



# VALIDATION REPORT

## for

*Design change of GS PoA titled*

*"INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR SAFE WATER  
ACCESS AND EFFICIENT COOKSTOVES"  
(GS REF. No. 7591)*

IN

*THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA, THE REPUBLIC OF  
MOZAMBIQUE, THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA, THE REPUBLIC  
OF ZAMBIA, THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI AND THE  
REPUBLIC OF RWANDA*

REPORT No.  
GS.21.VAL.007



<b>Date of this issue:</b> 10/06/2021		<b>KBS Ref. No.:</b> GS.20.VAL.007	
<b>Organizational Unit:</b>		<b>Client:</b>	
Climate Change Division, KBS		CO2balance UK Ltd.	
<b>Programme Design Document</b>			
<b>First PoA-DD:</b>		<b>Final PoA-DD:</b>	
Version: 06		Version: 07	
Date: 26/05/2021		Date: 09/06/2021	
<b>Summary of validation:</b>			
"CO2balance UK Ltd." has commissioned KBS to perform the design change validation of the Gold Standard for the Global Goals programme:			
<b>Programme Title:</b>		International Programme for Safe Water Access and Efficient Cookstoves	
<b>Methodology Applied:</b>		Gold Standard Methodology: "Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralized Thermal Energy Consumption". Version 3.1	
<b>Sectoral Scopes:</b>		1.1, 3.1	
<b>Validity of methodology/ies (for RfR):</b>		Methodology dated 25/08/2017	
<p>The scope of the validation is defined as an independent and objective review of the Programme of Activity (PoA) design document, the project's baseline study and monitoring plan and other relevant documents. The information in these documents is reviewed against the latest version of GS4GG rules, CDM Validation and Verification Standard, Project Cycle Procedure and Project Standard.</p> <p>The purpose and goal of this project is to reduce emissions from burning of non-renewable biomass for cooking and water treatment. The use of non-renewable biomass such as wood and charcoal for cooking and water boiling, leads to the emission of greenhouses gases, deforestation and poor indoor climate. The programme will distribute efficient cook stoves and/or safe water supply and treatment technologies in this PoA, to significantly reduce the non-renewable biomass consumption.</p> <p>The report is based on the assessment of the programme design document undertaken through stakeholder consultations, application of standard auditing techniques including but not limited to desk review, follow up actions (e.g., electronic (telephone or e-mail) interviews) and also the review of the applicable approved methodological and relevant tools, guidance, CDM decisions and GS4GG requirements.</p> <p>The review of the PoA design documentation and the subsequent follow-up interviews have provided KBS with sufficient evidence to determine the PoA's fulfilment of all the stated criteria. In our opinion, the project meets all applicable UNFCCC requirements for the carbon validation along with Gold Standard requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Will be recommended to the Gold Standard for the Global Goals with a request for design change</li> <li>- <input type="checkbox"/> Is not recommended for registration</li> </ul>			
		<b>Validation Status:</b>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Findings not closed	
<b>Project type:</b>	Small scale	<input type="checkbox"/> Draft validation report	
<b>Subject:</b> GS4GG PoA Design Change Validation		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Final validation report	
<b>Validation Team:</b>		<b>Document Distribution</b>	
Team Leader, Local Expert: Shikha Sharma Technical Expert (TA 1.1, 3.1): Tushar Eknath Chaudhari		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Distribution without permission from the Client	
<b>Technical Review Team:</b>		<b>Manager T&amp;C</b>	
Technical Reviewer (TA 1.1 & 3.1): Sanjay Kandari Date: 10/06/2021		Sanjay Kandari Date: 10/06/2021	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Limited Distribution	



<b>Authorized by:</b>		
Name: Kaushal Goyal, Managing Director Date: 10/06/2021		<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted Distribution
<b>Rev Number:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	
00	03/05/2021	
01	10/06/2021	



### Abbreviations

BE	Baseline Emissions
CAR	Corrective Action Request
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CL	Clarification request
COP	Conference of Parties
DNA	Designated National Authority
DNHA	Do Not Harm Assessment
DR	Document Review
EB	Executive Board
EF	Emission Factor
ERs	Emission Reductions
FAR	Forward Action Request
FSR	Feasibility Study Report
GHG	Greenhouse gas(es)
GS	Gold Standard
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
KP	Kyoto Protocol
LSC	Local Stakeholder Consultation
LE	Leakage Emissions
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
MOP	Meeting of Parties
MoC	Modalities of Communication
MoV	Means of Verification
MP	Monitoring Plan
PE	Project Emissions
PP	Project Participant
QA/QC	Quality Assurance/Quality Control
RfR	Request for Registration
SD	Sustainable Development
SFR	Sustainability Feedback Round
T&C	Technical & Certification
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VER	Verified Emission Reductions
VVS	Validation & Verification Standard



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## 1. Validation Opinion

KBS Certification Services Pvt. Ltd. has been contracted by CO2balance UK Ltd. to perform a Design change validation for inclusion of 2 host countries in the Programme of Activity:

**PoA title:** International Programme for Safe Water Access and Efficient Cookstoves

**GS Reference Number:** GS7591

**Host Parties:** The Republic of Kenya, The Republic of Mozambique, The Republic of Uganda, The Republic of Zambia, The Republic of Malawi and The Republic of Rwanda

The validation was performed in accordance with the GS4GG Design Change requirements, related Standards/Guidance and host country criteria, as well as criteria given to provide for consistent project operations, monitoring and reporting.

