemed in line with the SD Vista requirement. The conclusion above is based on review of the SD Vista PD /01/, supporting documents /08/, interviews with representatives of the PP and Local Stakeholders (recipient of the ICS). Thus, assessment team confirms that the information provided in the SD VISTA PD substantiate the SD VISTA- claim.

7	The project by replacing the inefficient traditional stove with the energy-efficient ICS will reduce GHG emissions. Quantifiable contribution: 11,392,289 tCO₂e of GHG emission reductions over the crediting period of 7 years.	13.0	13.0 - Tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions avoided or removed	Decrease	SD VISTA - labeled VCU	The assessment team confirms that the information provided in this table is complete with respect to SD VISTA requirement. Furthermore, following the SD Vista PD template requirement, since the project's measure for tracking benefits is aligned with an official SDG indicator. Hence PP has rightly provided the SDG indicator number. The same has been checked and deemed appropriate to the VVB. Furthermore, as the quantification of benefits of the indicator will be monitored directly by monitoring the Tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions avoided or removed in project activity, PP has written "decrease" in the column corresponding to 'net impact on SDG indicator'. , which is deemed in line with the SD Vista requirement. The conclusion above is based on review of the SD Vista PD /01/, supporting documents /08/, interviews with representatives of the PP and Local Stakeholders (recipient of the ICS). Thus, assessment team confirms that the information provided in the SD VISTA PD substantiate the SD VISTA- labeled VCU.
8	The project will help in reduction of the use of non-renewable biomass from forests, thus assisting in	15.2	15.2.1 Progress towards sustainable forest management.	Increase	Claim	The assessment team confirms that the information provided in this table is complete with respect to SD VISTA requirement. Furthermore,

	conserving existing forest stock and the protection of natural forest ecosystems and wildlife habitats. Quantifiable contribution: average ~2.51 tonnes of non-renewable biomass saved per HH/year.					following the SD Vista PD template requirement, since the project's measure for tracking benefits is aligned with an official SDG indicator. Hence PP has rightly provided the SDG indicator number. The same has been checked and deemed appropriate to the VVB. Furthermore, as the quantification of benefits of the indicator will be monitored directly by monitoring the tonnes of non-renewable biomass saved per HH/year in project activity, PP has written "increase" in the column corresponding to 'net impact on SDG indicator'. , which is deemed in line with the SD Vista requirement. The conclusion above is based on review of the SD Vista PD /01/, supporting documents /08/, interviews with representatives of the PP and Local Stakeholders (recipient of the ICS). Thus, assessment team confirms that the information provided in the SD VISTA PD substantiate the SD VISTA- claim.
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CC IPL confirms that the SDG impacts have been transparently identified and that the contribution of project activity to SDG indicators and targets has been appropriately attributed. PP has provided information throughout the SD Vista PD /01-b/, as well as the additional evidence to the assessment team of CC IPL, which were reviewed to validate the claims. The Project has clearly stated its objectives in section 2.1.1 of the PD made by the PP. The assessment team of CC IPL confirms that all information presented regarding the estimated project contribution by the end of project lifetime to the SDG, associated SDG indicators and the net impact is real, transparent, accurate, complete and in compliance with the requirements of SD VISTA.

The assessment above identifies, discuss and justify conclusions regarding the summary of SDG Contributions for each column of Table 1 in the project description. VVB deemed the information in the table 1 of SD Vista PD as complete with the information required by the SD VISTA Project Description Template and further confirms that information provided in the project description substantiates all claims made.

2.2 Project Design

2.2.1 Project Objectives

The Project has clearly stated its objectives in section 2.1.1 of the PD /01-b/. The objective stated in the PD /01-b/ is in line with the SDG contributions. The Project aims to reduce GHG emission through reduction in consumption of non-renewable biomass by replacing Traditional cookstoves with energy efficient ICS technology in individual households of Liberia. As verified, the project is also designed to contribute to the local biodiversity conservation through the reduction of demand for wood fuel, slowing local deforestation, reduce the drudgery of collecting wood fuel by women and children at significant distances from villages, reduce time spent cooking over traditional stoves inhaling toxic smoke, increase time spent on improving life status i.e., through economic endeavours, education, improve the health status through reduced exposure to household air pollutants (HAPs) and improve the nutrition status, through a myriad of ways including nutrient retention from decreased cook times ,achieving a more sustainable land use and the increase of biodiversity rate and the increase of biodiversity, the local sustainable development by offer training and working opportunities for local population.

CC IPL confirms that the project activity involves following sustainable development objectives as mentioned in section 2.1.1 of the PD /01-b/:

The project will provide job opportunities /10/ to the villagers and community members with the focus on women empowerment.

The project will support in eradicating extreme poverty and increase income by reducing the amount of wood fuel purchased monthly, also support in reducing the amount of time spent monthly collecting firewood and cooking, thus increasing time for income producing activities.

- a) Reduced emission of smoke resulting in lowering of household air pollution due to use of the project stoves, improving well-being for women and children (3.9). Apart from improving the health of women, the stoves also reduce severe accidental burns in infants and children due to its design comprising of a closed combustion chamber and stable base
- b) Provide training for all its employee's those hired from local villages and community and help them to develop their skills.
- c) Ensure sustainable energy security in Liberian households by providing clean cooking technology during the project lifecycle.
- d) Reduce carbon emissions by approximately ~11,392,289 tCO_{2e} GHG emissions over the Seven-year project crediting period from the reduction consumption of non-renewable biomass for cooking and heating in the household.
- e) Increase awareness of climate change's impacts on health, nutrition status, and well-being, through formal and informal training which will enhance their avenues for getting decent jobs (4.3) with direct links to the project activity to promote adoption rates of the clean cooking technology.
- f) Promote gender equality by reducing women and children's labour through reducing the time spent in cutting, collecting, and carrying firewood from trees far removed from households and reduce time spent cooking over toxic smoky open fires.
- g) Reduce demand for wood fuel which results in reduced deforestation within the project area, thus contributing to a net positive increase in the forest area as a proportion of total land area.

Assessment team of CC IPL confirms that the PP has transparently defined the sustainable development objectives of the project, which are appropriate to the nature of the project and the sustainable development context in which it is developed. The stated objectives are aligned with the logic of the SDG in promoting people's well-being, conservation and protection of ecosystem and biodiversity protection, strengthening institutions and promoting global partnerships in a sustainable and non-discriminatory way.

2.2.2 Project Activities

The primary objective of the project activity is the distribution and installation of the Project Stove, in Liberia. CCIPL has noted that apart from the primary objective, project proponents has structured the several initiatives, designed to achieve the sustainable development goals as detailed in the previous section. The primary objective and other associated initiatives involved in the project as listed below are assessed by CCIPL based on review of SD VISta PD /01-b/, provided evidence and interviews with the representative of PP and stakeholders.

Primary Project activity is;

- **Improved Cookstoves.** The primary project activity is the distribution and installation of the Project Stove. CCIPL based on review of technical specification of the Project Stove /04/, confirms that it is efficient cookstove made of metal and is manufactured locally /04/. This involves the transitions of households away from traditional cook stoves to cleaner, more efficient cooking solutions with biomass fuels. CCIPL noted that CARBONIBUS S.R.L uses a digital platform to track and manage the ICS project implemented under the distribution of ICS and implementation of project activity.

Secondary Project Activities are listed below;

- **Stove Program.** CCIPL during the video interview and document review confirmed that PP provides both short and long-term contracted positions.
- **Training.** CCIPL during the video interview and document review confirmed that PP imparts training on several levels. The training of trainers includes a one-day course on climate change including the impacts of household pollution on health and well-being, as an introductory background to efficient cookstove intervention. In the opinion of CCIPL, these training as detailed in SD VISta PD can contribute to several socio-economic benefit including the skill developments of the women.

Please refer to the assessment in section 2.1 of this report for project's contributions to the relevant UNSDGs (goal, target and indicators).

The project activities cover a wide range of aspects of community development and ecosystem conservation and in the opinion of the assessment team based on video interviews and document review the project will cause a positive net result in wellbeing of people and natural capital protection.

2.2.3 Implementation Schedule

In section 2.1.3 of the PD the key dates and milestones in the project's development and implementation has been duly listed by the PP. The project start date is the date on which activities that led to the generation of sustainable development benefits are implemented. It is appropriate and consistent with the definition, as provided under section 2.14 of SD VISta /B01-a/ and SD VISta Program Definitions /B01-c/.

The verified implementation details of the project are as below:

Date			Milestone(s) in the Project's Development and Implementation	
Date of Milestone	Milestone	Assessment		
February 2023	Local Stakeholder Consultation of SD VISta	The same is verified by validation team during interview with local stakeholders.		
March 2023	Initiation of Validation for VCS PD	The same is confirmed from VCS website.		
March 2023	Pipeline Listing for SD VISta PD	The same is confirmed from VCS website.		

March 2023	Validation for SD VISTA PD	On same Month desk review of the documents initiated by validation team.
15 May 2023	Start Date of Project Activity	The project was not implemented at the time of audit interviews. Hence, it was not validated and shall be confirmed by Verification team during first verification.
March 2024	Registration of project activity under SD VISTA	Assumed date
March 2024	First Verification by assessor	Assumed date

2.2.4 Project Proponent and Other Entities Involved in the Project

The project proponent is CARBONIBUS S.R. L. Climate Secure is the other entity involved in the project, who is responsible for completing the Project Description document. During the validation process the assessment team of CCIPL has verified that CARBONIBUS S.R.L. is the Project Proponent involved in the project and is able to confirm their participation in the project and their responsibilities. The assessment team of CCIPL noted that contact and entity information provided in the PD /01-b/ conforms to the SD VISTA requirements /B01/.

