



**Gold Standard**  
for the Global Goals

TEMPLATE

# KEY PROJECT INFORMATION & PROGRAMME DESIGN DOCUMENT (POA-DD)

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PUBLICATION DATE **14.04.2023**

VERSION **2.2**

RELATED SUPPORT

- [Programme of Activity requirements](#)
  - [TEMPLATE GUIDE Key Project Information & PoA Design Document v.2.2.1](#)
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Key Project Information

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entity(ies)

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## KEY PROJECT INFORMATION

<b>GS ID of Programme</b>	GS12870
<b>Title of Programme:</b>	EcoLinks Ghana Woodfire and Charcoal ICS Program
<b>Type of PoA</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non – Forestry and/or Non -AGR PoA <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry and/or AGR PoA
<b>VPAs scale included in the PoA</b> <i>Note that same PoA can included VPAs of different scales. Please select all applicable.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Microscale <input type="checkbox"/> Small scale <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Large scale
<b>Start Date of POA</b>	01/01/2025
<b>Date of Design Certification</b>	
<b>Start date of crediting cycle of PoA</b>	01/01/2025
<b>Version number of the PoA-DD</b>	2
<b>Completion date of the PoA-DD</b>	10/09/2024
<b>Coordinating/managing entity</b>	Ecolinks Co. Ltd
<b>Project Participants and any communities involved</b>	Ecolinks Co. Ltd
<b>Host Country (ies)</b>	Republic of Ghana
<b>Activity Requirements applied</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Community Services Activities</a> <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Renewable Energy Activities</a> <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Land Use and Forestry Activities/Risks &amp; Capacities</a> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
<b>Other Requirements applied</b>	Principles and Requirements, v1.2 Programme of Activity Requirements, v2.0
<b>Methodology (ies) applied and version number</b>	Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralized Thermal Energy consumption (TPDDTEC), version 04.0
<b>Product Requirements applied</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">GHG Emissions Reductions &amp; Sequestration</a> <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Renewable Energy Label</a> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A

PoA/VPA	GS ID	Real case/regular VPA	PoA/VPA Title
PoA	GS12870	-	EcoLinks Ghana Woodfire and Charcoal ICS Program

VPA

GS12871

Real case

[VPA1 - Improved Charcoal Cookstove in Ashanti and Central Regions of Ghana by Ecolinks](#)

## SECTION A. General description of PoA

### A.1 Purpose and general description of the PoA

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*(i)The policy/measure or stated goal that the PoA seeks to promote*

The purpose of this PoA is to distribute energy-efficiency improved cookstoves (ICS) fueled by Charcoal to replace existing traditional low efficiency cookstoves within households and community kitchens in the Republic of Ghana.

In Ghana, approximately 70% of households continue to rely on open-fire options for their cooking needs<sup>1</sup>, resulting in almost 4<sup>1</sup> million deaths annually caused by kitchen smoke. The purpose of the PoA is to disseminate the use of ICS in the Republic of Ghana, replacing traditional three-stone cookstoves and/or less efficiency charcoal cookstoves with the project more efficient ICS, running on firewood and/or charcoal.

ICS results in a notably more complete combustion of the fuel and is more efficient in transferring heat from the fuel to the cooking pot. This significantly reduces fuel consumption compared with the traditional three stone stoves in most households in the country. Furthermore, the proposed ICS will not generate any negative impact on any common cultural cooking practice since it will be compatible with all cooking utensils and cooking habits of the Ghanaian population.

By replacing inefficient cook stoves with the project ICSs, it is expected that this programme will help control the rapid forest loss and improve the quality of life of Ghanaians. According to the Ghana Energy Statistics report<sup>2</sup>, wood fuel is widely used by many households and commercial entities, specially in rural area. The supply of fuel wood in Ghana in 2023 showed an increase reaching 3,944 kilotonnes of oil equivalent (Ktoe) in 2023. It was estimated that household consumption of biomass will be about 2.440 Ktoe in 2024. Indeed, the demand for wood fuel puts Ghana's forests under immense pressure and has severe consequences on the ecosystem. Deforestation rate of 2% in Ghana is the highest in Africa, with current levels of wood fuel consumption far exceeding forest growth.

Additionally, the ICS will avoid/reduce time for harvesting fuel used for cooking and, since it has higher heating efficiency, it will consume less time for cooking, that historically is dominated by women. This efficiency will save money for the community

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Kintampo Health Research Centre 2022, available at <https://kintampo-hrc.org/pages/reducing-household.html>

<sup>2</sup> Energy Commission of Ghana, 2024 Energy (Supply and Demand) Outlook for Ghana. Mid-year Report (July 2024), available at <https://energycom.gov.gh/newsite/index.php/planning/sub-codes?download=718:2024-energy-outlook-mid-year-report>

and will enable women to spend time studying and pursuing other activities, empowering them, while promoting a sustainable development of local communities. In the absence of this project, Ghana community would maintain their baselines cooking conditions and, primarily, would cook using traditional inefficient stoves, continuing with environmental and health degradation.

*(ii) A framework for the implementation of the proposed PoA and inclusion of VPAs in the PoA*

Historically, a very low percentage of Ghanaians have access to improved cooking conditions and most of the households rely on inefficient cooking devices for their daily cooking routines. Therefore, the target group of beneficiaries for this PoA and further VPAs developed under the program shall be households and community kitchens that use inefficient conventional biomass-fueled three-stone devices.

Ecolinks will be responsible for managing the PoA as the Coordinating and Managing Entity (CME) of the PoA. The CME shall assist the VPA Operators in distributing the ICS to the target households and community kitchens and support the VPA operators with a network of potential local partners for the manufacturing and distribution of the ICS. The VPA operators will be responsible for guaranteeing that the end user information is properly captured and recorded during the distribution of the ICS and during the monitoring period. All this information shall be submitted to the CME for the development of a carbon monitoring report, for quantification of all emissions reductions quantification and verification.

The CME will implement in the PoA a system to avoid double counting by using a unique identification number for each ICS and a databank, which may include data regarding the location of the ICS, contact information of the ICS user representative and data regarding the type of fuel that user used to consume prior receiving the ICS.

The CME will also be responsible for all the communications within Gold Standard Board and coordinate the validation, verification and credit issuance process under the programme.

