ANNEX AQ – MICRO-SCALE VALIDATION REPORT TEMPLATE

CONTENTS

SECTION A. BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Please indicate the scheme applicable to the micro-scale activity:

1. Project activity is applying under the micro-scale scheme X
2. Project activity is applying under the micro-programme scheme ☐

Title of the Activity or VPA: Improved Cook Stoves in Guinea

Discuss the current status of the project activity and what will happen as per the project scenario. Briefly discuss the technology employed by the project activity.

The table below deals with a short historic of the project, which aims to a better understanding of the current status of the project activity:

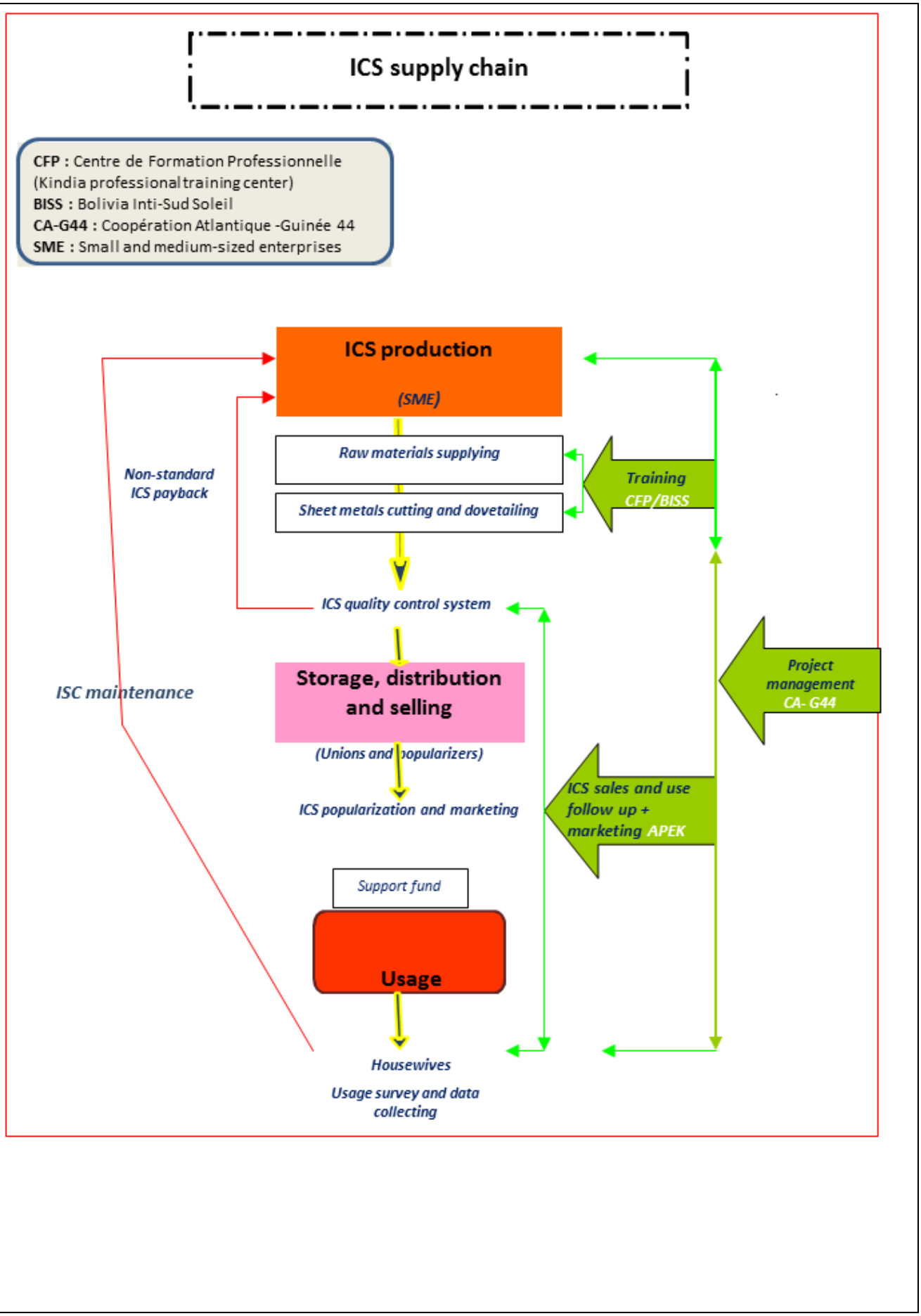
January 2010	Beginning of the pilot phase entitled "2500 Improved Cookstoves" (ICS) for the women of Kindia Prefecture" funded by EU
February 2010	Official launch of the project through a ceremony of presentation of a prototype
May 2010	Local stackeholder consultation in Kindia
June-July 2010	Sale and distribution of the 20 first ICS in rural and urban areas of Kindia Prefecture
October 2010	Massive production of ICS really starts. After a long period of running in the production chain reaches its cruising speed, approximately equal to 250 ICS produced/month, and 200 ICS sold/month
January 2012	As ICS are getting known more and more outside Kindia Prefecture thanks to Rural Radio spots and to its performance, new sales points open in other Prefectures of Lower Guinea (Télimélé, Forécariah, Dubreka, Boké)
March 2012	End of the pilot phase. Total number of ICS sold in 2528, plus 107 ICS available in the sales points and 150 more in the store room
July 2013	Prospecting of SMEs interested by the project. First training of 10 SMEs and start of the production in other Prefectures of Lower Guinea (Sangarédi, Fria, Télimélé et Kindia)
December 2013	11 new sales points in Lower Guinea open
February 2014	A regional forum gathering project proponents, national and local authorities (national departement of renewable energy, national departement of Water and Forests), production and sales stakeholders (women ambassadors, craftsmen of the SMEs, ICS owners, ...) takes place in Kindia
July 2013-March 2015	Communication and valorization are held about the project towards national ministries (Ministry of Energy, Environment, Water and Forests) and civil society (NGOs, rural unions, etc.)
November 2014	Partnership agreement about 1000 CBE to be spread in Koundara Prefecture (senegalese boarder) is signed up with a local organization
November 2014	Start of a framework agreement with Télimélé municipality about the professional craft training center
December 2014	40 stores established in Lower Guinea held by 40 women ambassadors
January 2015	Official lauch of Conakry (capital city) sales area
2015	Research on prototype diversification (clay cookstoves, bigger cookstoves for ceremonies or large amount of food, etc.)
September 2013 - March 2015	Radio spots and broadcasts all over Lower Guinea, and one public demonstration broadcast on national television (Radio Télévision Guinéenne)

