

Stakeholder Consultation Information Pack

Stakeholder Consultation for a
Voluntary Project Activity (VPA)

Clean Water

A Project to provide Safe Drinking Water

Purpose of this information pack

This information pack aims to explain the Voluntary Project Activity (VPA) which SaniTap intends to register with the Gold Standard for Global Goals¹ as part of a wider Programme of Activities (PoA) entitled 'Clean Water Clean Cooking'.

This VPA will be a Real-Case VPA.

We appreciate and seek constructive feedback so that the proposed project will benefit from the views, perspectives, and experience of many people - women, men, girls and boys - and interested stakeholders. We hope to engage affected stakeholders and to discuss potential environmental, social, and economic impacts (both positive contributions and potential risks) that projects may have during design, planning and implementation, and to establish an ongoing mechanism for feedback.

Stakeholder Consultation is a process not a single event. This document provides key information on the programme and sets out a means for you to provide feedback. Thank you for your time and consideration.

¹ [The Gold Standard](#)

Title: **Clean Water Madagascar 01** (hereafter referred to as the Project)

Project Executive Summary: Purpose and Intent and general description of the VPA

Project Description:

The proposed Voluntary Project Activity (VPA) aims to address the lack of access to safe drinking water in rural Madagascar. The project will focus on the repair of non-functional water sources; construction of new water sources; and the ongoing operation & maintenance of these water sources, thereby ensuring a sustainable supply of safe drinking water for non-served communities.

Background:

In Madagascar, a large proportion of the rural population is forced to rely on unsafe water from rivers, leading to waterborne diseases, illness and deaths particularly in under five-year-olds. These health issues further exacerbate the effects of drought and poverty.

While an estimated 10,000 rural water sources with handpumps exist in Madagascar, our field surveys reveal that at least 40% are non-functional and many others require significant maintenance. These handpumps, often installed by NGOs or development organizations, have fallen into disrepair due to a lack of technical expertise, community capacity, spare parts, or damage caused by extreme weather events. Where no repairable safe water points exist, the construction of new water points would be necessary.

Project Objectives:

The project aims to:

1. Rehabilitate non-functioning, rural water points.
2. Construct new water points, where restoration is not possible.
3. Maintain these water points for the duration of the VPA (up to 15 years).
4. Reduce reliance on firewood and charcoal for boiling contaminated water, thereby mitigating CO₂ emissions and deforestation.

Project Benefits:

- Improved access to safe drinking water.
- Improved gender equality as women and girls spend less time fetching water.
- Reduced time and distance to safe water sources.
- Improved health through the reduction of waterborne diseases.
- Economic savings from reduced healthcare costs and fuel expenses.

This Project will actively contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Safeguarding and Gender Responsive Certification

This real-case VPA and any subsequent regular VPAs will adhere to all Gold Standard for Global Goals Safeguarding Principles and Requirements, and all will seek to achieve Gender Responsive certification.

Sustainability:

The project will generate voluntary carbon credits using the Gold Standard Methodology for Emissions Reductions from Safe Water. The sale of these credits will provide a long-term income stream to fund repairs and maintenance, supplemented by affordable user fees.

By constructing new, or restoring existing non-functional water points, and maintaining these vital water sources, the project will not only provide safe drinking water but also contribute to improved health, gender equality, economic well-being, and environmental sustainability for rural communities in Madagascar.

Objective of VPA Stakeholder Consultation

SaniTap is undertaking a Programme of Activities (PoA), under which it intends to implement several VPAs. The objective of the Stakeholder Consultation process is to garner wide and considered feedback on the design of the VPA, which will be the 'Real-case' VPA, and other subsequent similar 'Regular' VPAs from central and local government, decision-makers (women and men), relevant national authorities, NGO communities, and other relevant stakeholders. This feedback will be used to improve and enhance the planned activities.

The objective of the consultation and engagement process is:

1. To identify, engage and consult stakeholders in a meaningful manner to improve project design and its outcomes.
2. To inform stakeholders about the projects and discuss their likely impacts (both positive and negative) during the design, planning and implementation stage and relevance to stakeholders.
3. To establish an ongoing engagement process for stakeholders to provide input, feedback and to raise concerns throughout the project life.

Preliminary agenda for the meeting

1. Opening and welcome.
2. Explaining the Project.
3. Sustainable Development Impacts of the Project.
4. A Gender Responsive Project.
5. Safeguarding Principles and Adverse Risks.
6. Positive Impacts on Stakeholders.
7. Free Prior and Informed Consent: Transfer of carbon emission reduction ownership
8. Feedback and Grievance process.
9. Questions and Answers.
10. Information on Next Steps and Contact Details.
11. Evaluation - Collecting Feedback.

The meeting will be conducted in Malagasy and in French as this is the formal and widely spoken language in Madagascar. Translators will be at hand to translate from French to English and English to French and from French to Malagasy and Malagasy to French, as needed, depending on who is speaking and to ensure good communications.

Any stakeholder who knows they will need interpretation services should contact Mr Mamy Ramparany of WaterAid Madagascar, at +261 (0) 34 55 637, or by email on

MamyRamparany@wateraid.org with whom SaniTap is collaborating for the organisation of the event to ensure availability of suitable (where required, gender appropriate) interpreters.

Remote online access to the VPA Stakeholder Consultation Meeting

Stakeholders may attend the Stakeholder Consultation meetings online using the following link [Online Clean Water VPA Stakeholder Consultation Meeting 26 October 2023](#).

If you have not already done so, please confirm attendance for the Clean Water Stakeholder Consultation meeting in person or online.

[RSVP Clean Water VPA Stakeholder Consultation Meeting 26 October 2023](#).

We kindly request that you advise us of other stakeholders (individuals and organisations) who, in your opinion, are other relevant actors / institutions that should be involved in the Design and Stakeholder Consultations so that SaniTap may also invite them to the relevant consultation meetings and process.

