


**Validation Report for
Programme of Activities Transition from CDM to GS4GG**

BASIC INFORMATION

Title of the programme of activities (PoA)	Up Energy Improved Cookstove Programme, Uganda UNFCCC PoA Reference number: 9956 GS Reference number: GS10898
PoA Period Start Date	22/07/2014
Version number of the validation report	02
Completion date of the validation report	18/10/2021
Version number of PoA-DD to which this validation report applies	3.0, 04/10//2021
Coordinating/managing entity (CME)	UpEnergy Group
Host Parties	Uganda
Applied methodologies and standardized baselines	AMS-II.G., version 05, "Energy efficiency measures in thermal applications of non-renewable biomass"
Mandatory sectoral scopes	3: Energy demand
Transition Pathway	PoA seeking registration with GS4GG to issue GSVERs only and/or conversion of issued CERs to GSVERs
Transition Approval Procedure	PoA and all real case CPAs undergoing preliminary review by SustainCERT, combined inclusion & verification by VVB, followed by combined design and performance review by SustainCERT
Activity Requirements applied	Community Services Activities Requirements Programme of Activity Requirements
Product Requirements applied	GHG Emissions Reduction & Sequestration Product Requirements
Target SDGs	SDG 1:- No Poverty SDG 3:- Good Health and Well Being SDG 5:- Gender Equality SDG 7:- Affordable and Clean Energy SDG 8:- Decent Work and Economic Growth SDG 12:- Responsible Consumption and Production SDG 13:- Climate Action SDG 15:- Life on Land
Name and UNFCCC reference number of the VVB	E-0052: Carbon Check (India) Private Ltd.
Name, position and signature of the approver of the validation report	Vikash Kumar Singh, Compliance Officer 

SECTION A. Executive summary

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Purpose and general description

The CME, UpEnergy Group, has appointed the VVB, Carbon Check (India) Private Ltd. (CC IPL) to perform an independent validation for the transition of CDM PoA “Up Energy Improved Cookstove Programme, Uganda” (hereafter referred to as “PoA”) to GS4GG.

The PoA involves replacement of less efficient baseline cooking stoves using woody biomass with improved cooking stoves (ICS) which are more efficient. By replacing inefficient stoves, the PoA will save on consumption of woody biomass.

This report summarises the findings of the validation of the project, performed on the basis of relevant Gold Standard principle and requirements /B01/ and applicable UNFCCC guidance, as well as criteria given to provide for consistent project operations, monitoring and reporting and compliance with host country criteria and Gold Standard specific criteria. This report contains the findings and resolutions from the validation and a validation opinion thus confirming the project design as documented is sound and reasonable and meets the stated requirements and identified criteria.

Objective

The purpose of validation is to have a thorough and independent assessment of the proposed project activity against the applicable GS4GG requirements /B01/, CDM requirements, in particular, the project's baseline, monitoring plan and the project's compliance with relevant Gold Standard requirements and host Party criteria. Gold Standard specific conditions are also validated to confirm that the project design (as documented) is complete, reasonable and meets the stated requirements and identified criteria. Validation is seen as necessary to provide assurance to stakeholders about the quality of the project and its proposed generation of verified emission reductions (VERs).

Scope

The validation scope is defined as an independent and objective review of the programme of activity design document (PoA DD) /05/. The PoA DD /05/ is reviewed against the relevant Gold Standard criteria and applicable decisions by the CDM Executive Board, including the approved baseline and monitoring methodology. The validation team has, based on the recommendations in the Validation and Verification Standard and GS4GG requirements employed a rule-based approach, focusing on the identification of significant risks for project implementation and the generation of GS VERs.

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

While carrying out the validation, CC IPL determines if the project activity complies with the requirements of Gold Standard, specifically the applicability conditions of the selected methodology and also assesses the claims and assumptions made in the PoA DD /05/ without limitation on the information provided by the project participants.

The report is based on the assessment of the PoA-DD /01/ /05/ undertaken through application of standard auditing techniques including but not limited to document reviews, remote interviews, and

stakeholder interviews, review of the applicable/applied methodology and its underlying formulae and calculations.

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

Conclusion

CC IPL is of the opinion that the PoA “Up Energy Improved Cookstove” as described in the PoA TRF and KPID /05-b/ meets all relevant requirements of GS4GG, meets host country criteria and has correctly applied the methodology AMS II.G, version 05 /B03/. Therefore, CC IPL recommends to GS4GG for registration of the PoA.

SECTION B. Validation team, technical reviewer and approver

B.1. Validation team, technical reviewer and approver

Carbon Check (India) Private Ltd. has appointed a competent team as per the UNFCCC Accreditation Standard, GS4GG requirements and CC IPL’s internal procedures. Further details regarding team competence can be found in Appendix 2. The team is outlined below:

No.	Role	Type of resource	Last name	First name	Affiliation (e.g. name of central or other office of VVB or outsourced entity)
1.	Team Leader/Technical Expert	IR	Anand	Amit	CC IPL
2.	Trainee Assessor	IR	Ganesh Gedam	Pallavi	CC IPL
3.	Technical Reviewer	IR	Singh	Vikash Kumar	CC IPL
4.	Approver	IR	Singh	Vikash Kumar	CC IPL

SECTION C. Means of validation

C.1. Desk/document review

>> List of all documents reviewed or referenced during the validation is provided in Appendix-3.

C.2. On-site inspection

GS4GG Programme of Activity Requirements version 1.2 /B01/, does not require the VVB to specifically conduct an on-site inspection for transition projects. Furthermore, on-site visit is not done for the validation activity due to national and international restrictions on travel due to COVID-19 impact. Therefore, VVB followed GS rule update 'COVID-19: Interim measures' dated 17/05/2021 version.04 /06/ and alternate measures are adopted as described below:

The validation team has carried out remote interviews to assess the information included in the project design document, stakeholder consultation report. During the desk review, the relevant records related to project design, implementation and operation were checked. Commissioning reports, test reports of project ICS, stakeholders engaged, implementing agency and remote interview with stakeholders were taken.

C.3. Interviews

No.	Name	Organization	Date	Topic	Team member
/1/	Anantha Karthik Rajagopalan	UpEnergy CME	25/06/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Discussion on the stated goal and policy of the PoA. •Discussion on the sustainability, environmental impact, local stakeholders meeting procedure, baseline scenario, additionality and monitoring plan, Start date 	Amit Anand Pallavi Gedam
/2/	Rohit Lohia	Climate Secure	25/06/2021	Discussion on the GS PoA-PDD and VPA-DDs, eligibility criteria and its compliance, ongoing financial need, SDG impact, eligibility criteria for inclusion of VPA in the PoA, safeguarding principles, stakeholder consultations and grievance mechanism in line with GS4GG, requirements.	Amit Anand Pallavi Gedam
/2/	Andrew Wanyaka	UpEnergy Uganda	01/07/2021	Project implementation and operation, Sales/Distribution records	Amit Anand Pallavi Gedam
/3/	Sheila Anayo	UpEnergy Uganda	01/07/2021	Project implementation and operation, Sales/Distribution records	Amit Anand Pallavi Gedam
/4/	Rachael Katuuta	Local Stakeholder (CEO of Bold Energy)	01/07/2021	Discussion on the stakeholder consultation	Amit Anand Pallavi Gedam
/5/	Jackie Wakhali	Local Stakeholder (NGO)	01/07/2021	Discussion on the stakeholder consultation	Amit Anand Pallavi Gedam

SECTION D. Validation findings

D.1. Programme of activities

D.1.1. Identification of programme type

Means of validation	DR,I
Conclusion	The validation team through document review identified that the PoA is already implemented since 02/01/2013 as per the registered CDM PoA-DD version 04 dated 30/06/2014 /01/. Project is one of the pre-identified types as per section 3.1.1 (a) and automatically eligible for Gold Standard Certification as per section 4.1.3 of GS4GG Principles & Requirements, version 1.2 /B01/.

