Gold Standard
for the Global Goals

TEMPLATE

TRANSITION REQUEST FORM - POA

PUBLICATION DATE **1/04/2021**

VERSION **1.0**

RELATED SUPPORT

- **TEMPLATE GUIDE Key Project Information & PoA Design Document v.1.1**

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Summary:

The PoA transitioning from **CDM or other Standards to Gold Standard for Global Goals (GS4GG)** shall submit the transition request form and PoA - DD (this document)**.** The **Transition Request Form** is also to be completed for PoA that are already registered with GS4GG for CER labelling and seek to move to GSVER stream to issue Gold Standard VERs.

This document contains the following Sections

Key Project Information

Section – Programme of Activity design document (PoA -DD)
SECTION A. – General description of PoA
SECTION B - Management System and Inclusion Criteria
SECTION C – Demonstration of additionality
SECTION D. – Duration of PoA
SECTION E – Safeguarding principles assessment
SECTION F - Outcome of Stakeholder Consultations
0 – Contact information of coordinating/managing entity and responsible person(s)/ entity(ies)

The following table summarises how different sections of this document shall be filled to facilitate request for transition from other standard to GS4GG.

Section	Required for	How to complete the section
Transition Request Form		
TRF.1 Eligibility check for transition	All PoAs	Answer the assessment questions and provide supporting information as needed
TRF.2 Transition project information	All PoAs	Provide PoA information pertaining to the standard, the project is transitioning from (e.g. CDM)
TFR.3 Transition checklist	All PoAs	Answer the assessment questions and provide supporting information in the section in the PoA - DD section as needed
PoA - DD		
Key project information	All PoAs	Include PoA details pertaining to GS4GG
Section A to F	All PoAs	Provide information as needed. Any section/subsections - that requires information/justification or additional information as per transition checklist, AND - that involves update/revision to the information provided for registration with other standards. In such cases, the project shall copy and paste the information from registered PoA - DD (other standard) and mark the additional information in track changes.

SECTION – TRANSITION REQUEST FORM

TRF.1 ELIGIBILITY CHECK FOR TRANSITION

To be completed for all PoAs seeking transition to GS4GG from other standards.

A registered PoA, irrespective of its start date may transition to GS4GG. The transition eligibility requirements apply to individual VPAs (Annex B, GHG Emissions Reductions and Sequestration Product Requirements).

TRF.2 TRANSITION POA INFORMATION

CME shall provide PoA information (in grey rows), pertaining to the standard, the project is transitioning from (e.g. CDM) in the table below. In case of standards other than CDM PoAs/VPAs refers to equivalent project scales/types. For example – in case of VCS, Grouped project are treated as PoA and project instances as VPAs. In such cases, the CME/PD should use the most relevant set of information to complete the table below.

Name of the original standard	☒ **CDM** ☐ **Other** *(Add the standard name here)*
PoA status with original standard	*The current status of PoA with CDM/other standard at the time of submission of this form.*
	☒ **Active** (registration status is valid) ☐ **Withdrawn** (deregistered) ☐ **Provisional** (awaiting guidance from the CMP at CMP 16, CDM PoA only)
CDM/ other standard reference ID	*The reference number/ID of PoA with CDM/other standard.*
	9181
PoA reference weblink	*The weblink of the PoA webpage of CDM/other standard.*
	PoA 9181 : MicroEnergy Credits – Microfinance for Clean Energy Product Lines – India
PoA title	*The title of the PoA used for registration with CDM/other standard.*
	MicroEnergy Credits – Microfinance for Clean Energy Product Lines – India
New PoA title (if applicable)	*The title of the PoA if it has been changed for registering with Gold Standard. (Follow GS4GG requirements Section 5, PoA requirements)*
	N/A
Activity scale	*PoA scale registered with CDM/other standard*
	Small scale
Methodology used	*Methodology title and the version number applied for registration with CDM /other standard*

	AMS III AR v6 – substituting fossil fuel based lighting with LED/CFL lighting systems AM II.G. v11 – Energy efficiency measures in thermal applications of non-renewable biomass AMS-III.AV. ver. 8 - Low greenhouse gas emitting safe drinking water production systems
Registration date	*The PoA registration date with CDM/other standard.*
	27/12/2012
PoA renewal period	*The PoA renewal period with CDM/other standard.*
	Start date: 27/12/2019 End date: 26/12/2026
PoA duration	*The PoA start date and end date with CDM/other standard.*
	Start date: 18/01/2012 End date: 17/01/2040
	Click on the tick box to confirm.

Declaration	The Coordinating/Managing Entity hereby acknowledges that project developer; ☐ Option 1 - has included information in this document that has not been validated/verified as part of CDM PoA -DD **OR** ☒ Option 2 - has copied all validated information as it appears in the original and then used tracked changes to highlight any information that not been validated/or has changed - *Note if option 2 is selected the project developer shall fill all sections in the PoA - DD template of this document.* The Coordinating/Managing Entity hereby acknowledges that project developer; ☒ is aware that for a given vintage, a registered Gold Standard PoA and its VPAs can request the issuance of the emission reductions under only one standard/certification scheme. (applicable to all PoAs). ☒ is aware that PoA and its VPAs that transition to GS4GG shall demonstrate Ongoing Financial Need at the time of renewal of their crediting period following applicable GS4GG requirements. (applicable to all PoAs). ☒ confirms that the Coordinating/Managing Entity will make a declaration, in writing, in the monitoring report submitted to Gold Standard that (applicable to CDM project) - VPAs will/has not issue both a CER/other compliance units under Paris Agreement and a GSVER for the same vintage. - CME agrees to comply with all future UNFCCC COP/CMP decisions[1] including adjustment to GWP values
Coordinating/Managing Entity / authorised signatory	*Name and designation of CME/authorised signatory* Micro Energy Credits Corporation Private Limited

TRF.3 TRANSITION CHECKLIST

Coordinating/Managing Entity shall answer all assessment questions listed below and provide additional information/justification in the PoA-DD section, where required. Please note that the checklist is based on the GHG Emissions Reductions and Sequestration Product Requirements.

The checklist also provides relevant requirements applicable to PoA transitioning to GS4GG for easy referencing. The CME shall refer to relevant GS4GG documents, as applicable, for further

[1] CDM clarification available on this topic as on date can be referred to here.

details. It is recommended that CME refers to Guidelines in the table below for more information on the requirements and flexibilities provided. This document (in word) shall be submitted to SustainCERT along with other required documents **for preliminary review** as listed below –

- Cover Letter
- Terms and Conditions
- Official Development Assistance declaration
- PoA design consultation report
- PoA Design Document (PoA-PDD) final version (CDM/other standard)
- Real case VPA-DD registered with CDM/other standard
- Validation report submitted to CDM/other standard

1| **TRANSITION PATHWAY**	
1.1 | Option 1: Is PoA seeking registration with GS4GG **to issue GSCERs** while maintaining the CDM registration? (Ref: GHG Product Requirements) *Note – PoA must be registered with GS4GG to transition all or selected registered VPAs to GS4GG to issue GSCERs.*	☐ Yes ☒ No
1.2 | Option 2: Is PoA seeking registration with GS4GG **to issue GSVERs** only and/or conversion of **issued CERs to GSVERs**? (Ref: Annex B, GHG Product Requirements). *Note – PoA and VPAs must be registered with GS4GG to convert issued CERs to GSVERs. CME may transition all or selected registered VPAs to GS4GGG to issue GSVERs.*	☒ Yes ☐ No
1.3 | Option 3: Is PoA (for example – Grouped project in case of VCS) seeking registration with GS4GG **to issue GSVERs only** and/or **conversion of emission reduction to GSVERs** issued by **standard other than CDM**? **(**Ref: Annex B, GHG Product Requirements**)** *Note –The PoA and VPAs must be registered with GS4GG to convert issued emissions reductions to GSVERs.*	☐ Yes ☒ No

Requirement:

All PoA/VPAs submitting request for transition on or after 1/1/2021 must demonstrate compliance with requirements stated in **Annex B,** GHG Product Requirements.

*The PoA/VPAs following **option 1** above;*

- *may seek registration under GS4GG based on provisional CDM EB decision*
- *may seek issuance of GSVERs in exchange of provisional CERs based on CDM EB decision for transition VPAs but must transfer issued CERs to the Gold Standard Swiss CDM Registry Account. If there are any implications for issued volume or project eligibility due to CMP decision regarding GWP, additionality or any other decision, the PD must address these issues, as applicable in consultation with SutainCERT/GS.*

*The PoA/VPAs transitioning to GS4GG following **option 2** above,*

- *may convert issued CERs to GSVERs for the transition VPAs*
- *are not required to deregister from CDM but shall not claim emission reductions under both GS4GG and CDM for the same vintage*

*The PoA/VPAs transitioning to GS4GG following **option 3** above,*

- *may convert issued emission reductions unit to GSVERs*
- *may issue GSVERs*
- *shall deregister project from other standard before registration with GS4GG*

Guidelines:
PoA/VPAs already undergoing design certification for CER labelling can continue with their existing process. SustainCERT shall be notified of the intention to switch to GSVER stream, at the earliest possible opportunity.

PoA/VPAs already certified for CER labelling can switch to GSVER stream by completing this form and notifying SustainCERT. Such project may leave the PoA-DD section blank as this information has been captured in GS4GG PDD version submitted earlier.

2| TRANSITION APPROVAL PROCEDURE

1.1 |	Is the PoA and all real case VPAs undergoing a preliminary review **by sustainCERT,** validation **by VVB** and design review by **SustainCERT**?	☐ Yes ☒ No
1.2 |	Is the PoA and all real case VPAs undergoing a **combined preliminary review, inclusion, and design review** by **SustainCERT**?	☐ Yes ☒ No
1.3 |	Is the PoA and all real case VPAs undergoing preliminary review **by SustainCERT**, combined **inclusion & verification by VVB**, followed by combined design and performance review by SustainCERT?	☒ Yes ☐ No

***Requirement**:*
The PoA certification under GS4GG involves following key steps. Refer to Section 12. Project cycle Programme of Activity Requirements for details.

***Preliminary review** - Preliminary Review of the PoA is conducted once at the time of first submission to Gold Standard. It involves desk review of the Key Project Information and PoA-DD by SustainCERT. The PoA can only be listed once a preliminary review of PoA and each VPA submitted with PoA has been completed.*

***Design certification (validation + design review)** - Design certification involves validation by VVB and design review by SustainCERT. With successful design certification the PoA will obtain 'Certified design' status that is equivalent to registration under CDM and other standard. The real case VPA-DD is required with PoA-DD for design review as per Programme of Activity Requirements.*

***Performance certification (verification + performance review)** - Performance certification involves verification by VVB and performance review by SustainCERT. The positive conclusion of the Performance Review period shall result in Gold Standard 'Certified Project status' and VPAs can issue GSVERs. The CME may opt for combined Design Certification, conducting both the first Verification and Performance Review under GS4GG at the same time.*

***VPAs/VPAs Inclusion –** Once a real case VPA/VPA fully design certified, the CME may include VPAs/VPAs applying same technology measures following a simplified inclusion process. It involves, VVB's compliance check followed by SustainCERT design review (two weeks) or if selected for spot -check three week design review.*

To minimise disruption and keep the transition review time and costs minimum, the PoA is provided with flexibilities as summarised in the table below;

Certification stage	Option 1	Option 2*	Option 3

Certification outcome		Normal certification pathway	Combined Preliminary review + Validation + Design review	Combined validation + verification followed by combined design + performance review
PoA+ REAL Case VPA				
Listing	Preliminary review	SustainCERT	SustainCERT	SustainCERT
Certified Design = Registration	Validation	VVB		VVB
	Design review	SustainCERT		SustainCERT
Certified project = Issuance	Verification	VVB	VVB	VVB
	Performance review	SustainCERT	SustainCERT	SustainCERT
VPA/VPA inclusion				
VPA/VPA inclusion	Compliance check	VVB	SustainCERT	VVB
	Design review	SustainCERT		SustainCERT
	Verification	VVB	VVB	VVB
	Performance review	SustainCERT	SustainCERT	SustainCERT

For option 1, a validation/inclusion site visit by VVB is not required for VPAs proposed for inclusion as long as the VVB conducted a site visit as part of validation/verification in last three years (from time of first submission for preliminary review) and new/updated information can be audited based on desk review and/or using remote audit approaches.

For Option 2, SustainCERT conducts PoA/VPAs design elements desk based audit and approve PoA/VPAs transition, without VVB's opinion. ***Note that this option will involve additional review fee levied by SustainCERT. The project developer shall confirm the applicable fee and timelines with SustainCERT (help@sustain-cert.com) before submitting the request for transition.***

If transition PoA is applying a new/latest version of the methodology which requires full audit but VVB, option 2 cannot be applied.

CMEs may also directly include VPAs/VPAs in the registered PoA, without VVB compliance check (THIS OPTION IS NOT CAPTURED IN THE TABLE ABOVE)

a. *If at least one VPA/VPA of the registered PoA has completed successful performance certification, and*
b. *The VPA/VPA that has completed performance certification and the VPAs/VPAs that are included by CME without VVB compliance check shall,*
   - involve same technology/measure and apply same methodology in case of single technology POA
   - involve same technologies/measures and apply same methodology(ies) combination in case of multi technology PoA

Refer to VPA/VPA INCLUSION REQUIREMENTS (RU 2020 P&R - PAR V1.2) for further details on applicability conditions and requirements. This option doesn't involve additional fee levied by SustainCERT as mentioned in option 2 above.

