

GOLD STANDARD FOR THE GLOBAL GOALS (GS4GG) REPORT

-

DESIGN CERTIFICATION (PoA VALIDATION)



PoA Title: *Global Household Water Treatment Technology
Dissemination Project*

GS ID: *GS 12219*

Internal ID: *TQC 21623*

Customer: *EKI Energy Services Limited*

Date: *10/10/2024*

Revision: *02.0*

SUMMARY				
Reference No.		Date (first version)	Version No.	Date (last version)
TQC 21623		14/05/2024	02.0	10/10/2024
Client	EKI Energy Services Limited			
Project/PoA Title	Global Household Water Treatment Technology Dissemination Project			
Project Developer	EKI Energy Services Limited			
Project Location	India			
Contact Person	Mr. Manish Dabkara			
GS4GG Activity Requirements:		GS4GG Sectoral Scope: 02 UNFCCC CDM Sectoral Scope: 3 Technical Area: 3.1		
• PRINCIPLES & REQUIREMENTS VERSION 1.2^{/5/} • STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT VERSION 2.1^{/5/} • PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITY REQUIREMENTS VERSION 2.1^{/5/} • COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITY REQUIREMENTS VERSION 1.2^{/5/} • SAFEGUARDING PRINCIPLES AND REQUIREMENTS, VERSION 2.1^{/5/} • GHG EMISSIONS REDUCTION & SEQUESTRATION PRODUCT REQUIREMENTS, VERSION 2.3^{/5/} • VALIDATION & VERIFICATION STANDARD VERSION 1.0^{/5/}				
Applied Methodology and version: Methodology for Emission Reductions from Safe Drinking Water Supply, version 1.0 ^{/4/}				
Current Methodology Version: Methodology For Emission Reductions from Safe Drinking Water Supply, version 1.0 ^{/4/}				
First PoA-DD Version: 01 Date: 05/06/2023		Final PoA-DD Version: 03.0 Date: 20/09/2024		
Estimated outcomes of each SDG: Not mentioned as this is PoA and same are detailed in VPA Design Certification report.				
Selected Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): SDG 1; SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 6, SDG 7, SDG 8, SDG 12, SDG 13 and SDG 15				
Design Certification Summary				
LGAI Technological Center, S.A. (hereafter referred to as Applus+ Certification) has been contracted by EKI Energy Services Limited to perform the GS4GG design certification of the Programme of Activities (PoA) titled				

SUMMARY

"Global Household Water Treatment Technology Dissemination Project" applying the GS4GG methodology - Methodology for emission reductions from safe Drinking water supply, version 1.0^{4/}.

The purpose of this PoA is to disseminate Safe Water Supply (SWS) devices in domestic households and communities in the entire host country India, which were earlier using wood and/or charcoal on rudimentary stoves for boiling water or were consuming untreated water. The implementation of the PoA reduces greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the burning of non-renewable woody biomass and/or charcoal for boiling unsafe water to make it safe for consumption.

The CME of the PoA is EKI Energy Services Limited.

As a part of the PoA, the CME will ensure distribution, installation and continued use of improved water purification units majorly in rural areas within the India in communities where the people have less access to clean drinking water sources free from any kind of contaminations which might be harmful for human health. Thus, the use of water purification units (HWT/ CWT/ IWT) will result in increased awareness among people to use filtered drinking water as the same is essential for life.

In the absence of the PoA, the traditional cookstoves with fuelwood/charcoal would have been used to boil water by the households or the end user.

The management of EKI Energy Services Limited is responsible for the preparation of the GHG emissions data and the reported GHG emission reductions.

A thorough desk review and a physical on-site inspection have been conducted to verify the data submitted in the GS4GG PoA-DD^{1/} and VPA-DD^{1/}. Applus+ Certification confirms the following have been reviewed:

- a. The PoA-DD and VPA-DD.
- b. The applied monitoring methodology.
- c. Relevant decisions, clarifications, and guidance from GS4GG Registry.
- d. GS4GG requirements, guidelines and related Annex.
- e. All information and references relevant to the Programme of Activity resulting in estimated emission reductions.

The scope of the design certification is defined as an independent and objective review of the programme design document, against applicable GS4GG requirements. The validation report is finalized based on the assessment of the GS4GG PoA-DD and applying standard auditing techniques including but not limited to document reviews, follow up actions (e.g. physical on-site inspection, interviews with CME representatives) and also the review of the applicable approved methodology and underlying formulae and calculations.

The report and the annexed validation checklist describe a total of 05 findings which include:

- 04 Corrective Action Request (CARs);
- 01 Clarification Requests (CLs/CRs);
- 00 Forward Action Requests (FARs)

The CME has responded to these findings by modifying the Gold Standard PoA-DD and providing adequate additional explanations and evidence. Applus+ Certification confirms that all the findings have been successfully closed out before submitting the request for registration to GS4GG board.

As a summary of the design certification, the review of the GS4GG PoA-DD and the subsequent follow-up interviews have provided Applus+ Certification with sufficient evidence for the determination of the project's fulfillment with all stated criteria. In our opinion, the PoA DD meets all relevant requirements of Gold Standard. Therefore, Applus+ Certification recommends the PoA for design certification by the GS4GG Registry as GS VERs project.

ASSESSMENT TEAM		
Team Members	Type of Resource ¹	Organization (for OEs)
Lead Auditor: Mr. Deepak Pundlik	☐ IR ☐ EI ☒ OE	True Quality Certifications Private Limited
Auditor: Mr. Amit Rai	☐ IR ☐ EI ☒ OE	True Quality Certifications Private Limited
Auditor in training: Ms. Shruti Shrivastava	☐ IR ☐ EI ☒ OE	True Quality Certifications Private Limited
Technical Reviewer: Mr. Simon Shen	☐ IR ☒ EI ☐ OE	Applus+ Certification

ABBREVIATIONS	
Applus+ LGAI / Applus+	LGAI Technological Center, S.A. (Applus+ Certification)
CAR	Corrective Action Request
CL / CR	Clarification Request
CME	Co-ordinating / Managing Entity
ER	Emission Reduction
FAR	Forward Action Request
GHG	Greenhouse Gas(es)
GS4GG (or GS)	Gold Standard for Global Goals
GWP	Global Warming Potential
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
KP	Kyoto Protocol
MP	Monitoring Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
TAC	Gold Standard Technical Advisory Committee
POA	Programme of Activities
VPA	Voluntary Project Activity
VER	Verified Emission Reduction
VVB	Validation and Verification Body

¹ IR (Internal Resource); EI (External Individual); OE (Outsourced Entity)

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1. INTRODUCTION

Description of the PoA:

The purpose of the PoA is to provide safe water technologies to vulnerable communities that lack access to safe drinking water and meet the technology and measure requirements of the applied methodology "Methodology for Emission Reductions from Safe Drinking Water Supply", version 1.0^{4/} in Republic of India. The programme also aims to enhance the social, environmental, and economic impact of each VPA through various complementary activities and increase the participation of women.

In the absence of the proposed programme of activity, households and communities would be either boiling water using non-renewable biomass and/or consume unsafe water due to various barrier's factors (suppressed demand), which will lead to increased exposure to water borne diseases and high consumption of fossil fuels.

The PoA (GS 12219) is applying for design certification under GS4GG programme and the Coordinating/managing entity of the PoA is EKI Energy Services Limited. The duration of the PoA is 20 years.

VVB has checked and confirmed that the PoA follows the host country rules and regulations as there is no such specific rules/regulations/guidelines for safe water purifier distribution within India.

The PoA implementation spans across the territorial boundary of India. Section A.2 of the latest version of PoA-DD^{1/} includes the specific details on the location of the programme of activity. Same has been cross verified by the VVB from the KML file provided by the CME^{10/} as well as against the GPS Software i.e. Google Earth Pro (<https://www.google.com/earth>).

The baseline scenario considered for this PoA has been found in accordance with the applied GS4GG methodology. Detailed assessment is presented in section 3.6 below.

As far as the claimed sustainable development goals are concerned, their justification and impacts are transparently discussed under section A.4 of the latest PoA-DD. Detailed assessment is presented in section 3.8 below.

The VVB also confirms that there has been no Official Development Assistance (ODA) that the project might have received. This was confirmed by the duly signed ODA declaration dated 31/05/2023 that proposed PoA did not receive any ODA for this programme of activity.

The proposed GS PoA will comprise of VPAs with all type of scales i. e. micro scale, small-scale and large-scale VPA. As per footnote 14 of the applied methodology, application of suppressed demand baseline will be limited to Micro & Small-scale activities.

Along with this PoA, CME has submitted one real case VPA (VPA01), with project ID GS 12220² for design certification.