The project is promoted by a Franco-Guinean consortium constituted of three NGOs:

- "Bolivia Inti Sud Soleil" (BISS) is a French NGO working in the field of ecological cooking. Its main objective is to develop, experiment, exchange and promote renewable energies use in developing countries. The association work is grounded on two main elements: development of ecological cooking (especially solar) in the Andes, France and Africa (in total, more than 20 000 stoves spread throughout the world); as well as information diffusion and experience exchange in France. The activities in Bolivia got registered under the GS process in September 2011 (Project ID: GS813) and are the stage "listed" in Peru (Project ID: GS814).

- "Coopération Atlantique - Guinée 44" (CAG44) is a French NGO which has been working for the development of Guinea (and mainly the Prefecture of Kindia) for almost 20 years through international aid. The main fields of intervention are WASH, agriculture and youth socio-economic integration, through programs lead in cooperation with local collectivities and French and Guinean civil society organizations.

- "Association pour la Promotion Economique de Kindia" (APEK) is a Guinean NGO in the field of rural development, constituted of rural unions. This organization promotes rural economic development projects and services and support to farmer groupings.


ICS supply chain
CFP : Centre de Formation Professionnelle (Kindia professional training center)
BISS : Bolivia Inti-Sud Soleil
CA-G44 : Coopération Atlantique -Guinée 44
SME : Small and medium-sized enterprises
ICS production
(SME)
Raw materials supplying
Sheet metals cutting and dovetailing
Training CFP/BISS
Non-standard ICS payback
ICS quality control system
Storage, distribution and selling
(Unions and popularizers)
ICS popularization and marketing
ISC maintenance
Project management CA- G44
ICS sales and use follow up + marketing APEK
Support fund
Usage
Housewives
Usage survey and data collecting

The project is implemented by a local team, mainly constituted of a project manager (CAG44) and five facilitators and one supervisor (APEK), in charge of ICS promotion covering all Lower Guinea (one facilitator per area, 5 areas in all).