3| POA ELIGIBILITY

3.1 | Is the PoA eligible project type under Gold Standard for the Global Goals?	☒ Yes ☐ No

Requirement: *The transitioning PoA shall be one of the eligible project types for issuance of Gold Standard VERs (Ref: GHG Product Requirements).*

Guidelines: *Typical eligible PoA types are Renewable Energy Supply, End-Use Energy Efficiency Improvement, Waste Handling & Disposal, Land Use and Forests.*

- *RE projects shall refer to Renewable Energy Activity Requirements for eligibility check.*
- *RE projects for example - · Hydropower · biomass resources · landfill gas and biogas from agro-processing, wastewater and other residues · Waste Heat/Gas recovery · Fossil co-generation · Waste incineration and gasification · Waste handling and disposal are required to demonstrate compliance with the specific eligibility requirements. Refer to Annex – A of Renewable Energy Activity Requirements for further details.*
- *Community Services Activities projects for example - Hydropower · biomass resources · landfill gas and biogas from agro-processing, wastewater and other residues · Waste Heat/Gas recovery · Fossil co-generation · Waste incineration and gasification · Waste handling and disposal · Relighting · End-use fossil switching are required to demonstrate compliance with the specific eligibility requirements. Refer to Annex – A of Community Services Activity Requirements for further details.*

4| COMPLIANCE WITH RELEVANT ACTIVITY REQUIREMENTS

1.4 |	Does the PoA conform to the relevant Activity Requirements (CSA/RE)**?**	☒ Yes ☐ No
1.5 |	Does any specific eligibility criteria/requirement stipulated in Annex A of CSA/RE requirements apply to the PoA?	☐ Yes ☒ No
1.6 |	Does specific eligibility criteria/requirement stipulated in Annex A of CSA/RE requirements that apply to the PoA, lead to any change in the registered PoA- DD? If Yes, please provide a full explanation in section A.1.3. below.	☐ Yes ☒ No

Requirement:
PoA shall conform to the relevant Activity Requirements and Gold Standard Approved Methodologies, including eligible CDM Methodologies.

RE rule update / RE PoA rule update:
Grid connected Renewable Energy activities seeking to transition from another carbon crediting scheme to GS4GG or labelling of emission reductions under GS4GG are exempted from eligibility requirements listed in para 2.1.3 of the RE Activity Requirements. This exemption is only allowed to VPA that started the first crediting period with the original carbon crediting scheme from 01/01/2016 or later but before 24/01/2020. (Ref: Section 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 of RU 2020 AR –RE V1.2)

Specific Renewable Energy Activity requirements (refer to Annex A): Hydropower, biomass resources, landfill gas and biogas from agro-processing, wastewater and other residues, Waste Heat/Gas recovery, Fossil co-generation, Waste incineration and gasification, Waste handling and disposal

Specific Community Service Activity requirements (refer to Annex A): Hydropower, biomass resources, landfill gas and biogas from agro-processing, wastewater and other residues, Waste Heat/Gas recovery, Fossil co-generation, Waste incineration and gasification, Waste handling and disposal, Relighting, End-use fossil switching

5| APPLICABILITY OF THE METHODOLOGY/TOOL VERSION

5.1 |	Does the PoA apply eligible GS methodology(ies)? Refer to list of the eligible methodologies **here**.	☒ Yes ☐ No
5.2 |	Does the PoA apply the version of the methodology and applicable tools **applied for CDM/other standard registration or renewal**?	☒ Yes ☐ No

5.3 | Does the PoA also apply the latest version of the methodology and applicable tools **available at the time of first submission of this form**? If Yes, please provide a full explanation in section B.2 below. And note that the PoA cannot opt for option 2 mentioned transition approval procedure.	☐ Yes ☒ No

Requirement: (Ref: Annex B of GHG Product Requirements)

Transition PoA shall

a. *conform to the relevant Activity Requirements and Gold Standard Approved Methodologies, including eligible CDM Methodologies.*
b. *also meet the additional GS4GG methodology eligibility requirements, where applicable. Refer to CDM Methodologies for Gold Standard Eligibility Requirements.*

Transition PoA shall apply the version of GS approved CDM methodology or methodology tool for transition to GS4GG as follows;

a. *version applied at the time of registration/renewal of crediting period with other standard, as applicable, AND/OR*
b. *latest version available at the time submission of Transition request form for inclusion of new VPAs after transition to GS4GG.The Transition PoA may include the latest version of the methodology and applicable tool for inclusion of new VPA(s), at the time of first submission (preliminary review) or at any later stage of certification cycle, but before submitting the request for inclusion for new VPAs. In such cases, VVB shall validate the updated PoA and VPA documents as per applied version of the methodology and or methodology tool before or with the request for inclusion of new VPAs.*

6| DEMONSTRATION OF ADDITIONALITY

6.1 | Are you aware that the transitioning PoA will be required to demonstrate Ongoing Financial Need as per the relevant GS rules and requirements available at the time of renewal? (Refer to para 4.1.51 – 4.1.53 of Principles & Requirements.)	☒ Yes ☐ No
6.2 | Does PoA include conditions that would systematically demonstrate additionality of VPAs/VPAs under the proposed PoA in the inclusion criteria of VPAs/VPAs in the PoA?	☒ Yes ☐ No

Requirement:

- *The CDM PoA is not required to carry out additional assessment for demonstration of additionality over and above what has been done for registration/determination with the CDM unless the PoA falls into a category that is deemed non-additional in an applicable Gold Standard Activity Requirement. In such cases the relevant Activity Requirement shall take precedence.* ***Ref: Annex B GHG Product Requirements.***
- *Transition PoA/VPAs registered with standards other than CDM are required to undergo additionality revalidation to re-establish the validity of the underlying assumptions applied in the demonstration of additionality at the time of registration with the other standard.*
- *The PoA seeking combined transition and renewal with GS4GG are not required to demonstrate OFN at the time of transition but must demonstrate OFN at the time of Crediting Period renewal after transitioning to GS4GG.*

7| SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT

7.1 | Does the PoA positively contribute towards **minimum three Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) -** SDG13 (mandatory) + two other SDGs?	☒ Yes ☐ No
7.2 | Have you identified the monitoring parameters linked with selected SDGs and corresponding SDG targets? For example – the monitoring parameter Amount of GHGs emissions avoided or sequestered is linked with SDG 13. Climate action, SDG target 13.2	☒ Yes ☐ No

Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.	

Fill section A.4.

Requirement:

- *The transitioning PoA shall demonstrate a clear, direct contribution to sustainable development, defined as making demonstrable, positive impacts on at least three Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), one of which must be SDG 13 (Ref: Section 4.(c) of Principles and Requirements)*
- *The CME shall conduct the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) impact assessment at the VPA equivalent level.*
- *An exception can be granted, if convincing justifications validated by a VVB and approved by Gold Standard are provided as to why the SDG impact assessment shall be conducted at PoA level only. In such a case, the CME shall include SDG inclusion criteria in the PoA DD for inclusion of VPAs in the PoA. The future VPAs shall only be included in the PoA if they are in line with SDG compliance criteria.*

Guidelines:

Selected SDG impacts must not result from a one-off from design/construction/distribution/ start-up or decommissioning of the project.

You may refer to /use the SDG impact Tool (under consultation currently) to identify the relevant monitoring indicator, SDGs and corresponding SDG targets and design monitoring plan for identified indicators.

8| START DATE AND DURATION OF THE CREDITING PERIOD

8.1 |	Has the start date of the transitioning PoA registered with other carbon standard/certification scheme changed?	☐ Yes ☒ No
8.2 |	Is the duration of the PoA (i.e. including period that has been claimed under the host standard) less than/equal to the maximum PoA duration allowed under GS4GG PoA requirements?	☐ Yes ☒ No

Complete the section C.2.2 Total length of crediting period below.

Requirement:

- *Transition PoA duration shall not exceed 20 years or the crediting period of first VPA allowed as per GS4GG activity requirements plus 5 years, whichever is greater.*
- *Transition PoA start date is the crediting period start date of the earliest VPA included in the PoA that transitions to GS4GG. For example, if a given PoA transitioning to GS4GG, was registered under Standard X and the crediting period date of earliest VPA transitions to GS4GG is 1/1/2016, the PoA period with GS4GG will be 01/01/2016 to 01/01/2036.*
- *All transition PoAs shall be renewed every 5 years. The first crediting period renewal under GS4GG takes into account the crediting years that has already been completed with other standard. For example, if a PoA start date with standard X is 01/01/ 2019, the PoA shall renew its crediting period with GS4GG on or before 1st Jan 2024, irrespective of date of transition approval with GS4GG.*

9| SAFEGUARDING PRINCIPLES ASSESSMENT

9.1 |	Is Safeguarding Principles Assessment conducted at PoA level?	☐ Yes ☒ No
9.2 |	If answer is yes for Q **Error! Reference source not found.Error!**	☐ Yes

	Reference source not found., does PoA-DD include conformity criteria based on identified risks with respect to the relevant safeguarding principles for each activity type included in the PoA?	☐ No
9.3 |	If answer is yes for Q **Error! Reference source not found.Error! Reference source not found.**, have the Mitigation Measures added to the Monitoring Plan (if required)?	☐ Yes ☐ No

Complete the section E. Summary of Safeguarding Principles below, if applicable.

***Requirement**:*

- *The CME shall conduct the Safeguarding Principles Assessment as per the Safeguarding Principles & Requirements at the VPA equivalent level.*
- *An exception can be granted, if convincing justifications, validated by a VVB and approved by Gold Standard are provided as to why the Safeguarding Assessment shall be conducted at PoA level only. In such a case, the CME shall include Safeguarding Principles & Requirements conformity criteria in the PoA DD based on identified risks with respect to the relevant safeguarding principles. The PoA DD shall contain Safeguarding Principles & Requirements criteria per type of activity, defined at Programme level. The future VPAs/VPAs shall only be included in the PoA if they are in line with the conformity criteria.*

***Guidelines:** The detailed Safeguarding Principles and Requirements checklist is available in Annex 1 of this document.*

10| STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

10.1 |	Has the CME conducted a Stakeholder Consultation at PoA level? The answer to Q 6.1 is "No", if any of the questions below is answered as "No". The project should take the question(s) into account and address the gap when conducting supplementary stakeholder consultation to comply with GS4GG requirements. Please answer the below question with regards to the stakeholder consultation conducted to comply with CDM/other standard requirements?	☐ Yes ☒ No* *CME has an approved deviation request from GS which states the CDM VPAs may transition to GS4GG without conducting a PoA level design consultation, however, the Project Developer must conduct Design Consultation at the time of next design certification renewal of the PoA in line with section 6 of Programme of Activity Requirements.
10.2 |	Did you conduct the stakeholder consultation before the PoA start date?	☒ Yes ☐ No
10.3 |	Did you discuss identified direct positive and negative impacts of the	☒ Yes

VPA with stakeholders?	☐ No
10.4 | Does the invited stakeholder covers all stakeholder groups (a to g) listed in paragraph 3.1.1. of STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS?	☐ Yes ☒ No
10.5 | Did the invitation methods solicit input from women and marginalised groups?	☒ Yes ☐ No
10.6 | Were the stakeholders invited at least 30 days before the stakeholder meeting?	☐ Yes ☒ No
10.7 | Did a local language version of the non-technical summary with information required as per paragraph 5.1.1. of STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS, shared with stakeholders?	☒ Yes ☐ No
10.8 | Was a physical meeting conducted?	☒ Yes ☐ No
10.9 | Was a gender lens applied to assessing comments? (for example, if only men provided comments on household device project, was this taken into consideration when assessing the relevance of the comment?)	☐ Yes ☒ No
10.10 | Were any serious, reasonable and proportional concerns raised and taken into account and satisfactorily addressed?	☒ Yes ☐ No
10.11 | Were any points that warrant 'Mitigation measures' marked as such and monitoring plan has been designed and included in the PoA-DD?	☒ Yes ☐ No
10.12 | Is the mandatory Continuous Input / Grievance Expression Process Book's location clearly stated (and therefore usable)?	☐ Yes ☒ No
10.13 | Does PoA-DD include a summary report of the comments received from local stakeholders?	☒ Yes ☐ No

Complete the section F. Summary of Local Stakeholder Consultation below.

***Requirement**: Ref: Section 6 of PoA Requirements.*

***Guidelines:** PoA that conducted a stakeholder consultation meeting to comply with CDM/other standard requirements, should conduct, at minimum,*

- *one round of consultation for identified gaps i.e., gaps due to differences in stakeholder consultation requirements of GS4GG and CDM/other standard. For instance, if original consultations only involve one physical meeting, CME should conduct a stakeholder feedback round covering all the identified gaps. The additional stakeholder consultations may involve a physical meeting or stakeholder feedback round, as necessary.*

CDM PoAs that have carried out stakeholder consultation at PoA level may justify following the above approach while transitioning to GS4GG. Justification shall be provided in line with requirements for PoA level consultations in Programme of Activity Requirements. Such PoAs must be able to demonstrate and provide information on carrying out Safeguarding and Sustainable Development Assessment at PoA level. Please refer to para section 6 GS PoA Requirements.