VVB, based on its assessment (in the relevant sections below), confirmed that the Design Change, for the inclusion of 2 host countries (i.e. The Republic of Malawi and The Republic of Rwanda), proposed by the PP will not impact the baseline, applicability of the applied methodology, project boundary, compliance of monitoring plan and the level of accuracy of the monitoring compared with the requirements contained in the registered monitoring plan.

The GS4GG programme of activity (PoA), irrespective of the design change, will continue to result in reductions of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that are real, measurable and give long-term benefits to the mitigation of climate change. In our opinion, the project meets all relevant GS4GG rules/requirements and all relevant host country criteria.

The POA applies Gold Standard methodology: "Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralized Thermal Energy Consumption". Version 3.1. It is demonstrated that the project description in the PoA is not a likely baseline scenario. The emission reductions attributable to the PoA are hence additional to any that would occur in the absence of the PoA.

The emission reduction forecast will be done at VPA level and it is deemed likely that the stated amount is achievable given the underlying assumptions do not change.

The Design Change project will hence be recommended by KBS for submission to Gold Standard.

### Authorized Signatory

Signature:

Name: Kaushal Goyal

Place: Faridabad

Date: 10/06/2021



## **2. Introduction**

### **2.1 Objective**

CO2balance UK Ltd has commissioned KBS to perform the validation of design change for the PoA: "International Programme for Safe Water Access and Efficient Cookstoves" GS ID 7591 with regard to the relevant requirements for GS4GG PoAs.

The purpose of validation is to ensure a thorough, independent assessment of GS4GG PoA against the applicable GS4GG requirements.

In particular, the programme's baseline, the monitoring plan (MP) and the programme's compliance with relevant methodology and host country criteria are validated in order to confirm that the programme design as documented is sound and reasonable and meets the stated requirements and identified criteria. The validation is seen as necessary to provide assurance to stakeholders of the quality of the programme and its intended generation of verified emission reduction (VER).

### **2.2 Scope**

The scope of the validation is defined as an independent and objective review of the programme design document, the project's baseline study and monitoring plan and other relevant documents. The information in these documents is reviewed against GS4GG requirements and associated interpretations. KBS has employed a rule-based approach in the validation, focusing on the identification of significant risks for programme's implementation and the generation of VERs.

### 3. Methodology

#### 3.1 Review of GS-PoA-DD and Additional Documentation

The validation is performed primarily as a document review of the available Programme of Activity Design Document (PoA-DD) version 06 dated 26/05/2021 (first version) /Version 07 dated 09/06/2021 (final version). The assessment is performed by the validation team using a validation protocol. The cross checks between information provided in the PoA-DD and information from sources other than those used, if available, the validation team's sectoral or local expertise and, if necessary, independent background investigations.

#### 3.2 Site Visit

The PoA has already undergone design certification (which was concluded on 14/04/2021 /3/), and as the design change includes addition of 2 host countries, wherein the scope of PoA remains unchanged, thus no need for site visit was identified. Although interview of the CO2balance UK Ltd personnel i.e. Ms. Emma Donnachie and Ms. Megan Jones has been done for the following topics.

1. Inclusion of host countries (design change)
2. Project start date/ implementation
3. Impact of design change on additionality and baseline
4. Compliance of monitoring plan and applied methodology

#### 3.3 Major Milestones in validation

Validation Contract	21/05/2021
Draft Verification Report	03/06/2021
Final Verification Report	10/06/2021

#### 3.4 Use of the Validation Protocol

The validation protocol used for the assessment is designed in accordance with the latest version of Validation and Verification Standard. It serves the following purposes:

- Reference to available information relating to projects or technologies similar to the proposed project activity under validation;
- Review, based on the approved methodology being applied, of the appropriateness of formulae and accuracy of calculations.
- Organises, details and clarifies the requirements the project is expected to meet; and
- Documents both how a particular requirement has been validated and the result of the validation (reporting).

The validation protocol consists of several tables. The different columns in these tables are described below.