To do so, they organize public demonstrations in rural village and urban district, showing in practical terms the efficiency of the ICS. These public events are also the occasion to increase public awareness on deforestation. Some of these interventions are recorded and broadcasted on the Kindia Rural Radio (which is listened in the entire region of Lower Guinea).

Popularizers are women members of rural unions in charge of ICS sale. They are trained by the project on the use of the ICS and made aware of the importance of forest management. In their zone, they explain how the ICS works and how to use it, and then receive the equivalent of 20% of the ICS price for each one they sell.

Results achieved as of March 2015

Activities	Indicators	Timeline
ICS promotion and Natural Ressources Management awareness-making campaigns	1 meeting with representatives of 11 Kindia Women Farmers Unions	January 2010
	37 comparative cooking workshops held with more than1300 participants (mainly women)	From 2010 until 1st semester 2014
	1 university conference in Kindia with more 300 students	24/04/2010
	1 local stakeholder consultation with more than 100 participants	10/05/2010
	1 contract for service provision with the Kindia Rural Radio to broadcast various types of programs ; 12 radio statements	April-december 2011 and 2013-2014
ICS users training and follow-up	114 women ICS users interviewed by the facilitators about their ICS use and management ; continuous follow-up by the 4 facilitators (APEK)	2010 and 1st semester 2011 ; 2013-2014
Implementation of an ICS economic network	5 facilitators recruited, trained and integrated to the APEK team in charge of rural animation for NRM (Natural Resources Management) awareness-making and ICS promotion	From 2010 until 2nd january 2015
	93 "women ambassadors" from 7 Kindia Women Farmers Unions trained to ecological cooking and sensitized to NRM	
	135 students of the Kindia PTC are trained on measuring and cutting iron sheets intended to be assembled into ICS	
	30 blacksmiths equipped with tools and trained to make ICS	
	7400 ICS produced of which 3350 sold in the prefectures of Kindia and Télimélé	
	10 SMEs (Small and Medium sized Enterprises) specialized in boiler have been trained and produce ICS in different localities	
	24 production agreement (various number of devices) have been signed with these 10 SMEs	
	34 stores established in Lower Guinea	
	8 training workshops organized by the "women ambassadors"	
Support to Kindia Region for decentralization and local development	Framework agreement with the 10 local governments (1 urban + 9 rural) : capacity building and local development projects management in the fields of WASH, Youth, Environment, and intercollectivity	20 years-long experience

Initially sold in a restricted geographical area (the Prefecture of Kindia, around 400 000 inhabitants), the ICS were progressively spread outside the boundaries of Kindia Prefecture, but still within Lower Guinea (see map in the PDD). Thanks to advertising spots on Rural Radio and to the good performances of the ICS, the project records now demands from numerous zones outside the project boundary (Lower Guinea), such as Conakry and Koundara. For the next years, various changes will be implemented such as :

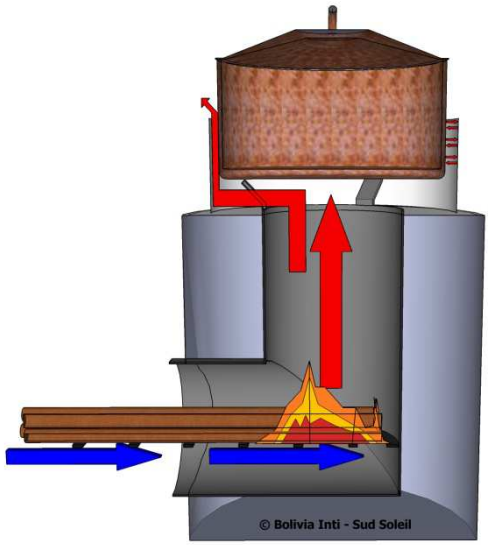
- various models of ICS : bigger capacity for ceremonies or large amount of food ; ICS made of iron and clay

- more sensitization to natural resources management with local communities and schools

- partnership agreement with the Ministry of Energy, Water and Forests, Environment in order to carry on a national strategy enhancing ICS spreading all over the country.