About SaniTap

SaniTap is a UK-based impact-venture which will be the coordinating / managing entity (CME) for the PoA. It also functions as the Project Developer for this VPA.

Its mission is to ensure that all people - women, girls, men and boys as well as vulnerable, disabled and marginalized 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 – men and women, old and young, from all rural and peri-urban social categories through technology innovation, novel financing mechanisms - including carbon financing - and last-mile delivery (including Public Private Partnerships).

Methodology

The following methodology will be used in the VPA:

- ERSDW - 'Emission Reductions from Safe Drinking Water Supply' Version 1.0² published 03/05/2021 (with a planned update 03/05/2024).

VPA scale

This Real Case VPA will be a Small Scale Project i.e, GHG emission reduction for small scale project shall not exceed more than 60,000 ton CO₂e in any year of the crediting period.

Subsequent regular VPAs may be small scale or micro scale (maximum 10,000 tCO₂e ERs).

Start Date and duration of the VPA

It is expected that the VPA will commence in January 2024 with the restoration or new construction of water sources commencing at this time. The VPA is expected to run for 5 years to the end of 2028 with an expectation of two further renewals, taking the project to a maximum possible period of 15 years in total.

Coordinating/Managing Entity and Participating Organisations

SaniTap Ltd is the Coordinating/Managing Entity (CME) and Project Developer.

SaniTap confirms the VPA is a voluntary action by the CME.

Local partner organisations and staff (male and female) will be involved in the implementation of activities within VPAs. This is expected to include providers of technical water construction, restoration and maintenance services, hygiene education, gender education, and survey/data gathering organisations.

SaniTap intends to collaborate with Malagasy NGOs and private sector organisations, consultancies and individuals to deliver services and activities within the VPA.

Funding Sources

The Programme is currently intended to be funded by private funding from SaniTap or its partners or participants in the VPAs.

² <https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/429-ee-sws-emission-reductions-from-safe-drinking-water-supply/>

There is currently no public funding for the VPAs. However, SaniTap and its partners may apply for public funding for projects under the Programme.

No ODA funding shall be used within the VPA. This will be confirmed by signed ODA Declaration which will be submitted with the PDD.

Targeted End Users

The targeted end users of this project are people - women and men, girls and boys - in rural and peri-urban areas, who are forced to use unsafe drinking water through the unavailability of clean safe drinking water sources.

It is noted that the people who will be most positively impacted are likely to be women and children.

VPA Boundary

The VPA Boundary will be defined by the uniquely identified water sources which will be selected during the course of the project within Madagascar.

Identification of the specific water sources to be included within the boundary is dependent on a number of factors which can only be evaluated when the project is underway – especially as the criteria for eligibility in the Project includes detailed stakeholder consultation, engagement and agreements before being mutually and jointly accepted by the communities and by SaniTap.

The number of water sources to be included in the VPA is also dependent on the total number of households / people served within a 1km distance (or 30-minute round trip) of the water source and this will vary by water source.

However, it is estimated that up to 500 water sources will be included in each small scale VPA (80 water sources in a micro-scale VPA). Each individual water source will be identified and reported with precise GPS location evidence as part of the Project Monitoring Plan.

The VPA is not limited to local or regional geographic boundaries other than the national boundaries of Madagascar. However, this (real-case) VPA will be undertaken primarily in the Anosy region. In the event large numbers of water sources are outside the Anosy region, further (regular) VPAs will be established in other regions of Madagascar.

Interactions with other similar initiatives / programmes in overlapping geographical boundaries

Other known similar projects/initiative in overlapping geographical boundaries are listed in Annex B. SaniTap is keen to understand potential synergies and conflicts, and how they may affect the VPA additionality, baseline, monitoring, and sustainability impacts.

SaniTap will reach out to other carbon project developers where there is the potential for overlap at the VPA level to help ensure there is no double counting or claiming any emission reductions, removals, or outcomes that are already accounted for by another initiative or programme.

Stakeholders, authorities, and participants in other initiatives and programmes are kindly asked to provide input and information and feedback to support collaboration and to further ensure no risk of double counting.

Technologies

The VPA will include the application of the following ‘technologies’:

- Restoration of non-functional, or new construction of hand pumps, boreholes, wells, (including (solar) pumped or gravity fed systems) and other community or household based systems.
- This is likely to include, but not limited to, Canzee, India Mk2/3, Afridev and Vergnet handpumps.
- Piped water systems are included in the possible range of safe drinking water technologies.

While technologies used on the project will have various manufacturer guarantees, it is SaniTap who is guaranteeing the ongoing function of the safe drinking water sources and will do so for the duration of the carbon programme (i.e. up to 15 years).

VPA Implementation Plan

The Implementation Plan for the VPA includes (but is not limited to) the following activities:

1. Survey water sources and identify water sources requiring restoration (or new construction) and communities that are willing to engage with the Projects.
2. Local community engagement (additional stakeholder consultation) to agree to restoration and maintenance services or new construction and maintenance services provided by SaniTap, and the community’s requirements to participate in the programme. The community requirements include formal transfer of mitigation outcome ownership rights (carbon emission reduction ownership); readiness to support and enable data capture and monitoring of the restored water source; and participation in hygiene education and gender equality programmes.
3. Baseline studies to evaluate various factors required for accurate Project reporting – this is expected to include, household size, fuel usage, water quality etc.
4. Restoration or construction of the physical water sources. This is expected to include the safe water extraction technology and ensure the physical surroundings of the water source (apron and fencing) is up to standard. Water quality will be tested to ensure fulfilment of minimum requirements.
5. A programme of hygiene education, intended to improve water, sanitation and hygiene understanding and behaviours. This will include recurring visits to the community by hygiene officer(s).
6. A programme of gender equality education, intended to improve gender equality understanding and behaviour in the community.
7. Regular maintenance of the water sources. This maintenance may be preventative (before any problem is observed) or responsive /ad hoc in the event there is a failure of available safe drinking water. It is expected that each water source will be visited at least once per year by the technical/maintenance teams. It is anticipated that each water source will be available for at least 96% of the time.
8. Monitoring, evaluation and validation of Project measures and impact. This includes regular and periodic data reporting by communities and collection of data by SaniTap/independent third parties.
9. Various assessments of water (quality and quantity) will be undertaken periodically on a sample basis (i.e. not every water source/household).