2.2.5 Project Type

The CARBONIBUS S.R. L's Improved Cooking Project in Liberia /02/ is a non AFOLU project. The sectoral scope for this project activity is primarily energy efficiency as defined in the section 2.1.6 of the PD /01-b/. This has been confirmed by the assessment team of CCIPL. Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard Sectoral Scopes applicable to the project areas:

Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard Sectoral Scopes	U.N. Sustainable Development Goals
Sectoral Scope 2 – Climate Change Adaptation	SDG 13 Climate Action (13.0), SDG 15 Life on Land (15.2)
Sectoral Scope 3 – Education	SDG 4.0 Quality Education (4.3)
Sectoral Scope 4 – Energy	SDG 7 Affordable energy (7.1)
Sectoral Scope 7 – Health	SDG 3 Good Health and Wellbeing (3.9)
Sectoral Scope 10 – Livelihoods	SDG 1 No Poverty (1.4) SDG 5 Gender Equality (5.4) SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth (8.5)

2.2.6 Project Location

The project is developed within the geographic boundaries of Liberia. The capital of Liberia is Monrovia, and its geographic coordinates are 6° 18' 2.7864" N 10° 47' 49.7760" W. Based on video interviews and review of SD VISTA /01-b/ and VCS PD /02/, assessment team of CCIPL verified the location of the project activity and the correctness of the location of the project activity and project boundaries.

2.2.7 Baseline Scenario

The social and economic conditions prior to the project's start was defined in section 2.1.8 of the SD VISTA PD /01-b/. A summary of the reported baseline scenario in Liberia is the use of traditional cook stoves. The validation method of the assessment team to assess the appropriateness of the baseline scenario defined in PD by the PP was also confirmed directly through interviews of local stakeholders (including end users) during the video assessment and additionally was based on the review of provided evidence namely f_{NRB} report. The assessment team of CCIPL confirms the accuracy and the credibility of the description of the social, economic, and natural capital conditions at the start of the project provided by the PP in the SD VISTA PD /01-b/.

2.2.8 Causal Chain(s)

The assessment team of CCIPL assessed the causal chain mentioned by the project participant in Appendix A of the SD VISta PD /01-b/, through observations made during the video interviews and by reviewing the relevant documents. The project's causal chain has been justified the segregation of the Planet, People, and their Prosperity as well. The project has identified the following benefits in the causal chain that will lead to the generation of the assets:

1. Jobs Creation
2. Technology transfer and skill building
3. Increased incomes and livelihood
4. Economic prosperity and development in the region
5. Reduction in carbon emissions
6. Sustainable development

The assessment team of CCIPL, by reviewing the evidences provided by the PP and collecting the information through direct video interviews, validates the causal chain included in the Appendix A of the SD VISta PD /01-b/.

According to assessment team of CCIPL, PP has appropriately and comprehensively described the cause-and-effect relationships of the project activity, correctly tracing all the direct positive and negative, intended, and unintended impacts on the Planet and on the People and Prosperity, as required by section of 2.1.5 of the SD VISta standard/B01-a/. PP has transparently documented in the causal chains, which impacts of the project activities relate to People and their Prosperity and which relate to Planet. No SD VISta assets /01-b/ are expected to be generated by the project.

2.2.9 Threats to the Project

The assessment team of CCIPL has checked the identified threats to the expected sustainable development benefits during the project lifetime and found acceptable. All the identified threats are comprehensive and the measures to mitigate these threats are reasonable.

Threats identified	Solution	Conclusion
Nature-Induced Threats		
Climate Crisis / Natural disasters triggers displacement and migration that leads to households getting relocated.	ICS distributed under the project activity are portable and light weighted. Hence the project ICS can be carried by the ICS user easily, should the need to relocate arise.	Based on the interviews and review of SD VISta PD /01-b/ the assessment team concludes that the mitigation measures as proposed by the PP are robust, reasonable and implementable.
Climate change and deforestation can lead to biomass fuel scarcity and an untenable source of biomass.	The project ICS shall significantly reduce the woody biomass demand in the project households owing to increased efficiency of project stoves relative to the baseline stoves. Thus, the project shall contribute towards reduction in biomass fuel scarcity and reduction in deforestation attributed to reduced demand for woody biomass in project households.	Based on the interviews and review of SD VISta PD /01-b/ the assessment team concludes that the mitigation measures as proposed by the PP are robust, reasonable and implementable. Thus, the threat is negligible.

Pandemics like COVID-19 etc. might affect the implementation and operation of the project in future	In such cases, PP will operate as per the regulatory guidelines and mandates applicable to ensure that the project staff involved in implementation and operation are at reduced risk.	Based on the interviews and review of SD VISta PD /01-b/ the assessment team concludes that the mitigation measures as proposed by the PP are robust and reasonable and implementable. Thus, the threat is negligible.
Human-Induced Threats		
Carbon-finance sponsored stove distribution may result in poor household adoption rate post distribution.	The PP will coordinate with local distribution partners to identify deserving beneficiaries to ensure that project stove usage rate remains significant. The target users will also be made aware on the benefits of using improved cookstoves for effective adoption rate.	Based on the interviews and review of SD VISta PD /01-b/ the assessment team concludes that the mitigation measures as proposed by the PP are robust and reasonable and implementable. Thus, the threat is negligible.
Many households cannot afford the new improved cookstoves because of financial constraints	PP is distributing ICS free of cost to end-users to counter this threat.	Based on the interviews and review of SD VISta PD /01-b/ the assessment team concludes that the mitigation measures as proposed by the PP are robust and reasonable and implementable. Thus, the threat is negligible.
Stakeholder Participation threats		
The longevity of Project Long Life may pose a challenge to maintaining stakeholder engagement or stakeholders' willingness to continue using the improved cookstoves	The project has implemented a robust mechanism to ensure continuous stakeholder engagement over its project lifetime as explained in section 2.2.4 below. Additionally, the usage of project technology shall be monitored over project lifetime on sampling basis. Thus any reduction to project stove usage shall be accounted in the impact quantification accordingly	Based on the interviews and review of SD VISta PD /01-b/ the assessment team concludes that the mitigation measures as proposed by the PP are robust and reasonable and implementable. Thus, the threat is negligible.

2.2.10 Benefit Permanence

The PP states in section 2.1.11 of the PD that the major goal of the project is to distribute energy-efficient improved cookstoves (ICS) to replace the existing traditional stoves in Liberia. The project ICS will benefit in the following ways:

1. The ICS distributed as part of the project will consume less fuel to generate equivalent amount of thermal energy as the baseline traditional inefficient stoves, contributing to a reduction in fuel consumption, assisting beneficiaries in decreasing fuel expenses and saving time in cooking. This will allow women to reinvest the time they save from cooking in other productive and income-generating activities.
2. The ICS initiative will aid in enhanced fuel combustion, reducing smoke and particulate matter emissions, and thereby helping in long-term positive benefits on the health of end-users, particularly women and girls who mainly undertake cooking in households.

3. Reduced consumption of non-renewable biomass will thereby conserve the ecosystem and biodiversity for a long time.
4. Understanding these benefits to stakeholders will aid in the long-term sustenance and maintenance of project operations, as well as the achievement of the intended outcomes.

The Project ICS lifetime is > 5 years. This time period is sufficient enough for a beneficiary's behaviour change and transition from cooking on traditional stove to improved efficient ICS. Thus, after the end of life of project ICS, the beneficiary is not expected to shift back to traditional cooking practice, thereby ensuring benefit permanence event after the end of life of project devices.

The project beneficiary optionally may choose to replace the expired project device with another project device (as agreed with PP) or may graduate to even higher technology(ies) in the energy ladder.

The assessment team of CCIPL verified the benefit-permanence activities through the desk review and during the video interviews and considers the measures will likely achieve the sustainable development goals of the project and that these will last beyond its lifetime.

2.3 Stakeholder Engagement

2.3.1 Stakeholder Identification

The following steps has been taken by the VVB to assess the process of stakeholder's identification and also to check analysis used to identify stakeholder's and the stakeholder groups:

- Review of the SD VISta PD /01-b/;
- Review of stakeholder's consultation meeting records
- Interviews with the PP and the sample stakeholders

Stakeholder Identification Process

VVB confirms that the PP followed a systematic approach and locally appropriate methods to identify relevant stakeholders, in line with the Section 2.2 of SD VISta Standard ver 1.0. The identification process involved a two-step approach:

1. Mapping of Relevant Stakeholders Groups: Stakeholders groups likely to be impacted (direct / indirect) by the project were identified as follows:

- A - Local people, communities and or representatives who are directly or indirectly affected (beneficiaries or adversely affected) by the project or may have an interest in the project.
- B - Stakeholders with land-tenure rights for any area directly affected by the implementation of the project (i.e., within the project boundary).
- C - Local policy makers and representatives of local authorities.
- D - National government officials or National Focal bodies responsible for the project in the host country, for example, Designated National Authority (DNA).
- E - Local non-governmental organisations (NGOs), Women Groups working on topics relevant to the project or working with communities who are likely to be affected by the project.
- F - Relevant international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) supporters, with a representation in the region of the project.

- G - Representatives from Verra
- H - Project Parties i.e. Project Implementer, Investor, Manufacturer, Distributor, Monitoring Personnel etc.

2. **Stakeholder Representation:** Based on PP's experience and professional judgement, representative individuals / institutions, as applicable from each stakeholder group were invited (via email, phone calls, in person etc.) to ensure comprehensive representation. Throughout the stakeholder identification process, careful consideration was given to include individuals and groups who might be directly or indirectly affected by project activities.

3. The list of identified stakeholders is illustrated in the section 2.2.1 of the SD VISta PD. The contact details (phone/ email) has been removed for data privacy considerations.

Besides, above, the stakeholder event was broadcasted via posters and newspaper notices confirming open invitation to the stakeholder event to ensure maximum participation from other interested stakeholders who could not be directly invited.

The approach is deemed appropriate as by the definition of stakeholders, those who are directly or indirectly adversely affected by project activities are relevant.

The assessment team of CCIPL concludes the process /07/ used by the project proponent to identify all stakeholders /07/ who will be impacted by the project activities is sufficient.

2.3.2 Stakeholder Description

As assessed in the previous section, the stakeholders identified through the process described in above are grouped under two broad categories: A) Directly affected parties and B) Indirectly affected parties.

The assessment team confirms that all the stakeholders and stakeholder groups that are included/may be included in the project were found appropriate as verified during the video interviews.