If COVID interim measures are applicable (currently till 30/06/2021), the physical meeting and stakeholder feedback round may be postponed, and a draft SCR shall be mandatorily submitted to cover the consultation activities carried out till date.

11| VPA/VPA INCLUSION CRITERIA

11.1 | Are there any changes in eligibility criteria for inclusion criteria of a VPA/VPA with respect to methodology, stakeholder consultation, Safeguarding principles and assessment, SDG assessment or any other aspect?	☒ Yes ☐ No
If answer to Q 11.1 is yes, please include the details in Section B.3 in the PoA -DD section below.	

KEY PROJECT INFORMATION

GS ID of Programme	11450
Title of Programme:	MicroEnergy Credits – Microfinance for Clean Energy Product Lines – India
Start Date of POA	18/12/2012
Date of Design Certification	XX/XX/XX
POA Period Start Date	CP1: 27/12/2012 to 26/12/2019 CP2: 27/12/2019 to 26/12/2026
Version number of the PoA-DD	2.1
Completion date of the PoA-DD	15-09-2022
Coordinating/managing entity	Micro Energy Credits Corporation Private Limited
Project Participants and any communities involved	N/A
Host Country (ies)	India
Activity Requirements applied	☒ Community Services Activities ☐ Renewable Energy Activities ☐ Land Use and Forestry Activities/Risks & Capacities ☐ N/A
Other Requirements applied	**N/A**
Methodology (ies) applied and version number	Methodology for Emission Reductions from Safe Drinking Water Supply v1.0 Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralized Thermal Energy Consumption (TPDDTEC) v3.1 AMS III AR– Substituting fossil fuel based lighting with LED/CFL lighting systems v6.0 AMS I. A– Electricity generation by the user v14.0
Product Requirements applied	☒ GHG Emissions Reduction & Sequestration ☐ Renewable Energy Label ☐ N/A

SECTION A. General description of PoA

A.1. Purpose and general description of the PoA

>>

1. General operating and implementing framework of PoA

The purpose of this Programme of Activities ("PoA") is the dissemination of clean energy products in India. The Programme will promote three broad categories of Clean Energy Products ("CEP"):

- Efficient Stoves
- Water Purifiers
- Solar Electric Lights

CEPs disseminated under this PoA reduce carbon emissions by reducing the amount of fuel required to cook, boil water for health or provide light for low-income households in India that typically rely upon kerosene, non-renewable woody biomass, and charcoal for fuel.

Micro Energy Credits is the Coordinating Entity that will implement the "Microfinance for Clean Energy Product Lines" Programme of Activities, subsequently referred to as the PoA.

Micro Energy Credits is a social enterprise that helps microentrepreneurs and low income households in developing countries to invest in clean energy through their local microfinance institution. Under the PoA, Micro Energy Credits will develop projects with microfinance institutions[2] and clean product suppliers to market, distribute, and finance clean energy products to these microentrepreneurs and low income and households.

Many microfinance clients suffer from energy poverty, impacting their health, their ability to educate their children, the gender balance of their household and their ability to save and accumulate wealth. Presently available clean and low carbon technologies can both improve their quality of life and reduce carbon emissions. Many

[2] For the purposes of this document, a "microfinance institution" is defined as a local institution that provides financial services to low-income households.

microentrepreneurs and households lack access to clean energy technologies due to economic barriers and market inefficiencies including:

- Lack of access to upfront finance
- Lack of awareness of clean energy products and their value proposition
- Lack of supply of products in the local market place
- Lack of aftersales service and maintenance
- Inability to afford the clean energy product

Micro Energy Credits addresses these barriers by working with microfinance institutions to market affordable, reliable clean energy products right to doorstep of the microentrepreneurs. Microfinance institutions are well positioned to provide clean energy to their clients because they offer:

- Awareness: Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) offer education in addition to finance with frequent touch points
- Finance: Ability to finance upfront costs
- Local knowledge: MFIs are typically local organizations that understand local energy resources and needs
- Longevity: Most microfinance clients remain bank clients for many years or decades

Historically a very small percentage of microfinance institutions have offered microfinance for low-carbon technologies due to economic barriers. Micro Energy Credits has developed a program that enables Microfinance institutions to overcome these barriers. Obstacles that have prevented Microfinance institutions from starting clean energy product lines include:

1. High cost of hiring additional staff
2. Expense of marketing and awareness building
3. Steep learning curve to understand products and technologies
4. Lack of partnerships with local suppliers and distributors.
5. Reputational risk
6. Scarcity of on-lending funds
7. Difficulty developing financial products for consumptive loans

Micro Energy Credits uses carbon finance to overcome all of these obstacles, enabling microentrepreneurs to invest in clean energy products. First, Micro Energy Credits works with the microfinance institution to develop an attractive clean energy product offering to its microfinance client base, addressing each of the barriers such as education, price, finance, and supply and aftersales service. Second, Micro Energy Credits trains the microfinance institution to implement the clean energy-lending program. This includes business planning, capacity building, and implementation of marketing, education and supply chain processes. Third, Micro Energy Credits implements a robust and transparent carbon credit monitoring and tracking system to quantify and record the volume of carbon emission reductions created through the clean

energy program. Finally, the carbon finance is used to expand and sustain the clean energy program through:

1. Client education and marketing
2. Internal training and capacity building
3. On-lending funds to local SMEs producing the clean energy systems.
4. Aftersales service and maintenance
5. Lowering the interest or principal cost to the client.

Micro Energy Credits is the coordinating/managing entity ("CME") for this PoA. As such it will coordinate the efforts of different Partner Organizations ("PO") to disseminate clean energy products. POs will act as VPA Activity Implementers/Operators. In the context of this PoA, POs will not become project participants, as per Annex 38 to EB55 Report, paragraph 8, "the operators of individual VPAs are not required to be project participants". The inclusion of new VPAs to the PoA will be requested by the CME to the Validation/Verification Body (VVB) during the lifetime of the PoA.

The POs will operate clean energy lending units that disseminate CEPs to local households. They will keep track of the list of CEP installations pertaining to the PoA in the electronic Credit Tracker Platform.

When purchasing a CEP the user will have signed a title transfer with the PO (the "Title Transfer"). The title transfer will assert the legal rights of the carbon credits generated by the CEP to the PO. Contracts between the PO and CME subsequently transfer the carbon credit rights to the CME. Accordingly, the POs will use the CER proceeds to expand and sustain the CEP program including providing some or all of the following: education, training, linkages to local product suppliers, aftersales service and maintenance, and reducing the cost of the CEP to the client.

Based on the title transfer, the POs will transfer information for each CEP to the Credit Tracker Platform, which will ensure that no CEP is counted more than once under the VPAs or the PoA. The Credit Tracker Platform will also serve as the basis for the calculation of the CERs.

The monitoring plan will be validated and verified by a Validation and Verification Body ("VVB"). CEP suppliers will have to be educated by the PO, ensuring that stakeholders involved in the implementation of the VPA are aware and have agreed that their activity is being subscribed to the PoA.

Organizational chart showing the stakeholders involved in the PoA:

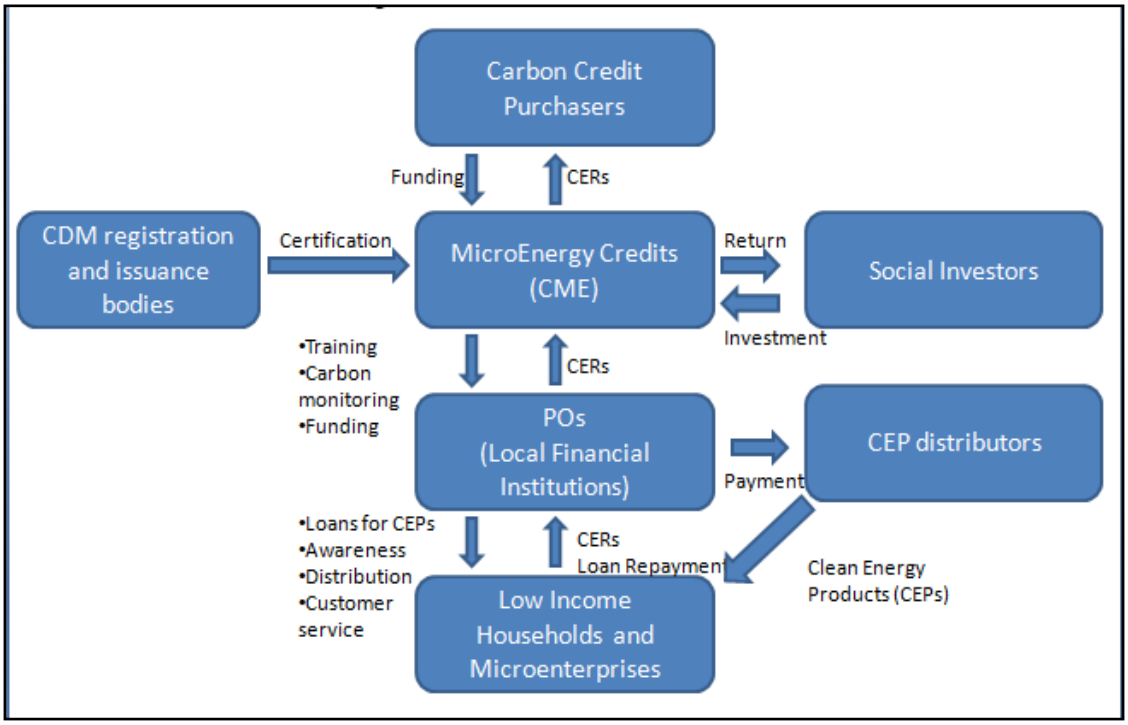

Figure A.1: Relationship between stakeholders in PoA

2. Policy/measure or stated goal of the PoA

The goal of the PoA is to use carbon finance to expand access to clean energy to millions of micro-entrepreneurs and low-income households, enabling:

- Households to achieve critical development improvements (health, education, economic status)
- Households to benefit from savings on energy expenditures
- Micro-entrepreneurs to have the electricity and other resources they need to expand their income-generating activities
- Reduced environmental impacts from carbon emissions and deforestation
- Expansion of the clean energy product supply chain to serve poor, rural populations

3. Confirmation that the proposed PoA is a voluntary action by the coordinating/managing entity

The PoA is a purely voluntary activity by the coordinating entity Micro Energy Credits, a private entity. Micro Energy Credits is under no requirements to complete such programs. There are no laws/policies mandating the adoption and/or dissemination of the CEPs in any of the countries within the PoA boundary. Therefore, the proposed PoA is a voluntary action by the CME.

Sustainable Development Benefits:

Impact on the Environment

- Climate Change: The new clean energy products will increase energy efficiency of the households in India. The stoves reduce the amount of fuel required to cook, the solar lighting reduces the need to kerosene lamps in the house, and the water purifier reduces the need for fuel since households no longer need to boil water to ensure it is safe. This will result in less Greenhouse gas emissions from burning non-renewable biomass and will have a positive effect on climate change.
- Local Environment: Through the introduction of the more efficient stoves, solar lighting, and water purification technologies this PoA will result in the reduction of pollution caused by particulate matter released during the burning of traditional fuels (biomass and charcoal).
- Natural Resource Use: The use of wood to heat homes and cook food causes pressure on the forests of India. The introduction of more efficient stoves and better water purifier will result in a reduction in deforestation as reliance on non-renewable fuel sources is reduced.

Impact on Society

- Poverty Alleviation: MicroEnergy Credits utilizes carbon credits to help provide low-cost affordable micro finance to project participants so they can purchase modern energy systems that can reduce monthly energy expenditures, improve health conditions, and increase household productivity. This will ensure that less money is spent on fuel and more money can be saved for other uses.
- Equity: This programme allows for low-income households to afford these desired clean energy products which increase fuel savings and means less money is spent on fuel each year and there is more money to be spent on other things.
- Health: The new stoves reduce particulate matter emissions and families no longer inhale indoor smoke that causes respiratory illnesses and the risk of burns from falling into fires is reduced. The solar lighting technology will decrease household consumption of kerosene which will reduce smoke inside households. These will have a positive effect on the health of the project participants who will inhale less smoke.
- Improving Ecological Education: The implementation of this project increases awareness amongst project participants about deforestation and climate change. MicroEnergy Credits uses carbon finance to expand and sustain the clean energy program, which includes client education, and marketing and internal training and capacity building amongst other things.

Impact on Economy and Technology

- Efficient Resource Utilization: Setting up a Micro Finance Institution to provide Clean Energy Products requires a lot of resources. Micro Energy Credits is making use of carbon finance to help alleviate the costs of client education and marketing, internal training and capacity building, lending funds to local small enterprises producing the Clean Energy Systems, aftersales service and maintenance, and lower the interest or principal cost to the client. This means that less of the cost of providing this service is passed on to the project participants who can enjoy an efficient micro-finance service with reduced cost for the clean energy products.

- Transfer of Technology and Knowhow: The installation of Clean Energy Products ("CEP") will be done with local people who will learn about how the technology works. In some cases the assembly of the stove will also be done by local people who will learn about the stoves.

A.2. Physical/ Geographical boundary of the PoA

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The geographical boundary for the PoA is defined by the national boundary of India. In each VPA, project-specific boundaries may be defined by the locations[3] of each user-level clean energy product installation, which will be recorded in MEC's Credit Tracker Platform.