D.1.2. Description of PoA

Means of validation	DR, I
Conclusion	This is the transition project from CDM to GS4GG. Based on review of section A.2 of the registered CDM PoA-DD /01/, the validation team confirms that the description of the proposed TRF PoA is same as that mentioned in the CDM PoA-DD and there is no change in the process and project design.

D.1.3. Technologies/measures and eligibility under Gold Standard & Project Eligibility criteria

The proposed PoA “Up Energy Improved Cookstove Programme, Uganda” is a small-scale PoA implemented in Republic of Uganda. The project is applying CDM approved methodology AMS-II.G.: “Energy Efficiency Measures in Thermal Applications of Non-Renewable Biomass” (Version 05.0).

Eligibility under Gold Standard:

CME has defined project eligibility based on GS4GG Principles & Requirements as assessed below:

Project Eligibility Aspects	Eligibility criterion - Required condition	Justification by CME	Assessment by Validation team
Type of project	Eligible projects shall include physical action/implementation on the ground. Pre-identified eligible project types are identified in the Eligibility Principles and Requirements section.	PoA is already implemented since 02/01/2013. Project is already one of the pre identified types as per section 3.1.1 (b) and automatically eligible for Gold Standard Certification as per section 4.1.3 of GS4GG Principles & Requirements.	In the TRF PoA-DD /05-b/ CME has demonstrated that PoA is already implemented under CDM program. The project involves dissemination of energy efficient ICSSs in the Republic of Uganda. The ICSSs are distributed in rural households to switch or reduce the use of fuel wood for cooking. The utilization of the systems will reduce the amount of non-renewable biomass wood-based domestic energy needs, which will contribute to a reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The eligibility criteria for the proposed PoA are defined in accordance with point (b) of section 3.1.1 of GS4GG Community Services Activity requirements

			<p>version 1.2 /B01/ which states “Project activities that reduce energy requirements as compared to baseline scenario without affecting the level and quality of services or products, where the end-user of the products and services are clearly identified and when the physical intervention is required at the user end”. Therefore, the dissemination of the improved cookstoves will account for the end-use energy efficiency.</p> <p>According to Section 4.1.3. of the GS4GG Principles and Requirements version 1.2 /B01/, “A Project type is automatically eligible for Gold Standard Certification if there are Gold Standard approved Activity Requirements and/or Impact Quantification Methodologies associated with it or it’s referenced in the Gold Standard Product Requirements”. As the PoA is eligible under GS4GG Community Services Activity Requirements, it is also eligible for the GS4GG certification.</p> <p>Hence validation team confirms that in accordance with the GS Principle and Requirements /B01/, the project is eligible under Gold Standard.</p>
Location of Project	Projects may be located in any part of the world.	Location of the PoA is the Republic of Uganda.	<p>Based on the review of section A.5 of the registered CDM PoA-DD /01/ and PoA TRF & KPID /05-b/, it is confirmed that the boundary of the proposed PoA lies within the geographical territory of the Republic of Uganda.</p> <p>The eligibility criterion for inclusion of corresponding VPAs in the proposed PoA is defined in accordance with point (b) of section 3.1.1 of GS4GG principles and requirements version 1.2.</p> <p>Hence validation team confirms that in accordance with the GS Requirements /B01/, the project is eligible under Gold Standard.</p>
Project Area, Project Boundary and Scale	The Project Area and Project Boundary shall be defined. Projects may be developed at any scale although certain rules, requirements and	The boundary for the PoA in terms of a geographical area is defined as the territorial boundary of the Republic of Uganda. All	As per applied methodology, the project boundary is the physical, geographical site of the efficient devices distributed that utilize biomass. Therefore, the project boundary covers each project ICS

	<p>limitations may apply under specific Activity Requirements, Impact Quantification Methodologies and Products Requirements. In order to avoid double counting the Project shall not be included in any other voluntary or compliance standards programme unless approved by Gold Standard (for example through dual certification). Also, if the Project Area overlaps with that of another Gold Standard or other voluntary or compliance standard programme of a similar nature, the Project shall demonstrate that there is no double counting of impacts at design and performance certification (for example use of similar technology or practices through which the potential arises for double counting or misestimation of impacts amongst projects)</p>	<p>voluntary programme activities (VPAs) associated with this PoA will be implemented within the geographical boundary of the PoA. To avoid inclusion of any stove which is a part of another registered carbon project/ programme, all ICS under this programme shall have a unique ID number / Tag number, either inscribed on the stove or retained by the buyer, to uniquely identify the ICS avoiding any double-counting and trace its user, later during monitoring and verification.</p>	<p>location. As the project ICS are spread throughout Uganda, the project boundary covers entire Uganda. The project ICS installation point is verified from stove distribution database /17/. The project boundary is correctly identified in accordance with the methodology AMS-II.G. version 05. The project also avoids inclusion of any other registered carbon project by giving all ICS a unique ID number and Tag number/ 12/.</p> <p>Hence the proposed project is a small-scale project under UNFCCC rules. Furthermore, the CME has correctly identified each VPA under the PoA as small-scale in section B.2 of the CDM registered PoA DD /01/.</p> <p>The eligibility criterion for PoA is defined in accordance with point (c) of section 3.1.1 of GS4GG principles and requirements version 1.2.</p> <p>Hence validation team confirms that in accordance with the GS Requirements /B01/, the project is eligible under Gold Standard.</p>
<p>Host Country Requirements</p>	<p>Projects shall be in compliance with applicable Host Country's legal, environmental, ecological and social regulations.</p>	<p>The PoA complies with Uganda's legal, environmental and ecological and social regulations.</p>	<p>The eligibility criterion of the proposed PoA is defined in accordance with point (d) of section 3.1.1 of GS4GG principles and requirements version 1.2 /B01/. The same has been validated from the letter of approval /18/ issued by Designated National Authority for Uganda which states that the PoA is in compliance with the host country's legal, environmental, ecological & social regulation.</p> <p>Hence validation team confirms that in accordance with the GS Requirements /B01/, the project is eligible under Gold Standard.</p>
<p>Contact Details</p>	<p>As part of the Project Documentation the Project Developer shall provide (i) name and (ii) contact details of all Project Participants; AND in case of an organisation (iii) the legal registration details and (iv) documentation by the governing jurisdiction that proves that the entity is</p>	<p>Name and Contact details of Project Participants are given in Appendix 1.</p>	<p>The validation team has reviewed the registered CDM PoA-DD /01/ and also the TRF PoA Appendix 1 /05-b/ and confirms that the contact details of the Project Participants is same, and no change is found during the transition from CDM to GS4GG.</p> <p>The eligibility criterion for the proposed PoA is defined in</p>