² <https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/4212>

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

The eligibility of technology under **section 3.1.1 of GS4GG Principles & Requirements, version 1.2:**

Eligibility Criteria	VVB assessment
3.1.1 (a) Types 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.	The current programme is distribution of safe water systems for households/communities thus qualifies eligibility under 3.1.1 (d) of Community Services Activity Requirements, version 1.2 ^{/5/} . The program will include CWT, CWS, HWT for safe drinking water as confirmed during interviews with CME representatives, thus satisfies the criterion.
3.1.1 (b) Location of Project: Projects may be located in the entire India.	The proposed PoA will be located within various states of India as confirmed by the VVB against the KML file submitted ^{/10/} for the PoA which was found to be consistent with the information provided under the section A.2 of the PoA. Hence, this criterion is satisfied.
3.1.1 (c) 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 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	The Project Boundary and the project area of the PoA has been checked by VVB against the submitted KML file ^{/10/} and as confirmed by CME representative, it will be India as a whole country. CME has decided to include large-scale, small-scale and micro-scale VPAs which is allowed as per GS4GG requirements and hence acceptable. CME will ensure that, VPAs being included in current PoA are not included in any other PoA or registered as a stand-alone project or is/are not registered by other carbon compliance standards / programs and/or country specific registries. As evident during the on-site visit/interviews with CME representative, CME ensures that each water CWT, CWS and HWT will bear a unique serial number and project database will record user location details to avoid double counting. This will ensure that a particular CWT, CWS and HWT is not a part of any other projects/ programme which are located in Host Country. Hence, this criterion is satisfied.

certification (for example use of similar technology or practices through which the potential arises for double counting or misestimation of impacts amongst projects).	
3.1.1 (d) Host Country Requirements: Projects shall be in compliance with applicable Host Country's legal, environmental, ecological and social regulations.	VVB has checked and confirmed that there are no specific host country (India) requirements as evident from websites of MoEF&CC³ (Ministry of Environment & Forest & Climate Change) & MNRE⁴ (Ministry of New & Renewable Energy), Ministry of Jal Shakti⁵ for safe water programme. VVB noted that government of India has not notified any laws/regulations/orders for such project/programme's implementation in recent years. Hence, this criterion is satisfied.
3.1.1 (e) Contact Details: 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 organization (iii) the legal registration details and (iv) documentation by the governing jurisdiction that proves that the entity is 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.	Name and contact details of the CME have been provided in appendix 1 of the submitted final version of PoA-DD^{1/}, which is found to be in accordance with the organization's registration certificate. The details of Local partner organizations and staff involved in the implementation of each VPA will be checked at VPA level. The CME has provided the company registration certificate and found to be satisfactory. Declaration that no evidence of insolvency or legal/criminal notices placed against it or any of its directors has been submitted by the CME. Hence, this criterion is satisfied.
3.1.1 (f) Legal Ownership: Full and uncontested legal ownership of any Products that are generated under Gold Standard	The legal ownership of each VPA will be checked and confirmed at VPA level.

³ <https://moef.gov.in/moef/index.html>

⁴ <https://mnre.gov.in/>

⁵ [Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation | India \(jalshakti-dowr.gov.in\)](http://Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation | India (jalshakti-dowr.gov.in))

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.	
3.1.1 (g) Other Rights: 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 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.	This will be checked and confirmed at VPA level.
3.1.1 (h) 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	The assessment team has verified the ODA declaration^{/15/} provided by CME to confirm that the programme does not involve ODA funding. Hence, this criterion is satisfied.

of Design Certification.

General Eligibility Criteria as per GS4GG Programme of Activity (PoA) Requirements and Procedures version 2.1:

Eligibility Criteria	VVB Assessment								
CMEs, when designing, implementing and monitoring a PoA and VPAs, shall consider and adhere to Principles & Requirements, applicable Activity Requirements, methodology(ies) and methodological tools, guidelines and other regulatory documents developed and/or recognized by the Gold Standard in accordance with this document	It has been confirmed by the VVB that all the general requirements regarding the principles & requirements, applicable activity requirements (community services activity requirements) as well as applied methodology has been demonstrated clearly in the latest version of PoA-DD, justification of which has been provided in this validation report.								
CMEs seeking Design or Performance Certification of proposed PoA and VPAs shall prepare and submit to the VVB using the latest version of the applicable template and provide all necessary information and documentation to demonstrate compliance with all applicable rules and requirements in this document and other applicable standard documents (PoA-DD or V/CPA-DD templates and Monitoring Report template).	It has been ensured by the VVB that all the latest versions of the templates have been used which are available at the GS4GG website. Also, all necessary information and documentation to demonstrate compliance with all applicable rules and requirements has also been clearly stated in the submitted PoA-DD and validated in this validation report.								
The CMEs shall apply IPCC AR5 GWP values for the vintage 01 January 2021 onwards, as summarized <table><tr><td>GHGs</td><td>CO₂</td><td>CH₄</td><td>N₂O</td></tr><tr><td>GWP</td><td>1</td><td>28</td><td>265</td></tr></table>	GHGs	CO ₂	CH ₄	N ₂ O	GWP	1	28	265	The PoA start date is 11/05/2023 (start date of first real case VPA), which is after the stated vintage date i.e. 01/01/2021. Also, VVB has checked the ex-ante ER calculation sheets corresponding to this PoA and the submitted VPA, which confirms that the given GWP value used for CO₂ is taken as 1, hence acceptable to VVB.
GHGs	CO ₂	CH ₄	N ₂ O						
GWP	1	28	265						
The CME shall have an account in the Gold Standard Impact Registry to manage the PoA and its VPAs.	VVB has checked the programme webpage which confirms that CME has an account in the gold standard impact registry. CME has created a real case VPA with its own unique GS ID along with PoA GS ID. VVB further confirmed that each real case VPA title must be prefixed with PoA GS ID that VPA is linked to as evident from: https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/4212								

Erroneous Inclusion and Liability	CME has accepted that as per the requirements document, the liability for erroneous inclusions lies with the CME.
All PoAs seeking certification/certified under GS4GG shall be designed and implemented in accordance with the established PoA hierarchy.	It is noted that distribution of the safe water purifiers have started under the PoA through real case VPA. The assessment team has checked the Carbon Credit Transfer Declaration^{/07/} and confirm that the ownership of the GS VERs would be with the CME (EKI Energy Services Limited). It was also confirmed from the stakeholders' interview that the transfer of Product ownership was discussed during local stakeholder consultations. Further, VVB notes that CME will maintain the PoA hierarchy which is accepted.

Applus+ Certification confirms that:

- 1) The proposed PoA is a voluntary action by the CME since there is no mandatory host country compliance needed for implementation of such activities that include distribution of the safe water programme.
- 2) The first VPA (real case VPA) has been prepared for the safe water system dissemination applied with the GS4GG approved methodology.
- 3) Distribution of safe water systems will be replaced water boiling leading to fuel usage savings leading to provision of access to new clean technology. The implementation of this PoA will lead to social, economic and environmental benefits and contributing to the overall sustainable development of the host country.
- 4) The description of the PoA implementation in the latest version of the PoA-DD includes all the relevant information in accordance with the conditions as provided under the clause 5.1.10 of the GS Programme of Activity Requirements v 2.1^{/5/}, clause 4 of the GS4GG Community Services Activity Requirements V 1.2^{/5/}. As checked during the on-site inspection conducted and by interviewing CME representatives and local stakeholders, VVB concluded that the implementation description mentioned in the PoA-DD is accurate and complete.

Management system:

The coordinating/managing entity (CME) involved for this PoA is EKI Energy Services Limited. The PoA shall include VPAs which will be implemented by the same entity, including planning, implementing and monitoring the same. A definite roles and responsibilities of the CME representatives whosoever are involved in the inclusion of the VPAs has been clearly defined under the section B.1 of the latest version of the PoA-DD. This was cross checked during the on-site inspection conducted and also confirmed by cross-checking the submitted roles and responsibilities chart, employment records (salary slips submitted on sample basis, training

records (conducted for beneficiaries as well as employed people for distribution) as submitted by the CME.

Roles and responsibilities:

The representatives of EKI Energy Services Limited were interviewed during the conducted on-site inspection in order to confirm the roles that would be assigned to the VPA implementer.

Records of arrangements for training and capacity development for personnel: The manufacturing team, testing & distribution teams, monitoring teams are trained directly by the CME. Its representatives were interviewed during the on-site inspection to corroborate these roles. Same was cross checked against the submitted employment records (salary slips submitted on sample basis^{/13/}, training records^{/13/}. It was also confirmed by the CME that the trainings shall be conducted on a regular basis and the attendance and feedback records for the same will be maintained.