A.3. Technologies/measures and eligibility under Gold Standard

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The technologies that will be employed by the VPAs are all small-scale, low cost clean energy products that meet the basic needs of India's low income demographic. In general, these technologies are deployed in homes and small businesses, as well as, to a small degree, local institutions such as schools, clinics, and microfinance institution branches. All of the technologies employed by the VPAs provide development benefits as well as environmental benefits.

Specifically, each VPA will employ lighting, safe water and cooking technologies from one or more of the following categories:

Solar electric/photovoltaic systems

- VPAs will deploy solar electric/photovoltaic systems that provide a renewable source of lighting by replacing fossil-fuel based lighting as requested by AMS III.AR, ver. 6 and AMS I.A ver.14.
- For example, solar lighting systems disseminated under the PoA will be the d.light S series solar lamps (e.g. S20, S320, S100) and Sunking Home lighting system series (e.g. Sunking HLS 120)).
- Design of solar lighting systems may develop over time, however it will be ensured that they meet all methodological requirements.

Some of the models that will be distributed, including their technical specifications[4] are –

1) **d. Light S300**

Type and Solar panel Wattage – Monocrystalline/1.6 W
Lighting Wattage: 1.0
Luminous flux output (Lumens) – 100

[3] Location is defined by one of the following sets of information:

Precise GPS location of the household that purchases/installs clean energy product. GPS location within one mile of the household and credible address for household. Three of the following identifiers: Purchaser name, household address, phone number, bank ID number, national ID number, product unique identifier number, household GPS location, or GPS location within one mile of household.

[4] As per manufacturer's product information sheet

Lumen maintenance (for 2,000 hours): 97.97%
Rated lamp life: greater than 10,000 hours
Lighting points (number of project lamps) – 1
Battery Type/capacity – 1.8 Ah (lithium ferro phosphate battery)
Type of charge controller: Active
Solar Run time (SRT): 5 hours
Warranty – 2 years
Lifetime of module – 15 years
Battery lifetime – 5 years
Electronics lifetime – 5 years
Physical protection against environmental factors - YES

2) **Sunking Home 120**
Luminous intensity (Lumens): 590
Solar Panel: 12 Watt
Solar Panel Lifetime: 15 years
Lifetime of product (in years) –
Module – 15 years
Battery – 8 years
Electronics – 5 years
Wattage – 5.28 W
Battery – Li-Fe-PO4, 12000mAh, 3.3 V
Rated Lamp life – 10,000 hours
Warranty – 2 Years DBT/SRT – 3.5 hours (Default)
Physical protection against environmental factors - YES

There could be various other solar lighting models distributed under this PoA. All products contain a solar panel, lights as shown in the photograph –

Efficient cookstoves:

- VPAs will deploy improved cook stoves (ICS) each having continuous useful energy output of less than 150kW per unit as also required by "Technologies and Practices to displace Decentralized thermal Energy Consumption (TPDDTEC)" ver 3.1.
- For example, one improved cook stove disseminated under the PoA will be the Powergram, a portable stove made of durable components. The initial model has a specified thermal efficiency of 40%. The single burner design ensures high efficiency.
- Design of the improved cookstove (ICS) may develop over time, however it will be ensured that they meet all methodological requirements.

Some of the models that will be distributed, including their technical specifications[5] are –

Powergram Stove:
Material: Stainless steel
Stove Body Size – 46.99 x 22 x 22 cm
Net weight: 10 kg
Thermal efficiency: 40%

Water purifiers:

[5] As per manufacturer's product information sheet

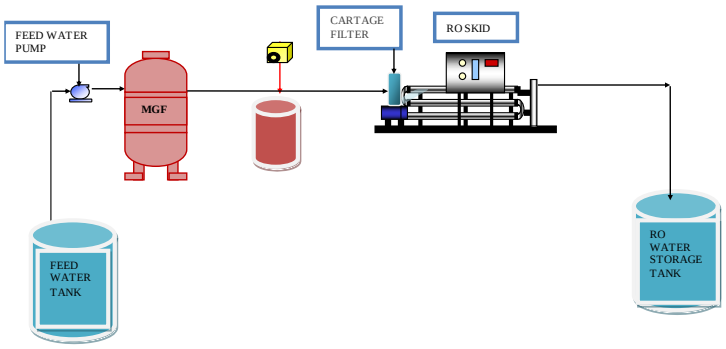
- VPAs will deploy Low greenhouse gas-emitting safe drinking water production systems to achieve water quality defined in a relevant national standard or guideline for drinking water quality, as also requested by Emission reductions from Safe Drinking Water Supply v1.0.
- For example, one water purification system disseminated under the PoA will be the Pureit in-home purification system and Germkill battery kit. The water purification treatment options will be selected to ensure that they provide safe and hygienic potable water. The chosen technologies will be in compliance with the host country norms.
- Community based water purifiers will also be disseminated under the PoA
- Design of the Water purifiers may develop over time, however it will be ensured that they meet all methodological requirements.

HUL Pureit classic 23 L:
This is a large size purifier with a 23-litre capacity. It includes an activated carbon trap that removes harmful pesticides and undesirable odor. It also has an auto shut-off feature that ensures water purity. In the absence of the project activity, the households would have continued to boil water for drinking purposes. The technical specifications[6] of the water purifier are as follows –

Size – 61 cm X 29 cm X 21 cm
Net weight: 4.1 kg
Life span under standard use conditions: The life span of the germ kill kit used by the purifier has a capacity of 1500 l after which it must be replaced. The life of the kit therefore depends on how much water is purified by the user every day.

ION Exchange – 200 LPH model:
This model will be specifically deployed for distribution and installation in communities and community facilities like school, small businesses, panchayat center etc.

[6]Manufacturer's certificate on specifications



The water generation system is designed to produce treated water based on the following requirements:

SYSTEMS	FLOW
Feed Water Pump	1.0 m3 Hr
Multigrade Sand Filter	1.0 m3 Hr
Antiscalent Dosing	1.5 LPH (max)
Cartage Filter	5 µ
RO Skid	200 LPH

The PoA will be implemented using four approved methodologies:

- For solar lighting and solar electric/PV systems, VPAs will use the CDM small-scale methodology AMS-III.AR "Substituting Fossil fuel-based lighting with LED/CFL lighting systems" (Version 6)
- For solar lighting (SLS) and solar electric/PV systems, VPAs will use the CDM small-scale methodology AMS-I.A "Electricity generation by user" (Version 14)
- For improved cookstoves (ICS), Gold Standard methodology "Technologies and Practices to displace Decentralized thermal Energy Consumption (TPDDTEC)" (Version 3.1)
- For water purifiers (WPS), Gold Standard methodology "Methodology for Emission reductions from Safe Drinking Water Supply" (Version 1.0)

All VPAs included in this PoA will use no more than two of the three approved methodologies stated above, and the only the following combination of technologies shall be allowed in a given household:

Solar lighting systems and efficient cookstoves
Solar lighting systems and water purifiers

Water purifiers and efficient cookstoves shall not be disseminated to the same households or included in the same VPAs, thus no cross effects exist between the technologies or methodologies included in this PoA.

VPA ID	SLS Methodology	ICS/WPS Methodology
GS11474	AMS III. AR v6.0	TPDDTEC v3.1

GS11475	AMS III. AR v6.0	TPDDTEC v3.1
GS11476	AMS III. AR v6.0	TPDDTEC v3.1
GS11504	AMS III. AR v6.0	TPDDTEC v3.1
GS11505	AMS III. AR v6.0	Safe Water Meth v1.0
GS11477	AMS III. AR v6.0	TPDDTEC v3.1
GS11478	AMS III. AR v6.0	TPDDTEC v3.1
GS11479	AMS III. AR v6.0	Safe Water Meth v1.0
GS11480	AMS III. AR v6.0	Safe Water Meth v1.0
GS11473	AMS III. AR v6.0	TPDDTEC v3.1
GS11482	AMS I.A v14.0	TPDDTEC v3.1
GS11483	AMS I.A v14.0	TPDDTEC v3.1
GS11484	AMS I.A v14.0	TPDDTEC v3.1
GS11485	AMS I.A v14.0	TPDDTEC v3.1
GS11451	AMS I.A v14.0	TPDDTEC v3.1
GS11486	AMS I.A v14.0	TPDDTEC v3.1
GS11503	AMS I.A v14.0	TPDDTEC v3.1
GS11502	AMS I.A v14.0	Safe Water Meth v1.0
GS11501	AMS I.A v14.0	TPDDTEC v3.1
GS11500	AMS I.A v14.0	Safe Water Meth v1.0
GS11499	AMS I.A v14.0	Safe Water Meth v1.0
GS11498	AMS I.A v14.0	TPDDTEC v3.1
GS11497	AMS I.A v14.0	Safe Water Meth v1.0
GS11496	AMS I.A v14.0	TPDDTEC v3.1
GS11495	AMS I.A v14.0	Safe Water Meth v1.0
GS11494	AMS I.A v14.0	Safe Water Meth v1.0
GS11493	AMS I.A v14.0	TPDDTEC v3.1
GS11492	AMS I.A v14.0	Safe Water Meth v1.0
GS11491	AMS I.A v14.0	TPDDTEC v3.1
GS11452	AMS I.A v14.0	Safe Water Meth v1.0
GS11490	AMS I.A v14.0	Safe Water Meth v1.0
GS11489	AMS I.A v14.0	Safe Water Meth v1.0
GS11894	AMS I.A v14.0	TPDDTEC v3.1
GS11895	AMS I.A v14.0	TPDDTEC v3.1
GS11896	AMS I.A v14.0	TPDDTEC v3.1
GS11897	AMS I.A v14.0	Safe Water Meth v1.0
GS11898	AMS I.A v14.0	Safe Water Meth v1.0

Eligibility under Gold Standard

As per section 3.1.1 of GS4GG Principles & Requirements, Eligibility criteria is defined below:

Eligibility Criteria Category	Eligibility criterion - Required condition	Justification
1. Types of Project	Eligible projects shall include physical action/implementation on	The eligible VPAs shall describe the implementation schedule on

Eligibility Criteria Category	Eligibility criterion - Required condition	Justification
	the ground. Pre-identified eligible project types are identified in the Eligibility Principles and Requirements section.	ground in VPA-DD. 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. The Project type is automatically eligible for Gold Standard Certification as there are Gold Standard (GS) approved Activity Requirement- Community Services Activity (CSA) and GS approved methodology "TPDDTEC v3.1" and "Emission reduction from safe drinking water supply- version 1.0".
2. Location of Project	Projects may be located in any part of the world.	Location of the PoA is India
3. 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 certification (for example use of similar technology	The boundary for the PoA in terms of a geographical area is defined as the political boundary of the host country. All voluntary programme activities (VPAs) associated with this PoA are implemented within the geographical boundary of the PoA. To avoid inclusion of any CEP (Clean Energy Product) which is a part of another registered carbon project/ programme, all CEPs under this programme shall have a unique ID number / Tag / batch number, either inscribed on the CEP or retained by the buyer, to uniquely identify the CEP avoiding any double counting and trace its user, later during monitoring and verification. The scale of the PoA is large scale.

Eligibility Criteria Category	Eligibility criterion - Required condition	Justification
	or practices through which the potential arises for double counting or misestimation of impacts amongst projects)	
4. Host Country Requirements	Projects shall be in compliance with applicable Host Country legal, environmental, ecological and social regulations.	The PoA complies with host countries legal, environmental and ecological and socialregulations.
5. 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.	Contact details of the organization i.e. MEC which is the CME and developer of the PoA is given in the Appendix 1. The organizations registration documents and other legal documents may be provided to SustainCERT or VVB on request.
6. Legal Ownership	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	MEC will own the carbon credits that are generated by the project and it will use this revenue to pay back the project costs that are incurred. End users will benefit by receiving best-in-class technology at no cost, or at a subsidized, below-market sales price. CMEs ownership of carbon credits shall be informed to the end users and a declaration to this effect shall be signed.

Eligibility Criteria Category	Eligibility criterion - Required condition	Justification
	contained within specific Activity or Product Requirements. All projects shall immediately report to Gold Standard any land title/tenure disputes arising.	
7. 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.	Not applicable
8. 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. ODA declaration is provided.