	<p>in good standing (defined as being a legal or other appropriate entity registered in or allowed to operate within the required jurisdiction and with no evidence of insolvency or legal/criminal notices placed against it or any of its Directors). Gold Standard retains the right (at its own discretion) to refuse use of the Standard where reputational concerns are highlighted.</p>		<p>accordance with the GS4GG-VAL-FORM Page 11 of 43 (e) of section 3.1.1 of GS4GG principles and requirements version 1.2.</p>
Legal Ownership	<p>Full and uncontested legal ownership of any Products that are generated under Gold Standard Certification, (for example carbon credits) shall be demonstrated. Where such ownership is transferred from project beneficiaries this must be demonstrated transparently and with full, prior and informed consent (FPIC). Note that for certain Project types there is a requirement for full and uncontested legal land title/tenure to be demonstrated. These are contained within specific Activity or Product Requirements. All projects shall immediately report to Gold Standard any land title/tenure disputes arising.</p>	<p>Criteria for transfer of carbon credit ownership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •For regular cycle VPA, this shall be ensured through relevant provisions for example disclaimer on warranty/information cards, stove packaging, customer agreements / sales receipts / consent form or may be collected via monitoring app etc. or collecting stakeholder feedback on this issue during local stakeholder consultation (LSC) •For retroactive VPA, this shall be ensured through relevant provisions for example disclaimer on warranty cards, stove packaging, customer agreements / sales receipts/ consent form or may be collected via monitoring app, etc. or stakeholder feedback collected during Stakeholder Feedback Round (SFR). 	<p>The validation team through document review found that legal ownership of the GS carbon credit generated from the project is transferred to CME as verified from end-user agreement receipts /10/.</p> <p>The eligibility criterion for proposed PoA is defined in accordance with point (f) of section 3.1.1 of GS4GG principles and requirements version 1.2.</p> <p>Hence validation team confirms that in accordance with the GS Requirements /B01/, the project is eligible under Gold Standard.</p>
Other Rights	<p>As well as legal title and ownership, the Project Developer shall also demonstrate where required uncontested legal rights and/or permissions concerning changes in use of other resources required</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>

	to service the Project (for example, access rights, water rights etc.). Any known disputes or contested rights must be declared immediately to Gold Standard by the Project Developer and resolved prior to further project implementation in affected areas.		
Official Development Assistance (ODA) Declaration	All Project Developers applying for project activities located in a country named by the OECD Development Assistance Committee's ODA recipient list and seeking Gold Standard Certification for carbon credits shall declare the Official Development Assistance (ODA) support. The Project Developer shall follow the GHG Emissions Reduction & Sequestration Product Requirements and submit the declaration at the time of Design Certification.	No ODA is involved in the PoA. A declaration is being submitted.	<p>During the validation process, the validation team did not find that there was any diversion of official development assistance (ODA) funding due to the proposed project activity. CME has submitted an authorized ODA Declaration in this respect /11/.</p> <p>The eligibility criterion for the proposed PoA is defined in accordance with point (h) of section 3.1.1 of GS4GG principles and requirements version 1.2.</p> <p>Hence validation team confirms that in accordance with the GS Requirements /B01/, the project is eligible under Gold Standard.</p>

Eligibility under Gold Standard Community Services Activity (CSA) Requirements

Project Eligibility Aspects	Eligibility criterion – Required condition	Justification by CME	Assessment by Validation team
Eligible Project Types	All CSA Projects shall lead to climate change mitigation and/or adaptation by providing or improving access to services/resources at the household or community or institution level. Eligible services include electricity and energy, water and sanitation, waste management, housing, etc.	The goal of the proposed PoA is to distribute ICS (improving access to services) in households/SME's within the national borders of the Republic of Uganda.	<p>In the TRF PoA-DD /05-b/ CME has demonstrated that PoA is already implemented under CDM program. The project involves dissemination of energy-efficient ICSs in the Republic of Uganda. The ICSs are distributed in rural households to switch or reduce the use of fuel wood for cooking. The utilization of the systems will reduce the amount of non-renewable biomass wood-based domestic energy needs, which will contribute to a reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.</p> <p>The eligibility criterion for the proposed PoA is defined in accordance with paragraph 2.1.2 of Community Services Activity (CSA) Requirements version 1.2.</p>

			Hence validation team confirms that in accordance with the GS Requirements /B01/, the project is eligible under Gold Standard.
GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA – Type of project	(b) End-use energy efficiency: Project activities that reduce energy requirements as compared to baseline scenario without affecting the level and quality of services or products, where the end-user of the products and services are clearly identified and when the physical intervention is required at the user end. For example, efficient cooking, heating, lighting, etc.	The PoA involves distribution of energy-efficient ICS to households/SME's in Uganda.	In the TRF PoA-DD /05-b/ CME has demonstrated that PoA is already implemented under CDM program. The project involves dissemination of energy-efficient ICSs in the Republic of Uganda. The ICSs are distributed in rural households to switch or reduce the use of fuel wood for cooking. The utilization of the systems will reduce the amount of non-renewable biomass wood-based domestic energy needs, which will contribute to a reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The eligibility criterion for the proposed PoA is defined in accordance with paragraph 3.1.1, point (b) of Community Services Activity (CSA) Requirements version 1.2. Hence VT confirms that in accordance with the GS Requirements /B01/, the project is eligible under Gold Standard.
GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA – Project Area, Boundary and scale	Project Area and Boundary shall be defined in line with the applicable Impact Quantification Methodologies and Product Requirements.	The project area is point location of ICS beneficiaries in the host country of the VPA. The project boundary will be limited to the geographical boundary of the host country. The PoA is a small scale PoA with each independent subsystem (in case of this PoA = ICS) contributing to no greater than 1% of the small-scale threshold.	The PoA is a small-scale PoA and each unit lies within 1% of the small-scale threshold. The project boundary is limited to the Republic of Uganda and the project area is point location of the ICS end-users. The eligibility criterion for the proposed PoA is defined in accordance with paragraph 3.1.2 of Community Services Activity (CSA) Requirements version 1.2. Hence the proposed project is a small-scale project under UNFCCC rules. Furthermore, the CME has correctly identified each VPA under the PoA as small-scale in section B.2 of the CDM registered PoA DD/01/. Hence VT confirms that in accordance with the GS Requirements /B01/, the project is eligible under Gold Standard.
GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA – Legal	(a) Projects involving the distribution of a large number of devices for services such as	The ICS owners will be transferring their rights on ownership of carbon credits to CME via the end-user	The validation team through document review found that legal ownership of the GS carbon credit generated from the project is

Ownership	<p>heating, cooking, lighting, electricity generation, water treatment technology such as water filter, etc. shall provide a clear description of the ownership of the Products that are generated under Gold Standard Certification all along the investment chain. In line with the FPIC requirement, the proofs that end-users are aware of and willing to give up their rights on Products shall be provided.</p> <p>(b)The transfer of Product ownership shall be discussed during local stakeholder consultation for projects.</p>	<p>agreement /consent form via monitoring app etc. (refer to Eligibility under GS4GG section above).</p> <p>The same has been discussed during stakeholder consultation.</p>	<p>transferred to CME as verified from end-user agreement receipts /10/.</p> <p>The eligibility criterion for the proposed PoA is defined in accordance with paragraph 3.1.4 of Community Services Activity (CSA) Requirements, version 1.2 Hence validation team confirms that in accordance with the GS Requirements /B01/, the project is eligible under Gold Standard.</p>
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Eligibility Criteria for the inclusion of VPAs

No.	Criteria	Required condition	Means of Verification/Supporting evidence for inclusion	Assessment by the validation team
(1)	SDG outcome assessment	<p>The monitoring plan for SDG shall include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Money savings due to reduction in purchased fuel in households/SMEs (SDG 1). 2. Qualitative reduction in smoke levels or particulate matter etc (SDG 3). 3. Time savings due to reduction in collected fuel / cooking time in households/SMEs (SDG 5). 4. Number of ICS distributed and operating (SDG 7). 5. Number of male/female persons hired (SDG 8). 6. Woodfuel savings reported by user in the project (SDG 12) 	SDG monitoring plan specified in VPA KPID	The targeted SDGs will be monitored at VPA level and all the elements and conditions of the SDG assessment will be justified. Please refer to section D.1.4 for a detailed assessment.

		and 15).		
(2)	Safeguarding Principles	Conducted at PoA level	Not Applicable	As the project is already registered in the CDM program, hence the safeguarding principle is conducted at the PoA level. Please refer to section D.1.6 for a detailed assessment.