Description of the technology

External view of an ICS



Transversal section of the ICS

The original technology is the “Rocket Stove”, designed by the Aprovecho Research Center (USA), with whom BISS has established a technical partnership. This model of ICS is proven to have excellent overall performance and low pollutant emissions[1]. Nevertheless, the ICS design was specially adapted to the local conditions: a field study was lead to adapt its dimensions to the pots

[1] J.J. Jetter, P. Kariher, Solid Fuel Household Cook Stoves: Characterization of Performance and Emissions, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development U.S., Biomass and Bioenergy 33 (2009) 294–305

used by the beneficiaries on one hand; and on the other hand to make the ICS easily workable by the local smiths and compatible with the material available locally. It resulted in the « kolpot fötönkanté », a light cook stove of simple design ensuring a complete combustion with no visible smoke and only small amounts of ash.

The ICS are constituted of a bend stovepipe, a grate, a cover equipped with three small blocks, an outer skin fitted with handles. The ICS serial number is directly engraved on the cover, and all components are made of iron covered with aluminum paint.

Firewood is introduced in the lower part of the device on a grate that allows air flowing and preheating inside the stovepipe. Thermal insulation of the combustion chamber located inside the stovepipe is ensured by ash placed between the stovepipe and the outer skin, associated with an extra adjustable line. This last piece prevents the wind from dispersing the heat, which is this way concentrated towards the pot.

Its light weight allow the users to move it easily in function of weather conditions (wind, rain) or needs (cooking in the fields or at a neighbor's for example)

SECTION B. OBJECTIVE OBSERVERS' OPINION

Please provide an opinion as to whether the project activity is in line with The Gold Standard principles and should be validated.

(To be filled only in the event of the use of an Objective Observer)

SECTION C. DETAILS ABOUT THE SITE-VISIT

(To be filled only in the event of the use of an Objective Observer)

i. Individual or team on site

List Objective Observer(s) that went on site. Provide brief information about his/her (their) background and relevant skills.

ii. Period of site-visit

Time period during which Objective Observer(s) was (were) on-site.

iii. People interviewed

Provide the list of the individuals interviewed during the site visit and include relevant information on the group or organisation they represent.

iv. Means for interviews

Describe the means used to interview individuals during site visit; e.g. one to one interactions, telephonic conversations, etc.

SECTION D. STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION PROCESS

(To be filled only in the event of the use of an Objective Observer)

D. 1. Evaluation of the Local Stakeholder Consultation Process

Please discuss whether attendance was representative enough (both qualitatively and quantitatively), whether the comments raised have been answered and addressed appropriately, and summarise what the main outcomes were.

D. 2. Evaluation of the Stakeholder Feedback Round

Please discuss the comments raised or assess if any open issues raised by the stakeholders during the LSC have been addressed.

D. 3. Evaluation of the Continuous input / grievance mechanism implemented

Please evaluate whether the approved/selected methods of Continuous Input/Grievance Mechanism from the LSC report / other consultations have been implemented on site. For retroactive projects check that appropriate means were used by the PP to reach out to relevant stakeholders and seek their feedback on the Continuous Input / Grievance Expression methods as there was no LSC conducted for retroactive projects.

SECTION E. EVALUATION OF THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROJECT ACTIVITY

i. 'Do no harm' assessment

[See GS Annex H for guidelines on safeguarding principles]

As shown on the "Do not harm assessment" matrix below, no safeguarding principles are associated with a medium to high risk:

Safeguarding principles	Description of relevance to my project	Assessment of my project risks breaching it (low/medium/high)	Mitigation measure
1. Human Rights	. Guinea is legally bounding on: -United Nations Chart, Universal Declaration of Human Rights -African Union Chart, -International Pact on Civil and Political Rights of 1979, -Convention against torture, and others cruel, inhuman and degrading treatments of 1989. Guinea is also parties of Rome's statue of the International Penal Court.		
The project respects internationally proclaimed human rights including dignity, cultural property and uniqueness of indigenous people. The project is not complicity in Human Rights abuses.	The project is not complicity in human rights abuses, as the project does not force people to change cultural habits (cooking habits can remain the same). On the opposite, women will have increased time availability for other purposes than cooking and fuel wood collection, which may even lead to better education, enforcement of gender rights and so on. However, as this may only be an indirect effect, we judged the aspect to be not relevant to the project. Participation is entirely voluntary, but at the same time the parties will not exclude anyone from participation in the project due to any discriminator criteria (gender, race, religion or sexual orientation for example).	Low	
The project does not involve and is not complicit in involuntary resettlement.	The project does not lead to resettlement. People are voluntary using the technology proposed, and no one needs to move.	Low	
The project does not involve and is not complicity in the alteration, damage or removal of any critical cultural heritage.	The project does not build facilities at specific sites, but disseminates portable cook stoves that do not affect any critical cultural heritage as they are used domestically.	Low	
2. Labour Standard	Guinea has ratified several conventions under the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work: • convention n° 87 (freedom of association) on January 21, 1959	Low	

	• convention n° 29 and n° 105 (elimination of forced and compulsory labour) respectively on January 21, 1959 and July 11, 1961 • conventions n° 182 (worst form of child labour) and n° 138 (minimum age) on June 6th, 2003. • conventions n° 100 (equal remuneration) and n° 111 (discrimination in employment/occupation)		
The project respects the employees' freedom of association and their right to collective bargaining and is not complicit in restrictions of these freedoms and rights	Every employee of the project is free to associate with whomever he wants and paid for his/her work; however, nobody is forced to do anything beyond what's in their contracts. Moreover, the project includes a reinforcement of the local organizations that the project is working with (the "APEK Agriculture" NGO, the rural peasant organizations, the craftsmen working in the SMEs).	Low	
The project does not involve and is not complicit in any form of forced or compulsory labour	None of the involved parties are complicit in any form of forced or compulsory labour.	Low	
The project does not employ and is not complicit in any form of child labor.	The project does not employ and is not complicit in any form of child labor. Nonetheless, child labour is common in the country, particularly in the domestic area. Collecting fuel wood is an activity traditionally done by children. The project itself is a mitigation measure, as it reduces the households demand for fuel wood.	Low	
The project does not involve and is not complicit in any form of discrimination based on gender, race, religion, sexual orientation or any other basis.	The project implicates people from diverse communities, religions or gender, and doing so is reinforcing tolerance and respect values.	Low	
The project provides workers with a safe and healthy work environment and is not complicit in exposing workers to unsafe or unhealthy work	The blacksmiths who assemble the cook stoves incur some risks due to a poor work environment, such as risks of cutting damages from working with metal sheets during assembly.	Low	The partnership with the blacksmiths organization (SMEs and Professional

environments			Training Center) includes the distribution of a tool box for each worker, containing safety gloves among others. **This parameter is monitored in the "qualitative employment" indicator**
3. Environmental Protection			
The project takes a precautionary approach in regard to environmental challenges and is not complicity in practices contrary to the precautionary principle. This principle can be defined as: "When an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically**."**	No harmful effects are resulting from the use and fabrication of the cook stove. On the contrary, the risk of cardio-vascular diseases due to exposure to smoke during cooking should reduce thanks to the use of economic cook stoves. Also, the project is indirectly fighting against deforestation and its harmful effects on the environment.	Low	
The project does not involve and is not complicity in significant conversion or degradation of critical natural habitats, including those that are (a) legally protected, (b) officially proposed for protection, (c) identified by authoritative sources for their high conservation value or (d) recognized as protected by traditional local communities	Illegal harvest of non-timber outputs, including fuel wood, is very high within the entire country. To change the supply chain for fuel wood sourcing is beyond the scope of the project. Consequently, illegal sourcing may continue even with the project, but hopefully to a lower content.	Low	The ICS only use small sticks, which can also be made out of dead wood. Hence, in addition to the reduced demand, the pressure on natural habitats can be further reduced.

