

# PROJECT REVIEW REPORT

<b>Project ID</b>	2342
<b>Project Name</b>	<i>Installation of high efficiency wood burning cookstoves in Malawi</i>
<b>Program(s)</b>	VCS
<b>Project Proponent</b>	<i>C-Quest Capital Stoves Asia Limited</i>
<b>Methodology</b>	<i>VMR006 - Methodology for Installation of High Efficiency Firewood Cookstoves V.1.1</i>
<b>Sectoral Scope(s)</b>	<i>Sectoral Scope 3</i>
<b>Validation/Verification Body (VVB)</b>	<i>Carbon Check India Private Limited</i>
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	<i>VCS Standard, v4.1</i>
<b>Date of First Issue</b>	28 September 2021
<b>Date of Final Issue</b>	25 November 2021

## Summary:

An accuracy review of the *Installation of high efficiency wood burning cookstoves in Malawi* registration, approval request has been conducted by Verra in accordance with Section 4.3 of the *Registration and Issuance Process*.

The accuracy review has raised 8 assessment findings and no minor findings, detailed below. The VVB, in coordination with the project proponent, is hereby required to provide a response to the assessment findings presented in Section 1. The 8 assessment findings must be addressed to the satisfaction of Verra.

This project review report will be made publicly available. Confidential information may be provided as separate attachments.

## 1. ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

### Finding 1

As per the VCS Standard V4.1, Section 3.16.8, the project proponent shall take due account of any and all comments received during the consultation, which means it will need to either update the project design or demonstrate the insignificance or irrelevance of the comment. It shall also demonstrate to the validation/verification body what action it has taken. According to our CRM records, the project received six comments during the public comment period.

However, it was noticed that the project description document Section 2.4 states that “This section is not applicable as the project is listed under development.”

The project proponent and VVB are requested to complete the project description and validation report with the public comment period information and correct the project status.

#### PP and VVB Response:

**PP:** PP has now addressed the comments raised during public comment period and incorporated the responses in section 2.4 of the revised PD. PP would like to specify that no changes were required to be made in the PD in response to the public comments.

**VVB:-** As per the VCS standard v4.1 and the guidance provided on the VERRA project page states “*This project was open for public comment from 29/09/2020 to 29/10/2020. Any comments received have been uploaded in the "Other Documents" section below*”. VVB during course of validation referred the “other documents” section of the project page, which do not show any comments. PP has now confirmed that public comments received during the commenting period, and is been incorporated in the section 2.4 of the revised PD, hence the clarification provided by PP is deemed acceptable to the validation team. Section 2.4 of the VCS PD has been revised accordingly; checked and confirmed by the VVB. Appropriate changes has been done in section 3.2.4 of the validation report.

#### Verra Response:

The information with regards to the public comment period has been provided and the VVB has assessed this addition. Therefore, no further action is required, and this finding is closed.

### Finding 2

As per the VCS Standard V4.1, Section 3.16.3, the project proponent shall establish mechanisms for ongoing communication with local stakeholders to allow stakeholders to raise concerns about potential negative impacts during project implementation.

However, Section 2.2 of the project description document does not include information on the mechanism established by the project proponent for ongoing communication with local stakeholders.

The VVB is required to explain how the project description document complies with the VCS Standard V4.1 requirements.

#### PP and VVB Response:

**PP:** The PP will ensure that regular feedback mechanism is developed which will provide an opportunity to relevant stakeholders to give their comments and suggestions on the project implementation and corresponding ground realities. Description about the plan of the mechanism has been added in section

2.2 of the revised PD.

**VVB:-** PP has incorporated the regular feedback mechanism in the section 2.2 of the revised PD, this has been checked and deemed appropriate by the VVB. VVB confirms that the revised project description complies with the VCS standard v4.1 section 3.16.3 requirement.

**Verra Response:**

Section 2.2 of the project description document has been updated to include information on the mechanism for ongoing communication with local stakeholders. The VVB has also checked this addition. Therefore, no further action is required, and this finding is closed.

### Finding 3

In Section 1.1 (page 4) of the project description states that “it is intended that under this project single pot, TLC-CQC Rocket Stove will be distributed”, and in Section 5.3 of the project description, the project proponent indicates that “the project activity is open to different models of ICS.”

The project proponent is required to provide further clarification if the project will distribute only one kind of improved cook stove model or different models as Section 1.1 (page 4) of the project description states that "it is intended that under this project single pot, TLC-CQC Rocket Stove will be distributed." However, in the project description (page 34) states "the project activity is open to different models of ICS."