D.1.4. Target/Indicator for each of the minimum three SDGs targeted by the POA

Means of validation	DR, I		
Conclusion	<p>The PoA mandatorily contributes to SDG 13: Climate Action and several other SDGs, viz. SDG 1: No Poverty; SDG 3: Good Health and Well Being; SDG 5: Gender Equality; SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy; SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth; SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production; SDG 15: Life on Land.</p> <p>Assessment on the identified monitoring parameters linked with selected SDGs and corresponding SDG targets is provided below:</p>		
	Sustainable Development Goals Targeted	SDG Indicator	Impact
	Assessment by the validation team		
	SDG 1 No Poverty	1.4.1 Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services	With the installation and dissemination of ICS, cooking on traditional baseline stoves is avoided. Thus, the PoA results in increased access to basic services (clean cooking), new technology (improved stoves) as well as reduces poverty by reducing purchased fuel consumption. The stated SDG indicator has been appropriately selected by the CME.
SDG 3: Good Health and Well Being	3.9.1 Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution	By installation and dissemination of ICS, the PoA results in a reduction in exposure to indoor air pollutants associated with biomass fuel based traditional cooking thereby promoting good health and well-being. The stated SDG indicator has been appropriately selected by the CME.	
SDG 5: Gender Equality	5.4.1 Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location	The burden of collecting and/or purchasing fuel often falls on women and children. By reducing fuel collection and cooking time, the PoA provides women in project households with more time to invest in other productive	

		economic development activities. The stated SDG indicator has been appropriately selected by the CME.
SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	7.1.2 Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology	The PoA involves dissemination of clean, modern technology for cooking, by using available energy sources more efficiently. The stated SDG indicator has been appropriately selected by the CME.
SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	8.5.1 Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age and persons with disabilities	The PoA results in generating employment for marketing, sales and distribution employees. The stated SDG indicator has been appropriately selected by the CME.
SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production	12.2.2 Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP	Through the dissemination of ICS, the PoA will bring about a reduction in the consumption of the non-renewable biomass thereby promoting responsible consumption and production. The stated SDG indicator has been appropriately selected by the CME.
SDG 13: Climate Action (mandatory)	Emission reductions	Through the dissemination of improved cookstoves, the PoA will bring a reduction in the consumption of the non-renewable biomass thereby resulting in emission reductions. The stated SDG indicator has been appropriately selected by the CME.
SDG 15: Life on Land	15.2.1 Progress towards sustainable forest management	Through the dissemination of ICS, the PoA will bring a reduction in the consumption of the non-renewable biomass thereby reducing deforestation, promoting biodiversity and the overall life on land. The stated SDG indicator has been appropriately selected by the CME.
<p>The validation team confirms that all the relevant SDG indicators included under the PoA are in line with the SDG goals and the GS4GG principles and requirements /B01/.</p>		

D.1.5. Duration of PoA

Means of validation	DR, I
Conclusion	<p>The start date of the GS PoA period is 22/07/2014 (which is the crediting period start of the earliest CPA in the PoA). The PoA was first submitted to Gold Standard on 29/12/2020 and the total duration of the PoA is 20 years (22/07/2014 to 21/07/2034).</p> <p>The duration of the PoA is in line with GS4GG principles and Requirements.</p> <p>CME has got deviation approval from GS with respect to renewal of crediting period for the PoA 10898 and VPAs 10899 to 10921 no later than 6 months of transition approval date /15/.</p>

D.1.6. Assessment of Safeguarding Principles

Means of validation	DR, I		
Conclusion	<p>Safeguarding principles assessment is conducted at the PoA level. The CME has outlined the assessment of safeguarding principles for the PoA as per the GS4GG safeguarding principles requirements version 1.2 /B01/ to identify the potential risk and adverse outcome of project activity and to adopt a mitigation strategy to avoid or where avoidance is not possible, minimise identified risks, with the intention to achieve the stated requirement.</p>		
	Safeguarding Principles	Assessment Questions/ Requirements	Validation assessment team
	Principle 1. Human Rights	The Project Developer and the Project shall respect internationally proclaimed human rights and shall not be complicit in violence or human rights abuses of any kind as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights	The PoA involves dissemination of improved cookstove which users are free to choose. This project is a voluntary action by the project developer and no risk and issues to the internationally proclaimed human rights are expected from this project. The PoA and CME both respect human rights and are not complicit in violence or human rights abuses. No mitigation measure is required. The validation team confirms that PoA fulfils the GS requirement outlined in paragraph 3.1.1 of the GS4GG safeguarding principles requirements version 1.2 /B01/.
		The Project shall not discriminate with regards to participation and inclusion	The PoA involves dissemination of improved cookstove which users are free to choose. There is no discrimination against any person or group regarding the possibility to buy a stove. No mitigation measure required. The validation team confirms that PoA fulfils the GS requirement outlined in paragraph 3.1.2

		of the GS4GG safeguarding principles requirements version 1.2 /B01/.
Principle 2. Gender Equality	The Project shall not directly or indirectly lead to/contribute to adverse impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women (a) Sexual harassment and/or any forms of violence against women – address the multiple risks of gender-based violence, including sexual exploitation or human trafficking.	This is not relevant for the project activity.
	(b) Slavery, imprisonment, physical and mental drudgery, punishment or coercion of women and girls.	This is not relevant for the project activity.
	(c) Restriction of women’s rights or access to resources (natural or economic).	This is not relevant for the project activity.
	(d) Recognise women’s ownership rights regardless of marital status – adopt project measures where possible to support to women’s access to inherit and own land, homes, and other assets or natural resources.	This is not relevant for the project activity.
	Projects shall apply the principles of non-discrimination, equal treatment, and equal pay for equal work: (a) Where appropriate for the implementation of a PoA/VPA, paid, volunteer work or community contributions will be organised to provide the conditions for equitable participation of men and women in the identified tasks/activities.	This is not relevant for the project activity.
	(b) Introduce conditions that ensure the participation of women or men in Project activities and benefits based on pregnancy, maternity/paternity leave, or marital status.	This is not relevant for the project activity.
	(c) Ensure that these conditions do not limit the access of women or men, as the case may be, to PoA/VPA participation and benefits.	This is not relevant for the project activity.
	The Project shall refer to the country’s national gender strategy or equivalent national commitment to aid in assessing gender risks	This is not relevant for the project activity.
	(where required) Summary of opinions and recommendations of an Expert Stakeholder(s)	This is not relevant for the project activity.
	Principle 3. Community Health, Safety	The Project shall avoid community exposure to increased health risks and shall not adversely affect the