Stakeholder groups (Direct/Indirect affected by project activity)	Relevance to the project	Justification by the assessment team of CCIPL
Directly Affected Parties	1. Local people, communities and or representatives who are directly or indirectly affected (adversely affected or beneficiaries) by the project or may have an interest in the project 2. Stakeholders with land-tenure rights for any area directly affected by the implementation of the project (i.e., within the project boundary)	The assessment team of CCIPL confirms that the stakeholder group included in the project is appropriate and relevant to the type of the project activity and described transparently in the project description of the SD-VISta PD /01-b/.

Indirectly Affected Parties	1. Local policy makers and representatives of local authorities. 2. National government officials or National Focal bodies. 3. Local non-governmental organisations (NGOs), Women Groups working on topics relevant to the project or working with communities who are likely to be affected by the project. 4. Relevant international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) supporters, with a representation in the region of the project. 5. Representatives from Verra	The assessment team of CCIPL confirms that the stakeholder group included in the project is appropriate and relevant to the type of the project activity and described transparently in the project description of the SD-VISta PD /01-b/.
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2.3.3 Stakeholder Consultation

The PD (Section 2.2.3) /01-b/ thoroughly discusses extensive outreach, public communication, and additional engagements to identify potential interested stakeholders.

Stakeholders had been directly asked to comment on the project through a physical meeting held at in Campus (The Wologisi Mountain Hall), Carey Street, Monrovia, Liberia, on 27-February-2023 /07/. The stakeholders were invited through various means to provide their feedback: an email invitation was sent to various stakeholders including Government officials, NGOs, local association leaders etc. An invitation letter was also published in the local newspaper to invite local stakeholders that are affected and interested in the project. Credible evidence for the invitations has been provided by the PP and assessed by the validation team which was found to be true. All comments are positive in nature. No adverse comments were received during video interview.

The validation team confirms on the procedure and method for engagement, method for documenting the outcomes of local stakeholders' consultation, account of all inputs received, and on-going communication with local stakeholders. The validation team confirms that the project proponent has taken due account of all input (no negative comments were received for the project). Hence the validation team deemed the local stakeholders meeting procedure including the inputs received as appropriate.

Based on video interviews, observations, and review during the entire audit process, CCIPL confirms the project's process was appropriate for each stakeholder group; information about potential costs, risks and benefits was appropriately shared with each group; each group had an opportunity to influence project design; and the project dedicated particular attention to optimizing benefits for any marginalized and vulnerable groups.

CC IPL confirms the stakeholder identification process, as outlined in the PD /01-b/, sufficiently allows all interested stakeholders to engage, participate, and communicate with the project throughout the lifetime of the project.

2.3.4 Continued Consultation and Adaptive Management

Following steps have been taken to assess the project's plan for continuing communication and consultation with all stakeholder groups.

- Interview with the sample stakeholders of the project and with the PP
- Review of SD Vista PD /01-b/

As stated in Section 2.2.4 of the PD /01-b/, the project intends to engage in ongoing stakeholder consultation and adaptive management. This happens locally, through the project's grievances register, which is maintained at local office locations on an ongoing basis. Other stakeholders not having direct access to the grievance books can escalate their grievance via PP field staff and/or distribution agents in their respective zones to PP. Locals employed as field personnel and resource persons will also act as an interface for escalating issues from project beneficiaries in their own zones to PP. Any relevant concern received during lifetime of project activity, will be addressed according to its merit.

Additionally, contact information including phone numbers and email address of the PP is available to end users/stakeholders for lodging grievances if needed. The contact details are available on PP's website as well as were explained during the LSC meeting to all participants, offering free access to voice grievances during the lifetime of the project.

Furthermore, PP may conduct LSC at the time of crediting period to ensure continued consultation and engagement with stakeholders.

This multi-faceted approach shall ensure that end users, regardless of their location, are consulted throughout the lifetime of the project.

According to VVB, the chosen consultation channels and the project's approach for changing its management processes (based on stakeholder input) as outlined in the SD Vista PD /01/ are deemed acceptable.

The information gathered during these consultations will be adaptively included in management plans, when applicable. In the opinion of CCIPL, overall project's plan /01-b/ for continued consultation and adaptive management is sufficient to ensure these components are included, in accordance with the SD VISta program.

2.3.5 Anti-Discrimination

The Project Proponent, as stated under section 2.2.5 of the PD, ensures that the Project will not engage in or be complicit in any form of discrimination. PP fosters a mutually respectful atmosphere in which employees and business partners can collaborate without fear of harassment, discrimination, or violations of human rights. The project activity does not support any type of discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, religion, race, or other factors. PP has numerous policies (such as the Safeguarding Policy, Employee Handbook, HR Policy, Inclusivity, Non-Discrimination, and Harassment Policy) in place to ensure that there is no discrimination or sexual harassment with regard to the project based on gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, or other behaviours. As per SD Vista PD /01-b/ and CARBONIBUS S.R. L's video interviews, the CCIPL assessment team has checked and confirms that the PP has put in place measures that ensure equal opportunities for community members, including women and vulnerable and/or marginalised people.

The assessment above by VVB identifies, discuss and justify conclusions regarding;

- the measures planned to ensure any form of discrimination or sexual harassment and
- it is confirmed that no entities involved in project design or implementation are involved in, or complicit in, any form of discrimination or sexual harassment.

2.3.6 Worker Training

Following steps has been taken to assess the orientation and training conducted by the project for those employed through project activities.

- Review of SD Vista PD /01-b/
- Video Interview with the PP
- Review of training records /08/

According to the section 2.2.6 of the PD /01-b/, PP has definite focus on the training /08/ that will be provided to the employees involved in distribution, maintenance, operation, and monitoring. The training agenda will include educating staff on how to identify eligible beneficiaries, register stoves, monitor the project, data

collection, data assessment, etc. Moreover, instructional materials (handouts or booklets or instructions sheet/manual) about the project technology and its benefits will be distributed to all recipients (particularly vulnerable individuals).

VVB based on document review /01-b/, /08/ confirms that the trainings have/will provide special attention to marginalized and/or vulnerable people and build locally useful skills and knowledge for the purpose of increasing local participation in project implementation. Assessment team of CCIPL confirms that the project has properly identified the training needs /01-b/, /08/ and delivered capacity building to project's workers in order for them to perform their activities in a safe and effective manner and measures are designed to provide orientation and training.

2.3.7 Equal Work Opportunities

According to the SD VISTA PD /01-b/, the PP will ensure that all stakeholders interested in the project are given equal opportunity to contribute, both as volunteers and as employees. The workers will be chosen based on their qualifications (education, abilities, and experience). Women's unions can be used for distribution and capacity building.

The assessment team based on the review of provided evidence /10/ and video interviews, confirms that the approach outlined by the PP for equal job opportunities, including women and disadvantaged and/or marginalised individuals is deemed acceptable.

2.3.8 Workers' Rights

The SD VISTA PD states that the project activity does not involve any forced labour, and the PP and its local partners ensure that all jobs comply with all national and local labour norms and laws. PP has several policies in place to achieve this. PP is committed to promoting the highest levels of ethical corporate conduct and to complying with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

The assessment team based on review of SD Vista PD /01-b/ and video interviews confirms that the project complies to all local labour requirements and ensures that all workers were apprised of their rights, complying with the ILO.

2.3.9 Occupational Safety Assessment

The Project Proponent in section 2.2.9 of the SD VISTA PD has assessed the risks that are likely to develop during project implementation and constitute a significant risk to workers or other stakeholders.

Furthermore, the PP has specified the procedures and preventive measures in the PD, that would be used to mitigate and minimize the risks and unforeseen potential occupational hazards, which include several policies and hiring people with relevant experience for the work given.

The assessment team concludes that the occupational safety assessment, and the procedures that will be implemented to reduce worker risk are deemed acceptable, based on the review of the SD VISTA PD and video interview.

2.3.10 Feedback and Grievance Redress Procedure

The Project Proponent has reported its feedback and grievance redressal procedure in Section 2.2.10 of the PD /01-b/. In the opinion of assessment team, based on video interviews and observations, the grievance redressal procedure will address issues that may arise during project planning and implementation. The users of ICS can register any complaint through local representative involved in distribution and responsible for operation and maintenance of ICS or also through grievance register placed at the local offices. The same has also been communicated to the PP field staff and distribution team to collect any grievance received from the user as the time of distribution and post distribution visits (if any).

Additionally, contact information including phone numbers and email address of PP is available to end users/stakeholders for lodging grievances if needed.

Thus, a feedback and grievance redress procedure accessibility is ensured at all times for all shareholders alike.

The customer's grievance is first noted once received. Post that, based on the possible solutions, the customer is advised relevant solutions. As necessary, the grievance redressal team contacts the stakeholder to ensure a smooth resolution.

The grievance redressal process has been designed where beneficiaries and stakeholders have PP contact information and the understanding that they should contact the organization with any problems, questions, or grievances.

The assessment team based on the review of SD VISta PD /01-b/ and video interviews, confirms that the approach outlined by the PP for Feedback and Grievance Redressal is deemed acceptable.

2.3.11 Feedback and Grievance Redress Procedure Accessibility

As per the section 2.2.11 of the PD /01-b/, the contact details for the grievance redressal procedure are informed to all stakeholders during the stakeholder consultation and information is available at the local offices of each project activity site. The same has also been communicated to the distribution team to convey to the user as the time of distribution and post distribution visits (if any).

During the video interviews, the assessment team was able to confirm that information about the Feedback and Grievance Redressal accessibility was made available to the stakeholders during stakeholder consultation. It is the opinion of the assessment team that the project is transparent with all stakeholders regarding grievances, or any other feedback and that the procedure is accessible to all of them.

2.3.12 Stakeholder Access to Project Documentation

VVB based on review of SD Vista PD/01-b/ and video interview with the stakeholders confirms that, during stakeholder consultation a non-technical summary of the project along with the feedback form was circulated. During the meeting, the project details were explained, and stakeholders were requested to give their feedback on any concern related to the project. Further, PP has also explained to the stakeholders how they can access all documents on the VERRA website. VVB confirms that PP has ensured all project documents (including a non-technical summary) have been accessible to all the stakeholders.

In addition to the aforementioned information, PD /01-b/ also states that, if any stakeholder is unable to access the project documentation through the online portal, they can visit the local office for hard copies of the project documents.