Payment for water source restoration and maintenance

The Malagasy regulations state that water should be paid for. However, due to extreme poverty levels and low ability and/or willingness to pay, revenues generated from user fees are in most cases insufficient to pay for the full cost of constructing, rehabilitating, repairing or maintaining safe water points. SaniTap will therefore not be charging individuals, communities, regional or national authorities the full cost for providing these services, as revenues to SaniTap – necessary for construction, rehabilitation, repair or maintenance – will be generated through the sale of carbon credits. The amount that users will be expected to contribute in fees will be determined through a participatory process involving the beneficiaries, the Communes (as 'maître d'ouvrage'), the ministry of water (as 'maitre d'ouvrage délégué) and SaniTap (as executing agency).

Funds required for the initial restoration (or construction) of the water sources will be from various sources that SaniTap will identify (philanthropic grants, loans, investments etc).

Ownership of the water source remains unchanged.

The ownership of the water source and the water remains unchanged. SaniTap and its service providers will not make any claim on the ownership of the water source or the water. SaniTap may at its sole discretion install or remove additional water quality, quantity or monitoring equipment such as flow meters which are not integral to the supply of safe drinking water from the water source.

Free Prior and Informed Consent

Full, prior and informed consent (FPIC) is the process of ensuring that the rights and interests of women and men, girls and boys of indigenous peoples and local communities are respected when undertaking any activities that affect them.

The VPA Stakeholder Consultation meeting is part of, but not the limit of, this FPIC process.

Transfer of Carbon Emission Reduction Ownership – requiring FPIC

In the context of the Project, the carbon rights (the ownership of carbon emission reduction and other mitigation outcomes) initially belong to the households that reduce their CO₂ emissions by using less firewood and charcoal for boiling water. This is because they are the ones taking action to reduce emissions. However, to effectively monetize these carbon emission reductions and generate funds for maintaining water points, the ownership of these carbon rights needs to be transferred to SaniTap. This transfer of ownership is necessary for the following reasons:

1. Expertise in Carbon Markets: SaniTap has the expertise and experience to navigate the complexities of the voluntary carbon market, including quantifying emission reductions, verifying project methodologies, and selling carbon credits to buyers.
2. It is not economically viable for individuals/households or communities to monetise carbon credits as the cost of generating the credits is uneconomic at low volumes.
3. Financial Management: SaniTap can manage the revenue generated from the sale of carbon credits, ensuring that the funds are used to scale and maintain water points.

4. Sustainability: By transferring the ownership of carbon rights to SaniTap, the project can create a sustainable funding mechanism for maintaining water points and ensuring long-term access to safe drinking water.

The transfer of carbon rights to SaniTap is a crucial and essential step in ensuring that the Project can achieve its goals of providing sustainable water access and reducing CO₂ emissions in Madagascar.

The Project will require documentary evidence of agreement to the transfer of legal ownership at either an individual level or at a community level (where an individual formally authorised to represent the community signs on behalf of the members of that community. E.g. the elected mayor of a Commune).

End-users and end-user-representatives / authorities will be required to enter into an agreement with SaniTap, transferring 'Full and uncontested legal ownership of any Products' that are generated under Gold Standard Certification, (i.e. VER carbon credits) generated within the VPA in return for the provision of services or subsidised / freely provided technologies – specifically the ongoing maintenance of water sources. The users must also agree to submit to data collection which will be required by VPA monitoring programmes.

Any such agreements will be documented in French and Malagasy.

Wording of such an agreement is expected to be as follows (or similar):

SaniTap is implementing a Project, which aims to restore or construct and maintain water points for communities in Madagascar in exchange for the full, uncontested legal ownership and rights to carbon emission reduction credits generated by households as they are being provided safe drinking water through SaniTap's project activity.

In consideration of the services provided by SaniTap, [Name] hereby transfers to SaniTap the full, uncontested legal ownership and rights to all carbon emission reduction credits generated by [Name] as a result of their participation in the Project.

Where 'Name' is either an individual or the duly authorized or accepted representative of a community.

SaniTap will work with local partners and Expert Gender Stakeholders to provide effective means of explaining the Transfer of Legal ownership in an understandable and appropriate manner – recognizing the complex nature of the subject and the relative levels of education and comprehension.

The Transfer of Legal Ownership documentation will follow consultation with communities and community leaders as part of the Community Engagement process and is a pre-condition for inclusion in the Project.

Appropriate consideration will be given to ensuring suitable communication is made to women, who are the primary ones taking action to reduce emissions (as they use the safe drinking water and don't need to boil it).

Communities unable or unwilling to provide the Transfer of Legal Ownership will not be included in the Project as SaniTap requires the ability to sell VERs generated through the Project to pay for the Project (including ongoing maintenance costs and any necessary repayments to financing partners).

