Gold Standard for the Global Goals

Stakeholder Consultation Report

Version 1 – July 2017

SECTION A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A. 1. Title of the project

Title: Biogas Support Program - Nepal (BSP-Nepal) Activity-1
Date: 27/07/2020
Version no.: 01

A. 2. Project description and current status

>> *Provide brief technical description of the project with information on key dates like start of implementation or construction, date of commissioning etc. Also provide information on current status of the project.*

The Biogas Support Program - Nepal (BSP-Nepal) Activity-1 implemented by the Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC) aims to promote biogas digesters (biogas units) to households in the rural areas of Nepal. The projects under the activities are distributed in different districts of Nepal which is given in table below. The project activity will reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by displacing conventionally used fuel sources for cooking, such as non-renewable woody biomass (firewood) and/or fossil fuels (kerosene and/or LPG). Although the proposed activity reduces CH_4 and N_2O emission reductions by introducing a proper disposal of animal waste and by producing a bio-slurry for replacing the consumption of chemical fertilizers, these emission reductions are excluded from the calculation of emission reductions, which is conservative .

Despite the government's past efforts to develop the biogas market with the support from international donors, namely the German Development Bank (KfW) and the Netherlands Development Agency (SNV), the investment in the biogas sector is a non-commercial activity and faces several barriers in Nepal. With the phasing out of international support for the sector, the umbrella program requires the support of CDM to sustain.

The key elements of the BSP-Nepal umbrella program's approach are:

- Financial support for end-users through micro finance institutions and cooperatives;
- Uniform technical design of biogas units;
- Thorough quality control and monitoring of the production, installation and after-sales services of the participating biogas companies;
- Continuous research & development efforts to optimize the design and operation of biogas digester units and to tailor units them to the needs of the end-users;
- Social marketing through outreach, awareness, and training programs;
- Implementation of a fertilizer extension program to maximize the benefits of bio-slurry, a by-product of the biogas;
- Support to institutions servicing various functions of the biogas sector such as financing, construction, maintenance, manufacturing, training, and marketing, and
- Installation of biogas units on a scale that demonstrates CDM application in the commercialization of the biogas sector.

As part of contributing to the overall goals of the umbrella program, the proposed project activity has installed a total of 9,692 small biogas digester units from November 1, 2003 to June 15, 2004 in a number of districts of Nepal as shown below in Table A.1. The biogas digesters are installed within the territory of Nepal.

Table A.1: Distribution of Biogas Units

Districts	Number of units	Districts	Number of units	Districts	Number of units
Arghakhachi	21	Kabrepalanchowk	190	Rasuwa	23
Baglung	11	Kailali	571	Rautahat	70
Baitadi	1	Kanchanpur	469	Rupandehi	279
Banke	148	Kapilbastu	220	Sankhuwasabha	31
Bara	124	Kaski	573	Saptari	8
Bardiya	264	Kathmandu	70	Sarlahi	181
Bhaktapur	60	Lalitpur	101	Sindhuli	200
Chitawan	575	Lamjung	249	Sindhupalchowk	29
Dadeldhura	10	Mahottari	45	Siraha	11
Dang	352	Makawanpur	596	Solukhumbu	10
Darchula	29	Morang	398	Sunsari	226
Dhading	54	Myagdi	26	Surkhet	81
Dhankuta	135	Nawalparasi	423	Syangja	273
Dhanusa	13	Nuwakot	103	Tanahu	694
Dolakha	112	Palpa	215	Taplejung	9
Doti	5	Panchthar	41	Terathum	3
Gorkha	171	Parbat	74	Udayapur	91
Gumi	74	Parsa	21	**Total**	**9692**
Ilam	107	Pyuthan	19		
Jhapa	707	Ramechhap	96		

A biogas plant produces biogas, thermal energy for cooking. The power equivalent of the installed biogas units ranges from 1.16 KW to 2.32 KW and the total installed equivalent generation capacity of the proposed project activity totals 14.73 MW. The estimated average annual emission reduction from the project activity during this crediting period is 35,607 tCO_2e