	and Working Conditions	health of the workers and the community	pollution and thus avoids community exposure to increased health risks. The validation team confirms that PoA fulfils the GS requirement outlined in paragraph 3.3.1 of the GS4GG safeguarding principles requirements version 1.2 /B01/.
	Principle 4.1 Sites of Cultural and Historical Heritage	Does the Project Area include sites, structures, or objects with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional or religious values or intangible forms of culture?	This is not relevant for the project activity.
	Principle 4.2 Forced Eviction and Displacement	Does the Project require or cause the physical or economic relocation of peoples (temporary or permanent, full or partial)?	This is not relevant for the project activity.
	Principle 4.3 Land Tenure and Other Rights	Does the Project require any change, or have any uncertainties related to land tenure arrangements and/or access rights, usage rights or land ownership?	This is not relevant for the project activity.
	Principle 4.4 Indigenous People	Are indigenous peoples present in or within the area of influence of the Project and/or is the Project located on land/territory claimed by indigenous peoples?	This is not relevant for the project activity.
	Principle 5. Corruption	The Project shall not involve, be complicit in or inadvertently contribute to or reinforce corruption or corrupt Projects	The PoA does not in any way promote or complicity corruption. The validation team confirms that PoA fulfils the GS requirement outlined in paragraph 3.5.1 of the GS4GG safeguarding principles requirements version 1.2 /B01/.
	Principle 6.1 Labour Rights	The Project Developer shall ensure that all employment is in compliance with national labour occupational health and safety laws and with the principles and standards embodied in the ILO fundamental conventions	The PoA does not involve any kind of forced labour or compulsory labour. The validation team confirms that PoA fulfils the GS certification requirement outlined in paragraph 3.6.1 of the GS4GG safeguarding principles requirements version 1.2 /B01/.
		Workers shall be able to establish and join labour organisations	The CME does not limit any of the employees to form unions or join labour organizations. The validation team confirms that PoA fulfils the GS certification requirement outlined in paragraph 3.6.1 of the GS4GG safeguarding principles requirements version 1.2 /B01/.

		<p>1. Working agreements with all individual workers shall be documented and implemented and include:</p> <p>a. Working hours (must not exceed 48 hours per week on a regular basis), AND</p> <p>b. Duties and tasks, AND</p> <p>c. Remuneration (must include provision for payment of overtime), AND</p> <p>d. Modalities on health insurance, AND</p> <p>e. Modalities on termination of the contract with provision for voluntary resignation by employee, AND</p> <p>f. Provision for annual leave of not less than 10 days per year, not including sick and casual leave.</p>	<p>The PoA does not involve any kind of forced labour or compulsory labour. The CME has submitted HR Policy & Employee Handbook /08/ and also Employee Contract template /09/ in this respect. The validation team confirms that PoA fulfils the GS requirement outlined in paragraph 3.6.1 (b) of the GS4GG safeguarding principles requirements version 1.2 /B01/.</p>
		<p>No child labour is allowed (Exceptions for children working on their families' property requires an Expert Stakeholder opinion)</p>	<p>The PoA does not involve any kind of child labour and the CME shall take adequate steps to ensure the age verification process is thoroughly carried out while recruitment. The validation team confirms that PoA fulfils the GS requirement outlined in paragraph 3.6.2 of the GS4GG safeguarding principles requirements version 1.2 /B01/.</p>
		<p>The Project Developer shall ensure the use of appropriate equipment, training of workers, documentation and reporting of accidents and incidents, and emergency preparedness and response measures</p>	<p>This is not relevant for the project activity.</p>
	Principle 6.2 Negative Economic Consequences	<p>Does the project cause negative economic consequences during and after project implementation?</p>	<p>No negative economic consequences are deemed applicable. This is not relevant for the project activity.</p>
	Principle 7.1 Emissions	<p>Will the Project increase greenhouse gas emissions over the Baseline Scenario?</p>	<p>The project involves dissemination of improved cookstove which will reduce GHG emissions compared to the baseline scenario. This is not relevant for the project activity.</p>
Principle 7.2 Energy Supply	<p>Will the Project use energy from a local grid or power supply (i.e., not connected to a national or regional grid) or fuel resource (such as wood, biomass) that provides for other local users?</p>	<p>The improved cookstove does not use energy from the local grid or power supply. The cookstove requires fuel wood as an energy source. The project</p>	

		<p>will reduce fuel resource consumption.</p> <p>The validation team confirms that PoA fulfils the GS requirement outlined in the GS4GG safeguarding principles requirements version 1.2 /B01/</p>
Principle 8.1 Impact on Natural Water Patterns/Flows	Will the Project affect the natural or pre-existing pattern of watercourses, ground-water and/or the watershed(s) such as high seasonal flow variability, flooding potential, lack of aquatic connectivity or water scarcity?	This is not relevant for the project activity.
Principle 8.2 Erosion and/or Water Body Instability	Could the Project directly or indirectly cause additional erosion and/or water body instability or disrupt the natural pattern of erosion?	The project involves dissemination of improved cookstove and does not in any way cause additional erosion and/or water body instability or disrupt the natural pattern of erosion. The PoA shall result in a reduction in demand for biomass fuel in the region putting less pressure on forests for deforestation and will hence indirectly avoid erosion associated with tree cutting/ felling. The validation team confirms that PoA fulfils the GS requirement outlined in the GS4GG safeguarding principles requirements version 1.2 /B01/.
Principle 9.1 Landscape Modification and Soil	Does the Project involve the use of land and soil for the production of crops or other products?	This is not relevant for the project activity.
Principle 9.2 Vulnerability to Natural Disaster	Will the Project be susceptible to or lead to increased vulnerability to wind, earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding, drought or other extreme climatic conditions?	This is not relevant for the project activity.
Principle 9.3 Genetic Resources	Could the Project be negatively impacted by or involve genetically modified organisms or GMOs (e.g., contamination, collection and/or harvesting, commercial development, or take place in facilities or farms that include GMOs in their processes and production)?	This is not relevant for the project activity.
Principle 9.4 Release of pollutants	Could the Project potentially result in the release of pollutants to the environment?	This is not relevant for the project activity.
Principle 9.5	Will the Project involve the	This is not relevant for the

	Hazardous and Non-hazardous Waste	manufacture, trade, release, and/or use of hazardous and non-hazardous chemicals and/or materials?	project activity.
	Principle 9.6 Pesticides & Fertilisers	Will the Project involve the application of pesticides and/or fertilisers?	Not applicable
	Principle 9.7 Harvesting of Forests	Will the Project involve the harvesting of forests?	The PoA involves reduction of fuelwood consumption therefore it will positively support the forest resources. The validation team confirms that PoA fulfils the GS requirement outlined in the GS4GG safeguarding principles requirements version 1.2 /B01/.
	Principle 9.8 Food	1.Does the Project modify the quantity or nutritional quality of food available such as through crop regime alteration or export or economic incentives?	This is not relevant for the project activity.
	Principle 9.9 Animal husbandry	Will the Project involve animal husbandry?	This is not relevant for the project activity.
	Principle 9.10 High Conservation Value Areas and Critical Habitats	Does the Project physically affect or alter largely intact or High Conservation Value (HCV) ecosystems, critical habitats, landscapes, key biodiversity areas or sites identified?	This is not relevant for the project activity.
	Principle 9.11 Endangered Species	Are there any endangered species identified as potentially being present within the Project boundary (including those that may route through the area)? AND/OR Does the Project potentially impact other areas where endangered species may be present through transboundary affects?	This is not relevant for the project activity.
	<p>The validation team confirms that the safeguarding principles assessment is undertaken at PoA-level and the assessment has been addressed by the CME in accordance with the GS requirement outlined in the GS4GG safeguarding principles requirements version 1.2 /B01/. Based on the assessment of safeguarding principles, the validation team concludes that no mitigation measures are required to the monitoring plan.</p>		