Checklist Question	Ref ID	Means of Verification (MoV)	Validation Assessment	Draft and/or Final Conclusion
The various requirements are linked to checklist questions the project should meet.	Lists any references and sources used in the validation process. Full details are provided in the table at the bottom of the checklist.	Explains how conformance with the checklist question is investigated. Examples of means of verification are document review (DR) or interview (I). N/A means	The section is used to elaborate and discuss the checklist question and/or the conformance to the question. It is further used to explain the conclusions	This is either acceptable based on evidence provided (Y), or a Corrective Action Request (CAR) due to non-compliance with the checklist question (See below). Clarification Request (CL) is used when the validation team has identified a need for further clarification.



		not applicable.	reached.	
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### 3.5 Findings

As an outcome of the validation process, the validation team can raise different types of findings

**A Clarification Request (CL)** is raised if information is insufficient or not clear enough to determine whether the applicable CDM/GS requirements have been met

Where a non-conformance arises the validator shall raise a **Corrective Action Request (CAR)**. A CAR is issued, where:

- The project participants have made mistakes that will influence the ability of the project activity to achieve real, measurable additional emission reductions;
- The CDM/GS requirements have not been met;
- There is a risk that emission reductions cannot be monitored or calculated.

**A Forward Action Request (FAR)** is raised during validation to highlight issues related to project implementation that require review during the first verification of the project activity. FARs shall not relate to the CDM/GS requirements for registration.

Corrective Action Requests and Clarification Requests are raised in the draft validation protocol and detailed in a separate finding document (Annex 2). In this document, the project participant is given the opportunity to “resolve” the outstanding CARs and respond to CLs and FARs.

### 3.6 Internal Quality Control

Following the completion of the assessment process and a recommendation by the assessment team, the validation opinion prepared by Team Leader is independently reviewed by internal Technical Reviewer. TR reviews if all the KBS procedures have been followed and all conclusions are justified in accordance with applicable standards, procedures, guidance and CDM decisions. The TR either is qualified for the technical area within the sectoral scope(s) applicable to project activity or is supported by qualified independent technical expert at this stage.

The Technical Reviewer will either accept or reject the recommendation made by the assessment team. The findings can be raised at this stage and PP must resolve them within agreed timeline.

The opinion recommended by Technical Reviewer will be confirmed by Manager Technical & Certification and finally authorized by the Managing Director on behalf of KBS as final validation opinion. The Technical Reviewer and Manager T&C maybe be same person.

## **4. Validation Findings**

### **4.1 Approval**

#### **Discussion:**

The PoA “International Programme for Safe Water Access and Efficient Cookstoves” GS ID 7591, is a voluntary programme of activity by the Coordinating & Management Entity (CME) “CO2balance UK Ltd.”. The design certified PoA/3/ has been implemented in the host countries of “The Republic of Kenya, The Republic of Mozambique, The Republic of Uganda, and The Republic of Zambia”. Further, the PoA is now undergoing the design change/2/ and including 2 more host countries “The Republic of Malawi and The Republic of Rwanda”. However, due to the voluntary nature of the programme, there is no need for a Letter of Approval (LoA) from the host countries.

### **4.2 Authorization**

#### **Discussion:**

The project being a voluntary project does not require authorization from the host country.

### **4.3 Sustainable Development**

As this is a Voluntary Programme of activity, it was not necessary to obtain approval of Sustainable Development from the DNA of host parties. However, the programme has environmental, social and economic benefits by providing access to safe water, reducing fuel consumption and indoor air pollution. The PoA is undergoing design change by introducing 2 new host countries “The Republic of Malawi and The Republic of Rwanda”, wherein Voluntary project activities (VPAs) are to be implemented. The VPA technology will include community based improved cookstoves that will reduce GHG emissions from the fuel consumption of households.

### **4.4 Modalities of Communication**

Not applicable

### **4.5 Project Design Document**

#### **Discussion:**

The validation team hereby confirms that the PoA-DD/1/ complies with the design change requirements/8/.

### **4.6 Project Description**

#### **Discussion:**

The design certified PoA/3/ involves the implementation of one of the two distinct technology types:

1. Improved cookstoves (ICS); and
2. Safe water technologies

The purpose of the technologies implemented through the PoA, is to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the burning of non-renewable biomass for cooking and water treatment. The PoA will facilitate the distribution of ICS and installation and/or repair of broken water points; or the distribution of water filters, and their maintenance over the lifetime of the project. The distribution of ICS includes the replacement of inefficient baseline cooking technology (such as iron bar stoves and three stone fires), whereas safe water technologies include the distribution, rehabilitation, drilling or construction of centralized and domestic water points including but not limited to boreholes, hand pumps, deep wells, protected springs, water filters and gravity flow systems. The PoA consists of Voluntary Project Activities (VPAs) under which the technology chosen will be based on different locations, climates, traditions and improvements in technology demand.