Criteria for inclusion of water sources in the Project

Criteria for inclusion in the Project is expected to include:

1. A water source is assessed as non-functional where this is assessed as not supplying safe water or that the water is either insufficient or where the water quality does not meet minimum national or WHO standards.
2. The water source has not been operational for at least 6 months.
3. There are no safe water points in a community, and it is technically and financially feasible to construct a new safe water point.
4. The community want SaniTap, with its contracted technical construction, restoration and maintenance service providers, to restore and maintain the water source for a period of at least 5 years and a maximum of 15 years.
5. The community is willing to engage with a Hygiene Education Programme.
6. The community is willing to engage with a Gender Equality Programme.
7. The community will appoint a 'water guardian' as the local point of contact between SaniTap/technical service provider and the community.
8. The community is able and willing to provide or support the collection of accurate, timely and truthful data and appropriate evidence to support SaniTap's monitoring and reporting requirements to Gold Standard.
9. The community commits to supporting all processes to avoid double counting. For example, not allowing other entities to claim the construction, restoration and maintenance of the water source as their own whether with Gold Standard or other carbon registration bodies.
10. There is a minimum of 125 people served by the water source within 1km or 30 minute round trip of the water source.
11. That full, uncontested legal ownership and rights to all carbon emission reduction credits generated by the community/households are transferred to SaniTap in the form of a Transfer of Ownership document or similar.
12. That the community is willing to have the Project activities evaluated by third party evaluators (Validation and Verification Bodies (VVB)) on behalf of Gold Standard / SustainCert over the course of the multi-year Project.
13. The community will commit to collaborate with SaniTap and its partner service providers to enable the ongoing, consistent, safe drinking water and the collection of related data in the form of a service agreement between the community and SaniTap.

Summary of social, economic, and environmental impacts of the Project

For every 500 wells restored or constructed, the project will achieve the following estimated impact:

1. 75,000 people with restored and maintained safe drinking water.
2. Over 27,000 tCO₂e and other GHG emissions reduced.
3. Household wealth increased as less money is spent on fuel or time which can instead be used for income generating activity / education (which has a long-term impact on wealth).

4. Improved health and reduce illness due to reduction of indoor air pollution as less time is spent boiling water using a firewood/charcoal stove.
5. Improved health and reduced illness as a result of improved understanding and practice of hygiene, following improved education and change in behaviours (enhancing gender equality as this predominantly impacts women, girls and also boys).
6. Reduced time spent collecting water (from more distant water sources) – enhancing gender equality as this predominantly impacts women, girls and also boys.
7. Reduce time spent gathering firewood as fuel required to boil water – enhancing gender equality as this predominantly impacts women, girls and also boys.
8. A greater understanding and practice of gender equality issues is achieved through improved education and gender responsive activities.
9. Increased employment of people engaged and trained in the provision of technical water source restoration services, working with the partners and service providers for the Project.
10. Reduced deforestation as less non-renewable biomass fuel is used. As less fuel is needed for boiling water, the demand for wood reduces.

There are no known disadvantages of the project other than the possibility of reduced income to producers of charcoal (which is traditionally inefficiently produced from deforested wood). SaniTap seeks input from stakeholders to help identify and develop solutions and/or strategies to mitigate against adverse risks.

The VPA impacts on the SDGs and how these may be monitored are further examined in Annex C.

Contribution to SDGS

The VPA is expected to contribute to the following SDGs to a greater or lesser degree:

- 1 No Poverty
- 3 Good Health and Wellbeing
- 5 Gender Equality
- 6 Clean Water and Sanitation
- 7 Affordable and Clean Energy
- 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth
- 13 Climate Action
- 15 Life on Land

Following the Stakeholder Consultation process the VPA will indicate which SDGs it will be monitoring (at least 3) within the PDD and will set out a monitoring plan to track performance. Likely monitoring indicators and approaches are summarised in the table shown in Annex C.

As all VPAs are required to measure impact on Climate Action (SDG 13) and SaniTap is aiming to achieve Gender Responsive certification which suggests inclusion of SDG 5 Gender Equality, it is expected that the VPA will monitor one or two other SDG impacts.

SaniTap will use the Gold Standard SDG Impact Tool to track and monitor the impact on the SDGs through each VPA.

Gender Responsive Approach

SaniTap aims to be Gender Responsive within each of its VPAs and will take active steps to seek Gender Responsive Certification under the ensuring activities to go beyond 'do no harm' and thus ensures that a given activity does 'do better'. SaniTap will follow and adhere to the Gold Standard Gender Equality Requirements & Guidelines. Version 2.0³.

SaniTap has, and will continue to, engage third-party 'Gender Experts' to advise on to ensure its Project will proactively address gender gaps and contribute to gender equality and female empowerment, as well as ensure safeguards to prevent or mitigate adverse impacts on women, men and girls and boys. The Expert Stakeholders with knowledge of national policies, norms and culture will support the VPA to help understand the social and cultural norms, roles, needs, opportunities and gender relations that affect how stakeholders (entities, women and men, girls and boys) participate in, and benefit from, the Project.

Together with the Gender Experts, SaniTap will design feedback mechanisms that are accessible, inclusive, and culturally and socially appropriate for different groups of stakeholders. For example, the use of multiple channels of communication (such as online surveys, phone calls, focus group, interviews and home visits, discussions, etc.), provide translation and interpretation services, use simple and clear language, ensure physical safety and confidentiality, etc.

Furthermore, SaniTap has a dedicated person to focus on gender equality related issues within the VPA and can be contacted via gender.responsive@sanitap.org

Gold Standard Safeguards and Requirements

The VPA will comply with all Gold Standard safeguards and requirements⁴.

Compliance with the VPA Safeguarding Requirements are shown in detail in Annex D detailing the Social Safeguarding, Economic Safeguarding and the Environmental/Ecological Safeguarding Principles and Requirements.

Stakeholder Consultation Participants

As per the Gold Standard Minimum Group of Stakeholder to be consulted, SaniTap has invited relevant (local, affected and interested) stakeholders for consultations and comments, including, but not limited to the following groups:

- a) Local people, communities and/or representatives who are expected to be directly or indirectly affected (adversely affected or beneficiaries) by the project or may have an interest in the project.
- b) Stakeholders with land-tenure rights within or adjacent to the project and marginalised individuals and groups.
- c) Local policymakers and representatives of local authorities.
- d) National government officials or National Focal Point, for example, Designated National Authority (DNA) or equivalent body.

