

PROJECT REVIEW REPORT

Project ID	2077
Project Name	<i>Tuik Ruch Lew Improved Cookstove Project For Lake Atitlan</i>
Program(s)	<i>SD VISta</i>
Verification Period	<i>01 September 2018 – 09 March 2020</i>
Project Proponent	<i>Tuik Ruch Lew/Helping the Earth (TRL)</i>
Methodology	NA
Sectoral Scope(s)	NA
Validation/Verification Body (VVB)	AENOR
Assessment Criteria	<i>SD VISta, v1.0</i>
Date of First Issue	17 December 2020
Date of Final Issue	24 March 2021

Summary:

An accuracy review of the Tuik Ruch Lew Improved Cookstove Project For Lake Atitlan registration and verification approval request has been conducted by Verra in accordance with Section 3.8 of the *SD VISta Program Guide, v1.0*.

The accuracy review has raised 12 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 12 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

Section 2.1.2 of the *SD VSta Standard, v1.0*, states that project shall “set out their clearly defined sustainable development objective(s) in the project description. These objectives shall include impacts that contribute directly to at least one United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target.”

Row 1 of Section 1 of the project description and monitoring report link the supply of ONIL stoves to indicator 7.2.1 “Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption.”

It is unclear how the supply of ONIL stoves contributes to renewable energy share, therefore indicator 7.2, or 7.b would be more appropriate.

The project proponent is requested to clarify as to why row 1 of Section 1 of the project description and monitoring reports includes indicator 7.2.1, or remove that contribution.

VVB Response:

The project proponent has changed the indicator 7.2.1 “Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption” for the 7.b.” Expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy service”.

Verra Response:

Section 1 has been updated to change the indicator 7.2.1 to 7b. This finding is closed.

Finding 2

Section 2.1 of the *SD VSta Standard, v1.0* states that “projects must be designed to generate and maintain benefits during the project’s lifetime and after project activities end.”

Section 2.1.2 of the project description and the monitoring report state that the project lifetime is 7 years. However, in Section 2.1.3 of the project description and monitoring report state that the 7 year lifetime will be renewed twice.

The project proponent is requested to clarify whether the lifetime of the project is 7 years or 7 years renewable.

VVB Response:

According to the definition of “Project Lifetime” indicated in the “Program Definitions” version 1, the project proponent has replaced the references to the 7 years for 21-years which is the time period over which project activities are implemented.

Verra Response:

The updates to Section 2.1.2 and 2.1.3 have been updated to indicate the project lifetime. This finding is closed.

Finding 3

Section 2.1.5 of the *SD VSta Standard, v1.0* states that “one or more causal chains describing the effects of a project’s sustainable development activities shall be included in its project description, and these shall be updated as necessary as part of each monitoring report.”

Section 2.1.9 of the project description states that the causal chain has been provided in an annex. The annex is not provided as part of the project description. The project proponent is requested to provide all annexes included in the project description, including the annex containing the causal chain.

VVB Response:

An update of the causal chain is provided.

Verra Response:

The project proponent has provided the relevant annex. This finding is closed.

Finding 4

Section 2.1.6 of the *SD VSta Standard, v1.0* states that “likely natural and human-induced threats to the expected sustainable development benefits shall be identified, and measures shall be taken to mitigate these threats. Threats and mitigation measures shall be described in the project description and updated, if necessary, in the monitoring report.”

Section 2.1.10 of the project description states that cookstoves will be sold at a price of Q350 to project participants to foster responsible ownership of the cookstoves. It is unclear how selling the cookstoves will foster responsible ownership.

The project proponent is requested to update Section 2.1.10 of the project description and all relevant Sections in the project description and monitoring report to clarify how purchasing the stove will foster responsible ownership.

VVB Response:

The project proponent has included additional information in section 2.1.10 and other relevant sections in the PD and MR, clarifying that “Foster feelings of responsibility for stoves through the subsidised Q350 charge for a new ONIL stove or Q60 charge for a new combustion chamber. Thus, beneficiaries are only paying a part of the entire stove installation and monitoring costs of Q1200. Research showed that once people partly pay the Q350 for the ONIL stove, they gain the feeling of ownership and therefore will care better for their belongings. During the monitoring period, 31 families received full subsidies for their ONIL cookers as they were unable to afford even the subsidised price of Q350.”.