*(iii) A confirmation that the PoA is a voluntary action by the coordinating/managing entity*

The proposed PoA is a voluntary action undertaken by the CME. There is no local regulation or law in place that mandates entities like the CME to implement any distribution or use of ICS in the PoA boundary.

## A.2 Physical/ Geographical boundary of the PoA

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The boundary of the proposed PoA is determined by the location of each individual household and/or community kitchen where the ICSs are distributed and is limited to the territorial area of the host country, the Republic of Ghana, as shown below.

The geographic coordinates of Accra, capital of Ghana is 5°36'53.4" N, 0°12'21.1" W, and the map of Ghana, is appended for reference purpose (the project boundary would cover the entire country), is as follows:



Figure 1 - VPA 01 physical/geographical boundary: Ghana

## A.3 Technologies/measures

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The ICS distributed under the PoA is designed to improve fuel combustion and heat transfer. The PoA will accept ICS who operates with charcoal and/or firewood fuel with a minimal thermal efficiency of 20%. The VPA operator shall define on the VPA the exact model of ICS he wishes to distribute. The ICS will results in the reduction of fuel

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consumption and improvement in levels of indoor air pollution for project users (reducing smoke, black soot, and PM). The reduction in consumption of cooking fuel also reduces GHG emissions attributed to the use of non-renewable biomass.

The project activity includes the distribution of highly efficient charcoal and/or wood burning ICS. In the absence of this project activity, households and community kitchens would cook primarily using traditional three stone inefficient stoves, perpetuating environmental and health degradation. The project intends to access carbon finance to mitigate one of the main barriers (price) for end users towards adopting clean cookstoves.

#### *Distribution of the ICS*

During the distribution of the ICS, the VPA Operator shall collect the household information as defined in the "Data collection of ICS end users" section below and train the final end-user on the operation of the cookstove. This training procedure shall be established through a workshop for the distribution of the ICS, where families who have pre-registered their interest to receive the ICS. During the workshop, a training section will be conducted regarding the operation and maintenance of the ICS, along with all other formal necessities like the end user agreement and data collection procedures. The end user agreement will serve as an attendance list for this workshop.

On the end user agreement, the household representative shall acknowledge that he understands the need to collect personal information and will comply with the disclosure of information regarding the consumption of fuel and the use of the ICS.

#### *Data collection of ICS end users*

The registered VPA under this PoA must maintain and update the ICS distribution records and database continuously. To facilitate this process, each ICS will be assigned a unique serial number. The required data collection procedure includes, but not limited to, the following:

- Date of distribution;
- Geographic area of distribution;
- Model/type of project ICS distributed;
- ICS type distributed;
- Quantity of project ICS distributed;
- Name of the beneficiary, address, and telephone number (if available);
- Unique serial number for each project ICS;
- Primary Baseline fuel and technology being used;

- Distribution charge paid by the beneficiary (if applicable)

The information collected will be stored in the electronic database which will serve as a project database for project monitoring and sampling purposes.

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

*SDGs assessment is conducted at the VPA level. CME shall provide the information in the VPA DD and may also summarize the outcome in the Table below.*

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Ghana is one of the United Nations member states that has committed to achieve Sustainable Development Goals. The PoA will contribute to social, environmental, and economic benefits which contribute to sustainable development of the local environment and the country.

The SDG shall be analyzed on VPA level, but it is assumed a minimal compliance with the relevant SDG targets and their Indicator listed below:

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGETED	MOST RELEVANT SDG TARGET	SDG IMPACT
		INDICATOR (SELECTED IN SDG TOOL)
13 Climate Action (mandatory)	13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning.	13.2.2 Total greenhouse gas emissions per year. Indicator: Amount of CO2e emissions avoided or sequestered.
03 Good Health and Well Being	3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.	3.9.1 - Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution. Indicator: % users reporting reduction in smoke/PM after shifting to ICS in project.
07 Affordable and clean Energy	7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services.	7.1.2 Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology. Indicator: Number of Beneficiaries under the project i.e., Number of ICS distributed under the project.

**A.5 Coordinating/managing entity**

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Ecolinks Co. Ltd is the CME for the PoA. Ecolinks Co. Ltd is a leading renewable energy solution company with the mission to enable people and businesses to improve



productivity and quality of life by providing innovative, flexible, and sustainable energy solutions.

By acknowledging the situation of inadequate access to safe and non-polluting cooking in Ghana, Ecolinks Co. Ltd decided to act as a CME to coordinate efforts of different project developers to disseminate clean energy products for those in need. Project developers will act as VPA Operators.

#### **A.6 Funding sources of PoA**

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The PoA is funded from private sources. No public funding or ODA have or will be diverted for the implementation of the POA.

As required, the ODA declaration to that effect has been provided for review.

## SECTION B. MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND INCLUSION CRITERIA

### B.1 Management System

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The PoA's CME will have overall responsibility for establishing and implementing the operational and management system for the implementation of the PoA. The description of this management system includes:

- a) A clear definition of roles and responsibilities of personnel involved in the process of inclusion of VPAs, including a review of their competencies.

The CME shall assist the PO to establish a distribution program for the ICS. This program will engage its own staff, as well as local distributors, technicians, and other service providers to effectively market the ICSs to clients. The PO will follow the monitoring plan and procedures to identify each ICS distributed during the project so that the appropriate amount of emissions reductions can be claimed.

The CME is responsible for carrying out the process of inclusion of VPAs in the PoA. Within the CME, this process can be conducted by an employee from the CME or another entity designated by the CME responsible for carrying out this process, defined as Designated Carbon Responsible.

The Designated Carbon Responsible will have the knowledge to complete the inclusion process and experience with GS projects and terminology to carry out the required duties. The CME management will ensure that the designated responsible will have relevant experience or training necessary to accurately assess and oversee the inclusion process, including the following:

- Sound understanding of all inclusion criteria;
- Knowledge on issues relating to additionality; and
- Adept at ensuring protocol are followed to prevent double counting.

The Designated Carbon Responsible will ultimately report to the CEO of the CME.