D.1.7. Justification of stakeholder consultation at PoA level only

Means of validation	DR, I
Conclusion	The PoA is already registered under CDM (UNFCCC Ref. No. PoA 9956 registered on 22/07/2014) and is seeking transition under GS4GG. The physical local stakeholder meetings took place on 17/05/2011 and 31/05/2011 in the local language. There has been no substantial change to the design of the PoA during the GS transition process and all the key aspects related to the PoA are the same as those incorporated under CDM. Section F.1 of the CDM PoA-DD /01/ can be

	<p>referred for details of the solicitation of comments from local stakeholders.</p> <p>In line with the PoA transition checklist, the CME has conducted a stakeholder feedback round for transition to GS4GG. Design Consultation was carried out from 04/01/2021 to 03/02/2021 and SFR from 04/01/2021 to 05/04/2021. CME carried out SFR to cover all the identified gaps between CDM and GS4GG. SFR was conducted virtually by inviting the stakeholders through email and phone. A non-technical summary and questionnaire form to submit feedback was shared with all the identified stakeholders. The assessment team has checked the elaborate stakeholder report /14/ which includes the means of invitation, feedback questionnaire, summary of comments and redressal by the CME. The stakeholder report has been assessed to confirm that the feedback round has been conducted in line with the GS4GG Principles and Requirements and Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement requirements /B01/.</p>
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D.1.8. Summary of stakeholder mitigation measures at PoA level

Means of validation	DR, I
Conclusion	<p>Section F.2 of the CDM PoA-DD /01/ can be referred for details of the summary of comments received during the physical local stakeholders meeting conducted for the PoA on 17/05/2011 and 31/05/2011.</p> <p>During the SFR period from 04/01/2021 to 05/04/2021, all the stakeholders were invited via email / phone and an extensive questionnaire was shared with each of the stakeholder to provide their feedback on the PoA. Six stakeholders responded to the CME stating that they were appreciative of the project and its features and acknowledged the positive SDG impacts created by PoA, i.e. reduction in Indoor air pollution, employment generation etc. The stakeholders appreciated the efforts made by CME to seek detailed and comprehensive feedback on various aspects of the PoA. The detailed stakeholder consultation report /14/ has been reviewed by the validation team to confirm that there were no negative comments received during the SFR and that the feedback round has been conducted in line with the GS4GG Principles and Requirements and Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement requirements /B01/.</p>

D.1.9. Grievance Mechanism

Means of validation	DR, I
Conclusion	<p>The CME has maintained an elaborate grievance mechanism and a convenient method has been set up to gauge the response of the relevant stakeholders. A grievance expression process book has been placed at the office of UpEnergy in Uganda to allow the stakeholders to share their feedback. The end users can also revert to the salesperson (representative of distribution/retail partners etc.) in case of any feedback / complaints with the product post distribution. The end-users have also been provided with the contact number and email id of the CME to submit their grievances.</p> <p>The grievance mechanism established by the CME is in line with the GS4GG Principles and Requirements /B01/.</p>

SECTION E. Internal quality control

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The final validation report has passed a technical review before submission. The technical review was performed by a technical reviewer qualified in accordance with CCIPL's qualification scheme for CDM validation and verification and GS4GG requirements.

SECTION F. Validation opinion

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The Coordinating/managing entity (CME), UpEnergy Group has appointed the VVB, Carbon Check (India) Private Ltd. to perform a transition from CDM to GS4GG of the Gold Standard Programme of Activities “Up Energy Improved Cookstove Programme, Uganda” in Uganda: GS ID – GS 10898. This report summarises the findings of the validation of the project, performed on the basis of Gold Standard criteria for transition, as well as criteria are given to provide for consistent project operations, monitoring and reporting. This report contains the findings and resolutions from the validation and a validation opinion.

The report is based on the assessment of the project design document undertaken through stakeholder consultations, application of standard auditing techniques including but not limited to document reviews, stakeholder interviews, review of the applicable/applied methodology and its underlying formulae and calculations.

The Validation team confirms the contractual relationship signed on 09/06/2021 in between the VVB, Carbon Check (India) Private Ltd. and the CME, (UpEnergy Group) /02/. The team assigned to the validation meets the Carbon Check (India) Private Ltd.’s internal procedures including the UNFCCC and Gold Standard requirements for the team composition and competence. The validation team has conducted a thorough contract review as per UNFCCC and Carbon Check’s procedures and requirements.

“Up Energy Improved Cookstove Programme, Uganda” (the PoA) aims to distribution of improved cookstoves for rural communities in Uganda. The use of this technology will enable households to switch low efficiency energy devices for cooking and boiling water for safe drinking to higher efficient, clean, safe, and less polluting, cooking fuel. The utilization of the systems will reduce/replace the amount of non-renewable fuel wood domestic energy needs, which will contribute to a reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The proposed PoA and VPA applies the approved CDM methodology AMS-II.G.: “Energy Efficiency Measures in Thermal Applications of Non-Renewable Biomass” (Version 05.0) /B03/. This methodology is applicable because the programme will involve the displacement of thermal energy consumption (non-renewable biomass/fuel wood) with Improved Cooking stoves (ICS), devices.

The project meets all relevant host Country criteria and Gold Standard requirements.

The validation is based on the information made available to the validation team and the engagement conditions detailed in this report. The only purpose of this report is its use during the registration with GS4GG to issue GSVERs while maintaining the CDM registration. Carbon Check cannot be held liable by any party for decisions made or not made based on the validation opinion, which will go beyond that purpose.

During the course of validation a total of 07 findings were raised which include:

- 05 Corrective Action Requests (CARs);
- 02 Clarification Requests (CLs);

All the raised findings have been successfully resolved. Please refer to Appendix 4 for further details.

Carbon Check (India) Private Ltd. concludes the validation with a positive opinion that the GS PoA “Up Energy Improved Cookstove”, as described in the PoA DD (Version 03.0, dated 04/10/2021) /05-b/, meets all CDM requirements, including those specified in the GS4GG requirements /B01/, relevant methodologies, tools and guidelines and article 12 of the Kyoto Protocol, paragraph 37 of the CDM modalities and procedures and the subsequent decisions by the COP/MOP and CDM Executive Board and Gold Standard Requirements.

The selected GS methodology (AMS-II.G.: “Energy Efficiency Measures in Thermal Applications of Non-Renewable Biomass” (Version 05.0)/B03/ is applicable to the project and correctly applied. Carbon Check (India) Private Ltd. therefore, recommends the project for the Gold Standard Registry for registration.



Amit Anand
Team Leader
Carbon Check (India) Private Ltd.



Vikash Kumar Singh
Approver
Carbon Check (India) Private
Ltd.