**PP and VVB Response:**

**PP:** Single pot, TLC rocket stove will be distributed under the project activity. There had been a negligence/typo error in the PD which has been revised to bring consistency regarding the scope of project and the type of stoves to be used in the communities.

**VVB:-**Validation team during the remote interviews and document review found that only TLC-CQC Rocket stoves will be distributed under this project activity and same has been reflected in the validation report. Hence PP has corrected the misleading statements in the section 1.1 of the revised PD. Moreover, PP has incorporated the information of the improved cook stoves distributed by the issue date of the project description document in section 1.1 in the revised PD.

**Verra Response:**

Clarification of whether the project will distribute only one kind of improved cook stove model or different models as Section 1.1 (page 4) has been provided. The project proponent corrected the typo and the VVB has validate this. Therefore, no further action is required, and this finding is closed.

### Finding 4

As per the applicable methodology VMR0006, V1.1, Section 4, additionally to the five applicability conditions listed in the methodology, it states that “Additionally, applicability criteria numbers 8 and 9 set out in Section 2.2 of AMS II.G, version 11.1 shall apply”.

However, it was noticed that neither the project description document nor the verification report include the applicability criteria from paragraphs 8 and 9 of AMS II.G version 11.1 in the project description document Section 3.2 and validation report section 3.3.2. The PP is requested to update the PD on how the ICS end users for this project activity will be uniquely identified given that there are other similar projects which are also part of another approved GHG programme.

The VVB is required to address all applicability conditions from the applied methodology and align the validation report accordingly.

**PP and VVB Response:**

**PP:** All the applicability conditions of the applied methodology have been incorporated in section 3.2 of the revised PD.

**VVB:** PP has provided the revised PD with all the applicability conditions of the applied methodology in section 3.2 and also validation team has incorporated the same in the validation report in section 3.3.2.

Moreover, validation team during the document review and remote interviews found that each stove distributed under this grouped project will have a unique identification as explained above by PP, and the data base provided by PP has been checked by the validation team and deemed acceptable.

**Verra Response:**

All the applicability conditions of the applied methodology have now been incorporated in section 3.2 of the revised PD and section 3.3.2 of the validation report. Therefore, no further action is required, and this finding is closed.

### Finding 5

Section 1.7 of the VCS Project Description v4.1, the project proponent is required to “provide evidence of project ownership, in accordance with the VCS Program specifications on project ownership.”

However, the project proponent in Section 1.7 of the project description states that “The project ownership is with C-Quest Capital Stoves Asia Limited.”

The project proponent is required to provide the evidence of project ownership, considering that the “TLC-CQC Rocket Stove uses a total of 15 bricks that will be made by the households using locally available clay.”

**PP and VVB Response:**

**PP:** The ownership of the current project solely lies with C-Quest Capital Stoves Asia Limited as stove will be manufactured by the trained staff of CQC using locally available clay, stove technology, and the expertise to develop the same has been provided by CQC. The beneficiaries are completely dependent on our experts and field staff who provide capacity building and required training to the community to build and use the ICS.

To further ensure that the ownership rights of the project are reserved with CQC, all the stakeholders relevant, i.e., manufacturers/wholesale providers/end users will be signing an undertaking which will clearly state that the PP or an entity authorized by it shall be the sole owner of the VCUs arising from the project. A description about the same has been mentioned in section 3.2 of the revised PD. Also, the proof of the same has been shared with the VVB for further authentication.

**VVB:** PP has provided the declaration to the validation team in context of ownership, this has been checked and verified by the validation team.

**Verra Response:**

A description that the project proponent shall be the sole owner of the VCUs arising from the project has been in section 3.2 of the project description, added and the VVB has validated this. Therefore, no further action is required, and this finding is closed.

### Finding 6

Section 3.2.4 of the validation report states that: "The public commenting period for the project was from 29/09/2020 to 29/10/2020. No public comments were received for the grouped project. Also this grouped project is under developing." However, in section 2.4 of the project description, it is indicated that: "This section is not applicable as the project is listed under development."

The project proponent is required to update Section 2.4 of the project description to indicate the outcomes of the public comment period and provide the correct project status.

#### PP and VVB Response:

**PP:** A detailed description of the comments received during the public commenting period along with the action undertaken by the PP to address the same has been added in the revised PD. Please refer to the table provided in section 2.4.

**VVB:-** Validation team has revised the validation report according to the comments given above and it is been confirmed by the PP there was no comments received for this project activity. Also, PP has updated the section 2.4 of the revised PD in regards with the public comments

#### Verra Response:

Section 2.4 of the project description has been updated. Therefore, no further action is required, and this finding is closed.