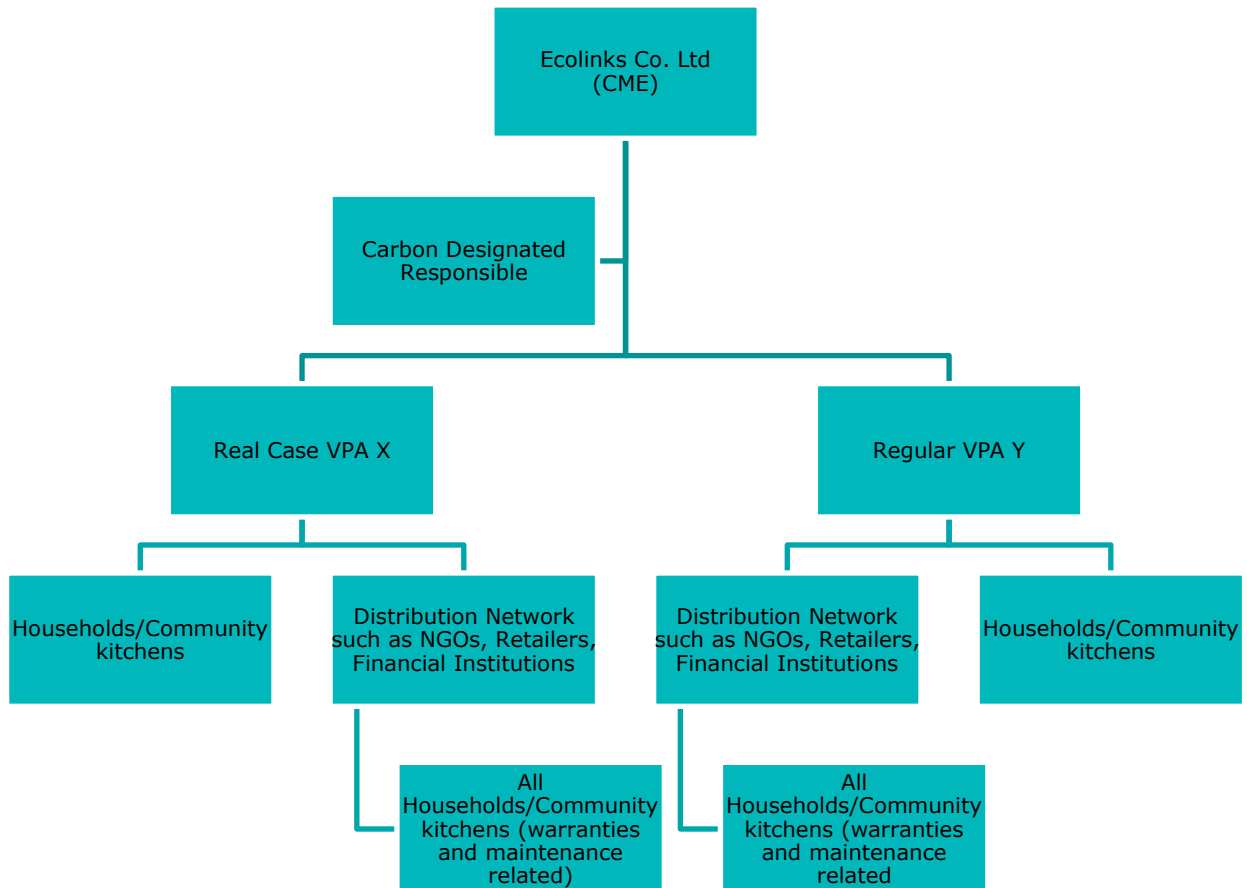
The designated carbon responsible, the CME and the POs will all respond to periodic audits and address any issues found during those audits to ensure that the PoA continues to improve over time.

Others responsibility attached to the CME will include:

- Ensuring that the proposed VPA(s) are in compliance with PoA eligibility criteria prior submission to Gold Standard;
- Managing PoA-DD and VPA-DDs documentation;
- Collecting documents and supporting evidence required for PoA-DD and VPA-DD validation and verification;

- Hiring GS-VVB to conduct validation and verification;
- communicating with the host country local authorities (as required) and Gold Standard as a PoA representative with matters related to the carbon project;
- Hiring consultant(s)/expert(s) for regular monitoring, reporting, and general consulting if needed;
- Manage the VERs transactions;
- Provide possible suitable ICS distributors and ICS manufacturers for the VPAs and/or approve new distributors and manufacturers. The VPA will have the power to select the ICS distributor and manufacture and will be responsible for the economic relationship with the selected entity.
- management and distribution of VERs revenues.

To implement this programme, the CME shall works with all VPA Implementing Entities. The organization structure is given in below:



b) Records of arrangements for training and capacity development for personnel.

The CME management is responsible for ensuring that PoA personnel have the knowledge and skills to effectively carry out project activities and achieve set goals for the PoA.

Accordingly, the Designated Carbon Responsible has to analyze the competence requirements for each critical role and task, and identify the knowledge and skills required for these competences and how personnel will be evaluated with respect to these standards. It is the responsibility of the Designated Carbon Responsible to ensure that this knowledge and skills are maintained through reviews, evaluations, and training.

Training shall be provided on the PoA management system so that roles, responsibilities and communication channels are clear. This, amongst others, should include:

- Title transfer of carbon rights;
- How data are recorded for the verification procedures;
- How to uniquely identify the distributed ICS;
- Where to send hard copies of the carbon rights waivers and any associated relevant documentation;
- Procedure for dealing with a change in the address or modifications in the capacity of the technology; and
- Monitoring procedures.

On completion of a training section, a record of attendance that includes the name and contact details of all attendees should be recorded and filed.

c) A procedure for technical review of inclusion of VPAs.

The CME is responsible for technical review of all new VPA inclusions and monitoring reports used to support verification. Specifically, the CME will verify that new VPAs meet the eligibility criteria and design requirements described in the registered PoA-DD. Furthermore, VPAs and related monitoring reports should be in compliance with GS standards. In the case that a VPA owner differs from the PoA owner, the owner can conduct the technical review, but final approval must be obtained from the CME.

d) 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 Gold Standard project activity or as a VPA of another PoA).

Each VPA has a unique identifier number that is attached to each distributed ICS within that VPA boundary to ensure no double-counting.