As a result, during the video interviews with stakeholders, the assessment team was able to confirm that stakeholders had access to project information. The assessment team believes that the project is transparent with all stakeholders in terms of project documentation and that the method is accessible to all of them.

2.3.13 Information to Stakeholders on Validation and Verification Process

The detailed process for registration under GHG programme was explained to the stakeholders by the PP during local stakeholder consultation meeting. During the ex-post monitoring, the user shall have the option to provide feedback on the project. The same shall be communicated to the assessors as received during verification. Also, the assessor visit timing shall be informed to the partner NGOs and stakeholder interviews shall be facilitated between assessors and stakeholders during verification audits. The information had been shared about the SD VISta audit process to stakeholder by PP in February 2023 through email and in person. The same is confirmed by validation team during onsite interview with stakeholders by the local expert and video interview by other validation team.

All interviewees were aware of the nature of the audit process. CCIPL deemed that all stakeholders are likely to know of future assessments.

2.4 Project Management

2.4.1 Avoidance of Corruption

The PP in the SD VISTA PD /01-b/, states that the project participant and its distribution partners are neither involved nor complicit in any form of corruption.

This was confirmed further during the video interviews with the staff of CARBONIBUS S.R.L and its associates. No evidence of any form of corruption or illegality was found during the review of the provided evidence and video Interviews.

2.4.2 Statutory and Customary Rights

Not Applicable.

The project activity involves distribution of improved cookstoves to individual households and communities and it does not involve rights to lands, territories and/ or resources.

2.4.3 Recognition of Property Rights

Not Applicable.

The project activity involves distribution of improved cookstoves to individual households and communities and it does not require acquisition of property, hence no impact on any property rights.

2.4.4 Free, Prior and Informed Consent

Following steps has been taken to assess the process by which free, prior and informed consent (will be or has been) obtained from those whose property rights will be or are affected by the project.

- Review of SD Vista PD /01-b/
- Interview with the PP and the end users

As per the SD VISTA PD /01-b/, ICS is a completely voluntary activity and households in participating villages are free to choose whether they take part or not. Free, prior, and informed consent takes place before installation. This is deemed acceptable to the assessment team of CCIPL.

Based on assessment above, in the opinion of VVB, project has respected property rights and obtained free, prior and informed consent of those whose property will be or have been affected by the project.

2.4.5 Restitution and/or Compensation for Affected Resources

Following steps has been taken to assess where any parties' lands or access to resources have been or will be negatively affected by the project.

- Review of SD Vista PD /01-b/
- Interview with the PP and the end users

In the opinion of CCIPL, the project does not affect any party's access to resources or their lands. No negative effects have been identified. In the opinion of VVB, no restitution or compensation allocation to said parties occurred and the project is not required to provide restitution or compensation to any parties as none of parties have been, or will be, negatively affected by the project.

2.4.6 Property Rights Removal/Relocation of Property Rights Holders

Not Applicable.

The project activities do not involve the removal or relocation of property rights holders from lands or territories, nor do they force rights holders to relocate activities.

2.4.7 Identification of Illegal Activities

Following steps has been taken to assess to assess any illegal activities identified by the project that could affect the project's impacts and the measures planned to reduce such activities.

- Review of SD Vista PD /01-b/
- Interview with the PP and the end users

The assessment team concludes that the project has adequately identified all illegal activities and taken measures to ensure that project benefits do not result from illegal activities and is implementing measures to prevent them.

2.4.8 Ongoing Conflicts or Disputes

Not Applicable.

The project activity involves distribution of ICSs to individual households only and it does not require acquisition of property. There is no ongoing or unresolved conflicts or disputes over rights to lands, territories and resources and any disputes that were resolved during the last twenty years.

2.4.9 National and Local Laws and Regulations

Following steps has been taken to assess whether the project complies with all and any relevant local, regional and national laws, statutes and regulatory frameworks.

- Review of SD Vista PD /01-b/
- Interview with the PP and web-research including opinion from the local expert

CC IPL therefore confirms that there are no rules or regulations governing the use of improved cookstoves in Liberia.

2.4.10 Project Ownership

PP has the legal rights over the project, the assessment team has checked this during video interviews and document review /05/ and acknowledges of the contractual agreement with the beneficiaries of the ICS project and finds that the PP's project ownership in accordance with SD VISta requirements /B01/.

2.4.11 Grouped Projects

Not applicable as the proposed project is not a grouped project.

3 BENEFITS FOR PEOPLE AND PROSPERITY

3.1.1 Condition of Stakeholders at Project Start

The project proponent has adequately explained the conditions of the stakeholders in Section 3.1 of the PD /01-b/. The direct and indirect impact of the project on their activities, is conveyed. The assessment team of CC IPL evaluated whether these descriptions are appropriate based on individuals interviewed during the video interviews and confirmed that the stakeholders' descriptions are accurate. The assessment team concludes that stakeholder descriptions include the conditions at the start of the project, significant changes in the past, the diversity between and within stakeholder groups, and interactions between stakeholder groups.

3.1.2 Expected Stakeholder Impacts

The assessment below provides the steps taken to assess the expected impacts on each stakeholder group resulting from project activities. This assessment consists each of the identified impacts for each group as below:

Impact #1	Average household money savings due to decrease in expenditure on basic services such as purchased fuel after shifting to project technology.
Type of Impact	Positive, Predicted, Direct
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	End user households
Resulting Change in Well-being	Household expenditures on purchased cooking fuel will be reduced with the use of the ICS as it shall reduce the fuel consumption by virtue of its increased efficiency. Thus, project ICS shall result in money savings in beneficiary households.
Assessment by the VVB	VVB based on review of documents and video interviews with the end user confirms the expected impact of this project on the Affected Stakeholder Group(s). The description in section 3.2 of the SD Vista PD /01-b/ is deemed appropriate.

Impact #2	% Users reporting reduction in smoke/PM after shifting to ICS in project.
Type of Impact	Positive, Predicted, Direct
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	End user households, especially women and children
Resulting Change in Well-being	The emission of indoor pollutants from inefficient burning of solid biomass fuels in the beneficiary households will be reduced. The project ICS shall aid improved combustion of fuel thereby reducing smoke and Particulate matter (PM) emissions.
Assessment by the VVB	VVB based on sectoral expertise and video interviews with the implementing partner staff and CARBONIBUS S.R.L country staff confirms the expected impact of this project on the Affected Stakeholder Group(s). The description in section 3.2 of the SD Vista PD /01-b/ is deemed appropriate.

Impact #3	Number of people receiving formal and/or non-formal education and training.
Type of Impact	Positive, Predicted, Direct
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	End user households, especially children and adults
Resulting Change in Well-being	The project activity targets in providing formal and non-formal education and training to local people under the project activity. This will lead to ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable, quality technical, vocational, and tertiary education.

Assessment by the VVB	VVB based on sectoral expertise and video interviews with the end user confirms the expected impact of this project on the Affected Stakeholder Group(s). The description in section 3.2 of the SD Vista PD /01-b/ is deemed appropriate.
Impact #4	The average time saving associated with cooking and fuel collection time due to adoption of project technology / measures.
Type of Impact	Positive, Predicted, Direct
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	End user households, especially women and children
Resulting Change in Well-being	The project ICS shall save time in cooking activities (by faster cooking) as well as save time in fuel procurement (reduced collection time or reduced purchase trips to market) due to reduced fuel consumption. This shall free the women involved in these activities (unpaid work) and utilize the same in more productive and income generating tasks.
Assessment by the VVB	VVB based on sectoral expertise and video interviews with the end user confirms the expected impact of this project on the Affected Stakeholder Group(s). The description in section 3.2 of the SD Vista PD /01-b/ is deemed appropriate.

Impact #5	Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology
Type of Impact	Positive, Actual, Direct
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	End user households
Resulting Change in Well-being	The project involves installation and dissemination of clean, modern technology for cooking. The project ICS shall be made available free of cost to beneficiary households.
Assessment by the VVB	VVB based on review of documents, sectoral expertise and video interviews with the end user confirms the expected impact of this project on the Affected Stakeholder Group(s). The description in section 3.2 of the SD Vista PD /01-b/ is deemed appropriate.

Impact #6	Number of male / female jobs created by project
Type of Impact	Positive, Predicted, Direct
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	Implementing partner staff
Resulting Change in Well-being	The project will create local jobs opportunities in operational and management roles, as well as in manufacturing, distribution, and logistics.
Assessment by the VVB	VVB based on sectoral expertise and video interviews with PP confirms the expected impact of this project on the Affected Stakeholder Group(s). The description in section 3.2 of the SD Vista PD /01-b/ is deemed appropriate.

Assessment team of CCIPL has reviewed the SD VISta PD /01-b/ and confirms that the expected stakeholder impacts are identified based on the interested stakeholder groups and their interests and involvement in

project activities. The stakeholder impacts are expected to both directly and indirectly affect the interested stakeholder groups.

VVB concludes that the expected impacts for each stakeholder group identified in the project description are likely to occur.

3.1.3 Mitigation of Negative Impacts on Stakeholders

Assessment team of CCIPL based on document review and video interviews confirms that most of the activities initiated during the project period have positive impacts on a large segment of communities in the project area compared to the baseline scenario. PP has detailed a plan in SD VISta PD /01-b/, which will ensure continuous monitoring and collection of effects that are considered by CARBONIBUS S.R.L, and appropriate mitigation steps are taken in project design if unintended negative impacts arise.

The assessment team based on document review /01/ and video interviews, further concludes that the project has measures in place to mitigate and minimize the stakeholder negative impacts.

3.1.4 Stakeholder Monitoring Plan

In SD VISta PD /01-b/, a stakeholder monitoring plan is developed by the Project Proponent based on the expected stakeholder impacts from the project activities. More detail about the Stakeholder Impact Assessment Monitoring Plan can be found in Section 3.3 of the PD /01-b/.

The assessment team of CCIPL team reviewed stakeholder impact assessment monitoring plan set forth in the SD VISta PD /01-b/ as provided below:

This section explains the monitoring approach that will be undertaken by the PP to monitor the impacts of the designed project activities observed on the key stakeholders associated with the project activity. Moreover, due to the large number of ICS envisaged to be distributed in the programme, representative sampling will be used in accordance with the methodology used and the Standard: sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and programmes of activities, version 9.0.

