

Stakeholder Consultation for a Voluntary Project Activity

Provision of Clean Cookstoves with Renewable Biomass Fuel

Initiating Organisation & Partners

SaniTap is a UK-based impact-venture. Its mission is to ensure that all people have access to climate secure clean water and sanitation and sustainable cooking energy in the face of climate change. The organisation's mission is to implement scalable business models that deliver reliable and affordable WASH services and access to modern, convenient clean cooking energy services to rural and peri-urban populations, through technology innovation, novel financing mechanisms and last-mile delivery (PPP) partnerships. This includes leveraging carbon markets.

The Nature of the Programme

In Madagascar, SaniTap proposes to establish several Voluntary Project Activities (VPAs) under a 'Programme of Activities' (PoA) entitled 'Clean Water Clean Cooking'. This will include VPAs using the Gold Standard for Global Goals methodology 'Emission Reductions from Safe Drinking Water'. These projects will reduce pressure on the environment and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, whilst creating large health, convenience and economic benefits to end users. The VPAs undertaken under this PoA are expected to run from early 2024 with up to three 5 year crediting periods (ie up to 15 years in total). SaniTap intends to register VPAs taking a 'Gender Responsive' approach.

Project Description

The proposed VPA will undertake the production of biomass pellets sourced from sustainable feedstock, for use in modern, clean-burning cookstoves, made available at a cost to end users that is at par or below the cost of existing (charcoal) fuel and cookstove technologies.

In most urban areas, people cook on charcoal. This fuel is often produced from unsustainable sources, using inefficient techniques that waste wood (conversion rates of ~10%, meaning that ten kilos of wood are required to produce only one kilo of charcoal). Often, charcoal is burned in traditional stove (fatapera) which are also inefficient – meaning they consume a lot more charcoal than efficient (more expensive) stoves. Such stoves are also smoky and create indoor air pollution, which causes cancer and other ailments. The present cooking economy requires astonishingly huge quantities of wood are cut down, every day, to supply towns in Madagascar with charcoal. This contributes to deforestation and emits greenhouse gasses that exacerbate climate change.



Daily, an endless stream of charcoal enters every town in Madagascar. Each bag of charcoal represents at least ten bags of wood – most of it from precious forests.

Unfortunately, alternative cooking methods such as LPG gas or electricity are too expensive or unavailable to most people. However, in recent years fuel-efficient cookstoves have become available that can burn pellets made from woody biomass. Such stoves can be lit in a minute or two, and are clean-burning: indoor air pollution is minimal. If the fuel pellets are produced from a renewable source, then use of the stoves no longer contribute to deforestation or greenhouse gas emissions.

Overall, the quantity of (sustainably-sourced) wood is also far lower, by about ten times, because the wasteful carbonisation process is avoided.

This project intends to set up a pellet manufacturing facility, using wood that is exclusively sustainably sourced. Clean-burning, efficient gasifying cookstoves will be provided to households, who will be able to purchase pellets at a price that is at par, or lower, than that of charcoal. Meanwhile, existing charcoal producers will be encouraged to grow and/or harvest existing sustainable wood resources, thereby providing them with a comparable income with less demanding work than traditional charcoal production.

The VPA aims to target 20 thousand households in the town of Fort Dauphin, before replicating and scaling to other suitable urban areas. The carbon credits that are generated through the avoided emissions will be used to subsidize the stoves and the pellet fuel. This way, large environmental, social, health and economic benefits are created.



A satisfied customer cooking on a modern pellet-burning clean stove, during a pilot project in Madagascar

Area of Operation

The PoA under which this VPA is undertaken covers the entire territory of Madagascar. However, this first VPA project will take place in the Anosy Region. First activities are planned for 2024.

Contribution to SDGs

The PoA will contribute to the following SDGs:

1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
7. Gender Equality
13. Climate Action

Reason for Stakeholder Consultation

The purpose of the engagement and consultation process is to inform and involve affected and interested individual and organisational stakeholders and to address their sentiments and concerns. This should reduce the possibility of unwanted secondary effects in the proposed Project, whilst ensuring that the programme's stakeholders define the most important indicators of social, economic, and environmental success. The use of this participatory process thereby reduces the risk that important impacts (negative or positive) will be overlooked, and the concerns of all parties are fully considered during the programme design phase. This engagement process is part of the free, informed and prior consent process (FPIC) for the project.

The Process Ahead

1. **Please respond to the invitation to confirm whether you will be attending or not.**
2. We will send you an Information Pack at least 7 days before the Stakeholder Consultation meeting with further information on the Project including: -
 - a. A non-technical summary of the project design, technology, objectives, scale, duration and (anticipated) implementation plan and how it is likely to affect the various stakeholder groups.

- b. A summary of the economic, social and environmental impacts of the project along with any potentially known positive, and safeguards against negative impacts of the Project.
 - c. Summary of likely contributions of the project to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and
 - d. Any further relevant information to enable understanding of the project design, implementation and operation.
 - e. The agenda for the meeting
 - f. Contact details for SaniTaps representative to get further information
 - g. Means and methods to provide feedback during the stakeholder consultation process and on an ongoing basis throughout the duration of the Project.
 3. The Stakeholder Consultation Meeting will be held - which will include opportunities for Stakeholders to ask questions about the Project and give feedback on the Project.
 4. The 'first-round' feedback from the meeting and any feedback given by others unable to attend the meeting will be consolidated and SaniTap will respond to this feedback, circulating its response.
 5. Stakeholders will then have an opportunity to provide 'second-round' feedback over the following 30 days – ie feedback on the SaniTap response to the first round feedback.
 6. After this time SaniTap will submit a Stakeholder Consultation Report to Gold Standard and this will be published on the Gold Standard Registry.
 7. All stakeholders will be able to provide further feedback at any point over the full duration of the Project, through the feedback and grievance processes which will be set out in the Stakeholder Consultation meeting.
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