At the time of registering a new VPA, the CME will ensure that the project activity is not part of a GS project activity or another PoA:

- Ecolinks Co. Ltd shall sign contracts with the VPA project proponent documenting that the emissions reductions in a specific project activity are included in that

project and that project alone. If the VPA and the CME shares the same ownership, this contract is not needed;

- The VPA PO shall explain the concept of carbon credits to the ICS end user. The VPA PO shall sign a User Agreement with each end user recognizing the end user's title to the microfinance emissions reductions and transferring it to the VPA, which then transfers it to the CME. The User Agreement shall also include at least: end user information (name, address and phone number if applicable), date and location of ICS delivery, ICS unique identification, identification of fuel to be used, Emission Reduction ownership transference as well as declaration of non- participation in any other carbon program.
- Each project is publicly announced at launch, both at the VPA level and at the CME level, including a posting on its website.

e) Records and documentation control process for each VPA under the PoA;

For every ICS distributed, the VPA project developer shall keep records regarding the ICS distribution and, wherever possible, on end user information and other inventory data. These records will enable the VVB to verify that the distribution indeed occurred and stoves are used in the households or community kitchens of the specific areas targeted by the VPA. The VPA will be responsible for the establishment and maintenance of an extensive ICS distribution record database for its own VPA, and transfer a softcopy copy of the record, including its evidence, in a monthly manner.

The data to be collected shall be consistent across all VPAs. At the time of distribution, the VPA is responsible for creating a Booking Record (in paper or electronic format) that captures detailed data on the ICS distribution and the end user's information, linked to the customer's transfer of carbon rights (title transfer). The information collected shall include, but not limited to:

- Household/ community kitchen identification (name of household/ community kitchens representative with legal age)
- Location of household/ community kitchen (address and/or GPS location)
- ICS type distributed;
- Date of delivery;
- Unique identifier number for the ICS;
- Respective VPA;
- District name;
- ICS type of fuel.

VPA Monitoring Record maintains monitoring and auditing data on each installation in a VPA that is selected for representative monitored according to the monitoring plan:

- Unique identifier number for the ICS;
- Date of monitoring;
- Usage status at time of monitoring.

Ecolinks Co. Ltd shall review the operations of the PoA management system on an annual basis in order to evaluate its effectiveness and identify ways to improve operations. The CME is responsible for the coordination of the management review, preparation of information for consideration, and documentation and implementation of the decisions reached by the review.

Information to be considered during the review includes the following:

- Internal audits of the implementation of the CME management system;
- Corrective and preventive action (both internal and those received from external auditors);
- Nonconforming products (e.g., VPAs or units within the VPA);
- Supplier performance (equipment and verifiers);
- Results of external audits;
- Results of GS reviews;
- Changes to GS and PoA requirements;

Conclusions from the review should be related to the following topics:

- Suitability of CME manual, Standard Operating Procedures, forms and templates;
- New performance objectives;
- Changes to the CME management system;
- Resource requirements;
- Resource plans;
- Plans for new VPAs if applicable.

## **B.2 Application of methodologies**

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The VPAs under the PoA will introduce energy-efficient, biomass fuel-based cookstoves (technology/measure) compatible with the requirements of the applied methodology "REDUCED EMISSIONS FROM COOKING AND HEATING: Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralized Thermal Energy Consumption (TPDDTEC)", Version 4.0 – Published Oct 2021.

All the methodology applicability shall be met by VPA to be included under the PoA as listed in table

Methodology Requirement	Means of Verification/Supporting Evidence for inclusion
<p>Project shall choose a technology design that has predictable performance in that it is proven to be efficient and durable under field conditions; for cookstoves, the rated thermal efficiency shall be at least 20% (see Parameters ICS 1).</p>	<p>Firewood and Coal ICS are widely used, and PoA permits a minimum thermal efficiency of 20% as a precondition. Hence, this applicability requirement is met.</p>
<p>The technology shall have continuous useful energy output of less than 150kW per unit, where “continuous useful energy output” is defined above (see Parameter ICS 2).</p>	<p>VPAs shall demonstrated with manufacturer specifications or lab results the energy output per ICS unit to prove applicability compliance.</p>
<p>The project activity is implemented by a project developer and can include additional project participants listed in Appendix 2 of the PDD template. The individual households and institutions may be represented collectively by community organizations, etc., but do not individually act as project participants.</p>	<p>CME is the only implementer of the PoA. Hence, this applicability requirement is met. VPAs shall demonstrate on the VPA-DD all participants to be included on a VPA level.</p>
<p>The project developer must design incentive mechanism(s), which should be effective as fast as possible, for the elimination of inefficient baseline stoves that are replaced by the project cooking devices and describe the incentive mechanism(s) in the PDD/VPA-DD at the time of validation.</p>	<p>CME intends to design an effective incentive mechanism to encourage the use of ICS on each VPA, for example, the distribution of the ICS free of charge, incentive on duel purchase, and others. Final incentive mechanism will be defined at a VPA level.</p>
<p>To avoid double counting or double claiming, the project developer must:</p>	
<p>clearly communicate its ownership rights and intention of claiming the emission reductions resulting from the project activity to the following parties by contract or clear written assertions in the transaction paperwork: all other project participants; project technology manufacturers; and</p>	<p>The end-user agreement clearly outlines the ownership rights of any emission reduction to be generated by the use of the ICS are transferred to the CME, no double counting with any other similar carbon project shall be made, the end-user shall not claim any emission reduction generated with the ICS.</p>
<p>inform and notify the end users that they cannot claim emission reductions from the project, and</p>	
<p>exclude from the project activity, cooking devices included in any other voluntary market or CDM project activity/PoA, and strive not to displace the cooking devices of another CDM or voluntary project/PoA. See data and parameters not monitored, Avoidance of double counting or double claiming with other mitigation actions, for details on this demonstration.</p>	<p>Each ICS shall have a unique serial number and the CME shall control all data, to prevent any double counting. Hence all three conditions are met.</p>
<p>Project activities making use of solid fossil fuel in the project scenario or other improved fossil fuel cookstoves meeting certain conditions described in the footnote to Table 1 (e.g.</p>	<p>PoA does not include fossil fuel. Hence, this applicability requirement is met.</p>

switch from three-stone fire biomass stoves to LPG stoves) may only claim emission reductions for energy efficiency improvement aspect and shall assume the same baseline and project fuel for emission reduction calculations.