Unique identity and GPS coordinates shall be given to the technology implemented under each VPA which shall be checked from the project database at the time of verification. Sample tracking procedure and sample project database/6/ has been checked, the review of which ensures that no double counting is envisaged

and each distributed unit can be tracked. The project does not involve diversion of Official Development Assistance as confirmed from the declaration/10/ of non-use of ODA submitted by the PP. The projects get funding by marketing the anticipated carbon credits from the wood savings to ethical investors, so users must agree to transfer the potential emissions reductions over to “CO2balance UK Ltd.” in return for them supplying the work and materials for the technology. Local partner organizations and staff involved in the implementation of activities in some VPAs will be identified and indicated as participants at the individual VPA level. However, the CME “CO2balance UK Ltd.” is the sole entity responsible for the communication with the Gold Standard.

#### Details of the Design Change:

The project activity is undergoing a design change/2/ to include two new host countries (“The Republic of Malawi and The Republic of Rwanda”) into the already design certified PoA/3/. However, no change in the approved technology under the PoA has been proposed, as the technology to be implemented under the new geographical areas is Improved cookstoves (ICS), which is one of the already approved technologies (Improved cookstoves (ICS) and Safe water technologies) of the PoA. The scale of the programme has not been impacted due to the design change as all the small-scale VPA included under this PoA (irrespective of addition of new host countries) will not exceed CDM small-scale requirements for Type II (60GWh/year) and type III (60,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e/year) and will not be included by any other carbon standard. New measures (i.e distribution of Improved Cookstoves) have been added in the host country of “The Republic of Malawi” on 09/06/2020/4/, however the technology in “The Republic of Rwanda” is yet to be implemented.

As the design change only pertains to the inclusion of new host countries/2/, the inclusion does not impact the eligibility criteria of Voluntary Project Activities (VPAs) to be registered under the PoA. Hence, the eligibility criteria of the technology as defined in the section A.4 of the design certified PoA-DD/3/ will still be applicable. There is no public funding involved for implementation which will result in a diversion of Official developmental Assistance and has been confirmed through the submitted declaration/10/ and during the interviews.

Based on the above, it can be concluded that the project activity will contribute to GHG emission reduction along with direct environmental, social and economic benefits to the users and supporting staff.

#### **Findings:**

No findings raise

#### **Opinion:**

The assessment team confirms that the PoA-DD contains a transparent and accurate description of the requested design change and its impact on the already approved PoA in compliance with GS4GG design Change requirements/8/.

## **4.7 Baseline and monitoring methodology**

### **4.7.1 General requirement**

#### **Discussion:**

The PoA applies “Voluntary Gold Standard: “Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralized Thermal Energy Consumption (TPDDTEC) Version 3.1 methodology”/5/. The design change/2/ does not impact the compliance of project with the registered monitoring plan as there is no change in the technology, scale, eligibility, applied methodology/5/ and the monitoring practices. Therefore, the original methodology is still applicable.

#### **Findings:**

No findings have been raised.

**Opinion:**

The assessment is in compliance with section 4.2.2 of the GS4GG design Change requirements/8/ and applied baseline and monitoring methodology is valid and applicable to the project activity.

**4.7.2 Applicability of selected methodology to the project activity****Discussion:**

The VPAs under the PoA will either distribute cookstoves to the households or support the technologies which supply safe water, thereby removing fuel consumption and the need to boil water. The PoA will ensure that households consume less firewood and as a result there will be a reduction in carbon dioxide.

The applied methodology is applicable to programmes or activities introducing technologies and/or practices that reduce or displace greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the thermal energy consumption of households and non-domestic premises.” The project activity comes under criteria of the applied methodology/5/ i.e. “introduction of improved biomass or fossil fuel cookstoves” and “safe water supply and treatment technologies that displace the boiling of water”. During the design certification/3/, the PoA has been assessed against all the applicability conditions justified under section B.3.1 of the PoA-DD against the criterion specified in the applied methodology. Since, the design change/2/ pertains to the inclusion of new host countries, under which CME plans to disseminate improved cookstoves through the voluntary project activities, while following all the eligibility criteria set out in the design certified PoA-DD. Therefore, it can be concluded that design change does not impact the compliance of PoA with the registered monitoring plan and the applied methodology and hence, the original methodology/5/ is applicable.

**Findings:**

Nil

**Opinion:**

- a) The assessment team concludes that on the basis of observations made through document review, the design change/2/ in PoA meets the requirement of the applied methodology/5/.
- b) The application of the methodology/5/ has not been impacted due to the change in scale of the project, in accordance with section 4.2.2 of GS4GG Design Change requirements/8/.
- c) The PoA is not expected to result in emissions including project emissions, leakage, and any other significant emissions not addressed by the applied methodology/5/.

**4.7.3 Project boundary****Discussion:**

The design certified PoA/3/ was planned to incorporate activities within the geographical boundary of four host countries “The Republic of Kenya, The Republic of Mozambique, The Republic of Uganda, and The Republic of Zambia”. However, the PoA is undergoing a design change/2/ to include the host countries of The Republic of Malawi and The Republic of Rwanda along with the other design certified host countries. Both the countries are Non-Annex I Party to the UNFCCC and follow the eligibility criteria laid out in the POA-DD related to technology, scale, eligibility, applied methodology and the monitoring practices and are, therefore, considered to be eligible.

