VERRA REVIEW FINDINGS REPORT

This report includes findings identified during Verra's post-registration review of the below-mentioned project. The review was conducted pursuant to Section 6 of the *VCS Registration and Issuance Process*.

The VVB must:

1. Address the findings and provide responses in this report for Verra's review.
2. Attach supporting documentation as needed.

Confidential information may be provided as separate attachments and should be clearly designated as such.

This report may be shared with the relevant accreditation body.

Project and Relevant Assessment(s)	1721, ONIL Stoves Guatemala Uspantan VCS Verification (Verification Report Issued on 07 December 2017) for MP1: 20/12/2010 – 31/07/2017. VCS Verification (Verification Report Issued on 20 July 2020) for MP2: 01/08/2017 - 31/07/2018.
Verra Program(s)	Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) Program
VVB	Carbon Check Private Ltd.
Lead Contact	Vikash Kumar Singh
Contact Information	vikash@carboncheck.co.in
References	*VCS Standard, v4.7; VCS Program Guide, v3.7;* ISO 14064

Date of First Issue	29 July 2024
Due Date for Responses	16 August 2024
Review Conclusion	Approved
Date of Final Issue	03 February 2025

FINDINGS

Finding 1 – Determination of the proportion of installed cookstoves operating within the period not transparent

Issues

1. The proportion of operational cookstoves within the monitoring period(s) is reported to be 85% in MP1 and 100% in MP2. This is likely unrealistic, given the minimal probability of 100% stove operation without breakages and abandonment over their lifetime. The project documentation does not transparently provide the measures put in place for on-time stove maintenance support for repairs and replacement.
2. The verification report does not provide a sufficiently detailed assessment of how the proportion of operational cookstoves was verified with cross-checking of on-ground monitoring raw data.
3. The monitoring report(s) does not provide sufficient information on how the samples for determining stoves in operation were selected and the sampling process used.

Action Required

1. The VVB must assess and confirm the completeness, conservativeness and accuracy of the corrective MRV practices and sampling procedures related to determining the proportion of operational cookstoves within the monitoring period(s) under review.
2. The VVB must cross-check the value(s) used in ERR calculations with the on-ground monitoring raw data, project database, sales record and maintenance/repair logbook to confirm the accuracy and consistency of the value.
3. The VVB must use objective evidence to independently assess the information provided by the project proponent related to the corrective value applied and ensure that the monitoring report and verification report are updated to include this corrective method, evidence and assessment.

Program Rule(s)

VCS Standard, v4.7, Sections 3.16.3 - 3.16.5

Background

Refer Annexure I

VVB Response

1. In response to the finding raised by VERRA, PP has shared a presentation (Confidential - VVB Technical Review Pre-Read (29 July 2024).pdf) /26-1 Appendix 1 of VR / with the VVB which states that an overestimated operational fraction data was shared with VVB and VERRA during the initial verification/issuance process. It also states the design of sampling (during the original sampling process) was done in way, to deliberately inflate operational fraction value.

To address the issue of overestimated operational fraction data, PP has applied a value for MP1 year 2010 to 2015 =77.36%, year 2016=74.54% and year 2017=70.90% and MP 2 is year 2017=70.90% and year 2018= 67.27% for the stove operating faction considering applying annual deration to previous years, Therefore, the computation is based on the linear loss rate and also operational stove percentage was determined by using the results from usage survey in 2024.

The revised value of stove operating faction is based on the independent review and analysis reports of the values provided stove operating faction used for ICS projects under different GHG program as detailed on page 13 of the presentation (Confidential - VVB Technical Review Pre-Read (29 July 2024).pdf) /26-1 Appendix 1 of VR /.

Furthermore, PP has submitted following documents to the VVB:

- File 1: 44.03.05 Stoves in Operation - Verified Secondary Data (2024-08-05).xlsx /23 Appendix 1 of VR /
- File 2: 20241203 VERRA 6.1 _1720 , 1721 _Survey results_deration rate_V1.0/24 Appendix 1 of VR /

The analysis of the most recent data collection provides value MP1 year 2010 to 2015 =77.36%, year 2016=74.54% and year 2017=70.90% and MP2 is year 2017=70.90% and year 2018= 67.27% for the parameter. Moreover, comparison with secondary data i.e., data from other similar regional projects show an average operational rate of 91.30%. However, PP has chosen to apply a revised value of MP1 year 2010 to 2015 =77.36%, year 2016=74.54% and year 2017=70.90% and MP2 is year 2017=70.90% and year 2018= 67.27% for stove operating faction for this monitoring period.