Project activities making use of a new solid biomass feedstock in the project situation (e.g. switch to green charcoal or renewable biomass briquettes) must comply with relevant specific requirements for biomass related project activities, as defined in the latest version of the Community Services Activity Requirements. The specific requirements apply to both plantations established for the project activity and/or existing plantations that will supply biomass feedstock.

PoA does not include a new solid biomass feedstock. Hence, this applicability requirement is met.

Adequate evidence is supplied to demonstrate that indoor air pollution (IAP) levels are not worsened compared to the baseline, and greenhouse gases emitted by the project fuel/stove combination are estimated with adequate precision. Furthermore, for projects where cooking will move from outdoor to indoor or where the project technology reduces ventilation (for example, changing from a stove with chimney to improved stove with no chimney), indoor air pollution (IAP) levels shall not worsen in the project compared to the baseline, including PM 2.5 and carbon monoxide (CO) emissions. This may be demonstrated before project Design Certification or during project operation using the certification resulting from of a manufacturer's test, report of field testing of the technology's PM 2.5 and carbon monoxide (CO) emissions, report of lab testing of the technology, or results of modelling of the technology's operation under field conditions. If none of these are available, reference from published literature or report by independent agencies may be used as evidence, provided it is not more than 5 years old.

PoA is to replace open fire three-stone and less efficiency charcoal cookstoves devices with more efficiency ICS, so carbon emission reductions and IAP are expected from efficiency gain and improved technology. Hence, this applicability requirement is met.

VPAs shall confirm PM 2.5 and CO emissions with manufacture evidence, report of lab testing of the ICS, or results of modeling of the ICS operation under field conditions. If none is available, reference from literature or report by independent agencies may be used as evidence.

The methodology refers to the tools and guidelines below:

- CDM Tool 30 - Calculation of the fraction of non-renewable biomass (Version 03.0);
- Sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and programmes of activities (Version 09.0);
- Requirements and Guidelines: Usage Rate Monitoring (Version 2.0)

B.2.1. Multiple technologies/measures

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Not applicable

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

As per section 4.12 of the Programme of Activity Requirements and Procedures, version 2.1, the eligibility criteria for inclusion of VPA in the PoA shall include the following:



No.	ELIGIBILITY CRITERION	DESCRIPTION/ REQUIRED CONDITION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION/SUPPORTING EVIDENCE FOR INCLUSION
1	Geographical boundaries of the VPA	The VPA should be located within Ghana. If any distributed ICS is found to be outside of the Project boundary/location, those ICS will not be counted in the emission reduction calculation.	Location and boundary is specified in the specific VPA-DD stating that the location is limited to Ghana territory. Each ICS distributed shall be linked to a household/community kitchen address in Ghana.
2	Conditions to avoid double counting of GHG emission reductions or net anthropogenic GHG removals	A unique serial number or identification system for the ICS is applied and linkage to the final user address is made. This shall ensure that there is no double counting of stoves within the PoA and ensure that the ICS can be identified as belonging to the PoA and not to a different project.	The unique numbering or identification system is to be included in the specific VPA-DD and consistent with the PoA-DD.
3	Conditions to check the start dates of VPA	Each VPA shall keep track of the ICS delivery date	Registry of delivery of ICS for e.g. End User Agreement.
4	Conditions to ensure compliance with the applicability of the applied methodologies, the applied standardised baselines and the other applied methodological regulatory documents	Each VPA shall comply with the methodology TPDDTEC version 4.0 and all related tools.	Each VPA shall compare its project to all rules and guidance established on the applicable version of the methodology.

5	Conditions to ensure that VPA meet the requirements for demonstration of additionality	The VPA shall demonstrate additionality by conforming to the additionality requirements established by: applicable GS “Activity Requirements”; CDM tool01 - Tool for the Demonstration and Assessment of Additionality; or an approved GS VER additionality tool.	The VPA shall directly apply the chosen tool/requirement for assessing additionality.
6	VPA Start Date	The VPA start date shall be the same or earlier than the PoA start date. Not all ICS may have been deployed on the VPA inclusion stage. However, the ICS 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.	Start date as stated in the VPA-DD should be after the PoA start date.
7	VER ownership	End users receiving the ICS under the specific VPA shall transfer the VER ownership to the CME and abdicate their rights to claim emissions reductions.	The End User Agreement shall state in a non-ambiguous manner that all emissions reductions generated to the ICS is and will always be transferred to the CME.
8	VPA Crediting Period	VPA starting date of the crediting period is date of inclusion into registered PoA or any date thereafter and crediting period shall not exceed the PoA end date. Each VPA shall provide verifiable evidence	A statement is included in the VPA-DD that the crediting period starting date is the date of VPA inclusion into registered PoA or any date thereafter and crediting period shall not exceed the PoA end date.

9	Approval of VPA by CME	CME approves each VPA to be included into its registered PoA.	Statement of CME giving approval for the VPA to be included as a part VPA PD.
10	Technological Requirements	<p>Each VPA shall employ Efficient heating technologies that meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Used for households and community kitchen</li> <li>• Fuel-burning Thermal efficiency at minimum 20% using charcoal or wood</li> </ul>	VPA shall provide manufacturer documentation or specific laboratory testing verifying the technology work condition.
11	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, 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
12	Safeguarding principles and assessment	Projects shall conduct a Safeguarding Principles Assessment and conform to Gold Standard Safeguarding Principles and Requirements. The safeguarding principles assessment shall be carried out at the VPA level.	Safeguarding principles assessment and related details shall be provided in the VPA-DD.