**Findings:**

Nil

**Opinion:**

The geographical boundary was confirmed during the interviews and it was found in conformance with the applied baseline methodology. All sources of GHG emissions required by the methodology have been included in the project boundary and are justified in reference to the PoA. There are no project

emissions/leakage emissions of any sort which are not addressed by the applied methodology occurring because of the PoA.

#### **4.7.4 Baseline identification**

##### **Discussion:**

Under the PoA, the people of the host country, residing in rural and remote villages typically use wood fuel on inefficient traditional cookstoves (e.g. three stone fires and iron bar stoves) due to lack of access to fuel, time and financial resources. Although, the baseline scenario by CME has not been defined at PoA level, baseline evidence /11/ provided by CME has been checked and it will be further identified at VPA level because of implementation of VPAs in different host countries. As the design change introduces new host countries (The Republic of Malawi and The Republic of Rwanda) to the design certified PoA, the baseline scenario shall be demonstrated as per the approved eligibility criteria set out in the section 1.3 of the design certified PoA-DD/3/.

##### **Findings:**

No findings have been raised.

##### **Opinion:**

The assessment of the applied baseline suggests that the most appropriate and conservative baseline scenario has been selected and the design change has had no impact on the baseline scenario as the baseline will be assessed at VPA level.

#### **4.7.5 SDG outcomes assessment**

##### **Discussion:**

As confirmed from the design certified PoA-DD/3/, the specific SDG outcomes will be determined at VPA level. Therefore, design change has no impact on the SDG outcomes.

##### **Findings:**

No findings.

##### **Opinion:**

SDG outcomes assessment will be undertaken at VPA level.

#### **4.8 Additionality**

Due to the requested design change/2/ for inclusion of host countries “The Republic of Malawi and The Republic of Rwanda”, re-assessment of additionality was required as per section 4.1.1 of GS4GG Design Change requirements/8/. Therefore, the additionality of the new host countries has been assessed as per the Community Services Activity (CSA) Requirements Version 1.2 /8/, paragraph 4.1.9 “*Projects that meet any of the following criteria are considered as deemed additional and therefore are not required to prove Financial Additionality at the time of Design Certification:(a) Positive list (Annex B of this document) (b) Projects located in LDC, SIDS, LLDC4(c) Microscale projects*”

As confirmed during the remote interviews, the project boundary of the design change in the PoA includes host countries, “The Republic of Malawi and The Republic of Rwanda” that come under LDCs and will automatically be deemed additional, in compliance with paragraph 4.1.9 (b) of Community Services Activity Requirements Version 1.2/8/. VPAs under the PoA promote household-level improved cookstoves, which comes under the positive list (as per paragraph 4.1.9 (a) of CSA requirements) and will be deemed

additional as long as ex-ante calculations of each individual unit generates energy savings of less than 600 MWh per year (for type II projects) and ERs of less than 600 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per year (for type III projects).

During the remote audit interviews with the CME representatives, it was confirmed that the in depth demonstration of addiotionality would be conducted at VPA level and any activities that don't qualify with the above criteria will be subject to a full additionality assessment using the CDM "Tool for the demonstration of additionality". In the case of any retroactive projects being included under the PoA, additionality will be demonstrated using the latest UNFCCC-approved or a Gold Standard-approved additionality tool. Therefore, it is confirmed that the design change has had no impact on the additionality of the project activity.

**Findings:**

Not applicable.

**Opinion:**

Detailed additionality assessment will be undertaken at VPA level. Therefore, design change is in compliance with GS4GG design Change requirements.

**4.8.1 First of Its Kind:**

Not applicable.

**4.8.2 Common practice analysis**

Not applicable.

**4.9 Application of Monitoring Methodology and Monitoring Plan**

**Discussion:**

The design change includes two new host countries ("The Republic of Malawi and The Republic of Rwanda") into the already design certified PoA with registered host countries "The Republic of Kenya, The Republic of Mozambique, The Republic of Uganda and The Republic of Zambia". As confirmed during the remote interview with CME, the design change does not impact technology, scale, eligibility, additionality, baseline, applied methodology and the monitoring practices. Therefore, the monitoring methodology and plan essentially remains the same and in line with section B.2 of the design certified POA-DD/3/, each VPA will demonstrate compliance with the eligibility criteria for being included in the POA (including Eligibility Criteria as per Section 3.1.1 of GS4GG Principles and Requirements/8/, and Community Services Activity Requirements)/8/; as well as compliance with requirements in Section 1 of TPDDTEC v.3.1/5/ in line with section B.3. of the POA-DD.

