

## Summary of the Public Consultation for development of web-based platform for improved cookstove activities

### Background:

As part of the "Financing efficient cookstoves for rural Andean communities" programme jointly funded by the Inter-Development Bank and World Vision Australia, the Gold Standard along with Microsol carried out a global public consultation seeking feedback on the web-based platform for improved cookstove activities, the primary outcome of this two-year programme. The consultation was open for a period of 30 days<sup>1</sup> from 20<sup>th</sup> October 2015 to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2015 to Gold Standard project developers, organizations involved in improved cookstove domain, etc. The communication sent to the stakeholders is enclosed as Annex 1 to this document. The Gold Standard reached out to the stakeholders via email, climate L, through Global Alliance for Clean Cookstove (GACC) network. During this one-month period, the Gold Standard followed up twice for suggestions and comments. In addition, Microsol also directly contacted several project developers in Latin America to seek their feedback.

### Summary of the consultation:

Overall, the stakeholders welcomed the idea of web-based platform for the development of the improved cookstoves activities. The key feedbacks from the consultation are summarized below:

#### 1. Cost Benefit Analysis:

- Third party validation/verification and monitoring costs are decisive factors for the project developer in project planning. These costs vary significantly depending on scale, methodology, monitoring requirements, etc. The web-based platform shall assist the project developer in comparing the various high/low/average costs options. Thus, a user can understand the threshold level at which the VER price no longer covers the project development costs.
- The web-based platform shall provide templates to help defray the costs associated with project implementation and monitoring.
- The web-based platform shall provide comparative financial feasibility assessment for PoA vs stand-alone activity over their crediting periods.

#### 2. Project Development:

- The emission reduction calculations are challenging for PoA and large scale activities, which primarily involve progressive installation. It is recommended that the web-based platform shall include an automated emission reduction calculator

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.goldstandard.org/our-work/innovations-consultations/web-based-platform->

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for cookstove activities. The automated calculator shall account for the sale date (start of crediting for a stove) and the stove design lifetime expiry date (the end date of stove crediting) over the cookstove population for crediting within a given monitoring period. An efficient excel tool, using macros and VB may serve the purpose.

- The web-based platform shall provide customizable emission reduction templates for an accurate calculations and greater transparency. The templates for carbon monitoring requirements, sample size and sampling requirements shall be in line with existing methodologies so that existing projects don't have to adjust operational procedures to accommodate the templates.
- The web-based platform shall provide comparative analysis of the different cookstove methodologies in order to help project developer to select the best available option for the project case.
- There should be clarity on submission of templates online or offline. In the case of online submission, security and privacy would be a matter of concern. Hence it is recommended to keep the information confidential and accessible only to the Gold Standard during the review process.
- The web-based platform could be used to aggregate all GS project data for example; total emission reductions (tCO<sub>2</sub>eq) from GS cookstove activities and contribution of the activities towards the Sustainability Development Goals. The GS can use the data for announcement on annual emission reductions from Gold Standard projects.

### 3. Monitoring and Reporting:

- The web-based platform shall assist project developers in understanding the monitoring requirements at early stage.
- The web-based platform applying default values like default NRB (from CDM), standard baseline values for three stone cookstoves and more can consolidate projects to comparable results. It is recommended that the platform shall assist the developer note only during the development phase but also during monitoring phase. It would certainly be more helpful for project developers.
- For project developers sampling approach selection and sample size determination is challenging. The web-based platform shall provide online sample size calculators for various sampling approaches. For example, if one selects stratified random sampling approach, the calculator should provide the sample size for each stratum at a given confidence/precision level after it has received user input values for required variables.

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There are online sample size calculators available when it comes to random sampling approach but there are not any when it comes to stratified sampling, multistage samples, cluster sampling etc.

## 4. Sustainable Development:

- The benefits are more local than global, and will respond to local conditions of every project that could be hardly captured by a global platform. It is recommended that the platform shall provide general guidance on possible benefits and Sustainable development monitoring parameters.
- A template to show alignment with Sustainable Development Goals should be crafted in such a way that it is integral to (or at least compatible with) the Gold Standard Passport so that it does not require a duplication of information. Any opportunity to streamline reporting requirements will always be appreciated.

## 5. Any other:

- It is important that the access to the web-based platform is at least in English and if possible in other languages since all end users do not necessarily speak English.
- The web-based platform shall be user friendly.

## **Next Steps:**

The Gold Standard welcomes the suggestions/recommendations from stakeholders. The suggestions/recommendations received will be considered for formulating the different modules of the proposed tool. The Gold Standard will however not be able to develop any other components outside the scope of the agreement.

## Annex 1

### Web-based platform for improved cookstove activities

We are seeking feedback on the development of a web-based platform for improved cookstove activities.

Developing a project can be complicated; we understand this and are always trying to look for new ways to reduce the procedural complexity of implementing a project. To that end, Gold Standard along with Microsol and World Vision Australia are developing an online platform for calculating greenhouse gases (GHGs) emission reductions from Gold Standard improved cookstove activities. The project is a part of the programme "[\*Financing efficient cookstoves for rural Andean communities\*](#)" funded by the Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF) - a member of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Group – that aims to promote the use of clean cookstoves in Peruvian Andean communities for better health and a better environment.

The purpose of the web-based platform is to enable prompt decision-making for project developers. The platform will standardize project development, improve quality of information, reduce the data required, use default values and provide easy to use downloadable templates for surveys and recording results. Helping to reduce transaction costs and improve the operational efficiency for project developers.

It is initially planned to be designed for the following outcomes:

- a. **Cost-benefit analysis:** This will help project developers to choose the best approach for their project from the various options available. The analysis will include the choice of scheme (e.g. Programme of Activity versus an individual activity) through to the type of emission reduction quantification methodology to be selected (e.g. Gold Standard TPDDTEC methodology, Microscale Cookstove methodology and CDM AMS II.G).
- b. **Sustainable development benefits:** It will assist project developers in carrying out the ex-ante assessment of the potential sustainable development benefits of the project, identification of monitoring parameters and project contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals.
- c. **Project development:** It will provide a list of potential pre-defined baseline and project scenarios, with default values for various input parameters. The project developer can use the automated tool for calculation of emission reductions and will also be informed about the carbon monitoring requirements, sample size and sampling requirements, etc. It also aims to provide guidelines and generic templates for carrying out baseline and project surveys and other monitoring parameters. This data can then be used for an automated emission reduction calculation for verification.
- d. **Monitoring and Reporting:** The web-based platform will also provide guidelines for monitoring parameters such as usage survey, KPTs, etc and

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templates for data collection based on the project details provided under project development module.

Gold Standard is working on Version 3.0 of our Standard with the aim to further develop the comprehensive web-based interface for project development, including online templates for project design documents and verification reports. We expect to link the cookstove web-based platform with the Version 3.0 interface. The web-based platform will be released in the first quarter of 2017 for use by our project developers.

Stakeholders are invited to provide their feedback and suggestions on the proposed web-based platform for improved cookstove activities. The feedback is welcome on any of the above-expected outcomes, other technical issues and any features you'd expect to see in the platform for improved cookstove activities.

The call is open for a period of 30 days from 20<sup>th</sup> October 2015. All inputs and submissions shall be sent to [subuddhi.banthia@goldstandard.org](mailto:subuddhi.banthia@goldstandard.org)