³ <https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/104-par-gender-equality-requirements-and-guidelines/>

⁴ Gold Standard Principles and Requirements

- e) Local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Women Groups working on topics relevant to the project or working with communities who are likely to be affected by the project. SaniTap has in addition included International non-governmental organisations (INGOs) and private sector organisations working on topics relevant to the project or working with communities who are likely to be affected by the project.
- f) Gold Standard representative at <help@goldstandard.org>.
- g) Relevant international Gold Standard NGO Supporters with representation in the region and all Gold Standard NGO Supporters located in the host country of the project.

Stakeholder Consultations will include stakeholders from all groups a-g. The Stakeholder Consultation Report will include details of information to attendees, invitations, follow up, materials sent, the consultation meetings, (first round) feedback and the CME/Project response to the feedback and allowing for a second round feedback and subsequent response to the feedback to all stakeholders.

Continuous input and grievance mechanism

SaniTap has, and will continue to, establish a process to allow stakeholders to submit any feedback or to record concerns/grievances during the entire project lifetime.

Options include the following:

1. Simple Evaluation Form at the Stakeholder Consultation meeting, which can be completed by hand in any language.
2. Online form <https://forms.office.com/e/GYJqgFAHr> which can also be found using this QR code. This survey can be viewed in English or French.
3. Face-to-face feedback can be given to any members of the SaniTap team (including independent representatives of WaterAid (who have been commissioned to assist in the Stakeholder Consultation process but are not participant in the outcomes of the Gold Standard carbon process)). French, Malagasy and English speakers will be available. This feedback will be transferred to the digital online form by the receiver of the information.
4. Feedback can be given to any members of the independent Malagasy Expert Gender Stakeholders team (SiMIRALENTA) during or after the Stakeholder Consultation meeting. Any feedback, but especially gender sensitive feedback can be given in a manner that will be treated confidentially and sensitively. (French and Malagasy speakers). This feedback will be transferred to the digital online form by the receiver of the information.
5. For this VPA a 'Continuous Input and Grievance Expression Book' shall be made available at:
 - a. SaniTap, c/o ONG MadAvance, Bureau ex ALT, Libanona, Fort Dauphin, Madagascar.
 - b. The SaniTap registered office (United Kingdom)
6. For general feedback, by email at feedback@sanitap.org
7. For grievances by email at confidential_grievance@sanitap.org
8. For gender related feedback, by email at gender.responsive@sanitap.org which will be handled confidentially by SaniTap's female Gender Officer with particular responsibilities for gender equality issues.
9. By face-to-face meeting or phone calls with appropriate Project personnel. These will



include Project 'Community Engagement Officers' and Project 'Hygiene/Clean Cooking Education Officers' who will visit locations on a periodic but regular basis. Any feedback/grievance will be digitally recorded.

10. Telephone numbers for feedback relating to this VPA are:
 - a. +261 38 60 607 60 (Madagascar) (Malagasy, French, English voice/text)
 - b. +44 333 772 6269 (United Kingdom) (English only voice message).
11. By using the 'Contact Us' form on the SaniTap website: www.sanitap.org/contact-us.
12. Grievances which are major, or of a personal nature, can be raised by following the SaniTap Grievance Policy (Annex A) and also by email at confidential_grievance@sanitap.org.
13. Stakeholders may also provide feedback/grievance at any time to Gold Standard for Global Goals through the help@goldstandard.org email address.

In the event a stakeholder is unable to document their own feedback for whatever reason, assistance will be provided to record accurately, without change in tone or content the nature of the feedback, as far as is possible. Where assistance is provided, the name of the person assisting in the gathering of feedback on behalf of the stakeholder will recorded for later validation if required.

Feedback will be handled in a manner which complies and fulfils the requirements as set out in the Gold Standard Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements and will record all comments, inputs or concerns raised by stakeholders using modes of continuous feedback or any other form (such as verbally, telephonically, via email and/or through representatives).

SaniTap will send a written acknowledgement to the stakeholder, except if the comment is anonymous. SaniTap will maintain a digital record of all feedback and responses to the feedback.

SaniTap will keep the stakeholder(s) informed of the measures taken in the context of the comment(s) raised.

Grievances will be handled as set out in the SaniTap Grievance Policy which can be found here [SaniTap Grievance Policy.pdf](#) and on its website and is included in Annex A for reference.

All feedback and all grievances will be recorded on the secure SaniTap Project Database to provide a confidential audit trail.

SaniTap will use gender-responsive evaluation methods and tools to collect, analyse, and report feedback data. For example, the use of disaggregated data by sex and other relevant variables, use mixed methods (quantitative and qualitative) to capture diverse perspectives and experiences, use participatory approaches to involve stakeholders in the evaluation process, etc.

SaniTap will use the feedback data to inform decision-making and improve the project's performance and impact on gender equality and the Sustainable Development Goals. For example, SaniTap will use feedback data to identify gaps and challenges, adjust project activities and strategies, monitor progress and results, communicate lessons learned and best practices to ensure the VPA is not only gender sensitive but also gender responsive.

Contact

Should you need to contact us with regards to providing further information about the Stakeholder Meeting itself or any requirements you may have for the event please contact Mr Mamy

Ramparany of WaterAid Madagascar, at +261 (0) 34 55 637, or by email on MamyRamparany@wateraid.org with whom SaniTap is collaborating for the organisation of the event.

Should you need to contact us with regards to providing further information about the Project please contact us by:

Firstly: email to stakeholder.consultation@sanitap.org or

Secondly: by emailing Meghan Hughes-Hallett at SaniTap on meghan.hughes-hallett@sanitap.org .