Sampling will be conducted using stratified random sampling techniques over the sampling frame, and detailed calculations are provided as per CDM guidelines “Sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and programmes of activities” the ICS in the sampling frame shall be stratified as per parameter requirements.

The following table summarizes the monitoring approach and monitoring frequency for each SDG (other than SDG 13 and 15):

Impact#	SDG Indicator	Monitoring parameters	Monitoring Approach	Monitoring frequency
Impact #1	1.4	Average household money savings due to decrease in expenditure on purchased fuel after shifting to project technology.	Monitoring survey	Annual / Biennial
Impact #2	3.9	% Users reporting reduction in smoke/PM after shifting to ICS in project.	Monitoring survey	Annual / Biennial
Impact #3	4.3.1	Number of people receiving formal and/or non-formal education and training.	Education & Training Records	Annual / Biennial
Impact #4	5.4.1	Average time saving associated with cooking and fuel collection time due to	Monitoring survey	Annual / Biennial

		adoption of project technology / measures.		
Impact #5	7.1.2	Number of Beneficiaries under the project i.e., Number of ICS distributed under the project.	Sales database record	Annual / Biennial
Impact #5	7.1.2	% Users reporting operational project stove	This parameter will be monitored under VCS program. No separate sampling or monitoring will be undertaken under SD VISta program.	Annual / Biennial
Impact #6	8.5	Number of male / female jobs created by project	HR records	Annual / Biennial

VVB concludes that the Project Proponent will be able to effectively monitor the impacts Project Activities will have on stakeholders. Details are provided on data collection methods for all monitored outputs and can be readily aligned with other framework monitoring of SDGs.

In opinion of the CCIPL team, all necessary parameters required to support all impacts and claims described in the project, expected and net impacts are contained in the monitoring plan and are clearly described. Details on the methods for collection of data for each output that is being monitored, particularly regarding the monitoring frequency and methods and SDG Target or Indicator, are provided. After the review of evidence provided by the PP, the interview, and communications with PP, CCIPL confirms that monitoring arrangements described in the monitoring plan under section 4.3 of the SD VISta PD /01-b/ are feasible within the project design and that the PP will be able to implement the monitoring plan in line with the requirements of SD VISta standard version 1.0 /B01-a/.

3.1.5 Net Positive Stakeholder Wellbeing Impacts

In the SD VISta PD /01-b/, section 3.4, most of the activities initiated during the project period have positive impacts on a large segment of communities in the project area compared to the baseline scenario.

In Liberia, 98.0% of households use solid fuel for cooking with firewood being the primary source of solid fuel (54.1% of household use) . There is differential in cooking fuel use in between rural & urban areas of Liberia. The rural households have reported using wood as the primary cooking fuel, being used by 86.8% of households, followed by charcoal being used by 11.9% of households. On the other hand, urban households have reported using charcoal as the primary cooking fuel, being used by 73.6% of households, followed by wood being used by 20.5% of households. VVB based on its sectoral and regional expertise, deemed the justification as appropriate.

SD VISta PD /01-b/, impact on fuel sellers is an unintended but negligible negative consequence because major population of Liberia is dependent on biomass fuel for cooking while project size is very small relatively. The project does not introduce any new fuel/processed fuel replacing woody biomass but only address the inefficient cooking by introduction of more efficient stoves. Thus, the project does not compromise in any extent, the fuel sellers as it shall cater to a very small portion of the 98% population relying on solid fuels for cooking. On the contrary, the project has positive impacts on the following SDGs:

	Target beneficiary	SDG Indicator	Parameter	Impact
Economic Well-Being	End user households	1.4.	Average monthly household savings due to decrease in	Positive

			expenditure on purchased fuel after shifting to project technology/ measures.	
	Employees hired during various stages of project implementation & operation	8.5	Number of male / female jobs created by project.	Positive
Social Well-Being	Children and Adults	4.3.1	Number of people receiving formal and non-formal education and training.	Positive
	Women and Children	5.4.1	Average time saving associated with collecting fuel and cooking	Positive
	End user households	7.1.2	Number of ICS distributed under the project.	Positive
	End user households	7.1.2	% Users reporting operational project stove	Positive
Environmental well-being	End user households with focus on women who are primary cooks	3.9	% Users reporting reduction in smoke/PM after shifting to ICS in project.	Positive

According to CCIPL, the net impacts of the project activities are likely to be positive for each stakeholder group. The assessment team of CCIPL during the course of validation has checked the net impact by their outcomes during the video interviews with the representative of CARBONIBUS S.R.L, end users and other stakeholders involved. They confirmed the results mentioned, which is also supported in the documentary evidence provided for the validation (see Appendix 1: Information reference list). Therefore, it can be claimed that the anticipated net impacts of the project activities are positive for interested stakeholder groups and deemed acceptable to the assessment team of CCIPL.

4 BENEFITS FOR THE PLANET

4.1.1 Condition of Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services at Project Start

In the SD VISta PD /01-b/, PP has described the conditions of natural capital and ecosystem services prior to the project start and their potential threats in section 4.1 of the PD. The assessment team based on review of SD VISta PD and provided evidence confirms the appropriateness of these description in the SD VISta PD /01-b/. The description of the conditions prior to the start of the project and the threats faced by the ecosystems were confirmed during the desk review by CCIPL through interviews of local stakeholders. Hence, CCIPL confirms that the PP has described accurately the conditions at the project start date with respect to of natural capital and ecosystem services and includes real and possible threats.

4.1.2 Expected Impacts on Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services

CC IPL has noted that PP has identified the expected impacts on natural capital and ecosystem services through the definition of the causal chains of the project activity as described in section 2.1.9 and appendix 1 of the SD VISta PD /01-b/. Furthermore, the section 4.2 of the SD VISta PD /01/ provides expected impacts on natural capital and ecosystem services with associated benefits and methods for monitoring. As per the SD VISta PD /01-b/, the resulting drop in fuel wood due to efficient cook stoves deployed under the project would lead to less deforestation, thus increasing the renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption of the project area. This would also reduce the negative annual net change rate of forest area in Liberia and thus increase forest area as a proportion of the total land area.

After reviewing the evidence provided by the PP and collecting the information through interviews/inspections, the assessment team confirms that expected impacts on natural capital and ecosystem services resulting from project activities identified in the PD are likely to occur.

Further, Global Forest Watch (database by World Resources Institute) ² and the 2020 SDG 7: Energy Progress Report 2022, Chapter-2³ confirms that traditional cooking methods are prevalent across the host country. The use of traditional inefficient biomass stoves is a significant driver of deforestation. Widespread usage of unsustainably sourced, non-renewable biomass (NRB) for cooking results in equivalent GHG emissions attributed to use of non-renewable biomass. The use of project ICS prevent the same. The same is properly described by the PP in section 4.1 of the PD. Further, the monitoring parameter for SDG 15 (non-renewable biomass saved by the project), allows as objective assessment of project's contribution on Natural capital.

In opinion of CCIPL, the PP has appropriately estimated the type and magnitude of the project's impacts on the on natural capital and ecosystem services, as required by section 3.2.4 of the SD VISTA Standard v1.0 /B01-a/.

4.1.3 Mitigation of Negative Impacts on Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services

Following steps has been taken to assess the measures needed and designed to cause any negative impacts on natural capital and ecosystem services.

- Review of SD Vista PD /01-b/
- Interview with the PP and the end users

No negative impacts /01-b/ have been identified on natural capital and ecosystem services on implementation of project activities.

² <https://www.globalforestwatch.org/dashboards/country/LBR>

³ <https://trackingsdg7.esmap.org/downloads>

VVB concludes that the project is expected to mitigate any negative impacts on natural capital and ecosystem services. This is deemed appropriate to assessment team of CCIPL.

4.1.4 Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services Monitoring Plan

The PP has designed a monitoring plan to track the effects of the project activities on the natural capital and ecosystem services, which is described in section 4.3 of the SD VISta PD /01-b/. As verified from the SD VISta PD /01-b/ and through video interviews, VVB confirms that project intends replacement of Traditional stoves with ICS in Liberian households. This will reduce an estimated ~2.51 tons of non-renewable biomass/stove. The methodological equations used for estimations of the woody biomass savings can be referred from Monitoring Report for the corresponding SD VISta period of VCS Project.

As per the SD VISta PD /01-b/, the following data and parameters will be monitored under the project to assess the impacts on the natural capital and ecosystem. The sampling approach adopted for collecting the corresponding data has been presented in section 3.3 of the SD VISta PD /01-b/.

Impact#	SDG Indicator	Monitoring Parameter	Monitoring approach	Frequency
Impact# 1	13.0	Tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions avoided or removed	This parameter will be monitored under VCS program. No separate sampling or monitoring will be undertaken under SDVISta program.	Annual / Biennial
Impact# 2	15.2.1	Total non-renewable wood fuel saved after shifting to project device	This parameter will be monitored under VCS program. No separate sampling or monitoring will be undertaken under SD VISta program.	Annual / Biennial

In the opinion of the CCIPL team, the natural capital and ecosystem service monitoring plan including all necessary parameters will allow the project to effectively monitor impacts on natural capital and ecosystem service.

4.1.5 Net Positive Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services Impacts

The assessment team of CCIPL based on a comparison of the with and without project scenarios, there is evidence that the key drivers to the focal Issues are likely to worsen in absence of the project activity. The condition of Nature Capital and Ecosystem services are mentioned in section 4.1 of the SD VISta PD /01-b/By replacing three-stone cook stoves and other traditionally used fuel-inefficient fire cook stoves with ICS technology the primary project activity, will generate an estimated ~11,392,289 tCO₂e GHG emissions over the Seven-year project crediting period. Thus, CCIPL deemed that the estimated net impacts of the project activities are likely to be positive for natural capital and ecosystem services.