After an intensive document review of the PoA-DD/1/ against the design certified PoA-DD/3/ and the interview with CME about the monitoring procedures and structure, the validation team confirms that verification of SDG outcomes would be feasible. Also, quality assurance and quality control procedures identified in the PoA-DD/1/ would lead to accuracy and lesser uncertainty.

**Findings:**

Nil

**Opinion:**

The assessment team confirms that the design change/2/ has not impacted the approved monitoring plan and the monitoring/sampling plan will be further elaborated at the PoA level.

**4.10 Environmental Impacts**

**Discussion:**

The purpose of the technology implemented is to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the burning of non-renewable biomass for boiling of water by rehabilitating of to deliver clean, safe water for human

consumption. The design change/2/ of the project involves expansion of the geographical boundary of the PoA by including host countries (“The Republic of Malawi and The Republic of Rwanda”), it does not have any impact on technology, scale, eligibility, additionality, baseline, applied methodology and the monitoring practices of the PoA. Therefore, the project has no adverse environmental impact. The same has been confirmed from the interview and review of the Design Consultation report. Compliance of each VPA with the Host Country’s legal, environmental, ecological and social regulations/9/ shall be checked at VPA level

**Findings:**

Nil

**Opinion:**

The assessment team confirms that the compliance of the local environmental regulations/requirements of the host country shall be checked at VPA level.

## **5. Local Stakeholder Comments and Stakeholder Feedback Round**

**Discussion:**

Local stakeholder consultation will be conducted for individual VPAs. Initially, for the design certification of PoA, key programme Information was shared and stakeholders were invited to give feedback via an email sent on the 19th August 2019. This consultation was open for a period of 30 days until the 19th September 2019.

However, a design change consultation/12/ has been carried out at the PoA level for the inclusion of new countries (The Republic of Malawi and The Republic of Rwanda”) and updated key programme information along with provisional implementation of the design change has been shared with the stakeholders. During the remote interview and through the review of the Design consultation report/12/, it has been confirmed that the electronic design change consultation was conducted for The Republic of Malawi (from: 16/12/2020 – 15/01/2021) and The Republic of Rwanda (from: 29/01/2021 – 28/02/2021) respectively for a period of 30 days. Invites and reminders were sent via email and feedback from Gold Standard representatives, designated national authority, governments, relevant national authorities, NGO communities and other stakeholders were invited. Validation team has checked the details of the participants, outcomes of the consultation process/12//13/ and found that no comments regarding the project design, its negative impact and monitoring activities were received.

Further, CME has confirmed that local meetings and follow up stakeholder feedback rounds will also be conducted at VPA level.

**Findings:**

No findings were raised.

**Opinion:**

The project activity is undergoing a design change to include host countries (The Republic of Malawi and The Republic of Rwanda”) into the design certified PoA, therefore, a Design Consultation Review/12/ was required to be conducted as per Section 4.4 of the GS Design Change Requirements. The SFR process was undertaken as per the procedures, valid and adequate mode of communication were adopted and verified during the validation project.

The assessment team confirms that further meetings will be held within each VPA Project Area, and an additional stakeholder feedback round would be conducted at VPA level.

## **6. Safeguarding principles**

Safeguarding principle assessment has not been conducted at PoA level, and will be conducted for individual VPAs. Also, validation team confirms that the design change validation approach didn't reveal any situation that could lead to the violation of safeguarding principles through inclusion of two new host countries.

### **Findings:**

No findings were raised.

### **Opinion:**

The assessment team confirms that the estimation of Safeguarding principle assessment would be conducted at VPA level.

## 7. References

S. No.	Name of document
/1/	Initial Design Change PoA-DD version 06, dated 26/05/2021  Final Design Change PoA-DD version 07, dated 09/06/2021
/2/	Design Change memo version 2.0
/3/	Design certification documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design certified PoA-DD version 05, dated 10/03/2021</li> <li>• Design review form dated 14/04/2021</li> </ul>
/4/	Evidence for start date of Malawi (First stove sale dated 09/06/2020)
/5/	Gold Standard Methodology: “Technologies and Practices to displace decentralized thermal energy consumption” methodology”. Version 03.1  <a href="https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/407-ee-ics-technologies-and-practices-to-displace-decentralized-thermal-energy-tpddtec-consumption/">https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/407-ee-ics-technologies-and-practices-to-displace-decentralized-thermal-energy-tpddtec-consumption/</a>
/6/	Stove id tracking procedure/ sample database
/7/	COVID 19 Interim measures
/8/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GS4GG Design Change Requirements, Version 1.0 dated January 2021</li> <li>• GS4GG Principles &amp; Requirements, Version 1.2 dated October 2019 <a href="https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/100-principles-and-requirements/">https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/100-principles-and-requirements/</a></li> <li>• GS4GG-Stakeholder Consultation and engagement Requirements Guidelines, v1.2’ <a href="https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/102-par-stakeholder-consultation-requirements/">https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/102-par-stakeholder-consultation-requirements/</a></li> <li>• GS4GG ‘Community Services Activity-Requirements’, v1.2 <a href="https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/standards/201_V1.2_AR_Community-Services-Activity-Requirements.pdf">https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/standards/201_V1.2_AR_Community-Services-Activity-Requirements.pdf</a></li> <li>• Safeguarding Principles &amp; Requirements, v1.2 <a href="https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/">https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/</a></li> </ul>
/9/	<p>Host country criteria (Rules &amp; regulations)</p> <p>Malawi:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Environment Management Act (2017)</li> <li>2. National Environment Policy (June 2004)</li> <li>3. National Energy Policy for Malawi (January 2003) <a href="https://cepa.rmpportal.net/Library/government-publications/National%20Energy%20Policy%20for%20Malawi%202003.pdf">https://cepa.rmpportal.net/Library/government-publications/National%20Energy%20Policy%20for%20Malawi%202003.pdf</a></li> <li>4. National Energy Policy (August, 2018)</li> </ol> <p>Rwanda:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rwanda Environmental Policy 2003</li> <li>2. National Environment and climate change policy (June 2019)</li> <li>3. Rwanda EIA law, regulations and Guidance <a href="https://www.elaw.org/rwanda-environmental-impact-assessment-law-and-regulations">https://www.elaw.org/rwanda-environmental-impact-assessment-law-and-regulations</a></li> </ol>