Contribution to Sustainable Development

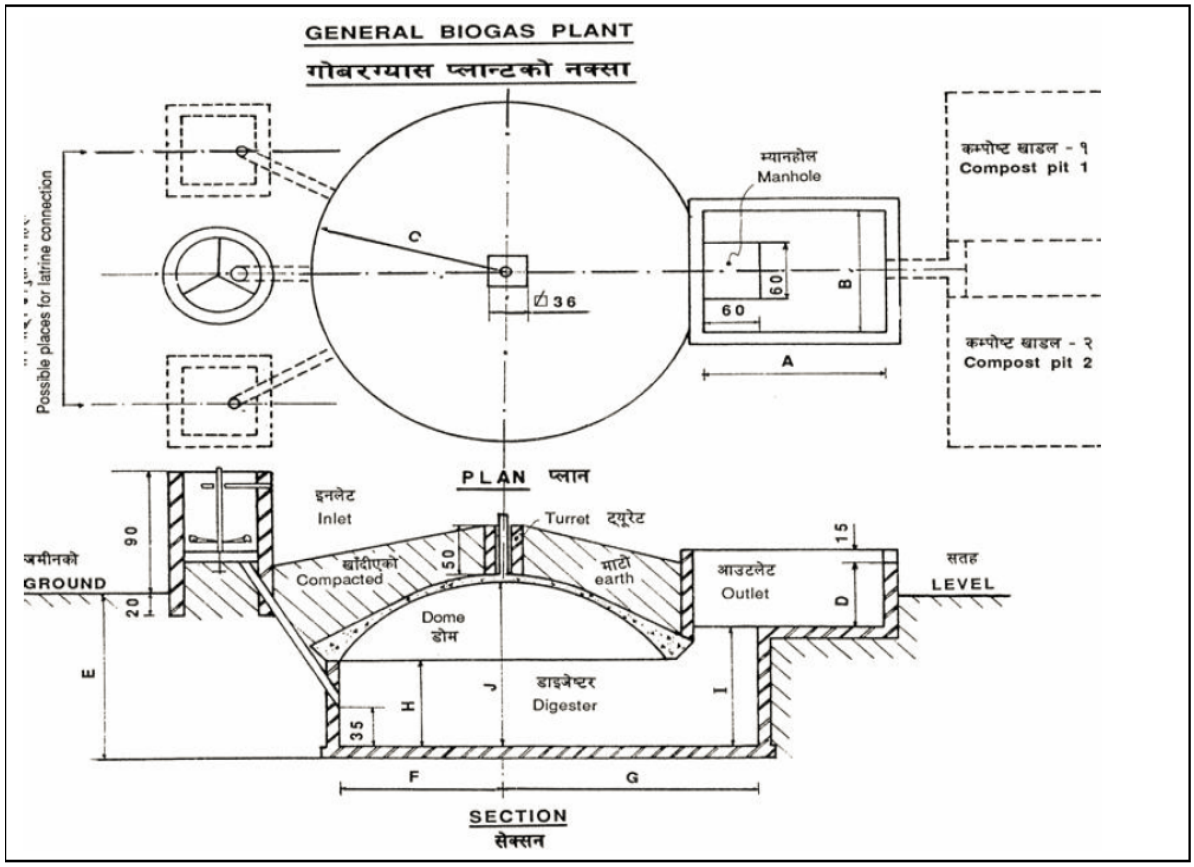
At the local level, the BSP-Nepal program has multiple social benefits. A major household benefit is the reduction in time and energy spent by women and children in collecting firewood for cooking. The project will attach latrines to biogas units providing better sanitation to rural households. Potential employment will add more than 15,000 people-years for skilled people in the construction, maintenance, marketing, and financing of biogas units. The use of biogas means negligible smoke, hence better family health. Moreover, the residual biological slurry from the biogas units can be used as superior organic fertilizers to enhance agricultural yields.