5 OPTIONAL: CLIMATE MODULE

5.1 Baseline Scenario for GHG Sinks and Sources

Not applicable

5.1.1 Defensible Methodological Approach

Not applicable

5.1.2 Baseline Emissions

Not applicable

5.2 Monitoring

5.2.1 Emissions Reductions and Removals Monitoring Plan

Not applicable

5.2.2 Dissemination of Monitoring Plan and Results

Not applicable

5.2.3 Project Emissions

Not applicable

5.2.4 Leakage

Not applicable

5.2.5 Net GHG Emission Reductions and Removals

Not applicable

6 OPTIONAL: SD VISTA ASSETS

6.1 SD VISTA Asset

Not applicable

6.1.1 Methodology

Not applicable

6.1.2 Project Crediting Period

Not applicable

6.1.3 Project Boundary

Not applicable

6.1.4 Baseline Scenario

Not applicable

6.1.5 Additionality

Not applicable

6.1.6 Methodology Deviations

Not applicable

6.1.7 Data and Parameters Available at Validation

Not applicable

6.1.8 Monitored Data and Parameters

Not applicable

6.1.9 Monitoring Plan

Not applicable

6.1.10 Benefit Quantification

Not applicable

6.2 Assets from Other Programs

Not applicable

6.2.1 Participation under Other Programs

Not applicable

6.2.2 Rejection from Other Programs

Not applicable

7 VALIDATION CONCLUSION

The Project Participant, CARBONIBUS S.R. L, has commissioned the VVB, Carbon Check (India) Private Ltd. to perform an independent validation of the VCS Project Activity “IMPROVED COOKSTOVES IN LIBERIA”. This report summarizes the findings of the validation of the project, performed on the basis of VCS criteria, as well as criteria given to provide for consistent project operations, monitoring and reporting.

The validation process was performed on the basis of all guidance and criteria as provided in SD VISTA Standard /B01-a/ and SD VISTA Program Guide /B01-b /.

The project activity provides the information in PD/01-b/ as required by the SD VISTA Standard /B01-a/ in Carbon Check’s opinion meets the requirements of the applied baseline and monitoring methodology, VMR0006 version 1.1 /B02/and is likely to achieve the estimated emission reductions. The validation has been performed using a risk- based approach, as described above. The expected average emission reduction from the project activity is approximately ~11,392,289 tCO_{2e} GHG emissions over the Seven-year project crediting period.

The validation is based on the SD VISTA PD /01-b/, proof of title, proof of right, additional documents related to SDG impacts; the subsequent background investigation, follow-up video interviews and supporting documents made available to the assessment team of CCIPL by project proponent.

Validation confirm that the project complies with the validation criteria for project set out in the Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard and the SD VISTA Program Guide /B01-b/, including for the validation.

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

- The project fulfils the criteria of SD VISTA Standard /B01-a/.
- The project is in line with all relevant SD VISTA requirements /B01/.
- The project SDGs are sufficiently justified in the SD VISTA PD /01-b/.

APPENDIX 1.1: REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Ref	Document
/01/	a. SD VISta PD, version 01, dated; 21/02/2023 b. SD VISta PD, version 04, dated; 18/04/2024
/02/	VCS PD, ER estimation spread sheet and correspond Validation report to VCS PD
/03/	Evidence for the start date of the project
/04/	Technical specifications of the project stoves including the life span.
/05/	Proof of the ownership of the VERs
/06/	Company registration certificate for the PP
/07/	Records of Local stakeholders' consultation meeting as per the SD Vista requirements including PPT, Stakeholder feedback, non-technical summary, LSC minutes of meeting.
/08/	Records of all training conducted by the project proponent
/09/	Evidence supporting the following: • Avoidance of Corruption • National and Local Laws and Regulations • Grievance redress procedure • Worker's rights • Equal work opportunities • Anti-Discrimination • Continued Consultation and Adaptive Management
/10/	Evidence of any direct benefit from the activity done by the Project Proponent for the end user and community of the target region of the host country.
/11/	Procedure/provision of ICS maintenance & replacement.
/12/	Monitoring survey questionnaire template developed for the SD Vista Project
/13/	Report and Calculation spread sheet of fNRB
/14/	Contract between the CCIPL (VVB) and CARBONIBUS S.R.L (PP) for the SD Vista validation of the project
/15/	Evidence for the baseline stoves used and its efficiency.
/16/	Copy of template survey for the ex-post monitoring of SDG parameters.

APPENDIX 1.2: BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Ref	Document
/B01/	SD VISta Requirements a. SD VISta Standard (v1.0, dated 22/01/2019) b. SD VISta Program Guide (v1.0, dated 22/01/2019) c. SD VISta Program Definitions version (v1.0, dated 22/01/2019) d. SD VISta PD template version (v1.0, dated 22/01/2019)
/B02/	Applied baseline and monitoring methodology: o VMR0006. version 1.1, "Methodology for Installation of High Efficiency Firewood Cookstoves"
/B03/	Website and links: 1. IPCC (http://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp) 2. https://verra.org/project/sd-vista/

APPENDIX 2: ABBREVIATIONS

BE	Baseline Emission
CAR	Corrective Action Request
CC IPL	Carbon Check (India) Private Ltd.
CL	Clarification Request
CO₂	Carbon Dioxide
CO_{2e}	Carbon Dioxide Equivalent
EF	Emission Factor
ER	Emission Reduction
FAR	Forward Action Request
FVR	Final validation Report
GHG	Greenhouse gas(es)
NA	Not Applicable
PD	Project Description
PP	Project Proponent
QC/QA	Quality control/Quality assurance
TR	Technical Review
TSFs	Three Stone Fire cook stoves
VCS	Verified Carbon Standard
VCSA	Verified Carbon Standard Association
VCU	Verified Carbon Unit
SD VISTA	Sustainable Development Verified Impact standard

APPENDIX 3: CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCE



Carbon Check (India) Private Limited

Certificate of Competency

Mr. Sanjay Kumar Agarwalla

has been qualified as per CCIPL's internal qualification procedures in accordance with the requirements of CDM AS (V7.0), ISO/IEC 14065:2020, ISO/IEC 17029:2019 and other applicable GHG programs:

for the following functions and requirements:

☒ Validator	☒ Verifier	☒ Team Leader	☒ Technical Expert
☒ Technical Reviewer	☐ Health Expert	☐ Gender Expert	☐ Plastic Waste Expert
☐ CCB Expert	☐ Legal Expert	☒ Financial Expert	☐ Environmental, Health and Safety financial matters
☒ SDG+	☒ Social no-harm(S+)	☒ Environment no-harm(E+)	
☒ Local Expert for India and Bangladesh			

in the following Technical Areas:

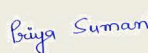
☒ TA 1.1	☒ TA 1.2	☒ TA 2.1	☒ TA 3.1	☒ TA 4.1
☐ TA 4. n	☒ TA 5.1	☒ TA 5.2	☒ TA 7.1	☐ TA 8.1
☒ TA 9.1	☒ TA 9.2	☒ TA 10.1	☒ TA 13.1	☒ TA 13.2
☐ TA 14.1	☐ TA 15.1	☒ TA 16.1		

Issue Date

05th December 2023

Expiry Date

31st December 2024



Ms. Priya Suman
Compliance Officer

Revision History of the document:

Revision	Summary of changes
2022 ¹	Annual revision
Jan 2023	Annual revision and template change
Dec 2023	Change in the template due to revision in TA and function

CCIPL_FM 7.9 Certificate of Competency_V4.0_112023

¹ Please refer to previous version of FM 7.9 for the revision history



Carbon Check (India) Private Limited

Certificate of Competency

Mr. Dinesh Mane

has been qualified as per CCIPL's internal qualification procedures in accordance with the requirements of CDM AS (V7.0), ISO/IEC14065:2020, ISO/IEC 17029:2019 and other applicable GHG programs:

for the following functions and requirements:

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| ☒ Validator | ☒ Verifier | ☒ Team Leader | ☒ Technical Expert |
| ☐ Technical Reviewer | ☐ Health Expert | ☐ Gender Expert | ☐ Plastic Waste Expert |
| ☐ CCB Expert | ☐ Legal Expert | ☒ Financial Expert | ☐ Environmental, Health and Safety financial matters |
| ☒ SDG+ | ☒ Social no-harm(S+) | ☒ Environment no-harm(E+) | |
| ☒ Local Expert for India | | | |

in the following Technical Areas:

- | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| ☐ TA 1.1 | ☒ TA 1.2 | ☐ TA 2.1 | ☒ TA 3.1 | ☐ TA 4.1 |
| ☐ TA 4. n | ☐ TA 5.1 | ☐ TA 5.2 | ☐ TA 7.1 | ☐ TA 8.1 |
| ☐ TA 9.1 | ☐ TA 9.2 | ☐ TA 10.1 | ☒ TA 13.1 | ☐ TA 13.2 |
| ☐ TA 14.1 | ☐ TA 15.1 | ☐ TA 16.1 | | |

Issue Date

5th December 2023

Expiry Date

31st December 2024

Priya Suman

Ms. Priya Suman
Compliance Officer

Sanjay Agarwalla

Mr. Sanjay Kumar Agarwalla
Technical Director

Revision History of the document:

Revision date	Summary of changes
2022 ¹	Annual revision
Jan 2023	Annual revision
Dec 2023	Change in the template due to revision in TA and function
Jan 2023	Addition in function as Financial expert

CCIPL_FM 7.9 Certificate of Competency_V4.0_112023

¹ Please refer to previous version of FM 7.9 for the revision history



Carbon Check (India) Private Limited

Certificate of Competency

Toe-Dahn, Mcrina Zakaplay

has been qualified as per CCIPL's internal qualification procedures in accordance with the requirements of CDM AS (V7.0), ISO/IEC14065:2020, ISO/IEC 17029:2019 and other applicable GHG programs:

for the following functions and requirements:

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| ☐ Validator | ☐ Verifier | ☐ Team Leader | ☐ Technical Expert |
| ☐ Technical Reviewer | ☐ Health Expert | ☐ Gender Expert | ☐ Plastic Waste Expert |
| ☐ SDG+ | ☐ Social no-harm(S+) | ☐ Environment no-harm(E+) | ☐ CCB Expert |
| ☐ Financial Expert | ☒ Local Expert for Liberia | | |

in the following Technical Areas:

- | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ☐ TA 1.1 | ☐ TA 1.2 | ☐ TA 2.1 | ☐ TA 3.1 | ☐ TA 4.1 |
| ☐ TA 4. n | ☐ TA 5.1 | ☐ TA 5.2 | ☐ TA 7.1 | ☐ TA 8.1 |
| ☐ TA 9.1 | ☐ TA 9.2 | ☐ TA 10.1 | ☐ TA 13.1 | ☐ TA 13.2 |
| ☐ TA 14.1 | ☐ TA 15.1 | | | |

Issue Date

03rd May 2023

Expiry Date

02nd May 2024



Mr. Vikash Kumar Singh
Compliance Officer



Mr. Amit Anand
CEO



Carbon Check (India) Private Limited

Certificate of Competency

Mr. Shivaji Chakraborty

has been qualified as per CCIPL's internal qualification procedures in accordance with the requirements of CDM AS (V7.0), ISO/IEC 14065:2020, ISO/IEC 17029:2019 and other applicable GHG programs:

for the following functions and requirements:

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| ☐ Validator | ☐ Verifier | ☐ Team Leader | ☒ Technical Expert |
| ☒ Technical Reviewer | ☐ Health Expert | ☐ Gender Expert | ☐ Plastic Waste Expert |
| ☐ CCB Expert | ☐ Legal Expert | ☒ Financial Expert | ☐ Environmental, Health and Safety financial matters |
| ☒ SDG+ | ☒ Social no-harm(S+) | ☒ Environment no-harm(E+) | |
| ☒ Local Expert for India | | | |

in the following Technical Areas:

- | | | | | |
|--|--|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| ☒ TA 1.1 | ☒ TA 1.2 | ☐ TA 2.1 | ☒ TA 3.1 | ☐ TA 4.1 |
| ☐ TA 4. n | ☐ TA 5.1 | ☐ TA 5.2 | ☐ TA 7.1 | ☐ TA 8.1 |
| ☐ TA 9.1 | ☐ TA 9.2 | ☐ TA 10.1 | ☐ TA 13.1 | ☐ TA 13.2 |
| ☐ TA 14.1 | ☐ TA 15.1 | ☐ TA 16.1 | | |

Issue Date

5th December 2023

Expiry Date

31st December 2024

Priya Suman

Ms. Priya Suman
Compliance Officer

Sanjay Agarwalla

Mr. Sanjay Kumar Agarwalla
Technical Director

Revision History of the document:

Revision date	Summary of changes
2022 ¹	Annual revision
Jan 2023	Annual revision
Dec 2023	Change in the template due to revision in TA and function

CCIPL_FM 7.9 Certificate of Competency_V4.0_112023

¹ Please refer to previous version of FM 7.9 for the revision history

APPENDIX 4: FINDINGS LOG

Table 1. CLs from this Validation

CL ID	01	Section no.	2.1	Date: 21/04/2023
Description of CL				
Following findings are raised with respect to section 1 of the SD VISta PD, the resolution of which must also reflect on the information presented in sections 2.1.2, 3.2, 3.3, 4.2, and 4.3 of the PD: - According to section 1 of the SD VISta PD template (version 1.0), “Where a project’s self-defined measure for tracking a benefits does not align with an official SDG indicator, do not provide an indicator number. Instead, write a project-specific indicator that relates to the most appropriate SDG target”. Therefore, PP needs to justify how the project contributions for SDG 1, 3, and 4 align with their respective selected SDG indicators. - According to section 1 of the SD VISta PD template (version 1.0), “Where a project’s impacts can be directly attributed to a quantifiable change in the indicator, write “increase” or “decrease” in the Net Impact on SDG Indicator column. Where this is not feasible, or the project does not have the resources or desire to monitor the parameters necessary to directly attribute a project’s impacts to a quantifiable change in the indicator, write “implemented activities to increase” or “implemented activities to decrease”. In line with this, PP is requested to justify how this requirement is complied with in case of SDG 1, 3, and 4 as the project is not monitoring the exact parameter as stated in the selected indicator. - For SDG 1, the estimated project contribution is household expenditures on purchased cooking fuel whereas the quantifiable contribution is number of ICS distributed. PP needs to clarify how the selected quantifiable contribution will ensure reduction in household expenditures on purchased fuel. Additionally, contributions to indicator 1.4.1 should relate to all nine components of basic services as per the UN SDG meta data for the aforementioned indicator. The project contribution only refers to one of the nine components, i.e., clean fuel technology. Therefore, PP needs to either create a self-defined indicator or remove this contribution. - SDG 1 and SDG 7’s quantifiable contributions are similar. Therefore, PP needs to justify how it would not lead to double claiming. - PP needs to specify what type of formal / non-formal training and education is being provided with respect to quantifiable contributions for SDG 4. - Due to the project’s contribution to SDG 8, 25 jobs are generated. However, PP has indicated that 50 individuals will receive formal and informal training and education as part of the project contribution for SDG 4. Therefore, PP is requested to clarify how only half of the people trained or educated are being employed. - SDG 12 and SDG 15’s quantifiable contributions are similar. Therefore, PP needs to justify how it would not lead to double claiming and explain how it arrived at the conclusion that an average of 3.69 tonnes of fuel is saved per HH/year.				
Project Proponent’s response				Date: 09/05/2023

- a. For SDG 1 and 3, project specific indicators have now been defined in the revised SD VISta PD.

Under SDG 4, the project shall provide informal and formal trainings to resources involved in the project activity. Thus, the project is clearly aligned with SDG indicator 4.3.1 i.e. Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by gender.

- b. For SDG 1 and 3, the indicators have been revised to either specify project specific parameters or align themselves to relevant SDG indicator. The Net impact on SDG indicator have been revised for SDG 1,3 and 4 to be in line with the template.
- c. The metadata of SDG 1.4.1 nowhere mandates that proposed contributions to indicator 1.4.1 shall relate to all nine components of basic services. These nine components pertain to different sectors, and it is unlikely that a project contributes to all of them simultaneously. However, given the earlier proposed contribution under 1.4.1 was getting covered under SDG indicator 7.1.2, hence indicator for SDG 1 has been made a project specific indicator.
- d. For SDG 1, quantifiable contribution has been revised now to be different from that in case of SDG 7.
- e. The project activity targets providing formal and/or non-formal education and training to resources involved in the project activity (approx. 50 people). These formal / informal trainings may pertain to operations, sales & marketing, data collection, monitoring etc. as deemed required during the course of the crediting period.
- f. For SDG 4 and SDG 8 are not dependent on each other. PP may also be involved in providing training to those who are not employed by PP under the project activity. Thus, no change to either SDG 4 or SDG 8 is necessitated.

SDG 12 is removed from PD. . On the other hand, SDG 15's quantifiable contributions are related to the savings of non-renewable biomass, which will lead to the preservation of existing forest resources and the protection of natural forest ecosystems and wildlife habitats.

The value of average non-renewable biomass saved per year is now changed to 2.51 tonnes/HH/year in the PD. This value is calculated by computing weighted average of By,savings of both wood and charcoal stove types, which is then multiplied by fNRB.

Documentation provided by Project Proponent

SD VISta Project Description Liberia ver. 2.0_09052023_TC

Verra VCS 4219 Ex-ante ER Calculator ver 2.0 30042023

VVB assessment

Date: 10/05/2023

- a. In the revised SD Vista PD, PP has now defined relevant project level indicators for SDGs 1 and 3. Also, PP has clarified how the project level indicator corresponds with the related UN level indicator for SDG 4. This has been validated and found to be acceptable.
- b. PP has defined project-specific indicators for SDGs 1 and 3 in the revised SD Vista PD to align them with the Net impact on SDG indicator. Moreover, the Net impact on SDG indicator for SDGs 1, 3, and 4 has been revised in accordance with the template requirement.
- c. PP has now defined project specific indicator for SDG 1.
- d. The quantifiable contributions for SDG 1 and SDG 7 has been revised to be distinct from one another.
- e. For SDG 4, the Clarification provided by the PP is deemed acceptable.
- f. PP clarifies that SDG 4 and SDG 8 are not interrelated, and training will also be provided to those who are not employed as part of the project activity. According to the clarification provided by the PP, the validation team deems this acceptable.
- g. The clarification provided by the PP for the quantifiable contributions of SDG 15 is deemed acceptable by the validation team. In accordance with the clarification provided, PP has revised the PD to include the required changes. SDG 12 is removed by the PP.

CL 01 is closed

CL ID	02	Section no.	2.3.1	Date: 21/04/2023
Description of CL				
In section 2.2.1 of the PD, PP needs to describe what methods are used to identify all the stakeholders.				
Project participant response				Date: 09/05/2023
Section 2.2.1 of the PD has been revised accordingly to include information related to the stakeholder meeting conducted under the project activity.				
Documentation provided by the Project proponent				
SD VISTA Project Description Liberia ver. 2.0_09052023_TC				
VVB assessment				Date: 10/05/2023
PP has now revised section 2.2.1 of the PD to include the methods used to identify the stakeholders. CL 02 is closed.				

CL ID	03	Section no.	2.3.2	Date: 21/04/2023
Description of CL				
In section 2.2.2 of the PD, PP needs to list all the stakeholder groups and provide a provide a brief description of each group's relevance to the project.				
Project participant response				Date: 09/05/2023
Section 2.2.2 of the PD has been revised accordingly to include information related to the stakeholder meeting conducted under the project activity.				
Documentation provided by the Project proponent				
SD VISTA Project Description Liberia ver. 2.0_09052023_TC				
VVB assessment				Date: 10/05/2023
Section 2.2.2 of the revised PD now includes a list of all stakeholder groups as well as a brief description of each group's relevance to the project. CL 03 is closed.				

CL ID	04	Section no.	2.3.3	Date: 21/04/2023
Description of CL				
In section 2.2.12 of the PD, PP is requested to clarify how the project documentation has been and will be made available to all stakeholders who might have trouble locating it online.				
Project participant response				Date: 09/05/2023
Stakeholders may visit to the local office for hard copies of the project documents in case if they do not have online access. Section 2.2.12 of the PD has been revised accordingly.				
Documentation provided by the Project proponent				
SD VISTA Project Description Liberia ver. 2.0_09052023_TC				
VVB assessment				Date: 10/05/2023
The clarification provided by the PP for the accessibility of project documentation to stakeholders without online access is deemed acceptable. Section 2.2.12 of the revised PD has been updated to reflect this. CL 04 is closed.				