	4. National Energy REG Strategic Plan 2019 – 2024 5. Energy Sector Strategic Plan - 2018/19 - 2023/24 6. REG Reticulation Standards 7. Policy and National Energy Strategy 2008-2002
/10/	Declaration confirming that there is no diversion of ODA for Rwanda (GS 11205) and Malawi (GS 11206) dated 02/06/2021
/11/	Baseline Kitchen Survey- March 2021 and KPT dated 29th March to 01st April 2021
/12/	PoA Design Consultation Report
/13/	Screen shots of Email Evidence (dated 16/12/2020 for Malawi, 29/01/2021 for Rwanda) for Design change stakeholder consultation with the invitation to provide feedback within 2 months and Stakeholder Feedback dated 16/12/2020, 06/01/2021 and 04/01/2021

## Annex 1: Detailed Findings

Summary of findings	FAR raised previously	CAR	CL	FAR
	04	00	00	00

**Table 1:** FAR raised during design certification

FAR ID	01	Section no.	Raised during design certification- Before the proposed design change	Date:	16/09/2019
<b>Description of FAR</b>					
VVB shall check the VPA start date as mentioned below					
Start date –					
Western Kenya (05/12/2019)					
Central Kenya – 20/01/2020					
Northern Uganda – 27/02/2020					
Zambia – 19/03/2020					
Mozambique – 04/02/2020					
<b>Project participant response</b>					<b>Date:DD/MM/YYYY</b>
-					
<b>Documentation provided by project participant</b>					
-					

<b>DOE assessment</b>	<b>Date:</b> 02/06/2021
Not relevant to the design change process, as it was raised during design certification of VPAs of already approved host countries. However, the FAR is open and start date of each VPA as implemented would be verified during performance certification.	

<b>FAR ID</b>	02	<b>Section no.</b>	Raised during design certification- Before the proposed design change	<b>Date:</b> 16/09/2019
<b>Description of FAR</b>				
fNRB for Zambia, Central Kenya and Western Kenya shall be validated by VVB prior to first verification.				
<b>Project participant response</b>				<b>Date:</b> DD/MM/YYYY
-				
<b>Documentation provided by project participant</b>				
-				
<b>DOE assessment</b>				<b>Date:</b> 02/06/2021
Not relevant to the design change process, as it was raised during design certification of VPAs of already approved host countries. However, the FAR is open and fNRB of each host country would be verified during performance certification.				

<b>FAR ID</b>	03	<b>Section no.</b>	Raised during design certification- Before the proposed design change	<b>Date:</b> 16/09/2019
<b>Description of FAR</b>				
Full details of the technologies, including borehole technology type, GPS coordinates, shall be cross-checked for each VPA at verification.				
<b>Project participant response</b>				<b>Date:</b> DD/MM/YYYY
-				
<b>Documentation provided by project participant</b>				
-				
<b>DOE assessment</b>				<b>Date:</b> 02/06/2021
Not relevant to the design change process, as it was raised during design certification of VPAs of already approved host countries. However, the FAR is open and details of technology implemented in each host country would be cross-checked during performance certification.				

<b>FAR ID</b>	04	<b>Section no.</b>	Raised during design certification- Before the proposed design change	<b>Date:</b> 16/09/2019
<b>Description of FAR</b>				
VVB shall cross-check the methodology requirement during the 1 <sup>st</sup> verification of the VPAs - "The water in its improved form should be available within 1 km walking / pedalling distance from the households."				
<b>Project participant response</b>				<b>Date:</b> DD/MM/YYYY
-				
<b>Documentation provided by project participant</b>				
-				
<b>DOE assessment</b>				<b>Date:</b> 02/06/2021
Not relevant to the design change process, as it was raised during design certification of VPAs of already approved host countries. This however, is not applicable to the cookstove projects and shall be checked in case boreholes are implemented. Therefore, FAR is open and shall be verified at the time of performance certification.				