### Finding 7

As per the *VCS Standard V4.1* Section 3.4.1, the project proponent shall use the VCS project description template and adhere to all instructional text within the template.

Section 5.1 of the *VCS Project Description Template* requires the project proponent to justify the choice of data source, providing references where applicable.

The project proponent states that the life span of improved cook stove is 10 years, based on manufacturer's specifications. The project proponent is requested to provide information on how it determined the life span of the ICS given that these cookstoves will be manufactured on-site by the cookstove recipients. The project proponent is also requested to include information on the maintenance program for the ICS.

The VVB is required to explain how it determined the adequacy of the established life span of the cookstoves complying with Section 5.1 of the *VCS Project Description Template*.

#### PP and VVB Response:

**PP:** The TLC cookstoves are manufactured to match the fixed design specification. This is achieved using brick moulds of specified dimensions to make bricks to be used for stove construction locally. This ensures that each stove that is built at individual end user household measures exactly same as the dimensions specified by the manufacturer. Also, the stoves are built by the trained staff of CQC on-site using locally available clay with the help of end users. Hence the building process is never left entirely to the households, instead the trained staff actually builds the project stoves. Post construction, training is provided to end users on use, care, and upkeep of these stoves. PP also conducts periodic audits and surveillance of the stoves that have been distributed under the project activity to ensure their proper functioning throughout the project lifetime. This along with spot audits and after installation maintenance services, ensures that the project stoves continue to work at efficiencies as specified by

the manufacturer. Same is incorporated in section 5.2 & 5.3 of the revised PD.

**VVB** :-VCS Project Description template, section 5.2 has been updated, in regards with the life span and also PP has provided the TLC Stove construction brochure to confirm the life span of the ICS distributed under this project activity.

Validation team during the remote interviews and the document reviews found that PP conducts regular surveillance and spot checks of the stoves, which has been distributed under this project activity. PP has provided the revised PD with incorporation of the monitoring plan, where maintenance of the ICS is mentioned in section 5.2 and 5.3. As per the justification provided by PP in regards with the life span of the cookstove is deemed acceptable and in line with the VCS standard v4.1 requirements.

**Verra Response:**

Section 5.2 and 5.3 of the project description document has been revised and the VVB has validated the updated information. Therefore, no further action is required, and this finding is closed.

### Finding 8

As per the VCS Program Guide V4.0 Section 3, each VCU must be unique and must only be associated with a single GHG emission reduction or removal activity. There must be no double counting, or double claiming of the environmental benefit, in respect of the GHG emission reductions or removals.

It was noted that the project proponent will develop a similar project in the same project boundary as the present project (VCS reference number 2372), a project listed under the Gold Standard (reference number 11142) and a registered CDM project.

The VVB is required to explain how it ensured that each VCU from the project activity will be unique and only associated with a single GHG emission reduction or removal activity. The project proponent is requested to provide information on how it will ensure that each cookstoves will be traceable to each of the projects for example by: unique appliance ID, databases, reports on inventory and maintenance, etc.

**PP and VVB Response:**

**PP:** As indicated in response of finding 4 as well, a unique ID comprising of a combination of customer name, geographical location as well as a serial number will be used to identify the ICS end users of this project activity. This identification mechanism will help the PP to differentiate VCUs specific to each project activity that will be undertaken in the project boundary. The PP will ensure that double accounting is not done for the projects and the ICS registered to the current project activity are used to claim VCUs. A description of the process for identifying uniqueness of the project has been added in the revised PD. Please refer to section 3.2.

**VVB:-** Validation team during the remote interviews and submitted database clearly states that the project stoves will contain a unique identification serial numbers and this uniqueness will help the PP to identify the project activity as well as this would make the project unique from the other projects registered in the same location with different mechanisms, this has been checked and verified by the validation team. Furthermore PP has revised the section 3.2 in regards with the unique identification of the project appliance.

**Verra Response:**

The project proponent and VVB have provided explanation to ensure that each VCU from the project activity will be unique and only associated with a single GHG emission reduction or removal activity. Therefore, no further action is required, and this finding is closed.

## 2. MINOR FINDINGS

### Finding 1

Not applicable

## 3. ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION

On 28 September 2021, Verra completed an accuracy review of Project ID 2342, *Installation of high efficiency wood burning cookstoves in Malawi*, the results of which can be found above. Verra sent the findings report to the project proponent and Carbon Check (India) Private Ltd.

On 25 November 2021, Verra closed all findings.