A procedure to avoid double counting:

To prevent double counting of safe water systems from this PoA in other stand-alone projects / PoAs or in other carbon mechanisms such as VERRA, CDM, GCC and others, each distributed safe water technology under the PoA will be assigned a unique serial number. These serial numbers, along with user location details, will uniquely identify the project devices, ensuring they are not associated with other programs. This measure ensures that a specific water technology is not part of other projects/programmes in the same region as the PoA, both currently and in the future.

Records and documentation control process for VPA under the PoA:

Records and documentation of the included VPA will be archived for two years after the end of the final crediting period or the last issuance of VERs, whichever occurs later.

Applus+ Certification confirms that the management system with the prescribed roles & responsibilities as described in the PoA-DD^{/1/} is in accordance with the para 4.3 of the GS PoA Requirements version 2.1^{/5/}, and the coordinating/managing entity has the competencies to check the features of potential VPAs and ensure that each VPA meets all requirements and eligibility criteria for inclusion of VPAs in the proposed GS PoA before its inclusion as mandated under the para 1.2.1 of the GS PoA Requirements version 2.1^{/5/}.

Conclusion:

The review of the latest versions of the PoA-DD^{/1/} & VPA-DD^{/1/}, supporting documentation and subsequent follow up actions with the concerned CME representatives have provided Applus+ Certification with sufficient evidence to determine the fulfilment of stated criteria. Applus+ Certification is of the opinion that the PoA "Global Household Water Treatment Technology Dissemination Project" as described in the final PoA-DD meets all relevant requirements of GS4GG requirements and has correctly applied the GS methodology^{/4/}. Therefore, the proposed Program of Activities (PoA) is recommended for request for registration.

1.1 Objective

The purpose of a design certification is to have an independent third-party assessment of the GS4GG PoA-DD^{1/} and compliance with the GS4GG requirements as described in the Gold Standard documentation and supporting documents by the CME. Design certification is part of the GS VER project cycle and will finally result in a conclusion by Applus+ Certification whether a programme of activity is valid and should be submitted for registration of a proposed PoA rests at the GS4GG and the Parties involved.

1.2 Scope

The scope of the services provided by the LGAI Technological Center, S.A. (hereafter referred to as Applus+ Certification) for the PoA is to perform design certification of Programme of Activities and the real case VPA inclusion⁶. The scope of design certification is to assess the claims and assumptions made in the PoA-DD against the GS4GG criteria, including but not limited to, GS PoA requirements version 2.1^{5/}, GS Validation & Verification Standard version 1.0^{5/}, applied GS4GG methodology and other relevant rules and requirements established for the GS4GG programme of activities.

2. METHODOLOGY

The design certification process is undertaken by a competent validation team and involves the following:

- (i) The desk review of documents and evidence submitted by the CME in context of GS4GG criteria in assistance with the GS4GG guidelines issued;
- (ii) Undertaking/conducting on-site inspection, follow-up interviews, or interactions with the representative of the CME, local stakeholders reporting audit findings with respect to clarifications and non-conformities and the closure of the findings, as appropriate;
- (iii) Preparing a draft validation opinion based on the audit findings and conclusions;
- (iv) Technical review of the draft validation opinion along with other documents as appropriate by an independent competent technical review team finalization of the validation opinion (this report);
- (v) An independent technical review team reviews the validation report prepared by the validation team. After the final report is accepted by the Technical Reviewer it is then approved by Applus+ Certification which is processed further according to the GS4GG procedures.

The GS4GG overview documents which are referred as DVR is as below:

Validation Checklist Table 3: Resolution of Audit Findings

⁶ <https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/4212>

Type:	☐ CAR	☐ CL/CR	☐ FAR	Number:	
Raised by:		Ref. to section in table 1&2:			
Description of the audit finding				Date:	
The description of the audit finding should be clearly included here.					
Project Participant's response				Date:	
The responses given by the project participants during the communications with the validation team should be included here.					
Documentation provided as evidence by Project Participant					
The evidences provided by the project participants should be included here.					
Auditor's assessment comment				Date:	
This section should include how the audit finding is assessed by the assessment team.					

The Complete List of CAR/CL/FAR is included as Appendix 1 of this report.

2.1 Appointment of the assessment team

According to the sectoral scope / technical area and experience in the sectoral or national business environment, LGAI Technological Center, S.A. (Applus+ Certification) has composed a project assessment team in accordance with the appointment rules in the internal Quality Management System of LGAI Technological Center, S.A. (Applus+ Certification).

The composition of audit team is approved by the LGAI Technological Center, S.A. (Applus+ Certification) ensuring that the required skills are covered by the team.

The qualification levels for Assessment Team members that are assigned by team members that are assigned by aforementioned appointment rules are as presented below:

- Lead Auditor (LA)
- Auditor (A)
- Technical Expert (TE)
- Financial Expert (FE)
- Technical Reviewer (TR)
- Auditor in Training (AiT) / Technical Expert in Training (TEiT)

The sectoral scope / technical area knowledge linked to the applied methodology/ies shall be covered by the assessment team.

Name	Role	SS Coverage	TA Coverage	Financial aspect	Host country experience
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Mr. Deepak Pundlik	Lead Auditor and Technical Expert (3.1)	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes
Mr. Amit Rai	Auditor	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes
Ms. Shruti Shrivastava	Auditor in Training (AiT)	No	No	NA	Yes
Mr. Nikunj Agarwal	Technical Reviewer	Yes	Yes	NA	NA

The complete list of CVs is included as Appendix 2 of this report.

2.2 Document review

The design certification of the Programme of Activities is performed primarily as a document review of the submitted PoA Design Document (PoA-DD) version 01 dated 05/06/2023 and the final version 03.0^{1/} dated 20/09/2024. The cross checks between information provided in the PoA-DD, VPA-DD^{1/} and information from sources other than those used, if available, the validation team's sectoral or local expertise and, if necessary, independent background investigations.

The complete list of documents/evidence assessed by validation team is included under section 4 of this report.

2.3 On-site Interviews

As a part of on-site visit which was conducted during 20/02/2024 to 22/02/2024, VVB interviewed CME representatives and also conducted following activities as a part of pre and post on-site visit which also involved joint design certification and performance certification of the real case VPA.

- A complete desk review of the PoA-DD^{1/} as well as all applicable host country legal requirements and respective supportive evidences have been checked by the Assessment team.
- Assessment team performed on-site inspection in order to check implementation, current situation, evaluation of data management, QA/QC system, project technology, training provided, monitoring etc. CME representatives were interviewed as per assessment team interview checklist. Cross checks between information provided by interviewed personnel (i.e. by checking sources) to ensure that no relevant information has been omitted.
- Monitoring procedures for ex-post parameters, SDG goals and sustainable monitoring parameters to be followed as a part of PoA.
- To review PoA design consultation report and grievance mechanism from review of documents and interaction with CME representatives.

To verify the implementation of programme of activity, onsite operation & maintenance, monitoring & management practices; assessment team has conducted physical visit and on-site interviews with the CME representatives and reviewed third party statutory documents i.e. project start date document i.e. end-user agreement^{/6/}, project database, employment & training records^{/13/} for all the employees, employee salary slips (on sample basis)^{/13/}, grievance register^{/12/}.

List of CME personnel interviewed during on-site inspection conducted from 20/02/2024 to 22/02/2024.

Interviewed Personnel	Functions	Organization	Subject
Mr. Bhaskar Datta	Assistant General Manager	EKI Energy Services Limited	PoA description, Project boundary, Technical description,
Mr. M. D. Meraj Ali	Senior Executive	EKI Energy Services Limited	Monitoring plan, baseline scenario, Technical description,
Mr. Ravi Vishwakarma	Senior Executive	EKI Energy Services Limited	Additionality, Project boundary, Ex- ante and Ex- post parameters, fNRB value, EIA requirement, Local stakeholder consultation
Mr. Pawan Sharma	Distributor	Aaransh Agro Tech Pvt. Ltd.	

Sampling approach:

Sampling approach has been applied on the VPA level in accordance with the clause 4.12.10 of the GS4GG Programme of Activity Requirements version 2.1^{/5/}.

2.4 Resolution of Clarification and Corrective Action requests

The objective of this phase of the design certification was to resolve the requests for corrective actions and clarification and any other outstanding issues which needs to be clarified for Applus+ Certification positive conclusion on the PoA-DD^{/1/}. The Corrective Action Requests and Clarification Requests raised by Applus+ Certification were resolved during communication between the Client and Applus+ Certification to guarantee the transparency of the validation process, the concerns raised, and responses given are summarized in Appendix 1 of this report.

The latest version of PoA-DD^{/1/} serves as the basis for the final assessment presented.

2.5 Internal Quality Control

As a final step of design certification, the final documentation including the validation report has to undergo an internal quality control by the Technical Reviewer. Each report has to be finally

approved either by the VVB's Technical Manager or the Deputy. In case one of these two persons is part of the assessment team, the approval can only be given by the person who is not a part of the assessment team. If the documents have been satisfactorily approved, the Request for Registration is submitted to the GS4GG along with the relevant documents.