4. Anti Corruption			
The project does not involve and is not complicit in corruption.	As corruption is a widespread phenomenon in Guinea. It can occur that project workers and/or stakeholders may face this issue.	Low	It is included in the project policy not to complicit in corruption. Obstacles and delays that might occur are taken into account

ii. Evaluation of mitigation or compensation measures proposed by project proponents

Mitigation measure	Comments

SECTION F. EVALUATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT RELATED ISSUES POTENTIALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROJECT ACTIVITY

[See GS Annex I]

i. Environmental issues

Does the implementation of the project activity contribute to any negative environmental impacts, (e.g. on air quality, water quality and/or quantity, soil condition, biodiversity or any other pollutant) compared with the baseline situation (i.e. current situation or most likely situation in the absence of the project activity)?

The project aims at fighting against deforestation and its harmful consequences through the reduction of woodfuel consumption. Kitchen Tests showed that the use of one cook stove could save 4,5 kg/day/household, it is to say around 4,5 Twood on its lifecycle. Thus, the project activity is expected to have the following positive impacts on the environment.

- **Air quality:** Reduction of GHG, small particles and other pollutants emissions through an efficient combustion of the fuel wood ensured by the cook stove design
- **Water quality and quantity:** Protection of water resources through decreased deforestation
- **Soil condition:** Decrease in soil erosion through decreased deforestation
- **Biodiversity**: Preservation of local ecosystems and biodiversity by reducing deforestation

ii. Social and economic issues

Does the implementation of the project lead to any negative social and economic impacts e.g. was there any deterioration of livelihoods, or reduction in the quality and quantity of employment, compared with the baseline situation (i.e. current situation or most likely situation in the absence of the project activity)?

Compared to baseline situation (no project), the project activity does not lead to any negative social or economic impacts, as explained below:

- **Quality of employment:** The project generates local qualified employment as ICS are entirely made locally by blacksmiths and students of Kindia Center of Professional Training. They all have the full information to make ICS on their own and are encouraged to do so.
- **Livelihood of the poor:** Reduction of household expenses and/or of time spent to purchase fuel wood through decreased households' fuel wood consumption. Improvement of the beneficiaries' health due to reduced Indoor Air Pollution
- **Access to clean and affordable energy services:** Affordable efficient and clean cook stoves are made available
- **Human and institutional capacity:** The beneficiaries are provided with information regarding natural resources management through radio programs and during the public demonstrations in villages. Institutional capacity building is implemented through both the day-to-day work with the partners and the training courses provided to the local staff (e.g. in stock management or rural groups organization)
- **Quantitative employment and income generation:** The project generates income at each stage of its implementation as well as various full-time jobs.
- **Technology transfer and technological self-reliance:** training to ICS use is given to all end-users by the facilitators and popularizers.

iii. Sustainability Monitoring Plan

[See Toolkit section 2.4.3 and Annex I]

No		1
Indicator		**Quality of employment**
Mitigation measure		N/A
Chosen parameter		Number of training courses provided to local staff (including participation to internal and external conferences, workshops, …)
Current situation of parameter		3 days of training received by the 5 facilitators at the beginning of the project
Estimation of baseline situation of parameter		0 (no project means no trainings)
Future project target for parameter		Trainings depend on the implementation schedule and are to be decided on a case by case basis, thus future target of parameter is unknown.
Way of monitoring	How	Number of hours local staff receive capacity building or skill training, description of training content, certificates where available.
	When	Yearly
	By who	Project manager (CAG44)

No		2
Indicator		**Livelihood of the poor**
Mitigation measure		N/A
Chosen parameter		1. Amount of money saved monthly per household for the purchase of fuel wood and charcoal 2. Time saved per household and per month for the purchase of fuel wood and charcoal
Current situation of parameter		ICS users who pay for their wood save around half of their wood fuel budget, and those who collect it in the bush spend less time for this task with the ICS
Estimation of baseline situation of parameter		0
Future project target for parameter		Reduced expenses (in money and time) for the procurement of wood as compared to baseline
Way of monitoring	How	Field surveys
	When	Yearly
	By who	Project manager (CAG44)

