

## **SUMMARY OF THE LOCAL STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION MEETING IN ZAMBIA CONDUCTED BETWEEN 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 AND 29<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025**

### **INTRODUCTION**

ECOQ Climate Capital (ECC) are pleased to announce Local Stakeholder Consultation (“LSC”) meetings for its planned Gold Standard VPAs in the Republic of Zambia. These VPAs will be housed under the GS PoA “ECOQ\_BURN multi-country Clean Cooking Programme”.

ECC as project implementer are inviting stakeholders to review the outcomes of the Local Stakeholder Consultations that took place from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025 in Lusaka, Mongu, and Solwezi. During the stakeholder meetings, ECOQ Climate Capital introduced its clean cookstove Voluntary Carbon Project Activities which entails dissemination of highly efficient improved cookstoves in Federal Republic of Zambia. The Voluntary Project Activities (VPAs) will be included under the Gold Standard Programme of Activities (PoA), “ECOQ\_BURN multi-country Clean Cooking Programme”.

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS:**

#### **Registration:**

Participants arrived and were asked to sign the attendance list. Participants attending through Zoom Link for the Meeting registered online to access the meeting.

#### **Welcome Remarks:**

Participants in person were welcomed by ECC team leaders, for all the meetings. Introductions of the present participants were done for both the physical Meetings and the those who had joined online. The purpose of the meeting and the agenda were explained to the audience.

#### **Project Presentation:**

ECC staff started the presentation by explaining the project in detail; they presented ECOQ Climate capital (ECC) as project implementer, the main goals of the program and its benefits for the local communities, as well as the Improved Cook-stove (ICS) technology involved in the project.

They also took time to remind the stakeholders about climate change and its causes, and they briefly explained the theory of the carbon credits, carbon markets and the development of carbon projects. ECC team took some time to explain carefully to the stakeholders that the transfer of rights to the carbon credits generated using the stoves would be transferred to ECC of the entire project. The carbon waiver was demonstrated to be on the strap that wraps the stove box, and the Paper Strip on the Opening of the Stove Box and by the end user cutting this strap/strip, they would be waiving their claims to any Verified Emission reductions generated using that stove. The purpose for this and the way in which ECC would use the revenues from the sale of the carbon credits was explained clearly in the presentation during the LSC meeting.

### Questions and answers session:

Stakeholders raised many questions about the price and quality of the ICS, the expected project timeline, and the distribution plans. They expressed strong interest in community involvement, particularly the involvement of women. Stakeholders also emphasized the importance of ensuring that the stoves reach rural parts of Zambia at an affordable price, as well as how to engage organized women's groups in rural areas and enable them to pay in small monthly instalments. They were further interested in understanding the quality standards and project guidelines governing the implementation. All these questions and comments were fully and satisfactorily addressed by the project proponents.

### Presentation of the Safeguarding Principles and Sustainability assessment of the project:

ECC staff explained the project's Safeguarding Principles and their assessment. The stakeholders were continuously consulted for feedback and comments, as an open discussion. The meeting continued with a presentation of the SDGs, and on the positive impacts of the project on a few specific SDGs. Participants agreed with the assessment and did not have further comments. ECC staff presented the grievance mechanism as well as how the sustainable development impacts will be monitored.

### Closure of the meeting:

The evaluation forms were then distributed to the participants. The team expressed its appreciation to all participants who attended the meeting and who offered many constructive suggestions. The meeting closed with a demonstration with the Ecoa Char stoves.

### COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING THE STAKEHOLDER MEETING

Gender of Stakeholder	Stakeholder comment	Was comment taken into account (Yes/No)?	Explanation (Why? How?)
M	Does ECC promote Commercial and institutional stoves, and will they be part of the project?	Yes	ECC does produce and distribute other types of stoves, including commercial and institutional. However currently we are focusing on the domestic stoves specifically ECOA Char.
F	What procedures will you follow in monitoring and evaluation process to ensure the right information is relayed to the households?	Yes	ECC will use its Customer Experience team to communicate all project-related information to households. Specific contact details for the Customer Experience team will be provided to all end users, ensuring that any questions or concerns can be relayed swiftly.