Thus, a draft validation report prepared by the assessment team is reviewed by an independent technical review team (one or more members) to confirm whether all the internal procedures established and implemented by Applus+ Certification were duly complied with, and such opinion/conclusion were reached in an objective manner that complies with the applicable GS4GG rules/requirements^{/5/}. The technical review team is collectively required to possess the technical expertise of all the technical areas/sectoral scope the project activity relates to. All team members of the technical review team are independent of the validation team. Details of the Technical Reviewer(s) are provided within this report in appendix 2 for further references of knowledge and capability to conduct the quality checking.

During the technical review process, additional findings may be identified or the closed-out findings may be opened, which needs to be satisfactorily resolved before the request for issuance is submitted. The independent technical reviewer may either approve the report as such or reject/return the same in such case providing the comments/findings/issues that needs to be resolved by the verification team.

After the Technical Review process, the final documentation may undergo a final quality checking process called Administrative Review, done by the Applus+ Certification's Project Manager and/or Technical Support.

For final approval, the final set of documents are prepared by the VVB's Technical Manager or its deputy and signed by the authorized signatory of the VVB. The decision taken by the Technical Reviewer is final and is authorized by the authorized approver of Applus+ Certification.

3. PROJECT DESIGN CERTIFICATION ASSESSMENT

3.1 Start date and duration of PoA

In accordance with the para 4.6.2 of GS4GG 'Programmes of Activities Requirements' version 2.1^{/5/} "The PoA crediting cycle start date is the crediting period start date of the earliest VPA included in the PoA." Accordingly, the crediting cycle start date of the PoA is 11/05/2023 as confirmed against the end-user agreement^{/6/} made between the CME and beneficiaries. This is non-forestry PoA and hence CME has chosen duration of PoA as 20 years which is acceptable in line with para 4.6.3 table 3 of Programme of Activity Requirements and procedures, version 2.1^{/5/}.

3.2 Scale of the project

The proposed GS PoA is classified to include VPAs of any scale i. e. micro, small or large scale VPAs. VVB noted that this is acceptable under GS4GG requirements and hence accepted.

Post-discussions with CME representatives and stakeholders during on-site inspections, the assessment team validates the CME's accurate identification of the PoA type. It confirms the CME's intent to incorporate any scale of VPA under this programme from WASH activities.

3.3 Environmental impacts

The purpose of the PoA is to distribute safe water technologies in households and communities who would otherwise be either boiling water using non-renewable biomass and/or consume unsafe water due to various barriers (suppressed demand), which will lead to increased exposure to water borne diseases and high consumption of fossil fuels. The PoA is expected to reduce the GHG emissions caused by boiling of unsafe water using non-renewable biomass and reduce exposure to various water borne diseases. VVB observed that implementation of PoA will not have negative environmental impacts and same is accepted.

3.4 Socio-economic impacts

The purpose of the PoA is to distribute safe water technologies in households and communities who would otherwise be either boiling water using non-renewable biomass and/or consume unsafe water due to various barriers (suppressed demand), which will lead to increased exposure to water borne diseases and high consumption of fossil fuels. The PoA is expected to reduce the GHG emissions caused by boiling of unsafe water using non-renewable biomass and reduce exposure to various water borne diseases. VVB observed that implementation of PoA will not have negative socio-economic impacts and same is accepted.

3.5 Baseline Scenario

In line with the applied methodology, the baseline scenario is "Pre-project practices of boiling water or drinking unsafe water (suppressed demand)."

During the On-site audit interview with the end-users, it was confirmed that there is lack of access to safe drinking water and the households / communities in project area are using traditional cookstove to boil water or are consuming unsafe drinking water.

The assessment team has reviewed the PoA-DD^{1/} in line with the applied methodology. Baseline scenario will be established before each VPA-inclusion for the host regions.

Applus+ Certification confirms that the baseline scenario is identified as per the applied methodology. All data parameters are used correctly while estimating the baseline emissions. The baseline scenario represents the most possible scenario in absence of the proposed PoA.

3.6 Project Boundary

The project boundary basically defines the physical and geographical boundary of the project facility, and it is well defined in the PoA-DD^{1/} (section A2). The project boundary covers the entire republic of India. The project boundary clearly defined in the PoA-DD^{1/} is in-line to the methodology.

3.7 Eligibility Principles Assessment

1. Principle 1. Contribution to Climate Security & Sustainable Development

The PoA employs the approved baseline GS4GG methodology^{4/}. The applicability conditions of the applied methodology are presented as follows:

Applicability Criteria as per methodology	VVB Assessment
This methodology is applicable to project	The PoA aims at distributing safe water

activities that introduce a new, or rehabilitate an existing, zero-emission or low-emission technology to supply safe drinking water.	purifier system, a zero-emission technology, which will provide clean water to the households within the programme boundary. The assessment team has verified the technical specifications of the water purification system distributed through the manufacture's specification for the 1 st real case VPA which is undergoing validation in parallel with the PoA validation.
As per para 2.2.1a of the methodology, eligible household water treatment technologies (HWT), institutional water treatment technologies (IWT), and community level water treatment technologies (CWT) include bleach/chlorine, water filter (ceramic, sand, composite, membrane, etc.), UV disinfection, etc.	The PoA aims at distributing safe water purifier system, a zero-emission technology, which will provide clean water to the households within the programme boundary. As per CME information, the VPA under this programme will include HWT, IWT, CWT with different technologies. In the baseline, same household would be drinking water by boiling or drinking unsafe water. Thus, this criterion is applicable.
All projects involving CWT and CWS technologies must also include ongoing maintenance and repair of the project technology.	This will be demonstrated and checked at the VPA inclusion level as it is technology specific criteria for VPA operations.
Where the project involves the rehabilitation of an existing technology, the project developer shall provide evidence that the existing technology is non-operational and that there is no planned maintenance or repair for at least 3 months after the date it became non-operational.	The VPAs to be included under the current PoA will have new technology being introduced at user level which is confirmed by CME representatives. Thus, rehabilitation of an existing technology will be not conducted which his acceptable.
This methodology allows for project activities to include safe water treatment and/or supply technologies implemented for end-users in households, and/or commercial premises such as shops or institutional premises including half or full day/boarding schools, prisons, army camps & refugee camps.	The proposed PoA by CME is for safe water treatment implemented in households and communities as confirmed during on-site interviews with CME and end user agreement copies submitted.
In cases where the safe water is retrieved at the CWT or CWS location, the water in its improved form shall be available within a distance of 1 km or less from the end-users, as demonstrated by satellite imaging or GPS coordinates of each CWT	This will be demonstrated and checked at the VPA inclusion level as it is technology specific criteria for VPA operations.

or CWS location. Alternatively, as a proxy, a total collection time of 30 minutes or less for a round trip, including queuing, using the travel modes of walking or pedaling may be demonstrated.	
Project technology performance level (HWT and IWT): It shall be demonstrated based on report of laboratory testing or official notification that the project technology or equipment achieves either (i) the performance target classification 3-star or 2-star level, meaning "Comprehensive Protection," as per the WHO International Scheme to Evaluate Household Water Treatment Technologies (World Health Organization, 2011) or (ii) compliance with the national standard or guideline for household drinking water treatment technology; if no national guideline or standard is available, then the project technology shall comply with the WHO International Scheme requirements as per (i)	This will be demonstrated and checked at the VPA inclusion level as it is technology specific criteria for VPA operations.
Project technology performance level (CWT and CWS): For each individual CWT or CWS, it shall be demonstrated at the start of each crediting period with water quality testing reports that the water directly supplied by the project water technology/source achieves both: i. microbial quality in line with either (i) national standards or guidelines for microbial quality of drinking water, or in the absence of such requirements, (ii) the guideline values for verification of microbial quality from the Guidelines for drinking-water quality (Table 7.10, WHO, 2017) and ii. compliance with (i) national standards or guidelines on priority chemical contamination and physical and aesthetic aspects, or in the absence of such requirements, (ii) international standards or guidelines on priority chemical contamination and physical and aesthetic aspects.	This will be demonstrated and checked at the VPA inclusion level as it is technology specific criteria for VPA operations.

The project must conduct annual water hygiene education campaigns for the end-users.	This will be demonstrated and checked at the VPA inclusion level as it is technology specific criteria for VPA operations.
A project applying this methodology may make SDG claims if relevant monitoring parameter(s) is included in the monitoring plan to demonstrate and confirm the project's contributions to SDGs	This will be demonstrated and checked at the VPA inclusion level as it is technology specific criteria for VPA operations.

Along with the applicable methodology, as per the methodology requirements, CME has used following tools for the PoA and will be used as required in each VPA.