At the national level, the umbrella program supports the Nepali Government's sustainable energy goals as laid out in 10th Five Year Plan to improve energy access for rural poor and to reduce rural poverty by providing high quality biogas units to poor households at an affordable price. Additionally, the project

will support forest conservation goals by substituting the non-renewable biomass used as firewood, with biogas, the renewable source of energy.

The PA is registered with the UNFCCC as a CDM project on 27/12/2005. Until now, two crediting period are successfully completed and the project is running in 3rd CDM crediting period. The project activity promotes the biogas digester ranging from 2 m3 to 10 m3 with the operational life of 20 years. Different parts of the biogas digester are given in the Figure below.

Figure A.4.2



SECTION B. DESIGN OF STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION PROCESS

B. 1. Design of physical meeting(s)

i. Agenda

No classical agenda existed as no physical meeting was required for the registration under UN back in 2005. Instead, detailed household surveys were done with biogas users and non-users from two different sample districts. Those surveys were complemented with focus group discussions as well as key informants interviews.

Further, stakeholders were consulted as part of the Integrated Evironment Impact Assessment" study which was explicitly conducted to collect information to quantify the impacts of the biogas support programme of which the PA-1 is part of. The study was intended to serve as a basis for providing recommendations for the fourth phase of BSP (2003-2010).

ii. Key project information

The Biogas Support Program - Nepal (BSP-Nepal) Activity-1 implemented by the Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC) aims to promote biogas digesters (biogas units) to households in the rural areas of Nepal. This Project Activity (PA) is registered as Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Project on 27 December 2005. This project includes 9,692 biogas digesters which were implemented between 01/11/2003 and 15/06/2004. The project has already completed its 2nd crediting period and running under 3rd crediting period for CDM. The third CDM crediting period starts from 01/08/2018 to 31/07/2025.

iii. Invitation tracking table

Physical meeting was not conducted for stakeholder consultation. The LSC was part of the survey of the biogas users. The deviation for this is approved by GS on 01/07/2020.

iv. Text of individual invitations

N/A

v. Text of public invitations

N/A

B. 2. Description of other consultation methods used

Stakeholder Consultations took place in two different ways.

1) Detailed household surveys were done with biogas users and non-users representing the major ethnic/caste groups from two different sample districts (in Dhanusha and Baglung regions). Those surveys were complemented with focus group discussions as well as key informants interviews.

2) Further, stakeholders were consulted as part of the "Integrated Evironment Impact Assessment" study which was explicitly conducted to collect information to quantify the impacts of the biogas support programme of which the PA-1 is part of. The study was intended to serve as a basis for providing recommendations for the fourth phase of BSP (2003-2010).

   An extensive households survey was conducted in 2001 and was supplemented by the review of relevant literature. A total of 19 districts covering 4 development regions of the country were chosen for sampling. Out of the 19 districts, 10 districts comprise Hills and 9 districts comprise Terai. Altogether 1,200 respondents, being composed of 600 biogas households (HH) (selected from BSP computerized database), and 600 non-biogas HH (sampled in the field). Out of 600 HHs, 278 HHs (46%) were in the Terai and the rest 322 HHs (54%) were in the Hills.

SECTION C. CONSULTATION PROCESS

C. 1. Participants' in physical meeting(s)

i. List of participants

N/A

ii. Evaluation forms

N/A

C. 2. Pictures from physical meeting(s)

N/A

C. 3. Outcome of consultation process

i. Minutes of physical meeting(s)

>>Ensure that you include a summary of the meeting as well as all comments received. Please also include discussion on Continuous Input / Grievance Expression methods; comments, agreement or modifications suggested by Stakeholders.