SaniTap, the CME, may be contacted at CleanWaterCleanCooking@sanitap.org or at the registered address: SaniTap Ltd, Hamptons Farmhouse, Park Rd, Hadlow, TN11 9SR. United Kingdom.

We look forward to receiving your helpful feedback, concerns, comments or advice.

The Process Ahead

1. Please confirm your participation in the Stakeholder Consultation process if you have not already done so.
2. Please respond to the invitation to confirm whether you will be attending in person the Stakeholder Consultation event on 26 October 2023 in Fort Dauphin, Madagascar.
3. Please provide the contact details for other stakeholders, who in your opinion, should be included in the Stakeholder Consultation process.
4. After the Stakeholder Consultation meeting, the 'first-round' feedback from the physical Stakeholder Consultation 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 as set out above.

Or Give Feedback Now

If you would like to give feedback now, please use the following link. [Feedback form Clean Water Clean Cooking PoA and VPAs](#) or use the QR code below:



This form is available in English French and Portuguese.

Annex A **SANITAP GRIEVANCE POLICY AND PROCESS**

SaniTap is committed to providing a fair and transparent grievance process for all our employees, stakeholders, and beneficiaries. It is committed to the open, transparent and fair resolution of all allegations and complaints received against its work, its personnel or against the organisation itself. Any employee, stakeholder or beneficiary who has evidence of wrongdoing is strongly encouraged to file a grievance with the company.

Raising and resolving grievances

We recognize that grievances may arise from time to time and that they need to be handled promptly, confidentially, and effectively. This policy outlines the process for raising and resolving grievances and the roles and responsibilities of all parties involved.

Confidentiality and Non-Retaliation: All grievances raised by stakeholders and beneficiaries will be handled confidentially, and any retaliation against a stakeholder or beneficiary who raises a grievance will not be tolerated. We encourage all parties to raise grievances without fear of retaliation, and any instances of retaliation by any employee of SaniTap will be subject to disciplinary action.

Documentation: All grievances, including their resolution, will be documented electronically and retained for at least three years. Access to these records will be limited to the SaniTap Grievance Officer, relevant management personnel, and legal and compliance staff.

Communication Methods: We understand that grievances may be communicated in various ways and not necessarily digitally, for example by phone or face to face. These grievances will be treated equally and following the same process and will be documented electronically. We will ensure that the process for raising and resolving grievances is communicated to employees, stakeholders and beneficiaries in a way that is clear and accessible.

The Grievance Process

Raising a Grievance: Stakeholders and beneficiaries may raise a grievance by contacting the SaniTap Grievance Officer via email, phone, or in-person. The grievance should be detailed and specific, including the date, time, and location of the incident, the parties involved, and the nature of the grievance. Examples of supporting evidence may include correspondence, such as emails or letters, research studies, or letters of support from other stakeholders.

Acknowledgment of Grievance: The SaniTap Grievance Officer will acknowledge receipt of the grievance within three business days and schedule a meeting/call with the employee, stakeholder or beneficiary to discuss the issue.

Investigation: The Grievance Officer will conduct a desk review to determine the extent of the alleged breach of SaniTap's policies and procedures.

If the grievance officer determines, in their sole discretion, that an investigation is required, then they will produce a written investigation plan. The investigation plan will include, but not be limited to, the scope of the investigation, a list of potential other stakeholders to be queried, and the timeline for resolution.

The Grievance Officer will conduct a thorough investigation into the grievance, including interviewing any relevant parties and reviewing any relevant documentation. The investigation will normally be completed within thirty business days of receiving the grievance.

Decision: After completing the investigation, the Grievance Officer will provide the employee, stakeholder or beneficiary with a written decision regarding the grievance. The decision will include any actions to be taken and the rationale behind the decision. The decision will be provided within five business days of completing the investigation.

Appeal: If the employee, stakeholder or beneficiary is not satisfied with the decision, they may choose to appeal the decision to the next level of management/other company directors. The appeal must be submitted in writing within five business days of receiving the decision. The next level of management/other director will conduct a review of the decision and provide a written response within ten business days of receiving the appeal.

Filing a Grievance

To file a grievance, stakeholders and beneficiaries should submit an email/ digitally submitted written letter (eg pdf, photo) to the SaniTap Grievance Officer.

The letter should include the following information:

- Name, organization, and contact details (email and telephone) of the employee, stakeholder or beneficiary.
- Details of the grievance including:
 - Timing of grievance/complaint
 - Nature of grievance and perceived impact
 - Supporting evidence and documentation

- Examples of supporting evidence may include correspondence such as emails or letters, research studies, or letters of support from other stakeholders.
- Declaration of any potential or perceived conflict of interest
- Any request for confidentiality/anonymity of complainant - with reasons
- Declaration that information being provided is true, accurate, and made in good faith.

SaniTap Grievance Officer

Grievance letters should be addressed to the SaniTap Grievance Officer and sent by registered post or via email to confidential_grievance@sanitap.org with the subject line 'Grievance Submission to SaniTap.'



























The current SaniTap Grievance Officer is: Mr Andrew Tanswell, Director.

In the event a grievance is held against the current Grievance Officer, the complainant may, in full confidentiality, contact a different SaniTap director.