- a) Tool 30: Calculation of the fraction of non-renewable biomass, version 04.0^{7/4/}
- b) Tool 01: Tool for the Demonstration and Assessment of Additionality, version 07.0.0^{8/4/}
- c) Tool 21: Demonstration of additionality of small-scale project activities, version 13.1^{9/4/}

VVB has checked applicability of the above tools as below and will be re-assessed at VPA inclusion.

Applicability Criteria as per the CDM Tool 30: Calculation of the fraction of non-renewable biomass Version 04.0:

Applicability Criteria as per methodology	VVB Assessment
DNAs to submit region- or country-specific default f_{NRB} values, following the procedures for development, revision, clarification and update of standardized baselines (SB procedures); or project participants to calculate project- or PoA-specific f_{NRB} values.	The CME has considered CDM Tool 30 to calculate the VPA-specific f_{NRB} values. The detailed assessment is presented in the real case VPA validation report.

Applicability of Tool 01: Tool for the demonstration and assessment of additionality, version 07.0.0

Applicability conditions	VVB assessment
The use of the "Tool for the demonstration and assessment of additionality" is not mandatory for project participants when proposing new methodologies. Project participants may propose alternative methods to demonstrate additionality for consideration by the Executive Board. They may also submit	The applicability of this tool will be demonstrated and checked at the VPA inclusion level as it is scale specific and applicable for large scale VPAs only.

⁷ <https://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies>

⁸ <https://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies>

⁹ <https://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies>

revisions to approved methodologies using the additionality tool.	
Once the additionally tool is included in an approved methodology, its application by project participants using this methodology is mandatory	VVB has checked and confirmed that this tool is not included in the approved GS methodology used and hence is not mandatory for CME to use the same.

Applicability of Tool 13: Demonstration of additionality of small-scale project activities, version 13.1

Applicability conditions	VVB assessment
The use of the methodological tool "Demonstration of additionality of small-scale project activities" is not mandatory for project participants when proposing new methodologies. Project participants and coordinating/managing entities may propose alternative methods to demonstrate additionality for consideration by the Executive Board.	The applicability of this tool will be demonstrated and checked at the VPA inclusion level as it is scale specific and applicable for small scale VPAs only.
Project participants and coordinating/managing entities may also apply "TOOL19: Demonstration of additionality of microscale project activities" as applicable.	As per the approved methodology used for the current Programme, the tool 19 is not applicable to Gold Standard microscale projects.

Applus+ Certification confirms that:

- Each applicability condition is critically assessed & listed in the selected methodology and the relevant information contained in the PoA-DD against these criteria.
- The selected methodology for the proposed GS4GG PoA is applicable.
- The methodology was found to be in accordance with the applicable requirements in GS4GG requirements.

2. Principle 2: Safeguarding Principles

The safeguarding principles assessment will be conducted at VPA level. The management structure of the VPAs, the target population and other stakeholders of the VPAs will be similar, hence safeguarding assessment at VPA level is accepted.

The Safeguarding Principles Assessment as prescribed in the GS4GG Safeguarding Principles & Requirements V 2.1^{/5/} is detailed in the VPA Design Certification report.

3. Principle 3: Stakeholder Inclusivity

Local Stakeholder Consultation:

As per paragraph 4.9.1 of GS4GG Programme of Activity Requirements version 2.1^{/5/}, local stakeholder consultation has been conducted at PoA and VPA level both.

VVB noted that CME has conducted design consultation round as per the GS requirements. The design consultation report submitted was checked to confirm the same. VVB noted that the design consultation was held for a month's period from 01/06/2023 to 01/07/2023 with a physical meeting being held on 10/05/2023 which was conducted at Khamera and Tanter village, Block- Bajag, District Dindori, Madhya Pradesh. VVB noted this is one of the 1st district where water purifiers were distributed by CME as a part of real case VPA. The submitted minutes of meeting, public notices, email copies and stakeholder consultation report^{/22/} were checked and confirmed the conducted stakeholder meeting. During the meeting, CME explained the stakeholders about programme overview, technology specifications, distribution plan, training and education and contact details in case of grievances incorporated under table A.3 of consultation report. The stakeholder report describes the stakeholders which were invited and During the interviews with field executive and local villagers, VVB noted that all the concerned stakeholders such as village head, local government representatives, NGO's, farmers were invited for the meeting. The minutes of meeting and feedback forms confirmed that no negative comments were received.

As a part of preliminary review by GS4GG, a FAR was raised for validating VVB as below:

Invitation information for category E stakeholders is missing in section B of the LSC report. Kindly check and verify.

VVB as a part of desk review has checked the mail copy submitted by CME which confirms that category E stakeholders were invited for the Stakeholder Feedback Round conducted. Hence this FAR is closed.

4. Principle 4: Demonstration of real outcomes

The sustainable development goal co-benefits are reported in the latest version of PoA-DD^{/1/}. Further, it was also confirmed that CME will monitor the sustainable development co-benefits of the following SDG's indicators:

SDG 1: No Poverty:

As the implementation of this Programme of Activity, it has been ensured by the CME that there shall be equitable access to economic resources for all individuals, particularly those facing poverty or vulnerability. This encompasses access to essential services, control over property and land, inheritance, natural resources, and modern technology. CME has decided safe water as one of the basic services indicators and each safe water technology distributed to end user/community will be monitored as project specific indicator for this SDG which is found acceptable.

SDG 3: Good Health and Well Being:

The proposed PoA will distribute water purifiers thereby reducing the indoor air pollution and emissions through use of the fuelwood for boiling the water. VVB noted that with safe water purifiers/systems there would be fuelwood savings which will help in reduced respiratory problems and related diseases and promote overall well-being of the beneficiaries.

SDG 4: Quality Education:

The CME will prioritize the proportion of ICT skills among youth and adults, organized by skill type. An analysis will ascertain whether there has been a noteworthy rise in individuals possessing these skills, aligning with the goal of enhancing employment opportunities, enabling decent jobs, and fostering entrepreneurship. Moreover, the effectiveness of initiatives offering technical and vocational training in ICT skills will be evaluated to ensure consistency with the target objectives. VVB has evaluated the same at VPA level during interviews with employed persons to confirm the same.

SDG 5: Gender Equality:

For the proposed PoA, CME has chosen SDG parameter - reduced unpaid care and domestic work for women with programme specific indicator as 'Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age, and location (% users reporting time saving due to reduction in collected fuel consumption / cooking time in project)'. VVB noted that with use of water purification systems, the women need not to go for fuelwood collection/no need to boil water thus helping time spent on unpaid domestic work which is acceptable.

SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation:

With the proposed PoA, the end users will have an access to clean water due to distribution of project technology and hence same is found acceptable.

SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy:

VVB noted the project technology provides end users with affordable and clean energy source for safe water. VVB has evaluated the same at VPA level during interviews with employed persons to confirm the same.

SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth:

CME will form a distribution and maintenance team creating employment opportunities for both men and women. VVB has evaluated the same at VPA level during interviews with employed persons to confirm the same.

SDG 12: Responsible Consumption & Production: With the proposed PoA, the end users have an access to clean water, which will directly reduce the uses of non-renewable bio-mass (wood fuel) hence same is found acceptable

SDG 13: Climate action:

With project technology distribution, end users will cease using fuel wood for boiling the water which will reduce GHG emissions compared to the traditional way. VVB has evaluated the same at VPA level during interviews with employed persons to confirm the same and is evident in the submitted ER sheet^{3/} too.

SDG 15: Life on land

With the project's implementation, end users will shift to using water filters thus reducing the need to consumed non-renewable biomass. Thus, this leads to sustainable forest management through savings of biomass for boiling of water in the pre-project scenario.

The CME has mentioned the contribution of the PoA towards these SDG's clearly in the PoA-DD. Applus+ Certification confirms the technology which is implemented reflects the good practice in the host country also contributing to sustainable development of the host country.

5. Principle 5: Financial Additionality & Ongoing Financial Need

The additionality of PoA has been determined as per para 4.1.47 of the GS4GG Principles & Requirements (Version 2.1)^{/5/}, "All Gold Standard Projects seeking the issuance of Gold Standard Certified Impact Statements or Products shall be demonstrated to be additional, meaning that their impact in terms of climate security (mitigation or adaptation) and sustainable development are beyond those that would have occurred in the absence of the certified Gold Standard project. In specific Project types, the application of the Requirements in this section is determined under the relevant Activity Requirements and Product Requirements".