Eligibility under Gold Standard Community Services Activity (CSA) Requirements

General Eligibility criteria of Community Services Activity (CSA) Requirements is defined below:

Eligibility Criteria Category	Eligibility criterion - Required condition	Justification

1. 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 PoA is to distribute Improved Cook Stoves (ICS), Water Purification Systems (WPS) and Solar lighting systems (SLS) in the households/SMEs of the host country of India
GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA		
2. 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, WPS and SLS.
3. 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 CEP beneficiaries in the host country of the VPA. The project boundary will be limited to the geographical boundary of the host country of India. For the purpose of applying UNFCCC methodologies for quantification of GHG reductions, 'small scale' is: a. Type I: Renewable energy project activities with a maximum output

		capacity of 15 MW (or an appropriate equivalent) b. Type II: Energy-efficiency improvement project activities < = 60 GWh(e) or 180 GWh(th) energy savings per year c. Type III: Other project activities not included in Type I or Type II < = 60,000 tCO2eq per year The VPA involves Type I and Type III for solar lighting system which shall not cross the above small-scale limits. Scale is no limit for Improved Cookstoves and water purification system since TPDDTEC v3.1 and Methodology for Emission Reduction from Safe Drinking Water Supply v1.0 is followed and there is no suppressed demand element.
4. Suppressed Demand	Certain Impact Quantification methodologies allow projects to account Suppressed Demand scenario when establishing a baseline. In such cases, the application of Suppressed Demand baseline is limited to Small Scale and Microscale Projects.	VPAs under the PoA can either be small scale or large scale. In case of large scale VPA, no suppressed demand baseline is applied.
5. Legal Ownership	(a) Projects involving the distribution of a large number of devices for services such as heating, cooking, lighting, electricity	The CEP owners will confirm that rights to the ownership of carbon credits reside with the CME according to the end user agreement /declaration

	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. The transfer of Product ownership shall be discussed during local stakeholder consultations for projects.	form signed via monitoring app etc (refer Eligibility under GS4GG section above). This was explained clearly in the PoA Design Consultation LSC conducted before the CDM registration of the PoA-DD and shall again be explained in future VPA-level LSC meetings.
ELIGIBILITY PRINCIPLES AND REQUIREMENTS		
6. Principle 3 – Stakeholder Inclusivity	Projects shall have specific stakeholder consultation requirements for certain project types including, but limited to, hydropower and projects using biomass resource as given in Annex A of the document.	Not Applicable The VPA is implementing solar lighting and improved cookstove and therefore, does not fall under the project types with additional eligibility criteria according to Annex A of the document.
7. Principle 4 – Demonstration of Real Outcomes	New Projects may seek Certification and receive Issuance of Gold Standard Certified Impact Statements or Products for a maximum of two Design Certification Renewal Cycles i.e., a total of 15 years issuance.	The VPA has a maximum crediting period of 15 years (5 years + two renewals of 5 years) in line with the GS4GG Principles and Requirements.
8. Principle 5 – Financial Additionality & Ongoing Financial Need	All projects seeking the issuance of Certified Impact Statements and/or	Not applicable.

	Products shall demonstrate Financial Additionality in accordance with the Principles & Requirements and the applicable Product requirements.	The additionality and need for ongoing financial need have been demonstrated using the applicable GS4GG Activity Requirements: Community Services Activity Requirements (v1.2) in VPA-DD.

The technologies that will be employed by the VPAs are low-cost clean energy products that meet the basic needs of India's poor. In general, these technologies are deployed in homes and small businesses, as well as, to a small degree, local institutions such as schools, clinics, and microfinance institution branches.

A.4. Target/Indicator for each of the minimum three SDGs targeted by the POA

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Sustainable Development Goals Targeted	Most relevant SDG Target	SDG Impact Indicator (Proposed or SDG Indicator)
13 Climate Action (mandatory)	N/A	Emission Reductions
1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere	1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance	Number of households with clean energy products
3 Good Health and Well-being	3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from	Percentage of households confirming less smoke with the use of improved stove or water purification system.

	hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination	
5: Gender Equality	5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate	Percentage of household reporting time saving on domestic work by women in collecting fuel for cooking or boiling water on traditional stove
6: Clean Water and Sanitation	6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all	Number of households with access to safe and affordable drinking water
7: Affordable and Clean Energy	7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services	Number of households with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology
8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services	Total no of jobs created

A.5. Coordinating/managing entity

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Micro Energy Credits Corporation Private Limited is the coordinating/managing entity ("CME") for this PoA. Micro Energy Credits Corporation Private Limited is a registered company in India. The CME will communicate with the Executive Board and/or the pertinent Validation and Verification Body ("VVB") on all matters, including submission of the PoA and making arrangements for the distribution of certified emission reductions.

A.6. Funding sources of PoA

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No public funding or ODA have or will be diverted for the implementation of the PoA.

SECTION B. MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND INCLUSION CRITERIA

B.1. Management System

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Micro Energy Credits Corporation Private Limited Credit Tracker Platform will be used to maintain records for each VPA. The MEC Credit Tracker Platform has been designed specifically for accelerating microfinance access to clean and efficient energy. The Credit Tracker Platform is used to collect and store the information related to the unique identification number, location, installation date, and usage status of each clean energy product (CEP) in each VPA, making it easy to identify, locate and verify any or all of the installations that pertain to a given VPA. The MEC Credit Tracker Platform is a hosted internet service, limiting the risk of loss of data.

i. A clear definition of roles and responsibilities of personnel involved:

CME will be responsible for the following:

- Prepare documents for validation and monitoring reports for emission reduction verification
- Contact consultant/expert for preparing project documentation for GS registration
- Contact with Gold Standard Validation Verification Body (hereinafter referred to as "GS VVB") for validation, verification and VERs issuance of PoA and VPA
- Communicate with Gold Standard Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for validation, verification, VERs issuance etc. and with the host country local authorities (as required)
- Build and manage a database system that contains detailed and valid information related to each VPA
- Manage "Management system" and "Database recording system"
- Continuously review and improve PoA performance
- Performance evaluation to achieve expected emission reductions

- Maintain close and ongoing communication with distributors and marketing agency
- Training staff about the projects
- Implement management and procedure change if necessary

The overall management of the programme will be done by CME and the programme will be implemented by partner organizations (POs). POs will include microfinance institutions (MFIs) and clean product suppliers. POs will market, distribute, and finance clean energy products to microentrepreneurs and low income and households through their own sales channels.

The POs will operate clean energy lending units that disseminate CEPs to local households. They will keep track of the list of CEP installations pertaining to the PoA in the electronic Credit Tracker Platform. When purchasing a CEP the user will have signed a title transfer with the PO (the "Title Transfer"). The title transfer will assert the legal rights of the carbon credits generated by the CEP to the PO. Contracts between the PO and CME subsequently transfer the carbon credit rights to the CME. Accordingly, the POs will use the carbon credit proceeds to expand and sustain the CEP program including providing some or all of the following: education, training, linkages to local product suppliers, aftersales service and maintenance, and reducing the cost of the CEP to the client. Based on the title transfer, the POs will transfer information for each CEP to the Credit Tracker Platform, which will ensure that no CEP is counted more than once under the VPAs or the PoA. The Credit Tracker Platform will also serve as the basis for the calculation of the emission reductions.

ii. Records of arrangements for training and capacity development for personnel

Personnel are trained in a group training session where the monitoring presentation is given by staff of the clean energy product unit. Personnel are also provided with a user manual. These training sessions will take place at least once before the sale of the first CEP, and as needed according to the progress of the sales. This training would take place for each VPA. The CME will provide the VVB with the materials generated from the meetings and trainings with all parties to demonstrate that they were conducted. The materials could be any of the following, but are not limited to, photos, emails, participation sheets, self-statements and training materials.

iii. A procedure for technical review of inclusion of VPAs

The CME shall ensure that all VPAs included under the PoA meet the eligibility criteria outlined in section B.3 of the PoA-DD and that the records of the technical review process are maintained. The technical review process for each VPA shall ensure that the

criteria outlined in Section B.3 are met by the VPA. Prior to the start of the inclusion process for a new VPA under the PoA, the proposed VPA-DD will undergo a technical review by the Carbon Operations Manager of the CME or by a team of reviewers. The technical review shall check if the VPA-DD is drafted following the eligibility criteria stated in PoA DD Section B.3. The reviewer(s) shall also check that the proposed VPA is neither registered or being registered under another PoA, nor registered or being registered as a standalone Gold Standard or CDM Project Activity. The CME will also verify that no individual project activity bearing the same name and covering the same scope as the proposed VPA is neither registered, nor requesting registration. In order to ensure that the competencies of the personnel conducting the technical review remain current, the reviewers shall be trained related to Gold Standard procedures and VPA eligibility.

For each proposed VPA the findings of the technical review will be summarized and submitted to CME management for final approval. In the event that the conclusions of the technical review are not positive, the VPA Partner Organization will have to carry out the requested changes in its proposed VPA before re-submitting the project document for inclusion into PoA.

iv. A procedure to avoid double counting (e.g. to avoid the case of including a new VPA that has already been registered either as a CDM project activity or included as a VPA in another registered CDM PoA)

Each VPA has unique identifier number that can be attributed to each household and installation within that VPA to ensure no double counting within the PoA. This information will match with the information displayed on each VPA Credit Tracker Platform, with a copy retained by the customer, thus identifying that each CEP with its unique sales receipt number has been distributed under a PoA managed by the CME of this PoA.

At the time of registering a new VPA, Micro Energy Credits Corp will ensure that the project activity is not part of another PoA:

- Micro Energy Credits Corp signs contracts with each microfinance institution documenting that the emissions reductions in a specific project activity are included in that project and that project alone
- The partner microfinance institution explains the concept of carbon credits to the end user. The microfinance institution signs a contract with each end user recognizing the end user's title to the emissions reductions and transferring it to the microfinance institution, which then transfers it to Micro Energy Credits Corp

- Micro Energy Credits Corp and partner microfinance institutions consult with participating clean energy product suppliers to clarify that credits are not included in other projects and will be included in this PoA
- Each project is publicly announced at launch, both at the microfinance institution level and at the level of Micro Energy Credits Corp, including a posting on its website

The MEC Credit Tracker Platform will maintain data on all installations, including each CEP unique identifier number, the date of installation and the VPA/PoA with which they are associated. The platform's use of locations for each installation will ensure that each clean energy product is only included in a single VPA under a single PoA.

v. *Records and documentation control*

The Credit Tracker Platform enables Micro Energy Credits Corp to maintain consistent data on all VPAs and product installations.

The process for entering data into the Credit Tracker Platform will be consistent across all VPAs. At the time of purchase/installation, the PO will create a Booking Record (in paper or electronic format) that captures detailed data on the installation:

- Household name
- Location of household (address and/or the address of nearest branch of bank)
- Product type installed
- Product model installed
- Date of installation/distribution
- Unique identifier number / receipt number for CEP
- Respective VPA

Once the installation is complete, the PO will ensure that all the data from the Booking Record created at the time of installation is accurately captured in the electronic Booking Record in the Credit Tracker Platform. The PO will implement an internal check to verify the accuracy of data entry and to ensure that the data captured in Credit Tracker is identical to the data recorded at the time of installation.

The Credit Tracker Platform includes a VPA Dashboard that provides a summary on the status of each VPA, and includes the fields:

- Name and unique identifier of each VPA
- List of CEPs included in each VPA
- Name of PO implementing each VPA
- Number of CEPs installed
- Aggregate emissions reductions per year for each VPA

The VPA Monitoring Record maintains monitoring and auditing data on each installation in a VPA:

- Unique identifier number (sales receipt number) for CEP
- Date of monitoring
- Usage status at time of monitoring

vi. Measures for continuous improvements of the PoA management system

The CME will review the PoA management system defined above on a regular basis to ensure the continuous improvement of the above processes that will result in greater accuracy of the collected data and additional capacity building for VPA Implementers.

vii. The provisions to ensure that those operating the VPA are aware of and have agreed that their activity is being subscribed to the PoA;

The CME will coordinate the activities to be undertaken by each PO involved in the PoA. As part of the inclusion of a VPA under the PoA, a legally-binding contractual agreement will be signed by the PO and the CME. Under the agreement, the roles and responsibilities of the CME and the PO will be clearly spelled out. Further, the PO will ascribe its activity to the PoA as part of entering into this agreement. Any parties the PO contracts in its role as the VPA developer will also be required to enter into a contractual agreement with the PO, similarly ascribing their activities to the PoA. Suitable training will be conducted for POs taking part in new VPAs to make them aware of the rules of the Standard and the PoA and their requirements in terms of distribution and data collection. Guidance will be provided to each PO on the correct procedures to be followed during distribution. The agreement will also define carbon ownership rights.

B.2. Application of methodologies

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The PoA will use the following methodologies:

- For solar lighting and solar electric/PV systems, the VPAs will use the small-scale CDM methodology AMS-III.AR "Substituting fossil fuel based lighting with LED/CFL lighting systems" (Version 6)[7]

- For solar lighting and solar electric/PV systems, the VPAs will use the small-scale CDM methodology AMS-I.A "Electricity generation by the user" (Version 14)[8]

[7] Substituting fossil fuel based lighting with LED/CFL lighting systems --- Version 7.0
[8] Electricity generation by user -- Version 14.0

- For efficient cookstoves, the VPAs will use the GS methodology "Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralized Thermal Energy Consumption" (version 3.1)[9]

- For water filters, the VPAs will use the GS methodology – Methodology for Emission reductions from Safe Drinking Water Supply (Version 1.0)[10]

The VPA will also use the following Tools:

TOOL30: Calculation of the fraction of non-renewable biomass
TOOL20: Assessment of de-bundling for small-scale project activities
TOOL 11: Assessment of the validity of the original/current baseline and update of the baseline at the renewal of the crediting period
TOOL21: Demonstration of additionality of small scale project activities version 13.1

Validity of current Baseline:

Improved Cookstoves: Since the registration of the PoA in 2012, the Indian Government had launched a LPG cylinder distribution scheme in rural India, however, the scheme has been only partially successful. About a quarter of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana[11] (PMUY) consumers enrolled till the end of 2018 had not taken even a single refill, and less than half of those enrolled had purchased four or more refills"[12]. There are many barriers to sustained use of LPG that need to be addressed once the connection is given. The barriers are broadly categorized as:

a. Affordability of LPG,
b. Absence of robust distribution networks and infrastructure to ensure reliable, last mile access to LPG,
c. Behavioral aspects which need to be addressed to ensure sustained use.