13	Scale of VPA	The PoA shall accept both large-scale and small-scale VPA. The VPA shall comply with the Community Services Activity Requirements, Version 1.2, from Gold Standard for the definition of the scale of the VPA.	Supporting evidence for the classification of the VPA scale according to the Community Services Activity Requirements, Version 1.2.
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As per section 3.1.1 of GS4GG Principles & Requirements version 1.2, compliance with relevant Eligibility criteria is demonstrated below:

Index	Eligibility Criteria Category	Eligibility criterion / Required condition	Justification
a	<b>Types of Project</b>	Eligible projects shall include physical action/implementation on the ground. Pre-identified eligible project types are identified in the Eligibility Principles and Requirements section.	PoA is to be implemented with and approved Impact Quantification Methodology, hence the PoA and its VPAs are automatically eligibles.
b	<b>Location of Project</b>	Projects may be located in any part of the world.	Location of the PoA is the host country mentioned in Key Project Information section
c	<b>Project Area, Project Boundary and Scale</b>	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	The boundary for the PoA in terms of a geographical area is defined as the territorial boundary of Ghana. All voluntary programme activities (VPAs) associated with this PoA will be implemented within the geographical boundary of the PoA. To avoid inclusion of any stove which is a part of another registered carbon project/ programme, all ICS under this programme shall have a unique identifier number, avoiding any double counting.

demonstrate that there is no double counting of impacts at design and performance certification (for example use of similar technology or practices through which the potential arises for double counting or misestimation of impacts amongst projects)

d	<b>Host Country Requirements</b>	Projects shall be in compliance with applicable Host Country’s legal, environmental, ecological and social regulations.	The PoA complies with Ghana legal, environmental and ecological and social regulations.
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e	<b>Contact Details</b>	As part of the Project Documentation the Project Developer shall provide (i) name and (ii) contact details of all Project Participants; AND in case of an organization (iii) the legal registration details and (iv) documentation by the governing jurisdiction that proves that the entity is in good standing (defined as being a legal or other appropriate entity registered in or allowed to operate within the required jurisdiction and with no evidence of insolvency or legal/criminal notices placed against it or any of its Directors). Gold Standard retains the right (at its own discretion) to refuse use of the Standard where reputational concerns are highlighted.	Name and Contact details of Project Participants is given in the Appendix 1.  EcoLinks is a company registered under the laws of South Korea, with a registered office at 172, Yeoksam-ro, Gangnam-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea, represented by its owner and CEO Tichaa Johnson Penn
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f	<b>Legal Ownership</b>	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	VPA Operators shall establish a End User Agreement with the household representative, which clearly state that the ownership of any carbon right or other environment attributes generated with the ICS will and always will be transferred to the CME
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contained within specific Activity or Product Requirements. All projects shall immediately report to Gold Standard any land title/tenure disputes arising.

g	<b>Other Rights</b>	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 ( <i>for example, access rights, water rights etc.</i> ). 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
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h	<b>Official Development Assistance (ODA) Declaration</b>	All Project Developers applying for project activities located in a country named by the OECD Development Assistance Committee’s ODA recipient list and seeking Gold Standard Certification for carbon credits shall declare the Official Development Assistance (ODA) support. The Project Developer shall follow the GHG Emissions Reduction & Sequestration Product Requirements and submit the declaration at the time of Design Certification.	No ODA is involved in the PoA. A declaration has been submitted accordingly.
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As per section 3 of GS4GG Community Services Activity (CSA) Requirements, Eligibility criteria is defined below:

Index	Eligibility Criteria Category	Eligibility criterion - Required condition	Justification
1.	<b>Types of Projects</b>	(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	The PoA goal is to distribute ICS which will improve cooking energy efficiency when compared to baseline scenario. VPAs shall share the same requirement.

end. For example, efficient cooking, heating, lighting, etc.

2.	<b>Project Area, Boundary and scale</b>	Project Area and Boundary shall be defined in line with the applicable Impact Quantification Methodologies and Product Requirements.	The project Area is the country of Ghana and boundary is defined in line with the methodology TPDDTEC.
3.	<b>Legal Ownership</b>	<p>(a) Projects involving the distribution of a large number of devices for services such as heating, cooking, lighting, electricity generation, water treatment technology such as water filter, etc. shall provide a clear description of the ownership of the Products that are generated under Gold Standard Certification all along the investment chain. In line with the FPIC requirement, the proofs that end-users are aware of and willing to give up their rights on Products shall be provided.</p> <p>(b) The transfer of Product ownership shall be discussed during local stakeholder consultations for projects.</p>	<p>VPA Operators shall establish a End User Agreement with the household representative, which clearly state that the ownership of any carbon right or other environment attributes generated with the ICS will and always will be transferred to the CME</p> <p>During the VPA Stakeholder consultation, VPA Operator shall discuss the transfer of credit ownership to the CME and the transfer of the ICS to the end user.</p>

## SECTION C. DEMONSTRATION OF ADDITIONALITY

>>

The PoA is not obligated by any local regulation in place to conduct a distribution of ICS, nor are the households in Ghana obligated to use specific types of technologies during their cooking. As for now, Ghana government recognizes that cooking is a health and environmental problem common in the country but no future policy or regulations is expected to be implemented to force a cooking habit change.

Therefore, the only changes that can improve Ghanaians' cooking habits come from voluntary activities such as this PoA and future VPAs, and those activities would not be able to be implemented without the carbon finance planned to be achieved through Gold Standard certification.

Each VPA to be registered under this PoA shall prove its own additionality by following the additionality evaluation established by the *Community Services Activity Requirements version 1.2* or the *CDM Tool 01 – Tool for the Demonstration and Assessment of Additionality* as shown below.



ELIGIBILITY CRITERION	MEANS OF VERIFICATION/SUPPORTING EVIDENCE FOR INCLUSION
<p>Specify the methodology, activity requirement or product requirement that establishes deemed additionality for the proposed project (including the version number and the specific paragraph, if applicable).</p>	<p>Community Services Activity Requirements (Version 1.2), paragraph 4.1.9: "Projects that meet any of the following criteria are considered as deemed additional and therefore are not required to prove Financial Additionality at the time of Design Certification:</p> <p>a) Positive list (Annex B) para 1.1.3 i.e. "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 <math>\leq 600</math> MWh of energy savings per year or <math>\leq 600</math> tonnes of emission reductions per year". Or</p> <p>Applicable CDM Tool 01 – Tool for the Demonstration and Assessment of Additionality</p>

## SECTION D. DURATION OF PoA

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

>>

31/05/2024

### **D.2 Duration of the PoA**

>>

20 years

## SECTION E. OUTCOME OF PoA LEVEL STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

### **E.1 Summary of stakeholder consultation at PoA Level**

>>

Dedicate stakeholder consultations shall be done on a VPA level. A design consultation was done on a PoA level.