As per para 4.1.9 of the GS4GG Community Service Activity (CSA) Requirements v1.2^{/5/}, 'Projects that meet any of the following criteria are considered as deemed additional and therefore are not required to prove Financial Additionality at the time of Design Certification:

- (a) Positive list (Annex B of this document)
- (b) Projects located in LDC, SIDS, LLDC⁴
- (c) Microscale projects

While as per clause 1.1.3 of the Annex B of CSA Requirements v1.2^{/5/}, 'Project activities solely composed of isolated units where the users of the technology/measure are households or communities or institutions and where each unit results in ≤ 600 MWh of energy savings per year or ≤ 600 tonnes of emission reductions per year.' are part of positive list. CME has confirmed that it will be ensured that each VPA will fulfill the requirement of positive list and will be demonstrated at VPA level and hence accepted.

Eligibility criteria for inclusion of VPA under PoA:

In section B.3 of PoA-DD, CME has detailed the eligibility criteria for inclusion of VPA under the PoA which is assessed and presented below:

Sr. No.	Eligibility criterion	Description / Required condition	Means of verification / supporting evidence for inclusion	VVB assessment
1	The Geographical boundaries of VPAs are consistent with the geographical boundary of the PoA	The geographical boundary of the VPA is within the geographical boundary of the PoA.	Evidence for inclusion: VPA-DD section A.2, specifying location and boundary of the VPA.	The aim of the each VPAs would be to provide safe water technologies to the households in the selected project boundary as confirmed by the

				VVB during the on-site interviews conducted. Further, the geocoordinates will be confirmed at VPA level. Thus, the criterion was found to be appropriate.
2	Conditions to avoid double counting of Impacts, such as unique identifications of product and end user locations	A unique numbering system for devices (safe water technology) will be applied in each VPA, assigning a unique number to each device and allowing to clearly identify for each device to which VPA it belongs.	Evidence for inclusion: VPA-DD section B.7.3, describing the unique device numbering system for the VPA.	The PoA involves households/communities that will be benefited from the safe water technologies that is supplied under the PoA and the geographical boundary of the PoA will be republic of India. In order to avoid double counting, a. CME has ensured that each project technology unit will be provided with unique ID. b. The proposed PoA will not be registered in any other carbon standard as confirmed from the declaration with the CME. To ensure that the proposed project activities are not included in a project or programme

				registered under another carbon standard, the CME will consult the other carbon registries. c. CME will maintain a End user database with household information that will be benefited from the implementation of the PoA.
3	Conditions to check the start dates of VPA through documentary evidence	A start date will be specifying with each VPA. All VPAs will have the start date after the start date of the PoA.	Evidence for inclusion: VPA-DD section C.1.1, specifying the start date.	The start date of the VPA will be defined by the date of first project technology that is distributed/sold in the VPA which will be confirmed either through the end-user database, distribution lists or sales records. Therefore, the means of verification will be confirmed at each VPA level. Thus, the criterion is found to be appropriate.
4	Conditions to ensure compliance with the applicability of the applied methodologies, the applied standardized baselines and the other applied methodological regulatory documents	Each VPA will meet the applicability criteria of the GS Methodology "methodology for emission reductions from safe drinking water supply", version: 1.0 ^{5/}	Section B.2 of each VPA-DD shows that the inclusion criteria for Methodology application are met.	Section B.2 of the VPA-DD will describe the applicability conditions of the methodology. Thus, the criterion is found to be appropriate.

5	Conditions to ensure that VPA meet the requirements for demonstration of additionality	All VPAs to be included under the PoA will be in compliance with para 1.1.3 of Annex B – positive list mentioned in the 'Community Services Activity Requirements', Version 1.2^{/5/}. All VPAs will be solely composed of isolated units (CEPs) where the users of the technology/ measure are households or communities or institutions and where each unit results in <= 600 MWh of energy savings per year or <=600 tonnes of emission reductions for HWT/IWT/CWT/CWS technologies. Hence, according to paragraph 4.1.9 of the 'Community Services Activity Requirements', each of the VPAs, regardless of the host country in which the project activity is being implemented, is deemed additional and therefore is not required to prove additionality at the time of Design Certification.	Evidence for inclusion: Section B.5 of the VPA-DD will confirm that the emission reduction year at a unit level (i.e. per CEP) below 600 tCO2 per year and to be outlined in the ER calculation sheet.	Section B.5 of the VPA-DD will describe the additionality. The additionality has been assessed in detail under section D.5 of this report. The CME has also submitted a declaration stating that the threshold limit for each VPA will be below 600 tCO2 per year for water purifier systems. Thus, the criterion is found to be appropriate.
6	Condition to ensure that the real case VPA and its regular VPAs meet the applicability criteria of selected methodology of combination of methodologies	Each real case VPA and its regular VPSs will meet the applicability criteria of the GS Methodology "Methodology For Emission Reductions From Safe Drinking Water Supply", Version: 1.0^{/4/}	Section B.2 of each VPA-DD shows that the inclusion criteria for Methodology application is met.	Section B.2 of the VPA-DD will describe the applicability conditions of the methodology. Thus, the criterion is found to be appropriate.
7	Conditions to be met by each VPA regarding SDG outcomes	Positive outcomes expected for at least 3	VPA-DD section B.6.4.	Refer section 3.9 of the VPA design

	assessment	SDGs.		certification report version 01.0.
8	Legal Ownership	Each VPA shall outline proper means of demonstration of legal ownership of Products generated under the VPA (see criteria in A.5 of PoA-DD).	The transfer of credit ownership from end-users to the CME is managed through distribution lists which include the distribution receipts and consent form. The end-users and representatives have been informed about the transfer of carbon credit ownership during the Stakeholder Consultation process as well as at the point of receipt of the technology.	The legal ownership of each VPA will be confirmed through the end-user agreements, distribution lists. Therefore, the means of verification will be confirmed at each VPA level. Thus, the criterion is found to be appropriate.

Project Technology:

The purpose of the PoA is to introduce safe water technologies in households and communities that lack access to safe drinking water within the host country of India. These households would otherwise boil unsafe drinking water using non-renewable biomass and/or depend on the consumption of unsafe water due to various barrier factors (suppressed demand). As mentioned in section A.3 of PoA-DD^{1/}, the PoA in future can choose to add technologies / other types of water purifiers (IWT/ CWT/ HWT) under end-use energy efficiency improvement activities and clean energy activities. CME confirmed that they will ensure that GS4GG requirements on multiple technologies will be followed along with design change requirements for each VPA's included in the proposed GS-POA which is found acceptable. The assessment of project technology will be presented in each VPA level validation assessment.

As a part of assessment, CL 01 and CAR 01, 02, 03 and 04 were raised which are successfully closed.

4. REFERENCE

No.	Author	Title	References to the document	Provider
1.	CME	Initial Project Design Document (PoA-DD)	Version 01.0, dated 05/06/2023	CME
		Final Project Design Document (PoA-DD)	Version 03.0, dated 20/09/2024	
		Initial Voluntary Project Activity - Design Document (VPA-DD)	Version 01.0, dated 12/06/2023	
		Final Voluntary Project Activity - Design Document (VPA-DD)	Version 03.0, dated 20/09/2024	
2.	CME	Baseline survey report	Version 01.0	CME
3.	CME	Ex-Ante ER Sheet (Initial)	Version 01.0	CME
		Ex-Ante ER Sheet (Final)	Version 02.0	
4.	GS4GG	Applied methodology: Methodology for emission reductions from safe drinking water supply	Version 1.0	Public
		CDM Tool 01: Tool for the Demonstration and Assessment of Additionality	Version 07.0	
		CDM Tool 30: Calculation of the fraction of non-renewable biomass	Version 4.0	
		CDM Tool 21: Demonstration of additionality of small-scale project activities	Version 13.1	
5.	GS4GG	GS4GG activity requirements:		Public
		• Principles & Requirements	Version 1.2	
		• Stakeholder consultation and engagement	Version 2.1	
		• Programme of Activity requirements	Version 2.1	
		• Community Service Activity requirements	Version 1.2	
		• Safeguarding principles &	Version 2.1	

		requirements - GHG emissions reductions & sequestration product requirement - Validation and verification standard	Version 2.3 Version 1.0	
6.	CME	Sample copies of end user agreement between Beneficiaries & CME (with the project start date 11/05/2023)	-	CME
7.	CME	CME (EKI Energy Services Limited) declaration for ownership of Carbon Credits.	Dated 16/04/2024	CME
8.	CME	GS4GG Preliminary Review Request form	Dated 06/06/2023	CME
9.	CME	Kitchen Performance Tests (Baseline)	Version 01.0	CME
10.	CME	KML file of the PoA implemented location	-	CME
11.	CME	fNRB calculation database of the Programme of Activity (PoA)	Version 01.0	CME
12.	CME	Grievance Register	-	CME
13.	CME	Training Modules developed by CME Employee salary slips (on sample basis)	-	CME
14.	CME	Date of first submission to GS for preliminary review	Dated 06/06/2023	CME
15.	CME	ODA declaration for the Programme of Activity	Dated 16/04/2024	CME
16.	CME	PoA Design Consultation report	-	
17.	CME	CME declaration for No Double Counting	Dated 16/04/2024	CME
18.	GOI	Ministry of Labor and Employment	https://labour.gov.in/	Others
19.	GOI	National Prevention of Corruption Act of Government of India	http://legislative.gov.in/sites/default/files/A1988-49.pdf	Others
20.	United Nation	Universal declaration of Human Rights	https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-	Other

			rights/	
21.	CME	Email regarding first submission of PoA to GS for Preliminary review	-	CME
22.	CME	Local stakeholder consultation report held at VPA level along including attendance sheet, invitation letters, feedback forms, public notices and minutes of meeting	-	CME

5. **FINAL PROJECT DESIGN CERTIFICATION STATEMENT**

Applus+ Certification was contracted by EKI Energy Services Limited for design certification of the PoA "Global Household Water Treatment Technology Dissemination Project". The design certification was performed based on rules and requirements defined by GS4GG Programme of Activities and GS4GG rules and requirements.