The physical meeting was not conducted. However, the continuous grievance mechanism was in place wherein any stakeholders who wants to put the grievances could do it through a letter, phone numbers etc. In the later part of the year, a grievance section in AEPC's website is provided to put any grievances.

ii. Minutes of other consultations

N/A

iii. Assessment of all comments

The overall perceptions of the majority of the respondents surveyed about the social, economical, and environmental benefits of the biogas units was positive and they had not perceived any negative social impacts of the BSP at both household and communities levels in both Hills and Terai regions. According to the end-user survey, a majority of the biogas households expressed high satisfaction in the performance of the biogas digester units. The regular user survey conducted for the monitoring of CDM in last decades shows the satisfaction of the people.

iv. **Revisit sustainability assessment**

Are you going to revisit the SDG and safeguards assessment?	**Yes**	**No**
Please note that this is necessary when there are differences between your own assessment and feedback collected during stakeholder consultation.	☐	☒

Give reasoning behind the decision.

The sustainability matrix was populated with due participation from the stakeholders conducted for Nepal Biogas Support Programme-PoA which is a similar program registered in CDM and GS4GG in Nepal by AEPC. None of the indicators was indicated as negative. Further, no any deviation for any SD indicator in comparison with the PoA-DD of Nepal Biogas Support

Programme-PoA was noted in recent years. So, being a similar technology and similar in the nature of the project, the PA-1 follows the same sustainability matrix prepared for the Nepal Biogas Support Programme-PoA.

v. Summary of alterations based on comments

>> *If stakeholder comments have been taken into account and any aspect of the project modified, then please discuss that here.*

N/A

SECTION D. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT

D. 1. Own sustainable development assessment

i. Safeguard assessment

Safeguarding principle	Assessment questions	Assessment of relevance to the project (Yes/potentially/no)	Justification	Mitigation measure (if required)
3.1. Human Right	a. The Project Developer and the Project shall 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 Rights b. The Project shall not discriminate with regards to participation and inclusion.	a. No b. No	**a.** The project doesn't involve any activity that affects human right but promotes the human rights to have access to clean energy and environment. **Conclusion: the parameter will not be monitored.** b. The project shall not discriminate any people to have biogas plants rather it enhances the participation and inclusion. **Conclusion: the parameter will not be monitored.**	
3.2 Gender Equality and Women's Rights	1. The Project shall complete the following gender assessment questions in order to informRequirements 2-4, below: a) Is there a possibility that the Project might reduce	a) No	a) The project enhances the women's access and entitlement of benefits. Since the women will be direct user of the Biogas stoves, it will benefit women by reducing their exposure to the indoor air pollution thereby improving their health. In addition, the replacement of firewood after the installation of Biogas will reduce	

	or put at risk women's access to or control of resources, entitlements and benefits? b) Is there a possibility that the Project can adversely affect men and women in marginalised or vulnerable communities (e.g., potential increased burden on women or social isolation of men)? c) Is there a possibility that the Project might not take into account gender roles and the abilities of women or men to participate in the decisions/designs of the project's activities (such as lack of time, child care duties, low literacy or educational levels, or societal discrimination)? d) Does the Project take into account gender roles and the abilities of women or men to benefit from the Project's activities (e.g., Does the project criteria ensure that it includes minority groups or landless peoples)? e) Does the Project design contribute to an increase in women's workload that adds to their care responsibilities or that prevents them from engaging in other activities? f) Would the Project potentially reproduce or further deepen discrimination against women based on gender, for instance, regarding their full participation in design and implementation or access to opportunities and benefits?	b) No c) No d) Yes e) No f) No g) No	workload of women for the collection of firewood. Reduced workload for firewood collection results in time saving that the women can use for other productive activities. **Conclusion: the parameter will not be monitored** b) The project will not adversely affect men and women in marginalized or vulnerable communities. Implementation of the project will contribute towards preservation of common resources in form of "firewood". Households duties related to firewood collection, cooking and cleaning utensils remain with women. The project therefore tends to decrease burden on women and won't result in social isolation of men. **Conclusion: the parameter will not be monitored** c) The project duly accounts the gender roles. Time saving is one of the key benefits from the project which the beneficiary can utilize to fulfill their gender roles. With the saved time, one can perform the respective gender role more effectively. **Conclusion: the parameter will not be monitored** d) The project shall make every effort to include landless people in its design. Benefits from the project is expected to culminate in form of creation of entrepreneurial opportunities. While the focus is on capacitating women to take advantage of the entrepreneurial opportunity, the project shall not deprive men from the families of minority groups or the landless people to take advantage of the capacity building activities. **Conclusion: the parameter will not be monitored as the PA is implemented already** e) No, the project is not designed such that it increased workload of women and their care responsibilities. By	