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M	Are the stoves installed with a Serial number for monitoring	Yes	Every ECC stove have a Unique Serial number which is used to identify every stove. Upon purchase, the end user should register his/her details for traceability.
F	What is the cost of the Stove to the end users. Will the stove price be affordable to the target users which are low income households?	Yes	The subsidy of the end-user price will be made possible through carbon finance and will make the stove affordable.
F	Do the Charcoal stoves use the normal charcoal produced locally?	Yes	ECOQ Char stove uses the normal charcoal produced by the locals across the country, however, other forms of charcoal such as charcoal briquettes can still be used with ECOQ char stoves.
M	What is the lifespan of a ECOQ Char? Can it be cleaned easily?	Yes	The expected lifespan of the ECOQ Char is 7-9 years, but it also depends on if the user respects the mode of use and is performing proper maintenance as per ECC instruction. Yes, the stove can be cleaned easily. All the instructions are indicated in the user manual and communicated during the sales process.
M	How can we recognize a counterfeit from a real Jikokoa?	Yes	All ECC stoves come in their original box with a serial number and a warranty booklet ensuring the quality of the product and the after-sale services. The ECOQ Char stove warranty period is 1 year. In addition, all ECOQ Char stoves have Unique Serial Number and are sold by authorized ECC Sales agent and promoters.
M	Are there plans for ECC to collaborate with the Government and other stakeholders to have a	Yes	ECC will collaborate with the relevant government sectors and other

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	total shift from biomass stoves other cleaner stoves		<p>stakeholders in the market to support transition to more clean fuels.</p> <p>By being part of the clean cooking environment in Malawi, ECC will stay up to date with the developments of the cooking sector and will participate in all discussions for transition to more cleaner stoves.</p>
F	How will the stoves be repaired and how will be the process?	Yes	ECC will be establishing repair stations across different regions. This will generate Decent Work thus, contributing to Sustainable Development Goals. Registered households with a warranty will have the repair within the warrant guidelines, hence all encouraged to register the stove upon Purchase.
M	Are there plans to extend the Burn Cookstoves to other Regions which are believed to be using a lot of Charcoal and Firewood.	Yes	This Voluntary project of activity will cover 2 regions (Blantyre and Lilongwe) across Malawi for both Urban, Peri-Urban, however, they may opt to cover other regions in future as defined in their strategic project boundaries guidelines.
M	Which actions is ECC implementing to raise awareness on the negative impacts of climate change?	Yes	ECC & ECS is continuously working to provide information and awareness on the impacts of climate change. This is done in all segments of its operations through trainings, awareness and marketing campaigns, local stakeholders consultations and other means of reaching its main audience
F	ECO Char uses charcoal which means that trees are cut down and this contributes to deforestation. How is this	Yes	ECO Char uses at least 50% less than the traditional cookstoves, It is not yet the perfect solution but a step forward, with the long-term goal to replace non-renewable biomass by renewable one.

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	project different from others in terms of impacts on the environment?		The use of Improved Ecoa char stove means reduced deforestation and equally reduced Carbon Emissions in the atmosphere hence mitigating the impacts of climate change.
M	Apart from Distribution of Cookstoves, can BURN work on how to equally support the end users with reforestation activities which will help in fighting impacts of climate change	Yes	ECC & ECS is currently working on the development of side activities that could contribute to the restoration of forests, on which the community will be informed, once rolled out.
F	Malawian communities typically have extended families, meaning that the average family size is more than five people. Will this stove be able to hold pots that are suitable for this family size?	Yes	The Ecoa Char is capable of cooking for 0–12 people; therefore, it is still ideal for such an extended family size.
M	What are the notable advantages and disadvantages of ECOA Char stoves?	Yes	<p>The stove saves charcoal, reduces indoor air pollution, lowers health risks associated with indoor air pollution, and helps the user save time while cooking, among other benefits.</p> <p>There are no notable disadvantages of a continuous use of ECOA Char stove.</p>
F	Why are you only targeting urban and peri urban areas?	Yes	According to research conducted before the project implementation, it was established that the regions that use charcoal as their primary fuel the most are urban and peri-urban areas. To ensure the full impact is felt, it would be prudent for these charcoal stoves to be distributed in the regions where they

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			are most needed — the urban and peri-urban areas.
M	What are the measures being put in place to prevent double counting of emissions at the household level.	Yes	During distribution, the sales agents conduct pre-technology installation surveys to understand the different types of cookstoves used in each household. If a household already has an improved cookstove from another project developer, it is skipped and deemed ineligible for the ECOA Char installation.
F	What procedures will you follow in monitoring and evaluation process to ensure the right information is relayed to the households?	Yes	ECC will use its Customer Experience team to communicate all project-related information to households. Specific contact details for the Customer Experience team will be provided to all end users, ensuring that any questions or concerns can be relayed swiftly.

## SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OF SAFEGUARDING PRINCIPLES

It was explained during the meeting that the aim of the project is to disseminate highly efficient clean cookstoves that would reduce the amount of charcoal used by households. By this, the project would have positive social, economic, and environmental impacts. The project will follow all safeguarding principles as described in the table below





Safeguarding Principle	Assessment
<b>Human Rights</b>	The Project respects internationally proclaimed human rights and is not complicit in violence or human rights abuses of any kind as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The project will not discriminate with regards to participation and inclusion.
<b>Gender Equality and Women's Rights</b>	The project activity does not endorse any form of discrimination based on gender. The project will take into account gender roles and the abilities of women and men to participate in the decision/design of the project activity. It will be ensured that both women/women association and men will be invited to the

	stakeholder consultation so that a representative number of stakeholders of both genders will be present at the local stakeholder consultation meeting.
<b>Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions</b>	The project will not expose the community to increased health risks and is not adversely affecting the health of the workers and the community.
<b>Cultural Heritage, Indigenous Peoples, Displacement and Resettlement</b>	The project activity will not have any negative impact on cultural heritage, indigenous people nor will it displace or resettle people.
<b>Corruption</b>	The Project doesn't involve, be complicit in or inadvertently contribute to or reinforce corruption or corrupt Projects.
<b>Economic Impacts</b>	The project will respect all labour rights. No negative economic consequences are expected from the project activity. On the contrary, it is expected that the project contributes to sustainable economic growth.
<b>Climate and Energy</b>	The project will reduce GHG emissions as will be monitored and verified in line with the carbon standard requirements
<b>Water</b>	The project will not affect natural water patterns/flows or cause any additional erosion and/or water body instability.
<b>Environment, ecology and land use</b>	The project will not have any negative impact on the environment and ecology and will not involve the use of land and soil for production of crops or other products. The release of particulate matters and carbon monoxide are significantly reduced by the introduction of improved (more efficient) cookstoves.


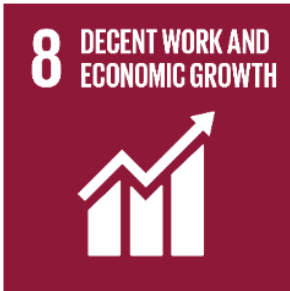


The assessment process was interactive and participative. In the stakeholders fully agreed with the assessment done by BURN.

## SUMMARY OF SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

This Project is to contribute to different Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the following way:

SDGs	Targets	Proposed monitoring Indicator
	1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, 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.	<p>Monetary savings related to the purchase of charcoal</p> <p>Surveys will be carried out to check on the money spent for purchasing charcoal in the project scenario compared to the baseline scenario.</p>
	3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.	<p>Perceived air quality</p> <p>Surveys will be carried out to check on the pollution-related inconveniences (such as smoke levels, itchy eyes and breathing problems) in the project scenario compared to the baseline scenario.</p>
	4.3 By 2030, substantially increase opportunities to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	Number of people receiving skill development training
	5.4 By 2030, Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	The design efficiencies of improved cookstoves allow for shorter mealtimes and reduce the frequency of fuel purchases. This then creates time savings, particularly for women and girls, who provide unrecognized labor associated with fuel collection and meal preparation, creating time that can be used for constructive activities of this group of beneficences training, or community engagement.



SDGs	Targets	Proposed monitoring Indicator
	<p>7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services.</p> <p>7.B By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing States, and land-locked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support</p>	<p>Number of sold/distributed ICS in use</p> <p>The total number of ICS sold/distributed is summed up in the database</p>
	<p>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.</p>	<p>Number of jobs created</p>
	<p>13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.</p>	<p>CO2 emission reductions achieved by the project activity</p>
	<p>15.3 By 2030, Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</p>	<p><b>Reduction in firewood and charcoal.</b></p> <p>Surveys and monitoring of firewood consumption trends in project households compared to baseline households to assess impact on forest resources.</p>

Stakeholders' sustainable development assessment was fully in line with ECC own assessment. In terms of the monitoring of the sustainable development indicators, the stakeholders did not have

other comments or suggestions related to the monitoring of the sustainable development indicators.  
They agreed to proceed with the indicators selected by ECC.

#### CONTACT US:

If you wish to get in touch with the project for more information, please contact us at:

	<b>Method Chosen (include all known details e.g. location of book, phone, number, identity of mediator)</b>	<b>Justification of Choice (best practice)</b>
<b>Continuous Input / Grievance Expression Process Book (mandatory)</b>	ECC Zambia Limited, Plot7, Chindo road woodlands, Lusaka, Zambia.	The stakeholders were pleased to have an input book opened at the office in Zambia. Complaints or any other concerns can be stated and will be filed directly at the head office.
<b>GS Contact (mandatory)</b>	help@goldstandard.org	Mandatory for Gold Standard Projects
<b>Telephone access (optional)</b>	+260 972 195 599	The phone number of Zambia office of ECC will be made known to all project beneficiaries
<b>Internet/email access (optional)</b>	BURN: info@burnmfg.com	BURN's email address will be made known to all project beneficiaries