Appendix 1. Abbreviations

Abbreviations	Full Texts
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CER	Certified Emission Reduction
CAR	Corrective Action Request
CC IPL	Carbon Check (India) Private Ltd.
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CER	Certified Emission Reduction
CL	Clarification Request
CO ₂	Carbon Dioxide
CO _{2e}	Carbon Dioxide Equivalent
CSA	Community Services Activity
EB	CDM Executive Board
EF	Emission Factor
FAR	Forward Action Request
FVR	Final Validation Report
GS	Gold Standard
GS4GG	Gold Standard for the Global Goals
GHG	Greenhouse gas(es)
GWh	Giga Watt Hour
ICS	Improved Cook Stove
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on ClimateChange
MWh	Mega Watt Hour
OSV	On Site Visit
PoA	Programme of Activities
QC/QA	Qualitycontrol/Qualityassurance
Registry	Gold Standard/MarkitRegistry
SD	Sustainable Development
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SFR	Stakeholder Feedback Round
TA	Technical Area
TR	Technical Review
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention onClimateChange
VER	Verified Emission Reductions
VPAs	Voluntary Project Activities
VVB	Validation & Verification Body
VVS	Validation and Verification Standard

Appendix 2. Competence of team member and technical reviewers



Carbon Check (India) Private Ltd.

Amit Anand

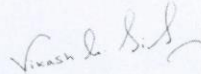
has been qualified as per CCIPL's internal qualification procedures, in accordance with requirements of Accreditation Standard (version 07.0):

For following functions:

Validator Team Leader Technical reviewer
 Verifier Technical Expert Local Assessor¹

In the following Technical Areas:

TA 1.1 TA 3.1 TA 5.2 TA 9.2 TA 13.2
 TA 1.2 TA 4.1 TA 8.1 TA 10.1 TA 14.1
 TA 2.1 TA 5.1 TA 9.1 TA 13.1



Mr. Vikash Kumar Singh
Compliance Officer

Date of Approval
24/12/2020

Valid Till
24/12/2021

Revision History of the Document

26/12/2014	Initial Adoption
24/12/2015	Annual Revision
20/01/2016	Interim Revision for office address change
23/12/2017	Annual Revision
24/12/2017	Annual Revision
24/12/2018	Annual Revision
24/12/2019	Annual Revision
01/03/2020	Interim Revision for office address change
01/09/2020	Interim Revision for CCIPL logo change
24/12/2020	Annual Revision

¹ India and South Africa

CARBON CHECK (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED
CIN: U74930DL2012PTC232495

Regd. Off: 2071/38, 2nd Floor, Naiwala, Karol Bagh, New Delhi - 110005

Corporate off: Unit No. 1701, Logix City Centre Office Tower, Plot No. BW-58, Sector-32 Noida, Uttar Pradesh
Tel: +91 120 4373114 | URL: www.carboncheck.co.in | e-mail: info@carboncheck.co.in



Carbon Check (India) Private Ltd.

Vikash Kumar Singh

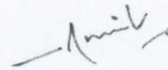
has been qualified as per CCIPL's internal qualification procedures, in accordance with requirements of Accreditation Standard (version 07.0):

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 TA 2.1 TA 5.1 TA 9.1 TA 13.1



Mr. Amit Anand
CEO

Date of Approval
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24/12/2020	Annual Revision

¹ India, South Africa

CARBON CHECK (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED
CIN: U74930DL2012PTC232495

Regd. Off: 2071/38, 2nd Floor, Naiwala, Karol Bagh, New Delhi - 110005

Corporate off: Unit No. 1701, Logix City Centre Office Tower, Plot No. BW-58, Sector-32 Noida, Uttar Pradesh
Tel: +91 120 4373114 | URL: www.carboncheck.co.in | e-mail: info@carboncheck.co.in

Appendix 3. Documents reviewed or referenced

Ref no.	Reference Document
/01/	CDM registered PoA DD version 04, 30/06/2014 (CDM PoA Ref. No. 9956)
/02/	Letter of engagement in between Carbon Check and CME for validation, dated 09/06/2021 including addendum contract for validation of renewal of crediting period for the PoA 10898 and VPAs 10899 to 10921
/03/	CDM PoA 9956 PoA Validation report
/04/	CDM PoA 9956 MP8 Monitoring Report and the corresponding Verification Report
/05/	a.GS10898 – PoA TRF and KPID Version 01, 22/12/2020 b.GS10898 – PoA TRF and KPID Version 3.0, 04/10/2021
/06/	Covid Interim measure version 04 dated 17/05/2021. https://www.goldstandard.org/project-developers/standard-documents
/07/	Evidence for the first submission of PoA to GS on 29/12/2020
/08/	HR Policy & Employee Handbook_2021
/9/	Employment Contract TEMPLATE 2021
/10/	Sample End user Agreement_receipts
/11/	Declaration from the CME that the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emission reduction will be claimed only in one of the Standard (CDM or GS) for a particular vintage/monitoring period. • CPAs are restricted to the geographic boundary of Uganda • CPAs will not be a part of any single project activity or any other PoA • GS4GG_ODA-Declaration-signed
/12/	Sample Stove Photographs with unique ID
/13/	a. Gold Standard for the Global Goals PoA Design Consultation Report, version 1.1, 14.10.2020 b. Design consultation report including email from Gold Standard on the confirmation on design consultation
/14/	Design Consultation and Stakeholder Consultation Report
/15/	Deviation approval from GS for renewal of crediting period of the PoA 10898 and VPAs 10899 to 10921 (GS Ref. No.: COVID_DEV 216, dated 15/07/2020)
/16/	Stakeholder Consultation Report, version 1.0 dated 15/04/2021
/17/	Stove distribution database
/18/	Letter of Approval from the host party, Uganda for the CDM PoA 9956
/19/	PoA Design Consultation Review Feedback from GS

Background documents:

Ref no.	Reference Document
/B01/	a) GS4GG “Principles & Requirements”, version 1.2 b) GS4GG “Programme Of Activity Requirements”, version 1.2 c) GS4GG “Community Services Activity Requirements”, version 1.2 d) GS4GG “GHG Emissions Reduction & Sequestration Product Requirements, version 2.0 e) GS4GG “Safeguarding Principles & Requirements”, version 1.2 f) GS4GG “Stakeholder Consultation Requirements”, version 1.2
/B02/	CDM Validation and Verification Standard for PoAs, version 02.0 CDM Project Standard for PoAs, version 02.0
/B03/	CDM methodology: AMS-II.G.: “Energy Efficiency Measures in Thermal Applications of Non-Renewable Biomass” Version 05.0
/B04/	Template of Gold Standard for the Global Goals Key Programme Information & Programme Design Document (PoA-DD) on The Gold Standard website
/B05/	Websites referred : a) http://www.goldstandard.org b) http://cdm.unfccc.int/