Annex B- Interactions with other similar initiatives/programmes in overlapping geographical boundaries

There are a number of WASH Gold Standard projects in Madagascar with potential (but not necessarily) for overlap with VPAs to be established in this country. These have been identified as:

WASH

GS ID	PROJECT DETAILS	STATUS	SDGS	PROJECT TYPE	COUNTRY
GS11854	GS5658 VPA 42: Water is Life, Madagascar by Carbonsink (Carbonsink Group S.r.l.)		Planned 	Energy Efficiency Domestic	Madagascar
GS11425	GS5658 VPA 41: Water is Life, Madagascar by Carbonsink (Carbonsink Group S.r.l.)		Planned 	Biogas Electricity	Madagascar
GS10784	GS5658 VPA 24: Water is Life, Madagascar by Carbonsink (Carbonsink Group S.r.l.)		Certified 	Energy Efficiency Domestic	Madagascar
GS10783	GS5658 VPA 23: Water is Life, Madagascar by Carbonsink (Carbonsink Group S.r.l.)		Certified 	Energy Efficiency Domestic	Madagascar
GS10659	GS5658 VPA 18: Water is Life, Madagascar by Carbonsink (Carbonsink Group S.r.l.)		Certified 	Energy Efficiency Domestic	Madagascar
GS10658	GS5658 VPA 17: Water is Life, Madagascar by Carbonsink (Carbonsink Group S.r.l.)		Certified 	Energy Efficiency Domestic	Madagascar
GS10657	GS5658 VPA 16: Water is Life, Madagascar by Carbonsink (Carbonsink Group S.r.l.)		Certified 	Energy Efficiency Domestic	Madagascar
GS7567	GS5658 VPA 13: Water is Life, Madagascar by Carbonsink (Carbonsink Group S.r.l.)		Certified 	Energy Efficiency Domestic	Madagascar
GS7566	GS5658 VPA 14: Water is Life, Madagascar by Carbonsink (Carbonsink Group S.r.l.)		Certified 	Energy Efficiency Domestic	Madagascar
GS5230	GS5658 VPA 1: Borehole project "Ease Water Madagascar" by Carbonsink (Carbonsink Group S.r.l.)		Certified 	Energy Efficiency Domestic	Madagascar
GS7311	GS5658 VPA 9: Water is Life - Phase II, Madagascar by Carbonsink (Carbonsink Group S.r.l.)		Certified 	Energy Efficiency Domestic	Madagascar
GS7090	GS5658 VPA 8: The Community Safe Water (Madagascar) by Carbonsink (Carbonsink Group S.r.l.)		Certified 	Energy Efficiency Domestic	Madagascar
GS6752	GS5658 VPA 7: Water is Life, Madagascar by Carbonsink (Carbonsink Group S.r.l.)		Certified 	Energy Efficiency Domestic	Madagascar

Annex C – SDG Indicators and Monitoring (for consideration)

The Project is expected to monitor the impact the Project has on 3 or 4 of the SDGs.

SDG	Target	Impact Indicator	Monitoring Indicator	How monitor
SDG 13 – Climate Action	13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.	Reduction in GHG emissions.	Amount of GHGs emissions avoided or sequestered.	Detailed CO ₂ e calculations – methodology set out in the Gold Standard cook stoves methodology.
SDG 1 – No poverty	1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.	Livelihood.	Average household savings (i.e. decrease in expenditure on basic services such as drinking water, or fuel for boiling water.	Proxy estimate of household savings – net monthly fuel cost savings related to reduced use of fires/stoves.
SDG 3 – Good Health and Wellbeing	3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from water borne disease.	Reduced incidence of water borne disease.	Number of households that observed reduction in water borne disease.	Sample surveys of women and men, girls and boys in representative households to estimate disease incidence reductions; average percentage reduction from scientific literature.
SDG 5– Gender Equality	5.4 Recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services,	Women empowerment and gender equality	Average time saving associated with water collection. (Workload	Sample surveys of women and men, girls and boys in representative households to estimate time savings

	infrastructure, and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate		relief) for women and girls	associated with water collection, water boiling and fuel collection. Include report on primary ways that households are using time saved on fuel collection.
SDG 6 – Clean Water	6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all	Access to improved source of water	Total no. households meeting “safely managed drinking water services” criteria (disaggregated to female-headed households and male-headed households) Indicator can be disaggregated by type of residence, resident & service level. Source of water must meet 3 conditions: accessibility, availability & quality.	Household survey; project records.
SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth	8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.	Increased employment opportunities	Total no. jobs. (Disaggregated to numbers of jobs for women, men, young women and young men including those with disabilities.)	Analysis of work contracts. (Disaggregated to numbers of jobs for women, men, young women and young men including those with disabilities.)

			<p>Total no. employees above the local min. wage</p> <p>Average hourly earnings of employees by sex, age, occupation and persons with disabilities</p>	
SDG 15 – Life on Land	15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountain and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.	Reduced deforestation attributed to wood/charcoal fuel savings	Total non-renewable wood fuel saved	CO ₂ e savings measured using calculations set out in the cooking stoves methodology.

Annex D- Safeguarding Principles and Requirement Indicators and Monitoring

Principle	Sub- principle	PoA and VPA response and compliance
Social Safeguarding Principles		
Principle 1 - Human Rights		<p>SaniTap, and participants in the implementation of the PoA and the VPAs within the PoA will respect internationally proclaimed human rights and shall not be complicit in violence or human rights abuses of any kind as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights⁵.</p> <p>The Project(s) shall not discriminate with regards to participation and inclusion.</p>
Principle 2 – Gender Equality and Women’s Rights		<p>This VPA and all projects within the PoA will seek to be ‘Gender Responsive’ certified.</p> <p>The Projects will conduct deeper gender analysis; select gender- targeted project goals and action; and design project-specific gender indicators and parameters.</p> <p>The Project contributes to improve health of women, girls and children and provides them more time to do other activities. The reduced time spent obtaining water, wood and fuel, especially for children and mothers will enable other activities and create economic savings.</p>
Principle 3 – Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions		<p>The project technologies will actively contribute to improve the health of end users through the provision of safe drinking water.</p> <p>The projects will avoid community exposure to increased health risks and will not adversely affect the health of the workers and the community.</p>
Principle 4 – Cultural Heritage, Indigenous Peoples, Displacement and Resettlement	4.1 Sites of Cultural and Historical Heritage	The project(s) will not be implemented in areas that threatens cultural heritage.
	4.2 Forced Eviction and Displacement	The project(s) will not lead to forced eviction or displacement.
	4.3 Land Tenure and Other Rights	The project is not expected to require any change to land tenure arrangements and/or other rights. In the event that a could have an impact on land tenure or other rights, appropriate ‘Expert Stakeholders’ will be