The design consultation was hosted in tandem with the VPA1 stakeholder consultation. Invitations were sent out to identified stakeholders 30 days prior to the physical meeting. Invitations were sent electronically and via SMS message. The method of contact was adapted to the stakeholder's access to and comfort in using electronic communications.





The primary objective of the consultation was to engage implicated individuals and groups, and discuss the potential environmental, social, and economic impacts (both positive contributions and potential risks) of the project. The consultation was designed to inform the public on the project design, development, and outcomes, focusing on how they can benefit and better understand the project.



The consultation meeting covered the following topics:

- Opening remarks and introductions
- Explanation of climate change, its impacts and the effects of current cooking methods
- Description of Gold Standard and its key principles
  - o How the project would control for interactions with other programs and avoid potential overlapping boundaries
- Description of project details
  - o Explanation of PoA objectives
  - o Entities involved and target project users
  - o Geographic boundaries
  - o Duration, implementation, and technology under the PoA

- Contribution to SDGs

The following summary was available following the in-person meeting:

  <h3 style="text-align: center;">Ecolinks – Ghana Woodfire and Charcoal ICS Programme Stakeholder Consultation Summary</h3> <p><b>What is the Greenhouse Effect</b> The greenhouse effect is like a blanket around Earth. When sunlight comes to Earth, some is reflected back to space and some is absorbed and warms the planet. Greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane, act like this blanket by trapping some of the heat and keeping Earth warm enough for life, in a natural effect. However, human activities, like burning fossil fuels, have increased the amount of these gases in the air, making the blanket thicker. This leads to more heat being trapped, causing Earth's temperature to rise, which can lead to climate change.</p> <p><b>The Ghana Cooking Problem</b> In Ghana, approximately 75% of households continue to rely on open-fire options for their cooking needs, resulting in an average of 1 million deaths annually caused by kitchen smoke and a 15% increase in forest degradation due to the harvesting of fuel.</p> <p><b>Carbon Solution</b> To combat the emission of greenhouse gases, a global voluntary market was created where some dedicated organizations set rules, requirements, and procedures to properly regulate projects that claim to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Organizations like Gold Standard offer carbon solutions to help reduce the amount of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. They do this by certifying projects that reduce or remove these gases from the air. For example, they may support projects that plant trees, which absorb carbon dioxide, or projects that replace traditional cookstoves with cleaner, more efficient ones, reducing the amount of fuel burned and the emissions produced. These projects help fight climate change by offsetting or "neutralizing" the carbon emissions produced by activities like driving cars or using electricity.</p> <p><b>Basic Principles</b> For a project to be registered under the Gold Standard as a carbon project, a project needs to follow some basic rules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Real:</b> The project must actually reduce greenhouse gases or remove them from the air.</li> <li>• <b>Extra:</b> It has to do more than what would normally happen. It should make a bigger difference than just doing things the usual way.</li> <li>• <b>Measurable:</b> The project's impact on reducing emissions must be measurable and provable.</li> <li>• <b>Permanent:</b> The changes made by the project should last a long time.</li> <li>• <b>Transparent:</b> The project must be open and honest about what it's doing and how it's helping the environment.</li> <li>• <b>Help the community:</b> The project should benefit the local community, like improving health or creating jobs.</li> <li>• <b>Do no harm:</b> The project should not cause any harm to the environment or the people living nearby.</li> </ul> <p>Following these rules shows that the project is really making a positive impact on the environment and the local community, which is important for the Gold Standard certification. After registration, a project will go through a periodic verification process, with third-party verification, to be able to issue and commercialize carbon credits. The Carbon credits will be important to help to pay for the project costs. The ownership of those credits must be clear and with no possible questioning of who has the legal rights of the credits.</p> <p><b>Type of Carbon Projects</b> Carbon projects can be divided into standalone projects and Programs of Activities. The difference between those two types of projects is that the standalone project will operate alone, with no assistance from other entities, while a Programme of Activities (PoA) is like a big plan that includes many smaller projects that all work together towards a common goal. Each smaller project in the PoA is called a "Voluntary Project Activity (VPA)". These projects can be similar but are implemented in different places or by different groups. The PoA helps to streamline the process of developing and managing these projects, making it more efficient and cost-effective. It also allows for better coordination and monitoring of the projects to ensure they are achieving their intended outcomes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Ghana, March 19, 2024</p>	  <p>Additionally, standalone projects, programme of activity, and voluntary project activities will operate under a specific carbon quantification methodology, which will consider the type of methodology used on the project, the limits of the project, and eventual outputs of the project, to define all the calculations and quantifications allowed to generate carbon credits.</p> <p><b>The PoA's objective</b> Ecolinks plans to provide improved cookstoves to families and kitchens in Ghana. These new stoves will be faster and cheaper to use than the traditional three-stone open fire cooking methods they will replace. They will also help protect forests and improve people's lives by reducing air pollution.</p> <p>The new stoves will produce less smoke, which will help keep people healthy.</p> <p><b>Entities involved</b> Ecolinks will initially implement this Programme using the guidance and rules of the Gold Standard for the Global Goals.</p> <p>The Gold Standard for the Global Goals is a global organization that makes sure projects help the planet and people by reducing the amount of gases in the air that raise the global temperature. It focuses on cutting pollution and making life better for communities. If a project meets the Gold Standard, it's good for the environment and society.</p> <p>Other groups may join Ecolinks on this project by creating smaller projects that will obey the rules set by Ecolinks, while Ecolinks can guide those new projects to be developed under the Gold Standard rules. Only Ecolinks and the small project owners will have ownership of eventual carbon credits issued on this programme. These carbon credits will be used to maintain the project and allow the project owners to provide accessible, improved cookstoves for Ghanaians.</p> <p><b>Geographical boundary</b> The programme will be implemented in the entire country of Ghana. Each smaller project that will be implemented under this programme will cover specific communities and/or cities.</p> <p><b>Duration and implementation plan</b> The program will run for 20 years, starting from the date of the first delivery of a new cooking device in the first smaller project registered under the program. Ecolinks and any other groups that join Ecolinks will regularly check to make sure the new cookstoves are being used as intended.</p> <p>The PoA will begin as soon as the project is registered with the Gold Standard. Each smaller project will be added as new groups or opportunities are identified.</p> <p><b>Details of the technology/measures to be implemented under the PoA</b> Ecolinks' program will help smaller projects distribute improved cookstoves to communities in Ghana that need assistance. These new cookstoves will be designed to operate similarly to the traditional three-stone cooking devices, making it easier for users to switch. The new cookstoves are developed to run, initially, with charcoal.</p> <p>Periodically, Ecolinks will conduct surveys and record the results. The information collected will include the distribution date and location of the new cookstove, technical details of the cookstove, quantity distributed, feedback from recipient families, fuel usage, and other relevant data.</p> <p><b>Interaction with other similar initiatives/programmes in overlapping geographical boundaries</b> The program will be independent from other similar programs. It will have ways to check if people getting the new cookstoves are also part of other similar projects, like people receiving the cookstoves will need to say that they are not part of any other similar project, and each new cookstove will also be registered under the program with a unique identification that will be marked on the cookstove.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Ghana, March 19, 2024</p>
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**Target end-users**  
The people who shall receive the new cookstoves are the ones who actually use 3 stone cooking devices that burn wood or charcoal with no control or efficiency in Ghana.