Verra Response:

Section 2.1.10 of the project description and all relevant Sections in the project description and monitoring report have been updated to clarify how purchasing the stove will foster responsible ownership. This finding is closed.

Finding 5

Section 2.1.7 of the *SD VSta Standard, v1.0* states that “during the project lifetime, project

proponents shall take appropriate measures to ensure that sustainable development benefits generated as a result of project activities are maintained or enhanced beyond the project lifetime.”

Section 2.1.11 describes the longevity of the TRL organization in #3 and #4, not the longevity of the project. This Section should demonstrate how the benefits of the project will continue once the project is over, without the support of the project.

The project proponent is requested to update Section 2.1.11 of the project description and Section 2.1.9 of the monitoring report to demonstrate how the project benefits of the project will continue after the lifetime of the project without financial or other support from the project.

VVB Response:

The project proponent has updated Section 2.1.11 of the project description and Section 2.1.9 of the monitoring report to demonstrate how the project benefits of the project will continue after the lifetime of the project without financial or other support from the project, with a program of education in maintenance and cleaning of stoves, in cooking techniques to protect and preserve stove components, that helps extend the lifespan of the environmental technologies deployed, in social, economic and health benefits of the projects and working to improve financial literacy and helping for financial savings.

Verra Response:

Section 2.1.11 of the project description and Section 2.1.9 of the monitoring report have been updated to demonstrate how the project benefits of the project will continue after the lifetime of the project without financial or other support from the project. This finding is closed.

Finding 6

Section 2.2.2 of the *SD VSta Standard, v1.0* states that “stakeholder groups shall be identified in the project description and updated as necessary in the monitoring report.”

Section 2.2.1 describes the two groups that the stakeholder groups were identified under but does not describe the process for identifying the groups. Section 2.2.1 should explicitly describe the method and procedures for identifying the stakeholder groups.

The project proponent is required to update Section 2.2.1 of the project description to describe the method and procedures for identifying stakeholder groups.

VVB Response:

The project proponent has updated section 2.2.1 of the project description to clarify the description on the method used and procedures applied for identifying stakeholder groups, according to section 3 of the “Template for ESS10” which provides guidance on the application of the World Bank’s Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs), with the necessary adjustments to suit the scope and context of the project and role of the project proponent in the project area.

Verra Response:

The addition of the Template for ESS10 by the project proponent describes the method and procedures for identifying stakeholder groups. This finding is closed.

Finding 7

Section 2.2.2 of the *SD VSta Standard, v1.0* states that “stakeholder groups shall be identified in the project description and updated as necessary in the monitoring report.”

In Section 2.2.2 of the project description states that family groups that have a member who has previously damaged or misused ONIL stoves are excluded and not considered to be included in the project.

The project proponent is requested to clarify why stakeholder groups are being excluded from the project.

VVB Response:

The project proponent excludes beneficiaries from the programmes who have previously deliberately destroyed an environmental technology because there is a high probability that this will happen again. Since the environmental technologies are largely subsidised, TRL focuses on those beneficiaries who show a willingness to maintain and preserve environmental technologies. In this way, we can demonstrate sustainability to donors. TRL’s aim is to maintain the ONIL stoves as long as possible.

Verra Response:

Section 2.2.2 of the has been updated in accordance with the response provided above. The finding is closed.

Finding 8

Section 2.2.2 of the *SD VSta Standard, v1.0* states that “stakeholder groups shall be identified in the project description and updated as necessary in the monitoring report.”

In Section 2.2.1-2 of the project description, project beneficiaries are identified as one large stakeholder group. However, in other Sections, including Sections 3.2 and 3.3 of the project description and monitoring reports, other groups are identified to be monitored separately (specifically women).

If other groups are identified to be monitored separately than just the overall beneficiary surveys, the project proponent is requested to update Section 2.2.1 of the project description and monitoring report to include these stakeholder groups.

VVB Response:

The project proponent has updated section 2.2.1, 3.2 and 3.3 of the project description and monitoring report to be consistent the different groups identified and monitored.

Therefore, beneficiaries are identified as any **individual** in the Sololá Department willing to adopt a new environmental technology. Beneficiary families are those living in or sharing the same family compound as project beneficiaries.

The stakeholder groups have been edited In section 3.2 and 3.3. of the PD and MR.

Verra Response:

Section 3.2 of the project description and 3.3 of the monitoring report have been updated to reflect the stakeholder groups identified in Section 2.2.2 of the monitoring report. This finding is closed.