⁵ <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>

		<p>invited to investigate, evaluate and recommend prior to a project being implemented.</p> <p>For community water sources on land owned either by the county/regional government or by local people, their permission will first be sought. Such permission will be a pre-condition of implementation.</p> <p>As restoration of existing but faulty water sources is not expected to require a change to land ownership, this risk is not expected to occur.</p> <p>Where land is required for project purposes, e.g. the construction of a water source on land owned either privately or by the county/regional government or by local people, appropriate permission will first be sought. If necessary, an ‘Expert Stakeholders’ will be invited to investigate, evaluate and recommend prior to a project being implemented.</p>
	4.4 Indigenous Peoples	The Project(s) will not adversely impact indigenous peoples present in or within the area of influence of the Project and does not require any form or relocation.
Principle 5 – Corruption		The Project(s) will not engage in any corrupt practices. SaniTap, any participants in the Projects and all associates and sub-contractors involved in the delivery of the Projects are obligated under the SaniTap Code of Conduct and Ethics Policies . Specifically this includes the SaniTap Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy .

ECONOMIC SAFEGUARDING GUIDELINES

Principle 6 – Economic Impacts	6.1 Labour Rights	<p>The project does not involve any forced labour. All employees are engaged on voluntary and/or contracted basis and are free to leave their positions without penalty. The project respects freedom of association and collective bargaining and does not restrict in any way any freedoms and rights.</p> <p>There will be no child labour on the project.</p> <p>SaniTap, any participants in the Projects and all associates and sub-contractors involved in the delivery of the Projects are obligated under the SaniTap. See also: Child Protection Policy and Policy on Prevention of Forced Labour and Human Trafficking.</p>
--------------------------------	-------------------	--

	6.2 Negative Economic Consequences	<p>No negative economic consequences are envisaged.</p> <p>Time saving from the reduction in water and firewood collection can be translated into positive economic (or educational) activity.</p> <p>Financial savings will be generated in the reduction in fuel costs as less fuel is needed for water boiling.</p> <p>Livelihoods will be generated through new employment relating to the Project.</p>
--	------------------------------------	---

ENVIRONMENTAL/ECOLOGICAL SAFEGUARDING GUIDELINES

Principle 7 – Climate and Energy	7.1 Emissions	<p>The Project(s) will not increase greenhouse gas emissions over the Baseline Scenario.</p> <p>The project will decrease GHG emissions from the baseline scenario over a period of up to 15 years (the 5-year project plus 2 project renewals). The use of the technologies will contribute to avoid the emissions of CO₂ and other GHG in the atmosphere.</p>
	7.2 Energy Supply	<p>One objective of this project is to implement improved technologies which removes the need for end users to boil water.</p> <p>Removing the need for boiling water through the provision of safe drinking water results in a reduction in biomass required (in the form of firewood and charcoal).</p>
Principle 8 – Water	8.1 Impact on Natural Water Patterns / Flows	<p>The project will not have any negative impact on the water resources in the area of the Project boundaries nor neighbouring region of the Project boundaries. There will be no significant change in the volume of water consumed by the households, nor the water resources in the region.</p>
	8.2 Erosion and / or Water Body Instability	<p>The Project will reduce fuelwood consumption and consequently reduce deforestation which will protect the natural forest cover with related environmental and ecological benefits.</p> <p>It is expected that erosion due to deforestation will be reduced, and water body stability increased.</p>
Principle 9 - Environment, ecology and land use	9.1 Landscape Modification and Soil	<p>The Project does not involve the use of land and soil for production of crops.</p>

	9.2 Vulnerability to Natural Disaster	The Project will not be susceptible to or lead to increased vulnerability to wind, earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding, drought or other extreme climatic conditions as a result of its activities.
	9.3 Genetic Resources	No GMOs will be used in the project
	9.4 Release of pollutants	The Project will not result in the release of pollutants to the environment.
	9.5 Hazardous and Non-hazardous Waste	The Project will not involve the manufacture, trade, release, and/ or use of hazardous and non- hazardous chemicals and/or materials.
	9.6 Pesticides & Fertilisers	The Project will not involve the application of pesticides and/or fertilisers.
	9.7 Harvesting of Forests	<p>The Project will not involve the harvesting of forests. Sources of biomass required for the provision of fuel to replace firewood and charcoal will be from renewable, sustainable resources exclusively.</p> <p>The project will reduce fuel wood demand from local and regional forest and thus the harvest rate of forests. The Project(s) will have positive impact on the forest cover and reduce deforestation.</p>
	9.8 Food	The project does not modify the quantity or nutritional quality of food available such as through crop regime alteration or export or economic incentives. The project does not impact the growing of food nor the quality of the food.
	9.9 Animal husbandry	The project does not involve animal husbandry.
	9.10 High Conservation Value Areas and Critical Habitats	<p>The Project(s) will not physically affect or alter largely intact or High Conservation Value (HCV) ecosystems, critical habitats, landscapes, key biodiversity areas or sites identified.</p> <p>The Project(s) will seek to protect ecosystems critical habitats, landscapes, and important key biodiversity areas.</p>
	9.11 Endangered Species	Endangered species may be present within the Project boundaries. The activities of the Projects will not impact their habitats other than to help protect these habitats through reduced deforestation caused by the Project.

		<p>The Project is not expected to impact other areas where endangered species may be present through transboundary affects, other than through the positive protection of local habitats.</p>

SaniTap. Do not Copy: Draft for Consultation Ne pas copier : ébauche pour consultation. SaniTap