The purpose of this PoA is to disseminate Safe Water Supply (SWS) devices in domestic Households and communities in different states in India, which were earlier using wood and/or charcoal on rudimentary stoves for boiling water or were consuming untreated water. The project correctly applies GS4GG baseline and methodology and is assessed against latest valid GS4GG requirements.

Applus+ Certification applied the following design certification process and methodology using a competent validation team;

- The desk review of documents and evidence submitted by the CME in context of the reference GS rules and guidelines issued by GS4GG registry,
- Undertaking/conducting on-site inspection, interview, or interactions with the representative of the project CME,
- Reporting audit findings with respect to clarifications and non-conformities and the closure of the findings, as appropriate and
- Preparing a draft validation opinion based on the auditing findings and conclusions.

The review of the PoA-DD, supporting documentation and subsequent follow-up actions (on-site interviews) have provided sufficient evidence to determine the fulfilment of stated criteria. The proposed PoA is meeting all the requirements of the GS4GG standards as mentioned above.

Date: 10/10/2024

Lead Auditor: Mr. Deepak Pundlik

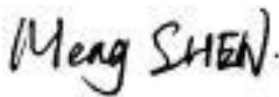
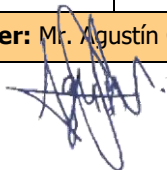
Auditor: Mr. Amit Rai

Auditor in Training: Ms. Shruti Shrivastava

Tech. Reviewer: Mr. Simon Shen

Approver (*Applus+ Certification VVB Technical Manager*)

Mr. Agustín Calle de Miguel

ASSESSMENT TEAM	
Lead Auditor: Mr. Deepak Pundlik	Technical Reviewer: Mr. Simon Shen
Signature: 	Signature: 
Approver: Mr. Agustín Calle de Miguel	
Signature: 	

Appendix 1: Corrective Action Request / Clarification Request / Forward Action

Table 1: Clarification requests (CRs)

Type:	☐ CAR ☒ CL/CR ☐ FAR	Number:	01
Raised by:	VVB	Ref. to section in GS4GG FVaR:	3.7
Description of the audit finding		Date:	01/03/2024
<u>Under KPI Table & section A of submitted GS PoA-DD:</u> - Project proponent shall clarify why there is difference in applied methodology for PoA /VPA-DD with GS project registry https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/4213. - PP to provide declaration towards “no double counting”. - PP has considered PoA start date as 11/05/2023 however supporting evidence for the same shall be required. - In section A.3, What is the level/range of TDS on which implemented distributed water filter, will work. Is they able to reduce impurities containing heavy metals. Kindly clarify. - In section A.3, PP shall clarify if there any maintenance procedure followed, and TDS of the water recorded on regular basis to ensure it's for drinking or not. - In section A.3, To ensure the life of the incorporated water filter pp shall further submit manufacturers technical specification.			
Project Participant's response		Date:	26/03/2024
- It was the technical error. GS project registry is now reflected with correct methodology as per applied PoA/VPA-DD - No double counting declaration has been now provided. - Start date of the PoA shall be the start date of the earliest included VPA. The start date of the VPA-DD is the start date of distribution of first Econeer water filter i.e., 11/05/2023. The same has been clearly mentioned in PoA-DD. Also, distribution database, beneficiary distribution form and end user agreement has been now provided as evidence of first distribution. - The water filter works at any level/range of TDS. Econeer water purifier only can make water free from harmful bacteria, viruses and cysts. It does not remove dissolved solids/heavy metals or brackishness /saltiness from water. Also, as per applied methodology safe drinking water must not have detectable E.Coli in any 100 ml sample i.e., less than 1 Colony Forming Unit (CFU) of E.coli /100 ml. - TDS meter reading simply refers to the amount of total dissolved solids in your water, it is not the indicator of purity of water. Also, as per applied methodology safe drinking water must not have detectable E.Coli in any 100 ml sample i.e., less than 1 Colony Forming Unit (CFU) of E.coli /100 ml. So, PP recorded microbial water test report as per methodological requirements but not the TDS records. - PP has submitted the declaration from the manufacturer to justify the life of the filter			

cartridge being used in the water filters distributed.		
Documentation provided as evidence by Project Participant		
1. https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/4213 2. No double counting declaration 3. Distribution database, beneficiary distribution form and end user agreement. 4. Filter specification brochure 5. Water filter test report 6. Manufacturer declaration for lifetime of project		
Auditor's assessment comment	Date:	19/04/2024
1. As checked on the GS4GG project webpage, it was checked by the VVB that the applied GS4GG methodology: Emission reductions from safe drinking water supply version 01.0 has been now updated (https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects) correctly. Therefore, this point is closed. 2. The 'No Double Counting' Declaration dated 21/03/2024 duly signed by the authorised person from CME has been submitted to VVB. Hence acceptable. This part of CAR is thus closed. 3. In accordance with para 5.4 of the GS4GG PoA Requirements & Procedures version 2.1, the start date of PoA is the start date of VPA, which is the date of first water purifier distribution. The date is 11/05/2023 which is consistent as per the beneficiary distribution form and end user agreement as submitted by CME. Therefore, this part is closed. 4. In line with the applied GS4GG methodology, 'the water quality shall comply with WHO Guideline values for verification of microbial quality i.e., all water directly intended for drinking must not have detectable E.Coli in any 100 ml sample i.e., less than 1 Colony Forming Unit (CFU) of E. Coli /100 ml', and after checking the water quality test report results submitted by CME, it was found that no such significant detection was found in the samples checked after filtration. Also, the TDS levels were found to be well within the maximum range permissible. Therefore, acceptable to VVB. Thus, this point is closed. 5. As confirmed by the CME during the on-site inspection, the regular maintenance of the distributed water filters is scheduled which is to be looked after by the field team. Also, the contact details of the CME's personnel have been shared with the end-users, in case of any discrepancy with the water filters. And as far as TDS of the water is concerned, it was cross checked by the submitted water filter test results, which confirms that the TDS levels were found to be well within the maximum range permissible. Thus, acceptable to VVB. This part is thus closed. 6. The technical details of the EcoNeer water filter as provided by the manufacturer i.e. GHG Reductions Technologies Pvt. Ltd. has been now submitted by the CME, which confirms the lifetime of the product i.e. 15 years which is consistent with the information mentioned in the Specifications table under the section A.3 of the PoA-DD version 02.0. Therefore, this part is also closed.		
CL 01 is closed.		

Table 2: Corrective Action Requests (CARs)

Type:	☒ CAR ☐ CL/CR ☐ FAR	Number:	01
Raised by:	VVB	Ref. to section in GS4GG FVaR:	3.7
Description of the audit finding		Date:	01/03/2024
<u>Under KPI Table & section A of submitted GS PoA-DD:</u> - PP shall mark check box by referring to corresponding Activity Requirements for definition of the scale of PoA. - In section A.1 of PoA-DD, PP shall include information pertaining to framework for the implementation of the proposed PoA and inclusion of VPAs in the PoA as per the PoA Template Filling Requirement.			
Project Participant's response		Date:	16/04/2024
- Correct check box has been marked in the VPA DD - Information pertaining to VPA inclusion criteria has been included in the POA DD as per the raised comment.			
Documentation provided as evidence by Project Participant			
Estimated ER Sheet POA DD Version 02			
Auditor's assessment comment		Date:	20/04/2024
- Since PoA includes various VPA's, it is not mandatory to define the scale at PoA level, which is as per the para 4.1.2 of the GS4GG PoA Requirements, therefore CME's response is accepted. This point is thus closed. - Revised PoA-DD version 2.0 was checked by the VVB, and it was found that section A.1 was updated while mentioning the framework for the implementation of the proposed PoA wherein this VPA (GS ID: 12220) has been incorporated while also explaining the type of water purification i.e. HWT (Household Water Treatment Technologies), which is also as per the applied GS Methodology. which is now as per the GS PoA template guidelines. Therefore, acceptable to VVB. CAR 01 is closed.			