**Contribution to SDGs and compliance with safeguards**  
The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of goals created by the United Nations to make the world a better place for everyone. There are 17 goals in total and the programme will ensure that, at least, the following SDG are met:

- Climate Action SDG, that aims to reduce the emissions of gases that can heat up the planet.
- Good health and well being, that aims to reduce the cases of illness and death by a specific pollutant
- Affordable and clean energy, that aims to ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.

Also, all smaller projects that wish to join the programme must consider the Gold Standard safeguarding principles that will make sure the projects do not harm people or the environment. These principles include things like respecting human rights, protecting natural habitats, and involving local communities in decision-making. Projects also need to make sure they don't pollute or harm wildlife. Following these principles helps ensure that projects have a positive impact on both people and the planet.

**Other planned consultations**  
The first small project that will occur, together with the registration of the programme, will be the Ecolinks Charcoal improved cookstove. The consultation of this project is scheduled to occur now, after all, questions and comments from this public consultation for the Ecolinks programme are done.

This programme of activities will receive comments and questions today and in the next 30 days through the contacts below:

- Email us at [contact@ecolinks.kr](mailto:contact@ecolinks.kr) with "Ecolinks ICS Project Questions" as the subject, and we will reply you back.
- Talk to Mr. Isaac Sam at [ecolinks Municipal Assembly](mailto:isaac@ecolinks.kr), Box 1 Winneba or call him at +233 557543848
- Send a letter to HNO14, GZ-118-7732 [Batsoga Filling Station Spintex](mailto:isaac@ecolinks.kr), Accra ([Lepotoleku Krowor](mailto:isaac@ecolinks.kr), Ghana), and we will write back.

After this 30-day period, a second stakeholder consultation round will take place to present the results of this stakeholder consultation and the comments period and to give another opportunity for everyone to give their thoughts about this programme. You are welcome to address any questions, doubts or concerns at any moment during the operation of the project using the contacts provided above. We will work to provide answers in a timely manner.

Ghana, March 19, 2024

Detail information of this consultation is provided in the PoA Design Consultation Report, from 31/05/2024.



**E.2 Consideration of stakeholder comments received**

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Feedback was collected during the physical meeting as well as during the post-meeting 30-day open period, where stakeholders were invited to contact EcoLinks electronically, in-person, or by phone. No comments were received during this 30-day period.

**E.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)	EcoLinks will register all inputs and actions taken on dedicated electronic database. Comments, queries, and concerns can be made to EcoLinks’ local office, and contact details are outlined below.
GS Contact (mandatory)	<a href="mailto:help@goldstandard.org">help@goldstandard.org</a>
Other	EcoLinks direct contact (phone: +233 557543948 and email: <a href="mailto:contact@ecolinks.kr">contact@ecolinks.kr</a> )

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

CME and/or responsible person/ entity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CME <input type="checkbox"/> Responsible person/ entity for application of the selected methodology(ies) and, where applicable, the selected standardized baseline(s) to the PoA
Organization	Ecolinks Co. Ltd
Street/P.O. Box	Mapodaero
Building	122
City	Seoul
State/Region	Gyeonggi
Postcode	
Country	Republic of Korea
Telephone	
E-mail	johnson@ecolinks.kr
Website	ecolinks.kr/
Contact person	Johnson Penn
Title	CEO
Salutation	Mr.
Last name	Tichaa
Middle name	Penn

## APPENDIX 2 - DESIGN CHANGES

### A2.1. Details of proposed or actual design change

>> *Provide the description of the proposed design change*

### A2.2. Describe the Impacts of design change on the following

#### **a. Additionality**

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#### **b. Applicability of methodology and other methodological regulatory documents with which the project activity has been certified**

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#### **c. Compliance with the monitoring plan of the applied methodology**

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#### **d. Level of accuracy and completeness in the monitoring of the project activity compared with the requirements contained in the registered monitoring plan**

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#### **e. Scale of the project activity**

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#### **f. Stakeholder consultation**

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#### **g. Sustainable development criteria**

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#### **h. Safeguarding assessment**

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#### **i. Compliance with applicable legislation**

**Gold Standard**

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## Revision History

Version	Date	Remarks
2.2	14 April 2023	Integrated the design change memo as annex of the document.  Editorial changes
2.1	31 May 2022	Editorial changes and revisions
2.0	04 May 2022	Key Project Information table revised to cater for the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Scale of PoA</li> <li>- Title and GS ID of all real case VPAs included in the PoA</li> </ul> A new Management System section included Safeguarding Principles Assessment section removed Outcome of PoA Level Stakeholder Consultation section revised in the following manner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Justification for Stakeholder Consultation at PoA Level Only section removed</li> </ul> A new Consideration of Stakeholder Comments Received section added
1.1	14 October 2020	Hyperlinked section summary to enable quick access to key sections Improved clarity on Key Project Information Inclusion criteria table added Clarification on POA level LSC and Safeguard Principles Assessment Improved Clarity on SDG contribution/SDG Impact term used throughout Clarity on Stakeholder Consultation information required Provision of an <a href="#">accompanying Guide</a> to help the user understand detailed rules and requirements
1.0	10 July 2017	Initial adoption