Finding 9

Section 2.2.5 of the *SD VSta Standard, v1.0* states “**effective** consultation (see Box 3 below) shall be used to enable project stakeholders, including all stakeholder groups, to influence project design and implementation. The consultation shall be carried out with respect for local customs, values and institutions.”

Sections 2.2.3 and 2.2.4 of the project description describe engagement with stakeholders, mostly institutional, and events held to engage with these stakeholders. Sections 2.2.3 and 2.2.4 does not include information on the formal and ongoing consultation with project participants.

The project proponent is requested to update Sections 2.2.3 and 2.2.4 of the project description and the relevant sections of the monitoring report to include information on the **formal** and ongoing consultation processes with project proponents and project stakeholders.

VVB Response:

The project proponent has updated sections 2.2.3 and 2.2.4 of the project descriptions including detailed information on the different channel used to develop the formal and ongoing stakeholder consultation activities, and according to this information included in the PD, the section 2.2.1 of the MR has also been revised and completed with the processes used throughout this monitoring period and the description of the implementation status of the different communication and consultation channels required for the different stakeholder groups.

Verra Response:

Section 2.2.3 and 2.2.4 of the project description have been updated to include information on the formal and ongoing consultation processes with project proponents and project stakeholders. This finding is closed.

Finding 10

Section 3.1 of the *SD VSta Standard, v1.0* states that “the project proponent demonstrates net positive well-being impacts for all stakeholders directly affected by their project’s activities.”

Section 3.2 and 3.3 describe negative impacts on the stakeholder group local vendors, but does not describe any actions to mitigate the impacts.

The project proponent is requested to update Sections 3.2 and 3.3 of the project description to describe either that the negative impact is very low and the local vendors are part of another stakeholder group that will have net positive impacts, or describe activities taken by the project proponent that could mitigate the negative impacts on local vendors (for example, hiring of local stakeholders.)

VVB Response:

The project proponent has added in the table of section 3.2 of the project description the activities taken by them that could mitigate the negative impacts on local vendors, providing new job opportunities as stove builders and stove installers within the organization of TRL.

Verra Response:

Sections 3.2 and 3.3 of the project descriptions has been updated to describe either that the negative impact is very low and the local vendors are part of another stakeholder group that will have net positive impacts, or describe activities taken by the project proponent that could mitigate the negative impacts on local vendors (for example, hiring of local stakeholders.) This finding is closed.

Finding 11

Section 2.1.7 of the *SD VSta Standard, v1.0* state that “stakeholders shall receive timely information about the VVB’s site visit before the site visit occurs and the project proponent shall facilitate direct and independent communication between them or their representatives and the assessor.”

Section 2.2.9 of the monitoring report does not describe how information about the VVB’s site visit was shared with stakeholders this monitoring period.

The project proponent is requested to update Section 2.2.9 of the monitoring report to describe how information about the VVB’s site visit was shared with stakeholders this monitoring period.

VVB Response:

During 2018 and 2019, TRL has been distributing handouts about the assessment process to local NGOs, beneficiaries, local governmental authorities, and people interested in an ONIL stove. Major distribution of this educational material happened in a community event in early 2020 before the pandemic started.

Verra Response:

Section 2.2.9 of the monitoring report has been updated to describe how information about the VVB’s site visit was shared with stakeholders this monitoring period. This finding is closed.

Finding 12

Section 2.4 of the monitoring report describes the criteria that new instances met in order to be included within the project but does not describe if any instances were added.

The project proponent is requested to update Section 2.4 of the monitoring report to describe whether new instances were added, and if so, how many.

VVB Response:

The project proponent has updated section 2.4 of the monitoring report, including the number of new instances added during the monitoring period in the different project activities: 150 PA1, 91 PA2, 17 PA3, 3 PA4

Verra Response:

Section 2.4 of the monitoring report has been updated to describe whether new instances were added, and if so, how many.

2. MINOR FINDINGS

No minor findings were raised.

3. ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION

On 17 December 2020 Verra concluded an accuracy review of the SD VISTa registration and verification approval request of 2077 and raised the 12 assessment findings above.

On 17 December 2020 Verra submitted the project review report to the VVB AENOR and the project proponent.

On 15 February 2021 AENOR and the project proponent submitted responses to the 12 assessment findings detailed above.

On 24 March 2021 Verra determined the updated documents and responses from the VVB and project proponent sufficiently addressed the findings detailed above. The review was closed.