As per latest available WHO[13] data, 52% of the rural population in India still relies on solid fuel for cooking. In addition, as per 2018 data published by WHO[14] only 48% of India's rural population has access to clean cooking technologies. As per recent research study, even with substantial increasing provision of clean cooking fuels in India, more than half of India's population was exposed to household air pollution from solid cooking

[9] TPDDTEC--Version 3.1
[10] Safe Water Methodology -- Version 1.0

[11] http://www.pmujjwalayojana.com/
[12] https://www.theindiaforum.in/article/pradhan-mantri-ujjwala-yojana-needs-be-more-ambitious-achieve-its-goal-ending-pollution-rural
[13]https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/indicators/indicator-details/GHO/proportion-of-population-with-primary-reliance-on-fuels-and-technologies-for-cooking-by-fuel-type
[14] https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/indicators/indicator-details/GHO/gho-phe-primary-reliance-on-clean-fuels-and-technologies-proportion

fuels in 2017[15][16]. Household air pollution is caused mainly by the residential burning of solid fuels for cooking and to some extent heating, the major types of which are wood, dung, agricultural residues, coal, and charcoal. Although the use of solid fuels for cooking has been declining in India, 56% of India's population was still exposed to household air pollution from solid fuels in 2017 Household air pollution (HAP), comprising smoke from the burning of unclean cooking fuels (UCFs) and indoor tobacco smoking, has adverse consequences on the health of women and children.1-3 HAP accounted to 4.8 lakh deaths, reduction of 1.2 years of life expectancy, and 5% of India's total disease burden in 2016. Among the under-five children, 6 million disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) (5082 DALYs per 100 000) and 66 890 deaths (55.7 deaths per 100 000) caused by acute lower respiratory infections are attributable to HAP in India[17].

As demonstrated by above data, a large-scale adoption of improved appliances has not yet taken place in India, despite the LPG scheme's introduction. Market penetration rate of clean cooking technologies in rural India is equal or below 50%[18]. Despite Research & Development efforts, improved wood stoves have not gained any significant foothold in any part of the country. Approximately 52 percent of rural household cooking energy is sourced from solid fuels[19]. Wood is undoubtedly a major source of fuel for cooking in rural areas in India. Thus, it is assumed that in the absence of the project activity, the baseline scenario would be the projected use of fossil fuels to meet similar thermal energy needs as those provided by the project devices. A baseline survey was also conducted by CME which shows that majority of households surveyed depend on three-stone fired traditional cookstove using fuelwood.

Solar Lighting Systems: There are no mandatory national or sectoral policies in India that are prohibiting the use of Kerosene or other fossil fuel based lighting technologies. Rural household sector in India continues to experience considerable energy loss due to inefficient household appliances for lighting, due to inefficient technologies such as Kerosene wick lamps.

During the past years since the PoA registration, there was a focus on increased electrification of rural areas by the Government. However, Government considers a village as electrified when only 10% of the Households in the villages get electricity connection.[20] In addition to this, there is widespread energy poverty prevalent in rural

[15] https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S2542-5196%2818%2930261-4
[16] Balakrishnan, S. D. (2019). The impact of air pollution on deaths, disease burden, and life expectancy across the states of India: the Global Burden of Disease Study 2017. The Lancet Planetary Health
[17] Cooking, smoking, and stunting: Effects of household air pollution sources on childhood growth in India Samarul Islam | Md Juel Rana | Sanjay K. Mohanty
[18] https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/indicators/indicator-details/GHO/gho-phe-primary-reliance-on-clean-fuels-and-technologies-proportion
[19] https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/indicators/indicator-details/GHO/proportion-of-population-with-primary-reliance-on-fuels-and-technologies-for-cooking-by-fuel-type
[20] http://www.ddugjy.gov.in/page/definition_electrified_village

areas of India. As per a recent study[21], overall in rural India, 86.2% people are energy-poor. Among all the 35 states of India, 12 have more than 90% rural population energy-poor. The five states with more than 95% share of population energy-poor in rural areas are: Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh. Bihar has the dubious distinction of an entity with 72.5% rural population as extreme energy-poor, i.e., deprived of modern energy as prime source for both cooking and lighting. Uttar Pradesh follows Bihar with the corresponding figure of 57.5%. Hence, even though there have been efforts of electrification, but adoption has been limited either due to last mile connectivity challenges or grid stability or due to overall lack of financial resources to be able to afford electricity.

As per another study[22], electrification, or providing an electricity connection, does not necessarily mean reliable electricity access for households. Currently, electricity supply is highly unreliable for most rural consumers. The Electricity Supply Monitoring Initiative (ESMI) by Prayas Energy Group has been monitoring hourly power supply quality since 2013 across India—covering more than 50 districts and 350 locations as of April 2017—and is finding significant power-quality issues, especially in rural areas, despite the significant increase in power availability. More specifically, ESMI data shows that rural areas in several states continue to face regular power-cuts that last for several hours, while urban areas receive reliable power supply during the same time. For example, there was no evening (5 PM to 11 PM) electricity supply in the rural villages monitored for more than 58% (Uttar Pradesh) and 39% (Bihar) of the time, on average, during all of 2016.

As demonstrated by above data, a large-scale adoption of improved lighting appliances has not yet taken place in India, despite the electrification scheme's introduction. In addition, there is no substantive effort to promote the use of renewable energy based lighting such as solar lamp. Thus, the baseline scenario would be the projected use of fossil fuels based baseline lighting devices. A baseline survey was also conducted by CME which shows that majority of households surveyed depend on kerosene as the primary fuel.

Water Purifiers: In majority of rural areas, tap water is not available. Wherever available, including in Urban areas, tap water is not fit for drinking and tap water standards are voluntary in nature and has hardly been implemented across various

[21] Measuring Energy Poverty: A Households Level Analysis of India Hippu Salk Kristle Nathan Lakshmikanth Hari available at http://ncds.nic.in/sites/default/files/WorkingandOccasionalPapers/WP72NCDS.pdf
[22] https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0301421519303854

states in India.[23] Every year 37.7 million people in India are affected by waterborne diseases due to contamination of water by bacteria (E coli, Shigella, Vibrio cholerae), viruses (Hepatitis A, polio virus, rota virus) and parasites (E. histolytica, Giardia, hook worm).[24]

As per a recent study, samples drawn from 17 Indian state capitals were not as per the specification 'Indian Standard (IS)-10500:2012' for drinking water. In other metro cities; Delhi, Kolkata and Chennai, failed in almost 10 out of 11 quality parameters tested by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) which is under the aegis of the Consumer Affairs Ministry.[25]

As per research study published in 2020[26], the researchers collected 3296 stored water samples from rural households in India. As per the findings, water samples were frequently contaminated with E. coli (69%), and E. coli levels were the highest during the wet season. Most households contributing two or more drinking water samples had detectable E. coli in some (47%) or all (44%) samples. As per the study, until households can be reached with on-premises continuous safe water supplies, suboptimal drinking water consumption is likely to continue.

As per another study published in 2019[27], covering the North Eastern states of India, the surveyed household reveals that about 43 % of respondents suffered from water-borne diseases. So, the large numbers of people (more than 60%) in this region prefer boiling the water before drinking.

As demonstrated by above data, clean drinking water is still not available in India and large part of population is dependent on boiling the water from unsafe water supply networks. Therefore, the continuation of use of current water boiling practices is expected during the next crediting period. Thus, it is assumed that in the absence of the project activity, the baseline scenario would be the projected use of fossil fuels to meet drinking water needs as those provided by the project devices. A baseline survey was also conducted by CME which shows that majority of households surveyed use boiling water using a three-stone fired traditional cookstove using fuelwood.

B.2.1. Multiple technologies/measures

[23] https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/food-news/delhis-tap-water-is-unsafe-for-drinking/photostory/72137440.cms?picid=72137455.
[24] https://tappwater.co/en/tap-water-in-india-2/
[25] https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/tap-water-drinkable-only-in-mumbai-delhi-13-state-capitals-fail-test-2133670
[26] Household Water Storage Management, Hygiene Practices, and Associated Drinking Water Quality in Rural India Sarah L. McGuinness,* Joanne O'Toole, S. Fiona Barker, Andrew B. Forbes, Thomas B. Boving, Asha Giriyan, Kavita Patil, Fraddry D'Souza, Ramkrishna Vhaval, Allen C. Cheng, and Karin Leder

[27] Assessment of Domestic Water Use Pattern and Drinking Water Quality of Sikkim, North Eastern Himalaya, India: A Crosssectional Study Pravat Kumar Shit, Gouri Sankar Bhunia , Manojit Bhattacharya, Bidhan Chandra Patra

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All VPAs included in this PoA will apply either one or two out of the three approved methodologies stated above, and only the following combination of technologies shall be allowed in a given household:

- Solar lighting systems and efficient cookstoves
- Solar lighting systems and water purifiers
- Solar lighting systems only
- Efficient cookstoves only
- Water purifiers only

These combinations ensure that there are no cross-effects between different technologies. Different combinations of technologies allowed are described below:

Combination 1: Solar lamps & Efficient cook stoves
The VPA will use the following approved methodologies:

- For solar lighting and solar electric/PV systems, the VPAs will use the small-scale methodology AMS-III.AR "Substituting fossil fuel based lighting with LED/CFL lighting systems" (Version 6) or AMS-I.A "Electricity generation by the user" (Version 14.0).

- For efficient cookstoves, the VPAs will use the "Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralized Thermal Energy Consumption" (version 3.1)

Combination 2: Solar lamps & water filters

The VPA will use the following approved methodologies:

- For solar lighting and solar electric/PV systems, the VPAs will use the small-scale methodology AMS-III.AR "Substituting fossil fuel based lighting with LED/CFL lighting systems" (Version 6) or AMS-I.A "Electricity generation by the user" (Version 14.0).

- For water filters, the VPAs will use the methodology for Emission reductions from Safe Drinking Water Supply (Version 1.0)

B.3. Eligibility criteria for inclusion of a VPA in the PoA

No.	Eligibility criterion	Description/ Required condition	Means of Verification/Supporting evidence for inclusion
1	Boundary and location of the VPA	The VPA is located within India	Location and boundary is specified in the specific VPA-DD stating that the location is limited to India and supported with GPS coordinates. Document: Statement of CME that the location and boundary is within India and supported with GPS coordinates.
2	Project technology	VPAs involves use of following technology- 1. distribution of safe drinking water systems (HWT and CWT technologies) to residential area. 2. Distribution of improved cookstoves to households 3. Distribution of Solar lighting systems to households	The VPA-DD specifies the target end-user group and the technology being distributed. Supporting evidence: Sales database
3	No Double counting of CEPs impacts within this PoA and across other registered or deregistered PoAs	A unique numbering or identification system for the CEP installed is applied. This shall ensure no double counting of CEPs within the same VPA and same PoA and ensure that CEP can be identified as belonging to this PoA and not to a PoA managed by any other CME.	The unique numbering of each CEP supported by the individual distribution record matching such information is included in the specific VPA-DD and consistent with the PoA-DD A legally binding contract between CME and manufacturer/micro finance institution/POs

		A legally binding contract between CME and manufacturer/micro finance institution/POs would be required to ensure that all carbon title is transferred to the CME. This shall ensure that POs, stove/lamp/water purifier manufacturers and distributors do not claim ERs separately.	would be established to ensure that all carbon title is transferred to the CME. Document: Credit Tracker stove sales receipt showing CME and PO information, end user details including name and address and CEP ID number. In addition to the sales receipt the programme logo shall be displayed on the CEPs and verifiable by VVB. A legally binding contract between CME and manufacturer/micro finance institution/POs would be required to ensure that all carbon title is transferred to the CME.
4	VER ownership	End users receiving CEP under the specific VPA contractually cede their rights to claim and own emission reductions to the CME of the PoA.	The default CEP Booking Record is including the provision that emission reductions generated by the CEP are transferred from the end-user to the PO and ultimately owned by the CME. The receipts will clearly specify that carbon rights are ceded in favour of CME. Documents: 1. Default Booking Record
5	No Double counting of VPA	The VPA is exclusively bound to the PoA. Confirmation that the programme activity has not been and will not be registered either as a single project activity or as a VPA under another	A declaration from the CME on its letterhead would be provided that the specific VPA will not be part of another single CDM project activity or VPA under another PoA. In addition, declaration from

		registered PoA in other offset schemes nor the project activities that have been deregistered.	VPA operators as part of their contract with the CME, stating that their activities are not registered as part of another single CDM project activity of VPA under another PoA. Evidence: Check on UNFCCC website with date of access and contract between the CME and MFI.
6	Awareness and Agreement of those operating a VPA on PoA subscription	Contractual provisions to ensure that those operating the VPA are aware and have agreed that their activity is being subscribed to the PoA. In the case that the CME is not responsible for implementing the VPA, the organization responsible for VPA implementation, known as the Partner Organisation (PO), has signed a contractual agreement with the CME to participate in the PoA. This agreement: - Defines the ownership of the carbon emission reduction rights - Covers the PO's distribution and monitoring related responsibilities - Confirms that the CEPs to be distributed under the	Contractual agreement for VPA operators, stating that they are aware and have agreed that their activity is being subscribed to the PoA

		VPA have not and will not be distributed under any other carbon project (CDM project, PoA or voluntary carbon market project) - Cedes the PO's rights to the carbon credits generated from VPAs under the PoA to the CME	
7	Non-diversion of ODA in case of Public funding	The CME and the VPA operator (in case of being different from the CME) shall confirm that there is no public funding or in the case of public funding, the Annex 1 party will confirm that funding is not a diversion of Official Development Assistance.	Statement of CME and the VPA operator (in case of being different from the CME) that there is no public funding Or In the case that there is public funding, an Annex 1 party will confirm that funding is not a diversion of ODA.
8	Specification of the technology such as the level and type of service, as well as performance specification;	The VPAs will include water filter technology which will provide safe drinking water, confirming to WHO International standards and host country norms for safe water for human consumption. The VPAs will include distribution of improved cookstoves which will replace inefficient cookstoves thereby improving the indoor air pollution levels. The VPAs will include distribution of solar lighting systems which will replace kerosene lamps in baseline	Test reports from National accredited labs confirming the compliance of treated water with WHO and host country norms. Performance specification will be given in the VPA-DDs for the technology included.