	g) Would the Project potentially limit women's ability to use, develop and protect natural resources, taking into account different roles and priorities of women and men in accessing and managing environmental goods and services? **h)** Is there likelihood that the proposed Project would expose women and girls to further risksor hazards?		introducing Biogas , the overall performance of women in kitchen will be more efficient. This will enable them engage in other activities. **Conclusion: the parameter will not be monitored** f) The project will enhance social participation and decision making role of women. Moreover, the women are expected to develop entrepreneurial skills which will enable them economically to deal with the household problems. The potential of the project to enable women economically will help reduce discrimination against women rather than deepening it. **Conclusion: The parameter will not be monitored**	
3.3 Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions	1. The Project shall avoid community exposure to increased health risks and shall not adversely affect the health of the workers and the community	Yes	The Project shall make every effort to avoid health risks of worker during construction of biogas . Emission reduction and reduction on indoor air pollution is one of the key benefits of the project for community that will improve the health of those communities. **Conclusion: Since the PA is registered already in CDM and all the biogas are constructed already, health risk of the worker will not be monitored but the emission reduction and improve in health condition will be monitored.**	
3.4.3 Land Tenure and Other Rights	a. Does the Project require any change to land tenure arrangements and/or other rights?	No	The project units are simple and small in dimension. This will not involve anything related to removal of sites, objects or structures of cultural significance. Therefore the safeguarding principle under discussion will not be triggered by the project. **Conclusion: the parameter will not be monitored**	
3.5 Corruption	1. The Project shall not involve, be complicit in or inadvertently contribute to or reinforce corruption or corrupt Projects.	No	The project implementation is guided by the government 's subsidy policy and duely followed the set quality standard. Quality assurance and quality control is an intregal part of	

			the project impleentation ensuring the quality throughout the project cycle. **Conclusion: The parameter will not be monitored.**	
3.6.2 Negative Economic Consequences	a. The Project Developer shall demonstrate the financial sustainability of the Projects implemented, also including those that will occur beyond the Project Certification period. b. The Projects shall consider economic impacts and demonstrate a consideration of potential risks to the local economy and how these have been taken into account in Project design, implementation, operation and after the Project. Particular focus shall be given to vulnerable and marginalised social groups in targeted communities and that benefits are socially-inclusive and sustainable.	No	The project units are simple and have less moving parts. So, it requires less repair and maintenance. Hence the operational cost is less in comparision to the energy access and the additional benefits that it offers. So, the project implemented is sustainable financially and has positive economic impacts by offering the time saving, ease in cleaning the utensils, reducing health risk and indoor air pollution etc. This has no any negative economic impacts. **Conclusion: the parameter will not be monitored**	
4.1.1 Emissions	Will the Project increase greenhouse gas emissions over the Baseline Scenario?	No	The project will replace the use of non-renewable biomass. The baseline of the project is the use of firewood for cooking. So, this project will reduce the GHG over the baseline scenario. **Conclusion: The parameters will be calculated based on the operational status of the project units**	
4.1.2 Energy Supply	Will the Project use energy from a local grid or power supply (i.e., not connected to a national or regional grid) or fuel resource (such as wood, biomass) that provides for other local users?	No	The project will not use any fuel resources that provides for other local users. It uses the animal dung. Therefore the safeguarding principle under discussion will not be triggered by the project. **Conclusion: the parameter will not be monitored**	