No		3
Indicator		**Access to affordable and clean energy services**
Mitigation measure		N/A
Chosen parameter		Number of cook stoves sold
Current situation of parameter		4355 ICS sold as of February 2015
Estimation of baseline situation of parameter		0 (baseline = no project = no cook stoves)
Future project target for parameter		12 000 in December 2015
Way of monitoring	How	Sales record
	When	Monthly
	By who	Project manager (CAG44)

No	4
Indicator	**Human and institutional capacity**
Mitigation measure	N/A
Chosen parameter	1. Number of public demonstrations and corresponding number of participants 2. Number of radio programs tackling environmental education funded by the project 3. Number of women trained to be popularizers 4. Number of ICS owner trained to its use
Current situation of parameter	1. In total, 65 events took place from the beginning of the project, with 5000 participants counted; 2. Around 64 advertising spots and news releases plus 30 programs of a duration from 3 to 45 minutes 3. 100 women trained to be popularizers 4. 4000 women trained to ICS use as of March 2015
Estimation of baseline situation of parameter	1. No public demonstrations 2. No radio programs paid by the project 3. No women trained 4. No ICS owners
Future project target for parameter	For the three first parameters, there are no specific objectives, as they are only a mean to expand the communication of the project 4. 9000 women are expected to be trained to ICS use by

		December, 2015
Way of monitoring	How	Records from APEK and CAG44
	When	Yearly
	By who	Project manager (CAG44)

No		5
Indicator		**Quantitative employment and income generation**
Mitigation measure		N/A
Chosen parameter		1. Amount of money paid to local stakeholders (SMEs, blacksmiths, women ambassadors) 2. Number of local full-time jobs created by the project
Current situation of parameter		1. 1500 € paid to the Professional Training Center, 8275€ paid to the popularizers and 149 230 € paid to the blacksmiths as of February, 2015 2. The project team is constituted of 7 full-time jobs, plus part-time jobs for quality checking, distribution, production and administrative support.
Estimation of baseline situation of parameter		1. No income generated by the project 2. No jobs created by the project
Future project target for parameter		As the project expands, the team is expected to grow the same, as well as the amount of money paid to the local stakeholders.
Way of monitoring	How	CAG44 records
	When	Yearly
	By who	Project manager (CAG44)

No		6
Indicator		**Technology transfer and technological self-reliance**
Mitigation measure		N/A
Chosen parameter		1. Number of training sessions provided to local staff to build and maintain the ICS 2. Number of blacksmiths able to make and maintain the ICS
Current situation of parameter		1. 10 SMEs trained to standard ICS production 2. 80 blacksmith apprentices trained to standard ICS production
Estimation of baseline situation of parameter		No project means no trainings and no blacksmiths able to build and maintain the ICS
Future project target for parameter		As many as ICS sold
Way of monitoring	How	CAG44 records
	When	Yearly
	By who	Project manager (CAG44)

SECTION G. Sustainable Development eligibility criteria for inclusion of a VPA to the PoA

(This section is applicable for micro-programme scheme only)

Please discuss the compliance of the SD eligibility criteria for inclusion of the VPA as per the registered micro-programme.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

(To be filled only in the event of the use of an Objective Observer)

I, [insert full name], aged [insert age] years, residing at [insert full home address], and working for [insert company name], which is located at [insert company headquarters address], having been selected to serve as an Objective Observer on behalf of The Gold Standard Foundation, hereby certify and declare as follows:

Neither I nor anyone else having influence over me has an interest with any person or in any firm, corporation or other business entity that is involved in the assessed project activity "GS_____" nor have I participated, directly or indirectly, by committee or as a consultant, advisor, employee, officer, director, agent, trustee, or otherwise, in the development, implementation, or administration of GS _____. I further certify and declare that in no way do I have a bias in favor or against any person, firm, corporation or business entity involved with GS_____, and I understand that such bias would disqualify me as an Objective Observer. If at any time during the evaluation process I should become aware of any interest or bias, I will report it immediately to The Gold Standard Foundation.

For purposes of this declaration, I understand "interest" to include any consideration or other thing of economic value, including future consideration.

Name: _____

Signed this _____ day of _____ Year_____