9	VPA Start Date	The VPAs start date shall not be before PoA webhosting date, i.e. 18/01/2012. Please note that not all CEP installations may have been deployed at VPA inclusion stage, however the CEP start date can also be checked during verification. In the event that any deployed CEP is found not in line with VPA start date, those CEP will not be counted in the emission reduction calculation. The VPA can request issuance of GS-VERs or convert issued GS-CERs to GS-VERs for a retroactive period.	Starting date as stated in the VPA-DD is after 18/01/2012. Document: 1. Statement from CME that no CEP under the VPA was sold before the PoA webhosting date, i.e. 18/01/2012. 2. First CEP Booking Record of VPA.
10	VPA Crediting Period	. Crediting period shall be 15 years in line with the Community Service Activity Requirements. The maximum crediting period includes the time that a project or VPA has been issued emission reductions under CDM. Each VPA shall provide verifiable evidence.	Maximum crediting period under Community Services Activity requirements is 15 years. Details on years in which emission reductions were issued under CDM.
11	Approval of VPA by CME	CME approved each VPA to be included into its registered PoA.	A letter by CME giving approval for the VPA to be included into its registered PoA.
12	Target groups of the programme	The VPAs included in the PoA will involve distribution of WPS or ICS and/or SLS directly to the domestic end users	Sale invoices and agreement with the end user/community head by CME

		individually or to community in case of WPS.	
13	Additionality of VPAs	Additionality will be demonstrated either in accordance with Tool 21 Demonstration of additionality of small scale project activities version 13.1 The additionality would be demonstrated at the individual VPA level. Additionality of the VPA would be demonstrated by using either one of the options as per para 10 of Tool 21, version 13.1 Para 10 - Project participants shall provide an explanation to show that the project activity would not have occurred anyway due to at least one of the following barriers: (a) Investment barrier: a financially more viable alternative to the project activity would have led to higher emissions; (b) Technological barrier: a less technologically advanced alternative to the project activity involves lower risks due to the performance uncertainty or low market share of the new technology adopted for the project activity and so would have led to higher emissions; (c) Barrier due to prevailing practice: prevailing practice or existing regulatory or	Documentation: 1. Description of VPA activity as documented in VPA-DD 2. Explanation to show that the project activity would not have occurred anyway due to at least one of the following barriers: 1) Investment barrier: a financially more viable alternative to the project activity would have led to higher emissions; 2) Technological barrier: a less technologically advanced alternative to the project activity involves lower risks due to the performance uncertainty or low market share of the new technology adopted for the project activity and so would have led to higher emissions; 3) Barrier due to prevailing practice: prevailing practice or existing regulatory or policy requirements would have led to implementation of a technology with higher emissions; 4) Other barriers: without the project activity, for another specific reason identified by the project participant, such as institutional barriers or

		policy requirements would have led to implementation of a technology with higher emissions; (d) Other barriers: without the project activity, for another specific reason identified by the project participant, such as institutional barriers or limited information, managerial resources, organizational capacity, financial resources, or capacity to absorb new technologies, emissions would have been higher. or Additionality will be demonstrated either in accordance with the paragraph 1.1.3 of Annex B (Positive List) of Community Services Activity Requirements, version 1.2 "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 (1.8 GWh th)of energy savings per year or <=600 tonnes of emission reductions per year"	limited information, managerial resources, organizational capacity, financial resources, or capacity to absorb new technologies, emissions would have been higher. or All VPAs to be included under the PoA will be in compliance with item 1.1.3 of Annex B – positive list mentioned in the 'Community Services Activity Requirements', Version 1.2. 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 <= a. 1.8 GWh of thermal energy savings per year for Improved Cook Stoves (ICS), b. 600 tCO_2 per year for Water Purification Systems (WPS) and Solar lighting systems (SLS). 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.
142	Sampling requirements for the PoA	The VPAs will follow the usage survey guidelines of the methodology for ICS, methodology guideline for WPS and UNFCCC guidelines on sampling and survey for Programme of Activities version 4.0 for SLS.	VPA-DD will incorporate the sampling procedure and sampled survey forms shall be provided to GS VB
15	Application of Methodologies	The methodologies that can be applied to a VPA include: - AMS-III.AR (version 6) - AMS-I.A (version 14.0) - TPDDTEC (version 3.1) - Emission reduction from Safe Drinking Water Supply (version 1.0) Each VPA can implement these methodologies in isolation. In addition, the following combinations of methodologies are eligible under the PoA: - AMS-III.AR (Version 6)/AMS-I.A (Version 14.0) and TPDDTEC (version 3.1) - AMS-III.AR (Version 6)/AMS-I.A (Version 14.0) and Emission reduction from Safe Drinking Water Supply (version 1.0)	Statement in VPA-DD confirming the methodology(ies) applied to the VPA and the justification for meeting each of the applicability criterion of these applied methodologies.

16	End User Group	The VPA is either aimed at households, community organisations (e.g. schools) or small/medium enterprises.	The VPA-DD shall describe the target end-user group and the appropriate baseline in the VPA-DD
175	Baseline parameters to be established at VPA level	Each VPA shall demonstrate how the baseline parameters for baselines not established at the PoA level (that applies for baselines and options not applicable at the first VPA at the time of PoA registration) that are to be calculated at the VPA level have been determined. Parameters to be monitored are listed in VPA-DD.	VPA-DD shall outline the approach and provide supporting documents including copies of any official government reports, statistics or literature sources used for determining parameters. If local surveys or representative sampling are used then copies of questionnaires, sampling design etc. shall be provided.
18	LSC	Local stakeholder consultation for VPA to be conducted prior to the VPA start date.	- VPA LSC report - Record of invitations sent to the stakeholders - Attendance sheet of the VPA LSC meeting
19	Scale of VPA	VPAs under the PoA can either be small scale or large scale. In case of large scale VPAs, small scale threshold is not applicable. In case of small scale, the threshold limit as per GHG Emission Reduction & Sequestration Product Requirements, shall be followed where maximum output capacity of distributed renewable energy generation technology shall not be more than 15MW (Type	The VPA involves Type I and Type III for solar lighting system which shall not cross the small-scale limits as per GHG Emission Reduction & Sequestration Product Requirements. For ICS and WPS, in case of large scale VPA, small scale threshold will not be applicable. In case of small scale VPAs, VPA will adhere to threshold of 60ktCO2 per year for safe water and 180 GWhth per year for ICS VPAs. Document:

		1) or that achieve energy savings at a scale of no more than 60 GWh per year which is equivalent to 180 GWh(th) per year saving (Type II) or that achieve emission reductions at a scale of no more than 60ktCO2 per year (Type III) for household/community/SME applications, then Small Scale projects and VPAs, solely comprising of such distributed units are not required to demonstrate compliance with the appliable Small Scale thresholds at the aggregate level of the project and VPA, if VPAs are **NOT** applying suppressed demand baseline.[28] Please note that not all solar lighting system or ICS or water purification system may have been deployed at VPA inclusion stage, but the threshold however can also be checked during verification, and in case any deployed CEP type will be found not in line with the requirement, those CEPs will not be counted	PoA-DD Section B.1. And - Product data sheets or specification or product information sheets from manufacturer.

[28] https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/ru-2020-ssc-application-of-suppressed-demand/

		for emission reduction calculation.	
20	Conditions to be met by each VPA regarding SDG outcomes assessment	The CME shall conduct the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) impact assessment at the VPA level as per Principles & Requirements	SDG outcome assessment report at VPA level shall be submitted to GS VVB.
21	Conditions to be met by each VPA regarding safeguarding principles	Projects shall conduct a Safeguarding Principles Assessment and conform to Gold Standard Safeguarding Principles and Requirements.	Safeguarding principles assessment report will form part of the Project Design Document, including the Monitoring & Reporting Plan at VPA level and shall be submitted to GS VB.
22	Conditions to confirm that technologies in VPAs are eligible	Specification of technology or measures, such as the level and type of service, as well as performance specification based on, intra alia, testing/certification	Project technology along with technical specifications is outlined in section A.3 above
Water filters- Emissions from Safe Drinking Water Supply, version 1.0			
21	Methodological criteria	This methodology is applicable to project activities that introduce a new, or rehabilitate an existing, zero-emission or low-emission technology to supply safe drinking water.	The project involves introduction of new zero emission technology to supply safe drinking water. The specifications of the water purifiers shall be detailed out in the VPA-DD. Document: Project sheet/manufacturers specification
22	Methodological criteria	As per para 2.2.1a of the methodology, Emission reductions from Safe Drinking Water Supply v.1.0, eligible household water treatment technologies (HWT), institutional water treatment technologies	The project involves dissemination of zero emission water filters under Household water treatment technologies (HWT).

		(IWT), and community level water treatment technologies (CWT) include bleach/chlorine, water filter (ceramic, sand, composite, membrane, etc.), UV disinfection, etc.	
23	Methodological criteria	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 project involves introduction of new zero emission technology to supply safe drinking water directly to end users in households. Document: Sales database
24	Methodological criteria	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	Test reports from National accredited labs confirming the compliance of treated water with WHO and host country norms shall be submitted to GS VVB. Performance assessment of the water filter by National Water Quality Reference Lab to show its effectiveness and efficiency to produce water that meets the recommended standards for human consumption may also be submitted.

		guideline or standard is available, then the project technology shall comply with the WHO International Scheme requirements as per (i) (parameter SDWS 2).	
25	Methodological criteria	As per para 2.2.1 i, the project must conduct annual water hygiene education campaigns for the end-users.	Annual water hygiene education campaigns will be conducted. During monitoring of households and Institution, CME shall conduct a representative sample survey annually and will be reported as "report of annual hygiene campaign results" and summarized in the monitoring report.
26	Methodological criteria	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 12. See parameter SDWS 19.	The project developer /CME will capture all the SDG indicators which is relevant to this project through monitoring in Households. The monitoring will be done using a detailed questionnaire which includes all the SDG indicators. For example, capturing water quality.
27	Methodological criteria	Project shall document the national, regional and local regulatory framework for provision of safe drinking water in the project boundary. The project shall not undermine or conflict with any national, sub-national and local regulations or guidance for safe drinking water supply, operation and maintenance, including any tariff requirements.	Each VPA-DD shall document the national, regional and local regulatory framework and confirm its compliance.

28	Methodological criteria	If the expected technical life of project technology (parameter SDWS 7) is shorter than the crediting period, describe measures to ensure that end users are provided replacement systems of comparable quality at the end of the expected technical life (for example, replace with comparable or better technology, retrofit with performance guarantee, etc.). This applies both for new technology and rehabilitated.	The end users in the VPA shall be provided with replacement parts including new filter, and/or access to a new model technology of comparable quality. These filters will be available through the MFI offices or their retailers. Specifically, the PO field staff typically meets with the users of the improved water filters on a weekly or monthly basis, either in group meetings, or when they come to a bank branch. At group meetings the PO will make regular announcements about the availability of replacement filters, including where to buy them, and discounts available due to the carbon funds. The project implementer would ensure that maintenance of the project appliances is implemented in accordance with manufacturer's specifications/ recommendations, including provisions in regards to replacement or cleansing of the involved filters.
29	Baseline scenario	Each Project or VPA shall determine the applicable baseline scenario for fuel, technology and end-user group as applicable.	Each VPA-DD shall document the pre-project conditions that define the specific baseline scenario of the end-user group(s) of the VPA-

			Pre-project practices of boiling water, or drinking unsafe water, Efficiency of water boiling systems and Baseline fuels.
Improved Cookstoves- TPDDTEC ver 3.1			
30	Methodological criteria	The technologies each have continuous useful energy outputs of less than 150kW per unit (defined as the total useful energy delivered from start to end of operation of a unit divided by time of operation). For technologies or practices that do not deliver thermal energy in the project scenario but only displace thermal energy supplied in the baseline scenario, the 150kW threshold applies to the displaced baseline technology	The energy output of the improved cookstove in the VPA will be less than 150kW. Document: Manufacturers specification/project data sheet
31	Methodological criteria	Using the baseline technology as a backup or auxiliary technology in parallel with the improved technology introduced by the project activity is permitted as long as a mechanism is put into place to encourage the removal of the old technology (e.g. discounted price for the improved technology) and the definitive discontinuity of its use. The project documentation must provide a clear description of the approach chosen and the monitoring plan must allow for a good understanding of the	The VPA will involve distribution of technology to only those HHs which have dismantled or discontinued the use of baseline stoves. If an old technology remains in use in parallel with the improved cookstoves, the corresponding emissions shall be accounted for as part of the project emissions in the VPA-DD.