**Table 2:** CL from this validation

No CL raised during this Validation

<b>CL ID</b>	XX	<b>Section no.</b>	-	<b>Date:</b> DD/MM/YYYY
<b>Description of CL</b>				
<b>Project participant response</b>				<b>Date:</b> DD/MM/YYYY
<b>Documentation provided by project participant</b>				
<b>DOE assessment</b>				<b>Date:</b> DD/MM/YYYY

**Table 3:** CAR from this validation

No CAR raised during this Validation

<b>CAR ID</b>	XX	<b>Section no.</b>	-	<b>Date:</b> DD/MM/YYYY
<b>Description of CAR</b>				

<b>Project participant response</b>		<b>Date: DD/MM/YYYY</b>
<b>Documentation provided by project participant</b>		
<b>DOE assessment</b>		<b>Date: DD/MM/YYYY</b>

**Table 4:** FAR from this validation

No FAR raised during this Validation

<b>FAR ID</b>	<b>xx</b>	<b>Section no.</b>	<b>Date: DD/MM/YYYY</b>
<b>Description of FAR</b>			
<b>Project participant response</b>		<b>Date: DD/MM/YYYY</b>	
<b>Documentation provided by project participant</b>			
<b>DOE assessment</b>		<b>Date: DD/MM/YYYY</b>	

### Annex 3: Certificate of Competence

<b>Personnel Name:</b>		<b>Ms. Shikha Sharma</b>	
<b>Qualified to work as:</b>			
Team Leader	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Technical Expert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Validator/Verifier	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Financial Expert	<input type="checkbox"/>
Technical Reviewer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Local Expert	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Area(s) of Technical Expertise</b>			
<b>Sectoral Scope</b>		<b>Technical Area</b>	
Energy industries (renewable/non-renewable sources)		TA 1.2: Energy generation from renewable energy sources	
Waste Handling and Disposal		TA 13.1 Solid waste and wastewater	
Approved by (Manager C & T)		Sanjay Kandari	
Approval date:		14/01/2021	

<b>Personnel Name:</b>		<b>Tushar Eknath Chaudhari</b>	
<b>Qualified to work as:</b>			
Team Leader	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Technical Expert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Validator/Verifier	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Financial Expert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Technical Reviewer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local Expert (India)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Area(s) of Technical Expertise</b>			
<b>Sectoral Scope</b>		<b>Technical Area</b>	
Energy Industries (renewable/non-renewable sources)		TA 1.1: Thermal energy generation from fossil fuels and biomass including thermal electricity from solar	
Energy industries (renewable/non-renewable sources)		TA 1.2: Energy generation from renewable energy sources	
Energy demand		TA 3.1. Energy Demand	
Waste Handling and Disposal		TA 13.1 Solid waste and wastewater	
Approved by		Manager Competency & Training	
Approval date:		02/09/2020	

<b>Personnel Name:</b>		<b>Sanjay Kandari</b>	
<b>Qualified to work as:</b>			
Team Leader	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Technical Expert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Validator/Verifier	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Financial Expert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Technical Reviewer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local Expert (India)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Area(s) of Technical Expertise</b>			
<b>Sectoral Scope</b>	<b>Technical Area</b>		
Energy Industries (renewable/non-renewable sources)	TA 1.1: Thermal energy generation from fossil fuels and biomass including thermal electricity from solar		
Energy industries (renewable/non-renewable sources)	TA 1.2: Energy generation from renewable energy sources		
Energy demand	TA 3.1. Energy Demand		
Waste Handling and Disposal	TA 13.1 Waste Handling and Disposal TA 13.2 Manure		
Approved by (Manager C & T)	Akhilesh Joshi		
Approval date:	11/12/2015		

#### History of the document

Version	Date	Nature of revision	Reviewed by	Approved by
6.0	20/02/2015	Revised For VVS 7.0	Manager CDM Quality 21/02/2015	Managing Director 24/02/2015
5.0	08/10/2014	Section 4.8.4 and 4.8.5 are revised based on the corrective actions proposed during the performance assessment.	Manager CDM Quality 13/10/2014	Managing Director 14/10/2013
4.0	29/07/2013	Revised for VVS 3.0 and 4.6 section added	Manager CDM Quality 04/08/2012	Managing Director 08/08/2013
3.0	05/09/2012	Revised for VVS track	Manager CDM Quality 07/09/2012	Managing Director 10/09/2012
2.0	31/12/2011	Comprehensively revised	Manager CDM Quality 31/12/2011	Managing Director 31/12/2011