Appendix 4. Clarification requests and corrective action requests

Table 1 CARs from Preliminary review by GS

CAR ID	01	Section no.	PoA DD and VPA DD	Date: 12/07/2021
Description of CAR				
<p>During the preliminary review of the PoA and VPAs, CAR#1 was raised by GS as follows: “The PP must request for the approval of transition review before Design Certification”.</p> <p>In this context the concern raised is: VPA DD, KEY PROJECT INFORMATION: The PP shall use the latest version of the methodology/tool at the time of first submission to GS.</p>				
CME response				Date: 15/07/2021
<p>The Transition Checklists and supporting documents were submitted to GS for preliminary review which was duly closed. All these documents have also been submitted to the validation team for assessment. As per the GHG Emissions Reduction & Sequestration Product Requirements, version 2.0 dated 01 April 2021, Annex B, clause 4.2.1 (b) and (c), the PoA or the VPA-DDs don't need to be updated with the latest version of methodology, in case of CDM projects transitioning to GS4GG.</p> <p>Also, per GS4GG helpdesk: https://goldstandardhelp.freshdesk.com/support/solutions/articles/44002227020-how-is-the-crediting-period-applied-to-projects-poas-cpas-that-have-already-completed-5-of-the-7-year <i>“Projects / CPAs can request for retroactive issuance (maximum of 2 years from date of request for preliminary review + time period between preliminary review and transition approval) applying the version of the methodology with which it is registered under the CDM.”</i></p> <p>Given the CME is requesting a combined design and performance review for the retroactive period, hence at present the need for applying the latest version of methodology does not exist. The PoA and VPAs, as applicable, will be updated to the latest version of the methodology for the next monitoring period.</p>				
Documentation provided by CME				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GS4GG Cover Letter GS4GG Terms and Conditions GS4GG Official Development Assistance declaration GS4GG PoA design consultation report CDM PoA Design Document final version registered with CDM CDM CPA-DD registered with CDM CDM PoA Validation report submitted to CDM CDM CPA Validation reports submitted to CDM GS4GG Stakeholder Consultation Report Last CDM Monitoring report submitted to CDM Last CDM Verification report submitted to CDM 				
VVB assessment				Date: 20/07/2021
<p>Based on the document review and as per the GHG Emissions Reduction & Sequestration Product Requirements, version 2.0, Annex B, clause 4.2.1 (b) and (c), the submitted design documents using the earlier version of the methodology (AMS-II.G, version 05) are deemed acceptable. The CME is claiming for the retroactive issuance as per clause 10.4.1 of GHG Emissions Reduction & Sequestration Product Requirements, version 2.0. As the CME is requesting for Combined design and performance review for the retroactive period, the validation team confirms that the project meets the GS requirements. Hence the CAR is closed.</p>				
CAR ID	02	Section no.	PoA DD and VPA DD	Date: 12/07/2021
Description of CAR				
<p>During the preliminary review of the PoA and VPAs, CAR#2 was raised by GS as follows: “During Design Certification, the VVB shall cross-check the ICS databases from different PP's projects to avoid no double counting”.</p>				

In this context the concern raised is: Double counting: The PP registered a similar project activity (https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/39). The PP shall justify the double counting of stoves under the proposed CPA and their existing project.				
CME response				Date: 15/07/2021
The end-user database has been submitted to the verification team listing each ICS included in the VPAs. The GS project referred in the question above included sales pre-2013 whereas the VPAs being transitioned includes sales from 2013 onwards only. Thus, the sales included in the two projects are mutually exclusive. Besides, each ICS under the VPAs being transitioned bear a unique ID so the chance of double-counting does not exist.				
Documentation provided by CME				
-				
VVB assessment				Date: 20/07/2021
CME has provided the end users database which has been checked and verified by the validation team. Hence the CAR is closed.				

CAR ID	03	Section no.	PoA DD and VPA DD	Date: 12/07/2021
Description of CAR				
During the preliminary review of the PoA and VPAs, CAR#3 was raised by GS as follows: "The PP shall provide the proposed indicators for the proposed project besides the SDG indicators in section B.6 of the VPA DD".				
In this context the concern raised is: Section B.1.2: The PP shall provide the proposed indicators for the proposed project besides the SDG indicators.				
CME response				Date: 15/07/2021
As specified in PoA KPIDs and VPA KPIDs, section TRF.2 TRANSITION PROJECT INFORMATION, Option 1 - has included information in this document that has not been validated/verified as part of CDM PDD has been selected. Thus, indicators for SDG 13 are not listed in the PoA KPID or VPA KPID given those have already been validated in the registered CDM PoA and VPA-DDs.				
Documentation provided by CME				
-				
VVB assessment				Date: 20/07/2021
The justification provided by the CME is acceptable. Hence CAR is closed.				

CAR ID	04	Section no.	PoA DD and VPA DD	Date: 12/07/2021
Description of CAR				
During the preliminary review of the PoA and VPAs, CAR #4 was raised by GS as follows: "The VVB shall check the end date of GS4GG crediting period to ensure the compliance to the GS4GG transition requirement".				
In this context CME is requested to confirm on the following:				
1. Section C: The CPA shall follow the GS4GG crediting cycle, i.e. 5 years cycle according to paragraph 2.1.4 of the Rule update: https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/standards/RU_2020-Transition-or-Labelling-CreditingPeriod-Requirements.pdf				
2. The PP shall report clearly the CDM crediting period of the PoA and the proposed CPA as well as the GS4GG crediting period.				
CME response				Date: 15/07/2021
The PoA KPID and VPA KPIDs have been revised to mention the CDM and GS crediting period duration as well as, are confirmed to follow the 5-year renewable cycle.				
Documentation provided by CME				
Revised PoA KPID and VPA KPIDs				
VVB assessment				Date: 20/07/2021
CME has provided the revised PoA KPID and VPA KPIDs which have been checked and verified by the validation team. Hence the CAR is closed.				

Table 1. CARs from this validation

CAR ID	05	Section no.	PoA KPID	Date: 12/07/2021
Description of CAR				
As per the safeguarding principles and requirements, version 1.2, the coordinating/managing entity shall include principles that would systematically demonstrate any communities of Indigenous Peoples within the Project area of influence who may be affected directly or indirectly by the Project. In this context, "Principle 4.4 - Indigenous people" is missing in the Section E.2 of the PoA-DD.				
CME response				Date: 15/07/2021
<i>The PoA KPID document has been suitably revised.</i>				
Documentation provided by CME				
1.A. GS10898 - PoA TRF and KPID V02.0 15072021				
VVB assessment				Date: 20/07/2021
CME has provided revised PoA KPID which is now inline with the the safeguarding principles and requirements. The CAR is closed.				

Table 3 CLs from this validation

CL ID	01	Section no.	PoA-DD	Date: 12/07/2021
Description of CL				
In TRF PoA and TRF CPA, date of first submission to Gold Standard is stated as 25/12/2020 and 31/12/2020 respectively. CME is requested to provide evidence for the same.				
CME response				Date: 15/07/2021
<i>The snapshots of the SustainCert App showing date of document submission is being provided. The date of submission of PoA and VPA 01 to SC was 29/12/2020 and date of submission of VPA02-23 was 30/12/2020. The documents have been revised accordingly.</i>				
Documentation provided by CME				
1.A. GS10898 - PoA TRF and KPID V02.0 15072021 1.B. GS 10898 - VPA TRF and KPID ver 03.0 15072021 (for VPA 01-23)				
VVB assessment				Date: 20/07/2021
CME has submitted revised DDs along with the first dates of submissions of the PoA and VPAs to GS. The CL is closed.				

CL ID	02	Section no.	PoA-DD	Date: 12/07/2021
Description of CL				
Section F.1 appears twice in the TFR PoA. CME needs to correct the same.				
CME response				Date: 15/07/2021
It was a typo mistake, the error has been rectified.				
Documentation provided by CME				
1.A. GS10898 - PoA TRF and KPID V02.0 15072021				
VVB assessment				Date: 20/07/2021
CME has submitted revised PoA TRF with appropriate correction. The CL is closed.				