		extent to which the baseline technology is still in use after the introduction of the improved technology.	
32	Methodological criteria	Project activities making use of a new biomass feedstock in the project situation (e.g. shift from non-renewable to green charcoal, plant oil or renewable biomass briquettes) must comply with relevant Gold Standard specific requirements for biomass related project activities, as defined in the latest version of the Gold Standard rules. If the biomass feedstock is sourced from a dedicated plantation, the criteria must apply to both plantations established for the project activity AND existing plantations that were established in the context of other activities but will supply biomass feedstock.	The project makes use of the existing non-renewable biomass for improved cookstoves. The amount of NRB used however will reduce in project scenario. No new biomass feedstock usage is envisaged in the project activity. Document: Monitoring and sample surveys
33	Methodological criteria	Adequate evidence is supplied to demonstrate that indoor air pollution (IAP) levels are not worsened compared to the baseline, and greenhouse gases (as listed in section 2.1) emitted by the project fuel/stove combination are estimated with adequate precision. The project fuel/stove combination may include instances in	Sample surveys shall be carried out during annual monitoring of the VPAs to check IAP levels in the HHs.

		which the project stove is a baseline stove.	
Solar Lighting Systems- AMS III.AR version 6.0			
34	Technical requirement	This category comprises activities that replace portable fossil fuel based lamps (e.g. wick based kerosene lanterns) with battery-charged light-emitting diode (LED) or compact fluorescent lamps (CFL) based lighting systems in residential and/or non-residential applications	The VPAs included under this PoA are either not connected to the grid or have intermittent electricity supply from the grid resulting in use of wick based kerosene lanterns for lighting in the baseline scenario
35	Methodological criteria	This methodology is applicable only to project lamps whose batteries are charged using the following options: (a) Charged by a renewable energy system included as part of the project lamp (e.g. a photovoltaic system or mechanical system such as a hand crank charger); (b) Charged by a standalone distributed generation system (e.g. a diesel generator set) or a mini-grid, i.e. that is not connected to a national or regional grid; (c) Charged by a grid that is connected to regional/national grid;	The VPA includes Solar lighting systems whose batteries are charged using solar light. Document: Manufacturers specification
36	Methodological criteria	At a minimum, project lamps shall be certified by their manufacturer to have a rated average operational life of at least: (a) 5,000 hours for Option 1, paragraph 18; (b) 10,000 hours for Option 2, paragraph 19	Each VPA-DD shall include manufacturers specifications to confirm the rated average operational life of the SLS and accordingly para 18 or 19 of the methodology will be followed.

37	Methodological criteria	Rated average life is the life certified by the manufacturer or responsible vendor as being period over which the lamp's initial light output will decline by no more than 30 per cent. In addition, for project lamps charged using the options from paragraphs 3(c) or 3(d), if a grid that is connected to regional/national grid is one of the sources used to charge the project lamps, the manufacturer shall certify that the battery-charging-circuit efficiency of the project lamps, at the time of the purchase, is at least 50 per cent. For project lamps charged under the options indicated in paragraph 3(b) or 3(d), if a mini-grid is one of the sources used to charge the project lamps and the mini-grid or distributed generation system is not entirely powered by renewable energy generation unit(s), the manufacturer shall certify that the project lamp's battery charging circuit efficiency, at the time of purchase, is at least 50 per cent.	Each VPA shall specify the rated average life of SLS and charging methods used. Document: Manufacturer specification
38	Methodological criteria	Project lamps shall meet warranty requirements of the Lighting Global Minimum Quality Standard. distributed to end-users. The full warranty terms shall be	A warranty card specifying the full warranty terms in regional language and English is issued to the end user for the SLS distributed.

		available in writing, in a regionally appropriate language and included with each unit.	
39	Methodological criteria	Project lamps shall meet or exceed the following minimum performance characteristics, which should be proven by third-party test results: (a) Light Output - luminous flux of 25 lumens or illuminance of 50 lux over an area ≥0.1 m2 when suspended at a distance of 0.75 meters or self-supported. The light output over a 2,000 hour lumen maintenance test should not decline by more than 15%; (b) Run Time and Battery Capacity - Daily Burn Time (DBT) shall meet the following requirements: (i) DBT shall be equal to or greater than 4 hours; (ii) For charging Option 3(a) with solar PV, the DBT is defined by the Solar Run Time for the project lamp (as determined per paragraph 9(g)); (iii) For other technologies in Option 3(a), the DBT is defined based on typical expected patterns of use; (iv) For charging Options 3(b) and 3(c): a. The maximum claimed DBT shall be less than or equal to the typical capabilities of the	Third party test results for each SLS model distributed under the VPA will be provided to the GS VVB.

		regional or local energy system at delivering reliable power sufficient for recharging; b. The autonomous (full battery) run-time of the project lamps shall be equal to or greater than 200 per cent of the DBT of the project lamps; c. The project lamp shall be fully recharged from a discharged state after eight hours of charging.	
40	Methodological criteria	The project design document shall explain the proposed distribution method of the project lamps. It shall also explain how the proposed project activity shall: (a) Ensure that the replaced baseline lamps are those that directly consume fossil fuel. This can be done through documentation of the common practice of fuel usage for lighting in the project region (that demonstrates that fossil fuel is a commonly used fuel for lighting; (b) Encourage the consumers, targeted by the project activity, to use the project lamps and discourage hoarding; (c) Eliminate potential double counting of emission reductions that could occur, for example, if more than one entity (e.g. lamp manufacturers, suppliers of solar and/or	The VPA-DD will explain the proposed distribution method of the SLS and annual usage surveys will be carried out. The lamps will be labelled as CDM lamps with CME name and PoA reference no. on it. The batteries will be discarded following the regulations prevalent in the region.

		battery equipment, etc.) claims credit for emission reductions for the project lamps. At a minimum, project lamps shall be marked as CDM project lamps; (d) Ensure compliance with prevailing regulations pertaining to the use and disposal of batteries.	
41	Methodological criteria	The project design document shall include the minimum requirements for the design specifications of project lamps.	The VPA-DD will include design specifications of the SLS and as minimum include the following information: (a) Lamp wattage (in Watts) and luminous flux output (in lumens); (b) Rated lamp life (in hours); (c) Where applicable, the type and rated capacity of the renewable energy equipment used for battery-charging (in Watts); (d) Type, nominal voltage, and rated capacity of the batteries (in Ampere hours); (e) Type of charge controller (e.g. active or passive); (f) Autonomous time and DBT; (g) Solar Run Times(s) (SRT) for products with solar energy charging systems; (h) Where applicable, the amount of time to fully charge the product using mechanical means or a centralized charging

			system (e.g. the national grid); (i) Physical protection against environmental factors
Solar Lighting Systems- AMS I.A version 14.0			
42	Methodological criteria	This category comprises renewable electricity generation units that supply individual households/users or groups of households/users included in the project boundary. The applicability of the methodology is limited to individual households and users that do not have a grid connection except when: (a) A group of households or users are supplied with electricity through a standalone mini-grid powered by renewable energy generation unit(s) where the capacity of the generating units does not exceed 15 MW (i.e. the sum of installed capacities of all renewable energy units connected to the mini-grid is less than 15 MW) e.g. a community-based stand-alone off-the-grid renewable electricity systems; or (b) For renewable energy-based lighting applications, the emission reductions per system is less than 5 tonnes of CO_2e a year and it shall be	The VPA involves dissemination of renewable energy-based lighting systems (solar lighting systems), where the emission reduction per system is less than 5 tonnes of CO_2e per year. Based on official statistics from the host country government agencies (mentioned in section B.4 of the VPA-DD), in the absence of project technology, end users would have used wick-based kerosene lanterns for lighting. Document: Manufacturers specification And NSSO's 2007 report on "Energy Sources of Indian Households for Cooking and Lighting, 2004-05.

		demonstrated that that fossil fuels would have been used in the absence of the project activity by: (i) A representative sample survey of target households; or (ii) Official statistics from the host country government agencies; (c) A group of households or users are connected to a grid prior to the start date of the project activity (or the start date of validation with due justification), however the electricity from the grid is available for the households and users for less than 36 hours in any given calendar month during the crediting period or the grid connected household coverage in the host country is less than 50%.	
43	Methodological criteria	Hydro power plants with reservoirs that satisfy at least one of the following conditions are eligible to apply this methodology: (a) The project activity is implemented in an existing reservoir with no change in the volume of reservoir; (b) The project activity is implemented in an existing reservoir, where the volume of reservoir is increased and the power density of the project activity is greater than 4 W/m2;	The VPA does not involve installation/operation of hydro power plants. Thus, this criterion is not applicable.

		(c) The project activity results in new reservoirs and the power density of the power plant, is greater than 4 W/m2.	
44	Methodological criteria	Combined heat and power (cogeneration) systems are not eligible under this category.	The VPA does not involve installation/operation of combined heat and power (cogeneration) systems. Thus, this criterion is not applicable.
45	Methodological criteria	If the unit added has both renewable and non-renewable components (e.g. a wind/diesel unit), the eligibility limit of 15 MW for a small-scale CDM project activity applies only to the renewable component. If the unit added co-fires fossil fuel, the capacity of the entire unit shall not exceed the limit of 15 MW.	The VPA does not involve installation/operation of hybrid units (having both renewable and non-renewable components). Thus, this criterion is not applicable. .
46	Methodological criteria	Project activities that involve retrofit or replacement of an existing renewable electricity generation unit are included in this category. To qualify as a small-scale project, the total output of the modified or retrofitted unit shall not exceed the limit of 15 MW.	The VPA does not involve retrofit or replacement of an existing renewable electricity generation unit. Thus, this criterion is not applicable.
47	Methodological criteria	In the case of project activities that involve the addition of renewable electricity generation units to an existing renewable electricity generation facility, the total capacity of the units added by the project should be lower than 15 MW and should be	The VPA does not involve addition of renewable electricity generation units to an existing renewable electricity generation facility. Thus, this criterion is not applicable.

		physically distinct from the existing units.	

SECTION C. DEMONSTRATION OF ADDITIONALITY

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There are no laws or regulations in the geographical/physical boundary of the PoA requiring the activities of the PoA. The activities under the PoA are a voluntary, coordinated action by the CME of the PoA.

This voluntary coordinated action implemented by the CME would not occur in absence of the PoA.

The action is not financially viable without the support of revenues from the sale of VERs. Financial support from carbon revenues is required in order to develop, disseminate, and ensure continued operation of the activity proposed under the PoA.

For each VPA under this PoA, the additionality would be proven at VPA level as per the eligibility criteria number 13 mentioned under section B.3. of this PoA-DD.

SECTION D. DURATION OF POA

D.1. Date of first submission of PoA to Gold Standard

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16/12/2021

D.2. Duration of the PoA

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20 years.

Each VPA will have a 5-year renewable crediting period (maximum 15 years) in line with the Community Service Activity Requirements.

SECTION E. SAFEGUARDING PRINCIPLES ASSESSMENT

E.1. Justification for Safeguarding Principles Assessment at PoA level

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NA.

E.2. Assessment of safeguarding principles, if undertaken at PoA level

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NA.

SECTION F. OUTCOME OF STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS

F.1. Justification for stakeholder consultation at PoA Level only

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NA

F.2. Summary of stakeholder mitigation measures at POA Level

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CME has an approved deviation request from GS which states the CDM VPAs may transition to GS4GG without conducting a PoA level design consultation, however, the Project Developer must conduct Design Consultation at the time of next design certification renewal of the PoA in line with section 6 of Programme of Activity Requirements. Deviation request has been provided to VVB for assessment.

F.3. Final Continuous Input / Grievance Mechanism at POA Level

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Method	Include all details of Chosen Method (s) so that they may be understood and, where relevant, used by readers.
Continuous Input / Grievance Expression Process Book (mandatory)	Continuous input / Grievance Expression process book is available at the office at the following address: Micro Energy Credits Corporation Private Limited, A203, business suites 9, S V road, Santacruz West, Mumbai 400054 and local offices of the PO. By maintaining feedback book at the local office, it is ensured that stakeholders that don't have access to electronic media for expressing concerns / grievances are also able to share their concerns / feedback. Additionally, the end users always have an option to contact the partner organization (representative of MFI/ manufacturers etc.) in case of any feedback / complaints with the product post distribution.

GS Contact (mandatory)	help@goldstandard.org
Other	Email: contact@microenergycredits.com

APPENDIX 1 - CONTACT INFORMATION OF COORDINATING/MANAGING ENTITY AND RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)/ ENTITY(IES)

CME and/or responsible person/ entity	☒ CME ☐ Responsible person/ entity for application of the selected methodology(ies) and, where applicable, the selected standardized baseline(s) to the PoA
Organization	Micro Energy Credits Corporation Private Limited
Street/P.O. Box	Saraswat Nagar, SV Road, Santacruz West
Building	A203, Business Suites 9
City	Mumbai
State/Region	Maharashtra
Postcode	400054
Country	India
Telephone	-
E-mail	april@microenergycredits.com
Website	www.microenergycredits.com
Contact person	April Allderdice
Title	Ms
Salutation	CEO
Last name	Allderdice
Middle name	

Revision History

Version	Date	Remarks
1.0	10 July 2017	Initial adoption