Type:	☒ CAR ☐ CL/CR ☐ FAR	Number:	02
Raised by:	VVB	Ref. to section in GS4GG FVaR:	3.7
Description of the audit finding		Date:	01/03/2024
<u>Under section B of submitted PoA-DD:</u> In section B.2 of POA-DD and B.1 of VPA-DD, applied version of GHG Emission			

Reduction & Sequestration Product Requirements, observed to be old, kindly revise it with latest applicable. 2. In section B.2 of PoA-DD, with reference to applied methodology "METHODOLOGY FOR EMISSION REDUCTIONS FROM SAFE DRINKING WATER SUPPLY", para 3.3.2, PP shall clarify why both additionality tools, for micro scale and small scale has been applied instead of one. 3. In section B.3 of PoA-DD, initially define eligibility criteria for inclusion of real case and its regular VPAs in the PoA. Kindly include the name of GS requirement document, reference of para referred.		
Project Participant's response	Date:	16/04/2024
1. Latest applicable GHG Emission reduction and Sequestration has been updated in the VPA DD Version 2 2. The POA may contain in future any type of project and hence both the options of additionality assessment have been mentioned here 3. POA DD has been revised and the eligibility criteria of VPA inclusion has been demonstrated transparently		
Documentation provided as evidence by Project Participant		
1. VPA-DD_v02 2. Fnrb calculation sheet 3. POA-DD_v02		
Auditor's assessment comment	Date:	23/04/2024
1. Section B.2 of the PoA-DD version 02.0 and B.1 of the VPA-DD version 02.0 was checked by the VVB, and it was found that the latest version of GHG Emission Reduction & Sequestration Product Requirements version 2.2 has now been applied, which is in line with the GS4GG template requirements. Hence this part is closed. 2. Section B.2 of the revised PoA-DD version 02.0 has been checked by VVB and found that the PoA may contain the additionality tools for all scales in accordance with para 1.2.3 of the GS Programme of Activity Requirements and Procedures v2.1, while VPA might apply any one of the single scale additionality tools. Therefore, acceptable to VVB. 3. Section B.3 of the revised PoA-DD version 2.0 has been checked by the VVB, which now defines the eligibility criteria for inclusion of real case and its regular VPAs in the PoA which is now as per the GS PoA template guidelines. Therefore, this part is closed. CAR 02 is closed.		

Type:	☒ CAR ☐ CL/CR ☐ FAR	Number:	03
Raised by:	VVB	Ref. to section in GS4GG FVaR:	3.7
Description of the audit finding	Date:	01/03/2024	
Under section D of PoA-DD			

1. For section D.1, Supportive document shall be required to validate the date when PoA was submitted to Gold Standard for Preliminary Review. Also, submit the Preliminary Review Report to verify the any FAR raised for future Verification/validation activities 2. Section D.2 should be required to fill in the format inline with GS4GG Template Filling Instructions for POA, Version 2.2.		
Project Participant's response	Date:	16/04/2024
<u>Under section D of PoA DD</u>		
1. Screenshot of the submission of first PoA has been submitted. Also, the preliminary review closure form has been submitted. 2. Section D.2 of the PoA has been updated.		
Documentation provided as evidence by Project Participant		
<u>Under section D of PoA DD</u>		
1. Preliminary review closure form and screenshot of the first submission. 2. PoA-DD_v02		
Auditor's assessment comment	Date:	23/04/2024
1. Date of first submission of PoA to Gold Standard is 12/06/2023 as mentioned under section D.1 of the PoA-DD version 02.0/1, screenshot of submission to GS has also been provided by CME which confirms the same. CME has also provided a preliminary review form which was checked to confirm that 01 FAR was raised. This FAR was closed as a part of current assessment. Therefore, this part of CAR is closed. 2. As per GS4GG PoA template guidelines, dd/mm/yyyy, XX years, ZZ months (State the PoA crediting cycle start date and the total duration of the proposed PoA in years, months), which is found to be in consistent with the submitted PoA-DD version 02.0/1. therefore, this part is closed. CAR 03 is closed.		

Type:	☒ CAR ☐ CL/CR ☐ FAR	Number:	04
Raised by:	VVB	Ref. to section in GS4GG FVaR:	3.7
Description of the audit finding	Date:	01/03/2024	
<u>Under section E of POA DD:</u>			
1. For section E. 1, Kindly incorporate the date of stakeholder consultation at PoA level inline with requirement PoA Template Filling Requirement for section E.			
Project Participant's response	Date:	16/04/2024	
<u>Under section E of POA DD</u>			
1. Physical stakeholder consultation has been undertaken at POA and VPA Level on same date. Also, as a part of global stakeholder consultation, email had been sent on POA level to consider comments from all section of the society from a to h as per			

stakeholder consultation guidelines.		
Documentation provided as evidence by Project Participant		
<u>Under section E of PoA-DD</u>		
1. Attendance sheet, LSC meeting photographs, feedback form, public notice and email evidence		
Auditor's assessment comment	Date:	23/04/2024
All the above-mentioned Local stakeholder consultation documents such as screenshot of invitation mail, meeting attendance sheets and feedback forms have been submitted by CME, which confirms that Physical stakeholder consultation has been undertaken at POA and VPA Level on same date. Also, following the chronological order, it was established that the PoA is regular which satisfies the clause 4.9 of the GS4GG - Programme of Activity Requirements and Procedures v2.1. therefore, this point is closed.		
CAR 04 is closed.		

Appendix 2: Audit Team CVs.

Name	SHORT CV. (BACKGROUND INFORMATION)
Mr. Deepak Pundlik	Mr. Deepak Pundlik has an experience in climate change, waste management and environmental management. After completing Masters in Environment Sciences from Pune university, He has worked in waste management field. As a GHG consultant, He handled projects under renewable energy, waste management sectors during his stint with companies - MITCON and Thermax. Post Thermax, Deepak was involved in organic farming research project with Tata Institute of Social Sciences. As a GHG auditor, He has validated/verified projects under CDM/VCS/GS and GCC mechanisms from renewable energy, energy demand, waste management sectors. Mr. Deepak Pundlik is based in Pune, India. He participates as a Lead Auditor and Technical Expert for the assessment. Currently he is associated with True Quality Certifications Private Limited (Applus+ Certification's Outsourced Entity).
Mr. Amit Rai	Mr. Amit Rai, has done Bachelor of Technology in Electrical & Electronics Engineering from Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Technical University, India and Government Certified Competency Class – I, Electrical Supervisor from Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, India. He has more than (7) years of working experience in different organizations like Sunrator Technologies, Sun Source Energy Private Ltd. (SHV Energy Group, Singapore) & KBS Certification Services Private Ltd. (UNFCCC's – DOE), In the area of Renewable Project Management, Execution, Designing & Climate Change Services. Currently he is associated with True Quality Certifications Private Limited (Applus+ Certification's Outsourced Entity). Mr. Amit Rai is based in Delhi, India. He participates as an auditor in the project team.
Ms. Shruti Shrivastava	Ms. Shruti Shrivastava holds a Master's degree in Environmental Sciences from Amity University, Noida completed in 2021, and completed Bachelor's in Zoology Honors. She has a working experience of over two years in the climate change field. Currently, she is associated with True Quality Certifications Pvt. Ltd. (An Outsourced entity for LGAI Technological Center, S.A. (Spain) since March 2023, wherein she has been involved in supporting Audit teams for the validation & verification of Project activities (renewable & non-renewable projects) under different GHG schemes such as CDM, VCS, GS & GCC. She started working professionally in the field from October 2021. Ms. Shruti Shrivastava is based in Indore, India. She participates as an auditor in trainee for the current assessment.
Mr. Simon Shen	Mr. Simon Shen (Master's Degree in Thermal Energy Engineering, Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Engineering) is an Auditor appointed by Applus+ Certification (LGA Technological Center, S.A) for the GHG project assessment, auditing and technical review. He worked with TUV SUD for

	3.5 years and holds experience as GHG Auditor and ISO 9001/14001. Since 2014, Mr. Simon Shen works as an external individual in Applus+ Certification (LGAI Technological Center, S.A). He holds experience in CDM/GS4GG/VCS project assessment and technical reviews for the sectoral scopes 1.1/1.2/3.1/13.1/13.2. At the time, he participated in plenty of Chinese CCER audits and enterprises carbon emissions verifications. Mr. Simon Shen has extensive experience also as former Applus+ Shanghai CDM Technical Manager. Mr. Simon Shen is based in Shanghai, China. Mr. Simon Shen participates as a part of the Technical Review team.
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