Table 2. CARs from this Validation

CAR ID	01	Section no.	-	Date: 21/04/2023
Description of CAR				
Following findings are raised with respect to the cover page of the SD VISTA PD:				
a. PP needs to state the VCS project reference number against the row titled "Other Certification Programs".				
b. According to the requirement SDVISTA PD template (version 1.0), PP needs to add its contact number against the row titled "Project Proponent(s)".				

Project Proponent's response	Date: 09/05/2023
Cover Page of the PD has been revised accordingly.	
Documentation provided by Project Proponent	
<i>SD VISta Project Description Liberia ver. 2.0_09052023_TC</i>	
VVB assessment	Date: 10/05/2023
a. PP has now included the VCS project reference number against the row titled "Other Certification Programs" on cover page of the revised PD. b. Project Proponent's contact number has been added on the cover page of the revised PD. CAR 01 is closed.	

CAR ID	02	Section no.	-	Date: 21/04/2023
Description of CAR				
PP needs to complete all the sections of the PD using Arial 10 point or Century Gothic 10.5-point, black, regular (non-italic) font as per the SD VISta PD template (version 1.0) requirement.				
Project Proponent's response				Date: 09/05/2023
PD has been revised accordingly to be consistent with the template requirements.				
Documentation provided by Project Proponent				
SD VISta Project Description Liberia ver. 2.0_09052023_TC				
VVB assessment				Date: 10/05/2023
PP has satisfactorily revised the PD as per the aforementioned instructions of the project description template (version 4.2). CAR 02 is closed.				

CAR ID	03	Section no.	2.2.5	Date: 21/04/2023
Description of CAR				
In section 2.1.6 of the PD, PP needs to state whether the proposed project is a grouped project or not, to comply with the SD VISta template (version 1.0) requirement.				
Project Proponent's response				Date: 09/05/2023
Section 2.1.6 of the PD has been revised to confirm that it is a large-scale project and not a grouped project.				
Documentation provided by Project Proponent				
SD VISta Project Description Liberia ver. 2.0_09052023_TC				
VVB assessment				Date: 10/05/2023
PP has now revised section 2.1.6 of the PD to include the necessary correction to comply with the SD Vista template (version 1.0) requirement.				
CAR 03 is closed.				

CAR ID	04	Section no.	2.3.3	Date: 21/04/2023
Description of CAR				
In section 2.2.3 of the PD, PP needs to describe how information about potential cost, risks and benefits was shared with each stakeholder group and how project design has been affected by stakeholder input along with demonstration of special attention paid to optimizing benefits for any marginalized and/or vulnerable groups to comply with the SD VISta template requirement.				
Project Proponent's response				Date: 09/05/2023
A non-technical summary of the project was shared to the stakeholders including all relevant project details, risks and benefits, SDG monitoring plan, and other aspects of the project. The stakeholder inputs were appreciative and did not necessitate a change in the design of the project. The fact that stoves under the project are subsidized, substantiates optimizing the benefits to the marginalized and/or vulnerable groups.				
Section 2.2.3 of the PD has been revised accordingly to include comprehensive details of the stakeholders consultation conducted.				
Documentation provided by Project Proponent				
SD VISta Project Description Liberia ver. 2.0_09052023_TC				
VVB assessment				Date: 10/05/2023

Section 2.2.3 of the PD has been updated to incorporate the information required to meet the SD Vista template requirement.
CAR 04 is closed.

CAR ID	05	Section no.	2.3.5	Date: 21/04/2023
Description of CAR				
In section 2.2.5 of the PD, PP needs to demonstrate the measures planned to ensure anti-discrimination to comply with the SD VISta template requirement.				
Project Proponent's response				Date: 09/05/2023
Section 2.2.5 of the PD has been revised accordingly. PP fosters an environment of mutual respect where employees and business partners can work together without fear of harassment, discrimination, or infringement on human rights. The project activity does not endorse any form of discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, religion, race etc. PP has policies to make sure that no discrimination based on (gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, or other habits) or sexual harassment with respect to the project.				
Documentation provided by Project Proponent				
<i>SD VISta Project Description Liberia ver. 2.0_09052023_TC</i>				
VVB assessment				Date: 10/05/2023
PP has updated section 2.2.5 of the revised PD to include the measures planned to ensure anti-discrimination in accordance with SD Vista template requirement. CAR 05 is closed.				

CAR ID	06	Section no.	2.3.6	Date: 21/04/2023
Description of CAR				
To comply with the requirement of section 2.2.6 of the SD VISta PD template (version 1.0), PP needs to describe measures planned to provide orientation and training for the project's workers and individual stakeholders involved in carrying out project activities in addition to how this training will result in building locally useful skills and knowledge to increase local participation in project implementation. Additionally, PP also needs to identify how training content and its implementation will be tailored to provide special attention to marginalized and/or vulnerable people.				
Project Proponent's response				Date: 09/05/2023
Section 2.2.6 of the PD has been revised accordingly to detail the types of training to be provided to the project workers and other stakeholders.				
Documentation provided by Project Proponent				
<i>SD VISta Project Description Liberia ver. 2.0_09052023_TC</i>				
VVB assessment				Date: 10/05/2023
PP has now updated section 2.2.6 of the revised PD to incorporate required information as per SD Vista PD template (version 1.0) CAR 06 is closed.				

CAR ID	07	Section no.	2.3.8	Date: 21/04/2023
Description of CAR				
In section 2.2.8 of the PD, PP needs to demonstrate employment practices or policies that will conform with, and uphold the principles and rights of, work addressed in the Core Labour Conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and describe planned measures to inform workers about their rights under relevant laws to comply with the SD VISta template requirement.				
Project Proponent's response				Date: 09/05/2023
Section 2.2.8 of the PD has been revised accordingly. The project activity does not involve any forced labour and the PP, and its local partners ensures that all employment is in compliance with all national laws, local labour regulations and laws. PP is committed to promoting the highest standards of ethical business conduct and to compliance with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations.				
Documentation provided by Project Proponent				
<i>SD VISta Project Description Liberia ver. 2.0_09052023_TC</i>				
VVB assessment				Date: 10/05/2023

PP has satisfactorily revised section 2.2.8 of the PD as per the aforementioned instructions of the project description template (version 4.2).
CAR 07 is closed.

CAR ID	08	Section no.	2.3.9	Date: 21/04/2023
Description of CAR				
In order to comply with the SD VISTA PD template requirement, PP needs to evaluate the circumstances that could develop during project implementation and pose a significant risk to the safety of workers or other stakeholders, in section 2.2.9 of the PD. Additionally, PP is also requested to describe the steps that will be taken to notify workers and specific stakeholders engaged in project activities of risks and to explain how to minimize such risks.				
Project Proponent's response				Date: 09/05/2023
Section 2.2.9 of the PD has been revised accordingly. The employment opportunities generated through this project, or the use of the project stoves do not increase the safety risks that are already present in the landscape of the country. Moreover, accurate care is taken to mitigate the unintended potential occupational safety hazards by contracting workers who have lived in the community for several years and have experienced for the work assigned.				
Documentation provided by Project Proponent				
<i>SD VISTA Project Description Liberia ver. 2.0_09052023_TC</i>				
VVB assessment				Date: 10/05/2023
The PP has modified Section 2.2.9 of the revised PD to reflect the required information as per the SD VISTA PD template requirement. Furthermore, PP also specifies that suitable precautions are taken to mitigate unforeseen consequences. CAR 08 is closed.				

CAR ID	09	Section no.	2.4.1	Date: 21/04/2023
Description of CAR				
In section 2.3.1 of the PD, PP needs to describe measures used to ensure that the project proponent and other entities involved in the project are not involved or complicit in any form of corruption, such as bribery, embezzlement, fraud, favoritism, cronyism, nepotism, extortion, and collusion to comply with the SD VISTA PD template requirement.				
Project Proponent's response				Date: 09/05/2023
Section 2.3.1 of the PD has been revised accordingly. The project participant and its distribution partners are neither involved nor complicit in any form of corruption, such as bribery, embezzlement, fraud, favouritism, cronyism, nepotism, extortion, and collusion. All Carbonibus employees worldwide, including individuals employed by or acting on behalf of Carbonibus or its subsidiaries, are required to comply with the antibribery laws and local laws.				
Documentation provided by Project Proponent				
<i>SD VISTA Project Description Liberia ver. 2.0_09052023_TC</i>				
VVB assessment				Date: 10/05/2023
Section 2.3.1 of the revised PD now contains the measures taken to ensure that the project proponent and other entities involved in the project are not involved or complicit in any type of corruption, in compliance with the SD VISTA PD template requirement. CAR 09 is closed.				

CAR ID	10	Section no.	3.1.1	Date: 21/04/2023
Description of CAR				
In section 3.1 of the PD, in order to comply with the SD VISTA PD template requirement, PP needs to describe the social, economic and cultural conditions at the project start date for each stakeholder group identified, the diversity within and between the stakeholder groups and the interactions between stakeholder groups.				
Project Proponent's response				Date: 09/05/2023
In section 3.1 of the PD, in order to comply with the SD VISTA PD template requirement, PP needs to describe the social, economic and cultural conditions at the project start date for each stakeholder group identified, the diversity within and between the stakeholder groups and the interactions between stakeholder groups.				

Documentation provided by Project Proponent	
<i>SD VISta Project Description Liberia ver. 2.0_09052023_TC</i>	
VVB assessment	Date: 10/05/2023
PP has now revised section 3.1 of the PD to include the social, economic and cultural conditions at the start date of the project for each stakeholder group identified, the diversity within the stakeholder groups and the interactions between them. CAR 10 is closed.	

Table 3. FARs from this Validation

FAR ID	xx	Section no.	Date: DD/MM/YYYY
Description of FAR			
Project Proponent's response			Date: DD/MM/YYYY
Documentation provided by Project Proponent			
VVB assessment			Date: DD/MM/YYYY