VVB received the VERRA 6.1 surveyed data /25 Appendix 1 of VR / for the project monitoring period (MP1 and MP2) in the form of images and videos /25 Appendix 1 of VR/ of the ICS in the surveyed houses. The photos were verified to be taken at the exact place by their time stamp and geolocation. According to the survey operationality data, 5 of the 11 stoves were operational in 2024 at the time of the survey, meaning that the operational rate for 2024 (year 15) was 45.45%. Based on a deration rate of 3.64% annually (assuming 100% operationality in the base year or the year of distribution (year 0)) and an actual operationality rate of 45.45 % in year 15, or 2024, the updated operationality rate is suitably computed for relevant vintages .Thus VVB referred, the figures in the Excel document from File 2: 20241203 VERRA 6.1 _1720 , 1721 _Survey results deration rate_V1.0 /24 Appendix 1 of VR /

The VVB has reviewed all the above-mentioned documents along with revised MR /02-b Appendix 1 of VR / and ER sheet/03-b Appendix 1 of VR / and considers that the new and revised value (MP1 year 2010 to 2015 =77.36%, year 2016=74.54% and year 2017=70.90% and MP2 is year 2017=70.90% and year 2018= 67.27%) of the stove operating fraction is lower than the value (77.36%) reported in the earlier submitted MR and FVR. The lower value leads to a conservative calculation of emission reduction generated by the project and is deemed acceptable to the VVB.

For the project stove repairs and replacements PP has updated section 2.1 of the MR. VVB has reviewed the CQC grievance redress policy/27 Appendix 1 of VR /

2. Refer to the assessment for point 1.

3. Refer to the assessment of point 1.

Verra Response

The VBB has re-checked the documentation and submissions from the PP on the revised usage rates of project stoves. The VVB acknowledges that at the time of the verification, there was material information, which was not made available to the VVB, that had an impact on the overall emission reductions by the project for the monitoring periods for MP1: 20/12/2010 – 31/07/2017 and MP2: 01/08/2017 - 31/07/2018.

The VVB has reviewed the material information presented by the PP and based on the new information, the usage rate determined is lower than the one which was verified initially. The VVB reviewed the usage rate for the surveys which were carried out in 2024 and using the value obtained, an annual deration to previous years was applied with a fixed linear loss rate to arrive at usage rates for previous years. This method of determining the applicable usage rate was considered conservative. The revised value was determined by following sound statistical procedures, whereby survey sampling was robust, and survey findings were correctly analysed, reviewed and found to be reliable.

In addition, the VVB reviewed other similar cookstove projects within the region and established that they use an average of 91.3%.

By opting for deration method to determine the usage rate from the value established in 2024 to determine the applicable values for 2010 to 2018 the VVB and the PP ensured that the values determined were conservative. However, the monitoring survey for the MP1 had established a usage rate of 77.36%. during deration for any vintage value that was higher than 77.36%, that vintage year value was capped at 77.36%. using that approach, 77.36% was applied for the years 2010 -2015. VVB assessed that the approach is considered conservative and does not lead to overestimating emission reductions.

The calculation changes have been updated, and the Monitoring Reports and Verification Reports have been revised.

The issue is closed.

ANNEXURE I

Background

The VVB must assess the accuracy, conservativeness, relevance, completeness, consistency, and transparency of the information provided by the project proponent, determine whether information/data provided by the project proponent is reliable, credible and complete, and base their findings and conclusions on objective evidence.

To assess the claims and assumptions in the MR, the VVB must not be limited to evidence provided by the project proponent and must describe all steps taken and sources of information used to cross-check the information contained in the MR. In doing so, the VVB must apply the means of verification required by the relevant Verra Standard, CDM accreditation standards and normative ISO documents, and standard auditing techniques, including, but not limited to:

a. Document review involving cross-checks between the information provided in the MR, raw data and information from sources other than those used; if available, the VVB's sectoral or local expertise; and, if necessary, independent background investigations; and
b. Follow-up actions (e.g., on-site inspection and telephone or email interviews), including:
    i. Interviews with relevant stakeholders in the host country, such as personnel with knowledge of the project design and implementation.
    ii. Cross-checks between information provided by interviewed personnel (i.e., by checking sources or other interviews) to ensure that no relevant information has been omitted.