4.2.1 Impact on natural water patterns and flow	Will the Project affect the natural or pre-existing pattern of watercourses, ground-water and/or the watershed(s) such as high seasonal flow variability, flooding potential, lack of aquatic connectivity or water scarcity?	No	The project requires very less water to make the slurry that can be fetched at household level itself. Therefore the safeguarding principle under discussion will not be triggered by the project. **Conclusion: the parameter will not be monitored**	
4.2.2 Erosion and/or water body stability	Could the Project directly or indirectly cause additional erosion and/or water body instability or disrupt the natural pattern of erosion?	No	The project units are installed at household level which will not directly or indirectly cause additional erosion or disrupt the water body. Therefore the safeguarding principle under discussion will not be triggered by the project. **Conclusion: the parameter will not be monitored**	
4.3.1 Landscape modification and soil	Does the Project involve the use of land and soil for production of crops or other products?	No	The project doesn't involve use of land and soil for production or crops or other products. Therefore the safeguarding principle under consideration will not be triggered by the project. **Conclusion: the parameter will not be monitored.**	
4.3.2 Vulnerability to Natural Disaster	Will the Project be susceptible to or lead to increased vulnerability to wind, earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding, drought or other extreme climatic conditions?	No	The project units are household based units and are less succesptible to the natural disasters. Therefore the safeguarding principle under consideration will not be triggered by the project. **Conclusion: the parameter will not be monitored.**	
4.3.3 Genetic Resources	Could the Project be negatively impacted by the use of genetically modified organisms or GMOs (e.g., contamination, collection and/or harvesting, commercial development)?	No	The project doesn't involve any activity related to GMOs. Therefore the safeguarding principle under consideration will not be triggered by the project. **Conclusion: the parameter will not be monitored.**	
4.3.4 Release of pollutan	Could the Project potentially result in the release of pollutants to the environment?	No	The project units generally yields the Biogas and Bio-slurry. The biogas is used for the cooking purposes whereas the bioslurry is used as nutrients (manure) in	

ts			the agriculture field. Therefore the safeguarding principle under consideration will not be triggered by the project. **Conclusion: the parameter will not be monitored.**	
4.3.5 Hazardous and Non-hazardous Waste	Will the Project involve the manufacture, trade, release, and/ or use of hazardous and non-hazardous chemicals and/or materials?	No	The project unit does not require or releases any hazardous and non-hazardous chemicals. Therefore the safeguarding principle under consideration will not be triggered by the project. **Conclusion: the parameter will not be monitored.**	
4.3.6 Pesticides and fertilizers	Will the Project involve the application of pesticides and/or fertilisers?	Yes	The project units produces the bioslurry that potentially displaces the chemical fertilizers. Basically due to good content of nitrogen in the fertilizer the bio-slurry is a potent replacer of the Urea . **Conclusion: the parameter will be monitored through the perception survey with the users.**	
4.3.7 Harvesting of forests	Will the Project involve the harvesting of forests?	No	The project doesn't involve any activity that requires harvesting of forest products. Therefore the safeguarding principle under consideration will not be triggered by the project. **Conclusion: the parameter will not be monitored.**	
4.3.8 Food	Does the Project modify the quantity or nutritional quality of food available such as through crop regime alteration or export or economic incentives?	Yes	The project units produces the bioslurry that potentially increases the productivity of crop as it has good content of nitrogen. **Conclusion: the parameter will be monitored through the perception survey with the users.**	
4.3.9 Animal Husbandry	Will the Project involve animal husbandry?	No	The project doesn't involve any activity that requires animal husbandry. Therefore the safeguarding principle under consideration will not be triggered by the project. **Conclusion: the parameter will not be**	

			monitored.	

ii. Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) outcome

>> (Specify the relevant SDG target for each of three SDGs addressed by the project. Refer most recent version of targets here .)

Table below discusses the relevant SDG target for each three SDGs addressed by the project.

SDGs	Targets
3. Good Health and Well beings	• By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination
7. Affordable and Clean Energy	• By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services • By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix • By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States, and land-locked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support
13. Climate Action	• Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning • Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities

D. 2. Stakeholders' Blind sustainable development assessment

i. Safeguard assessment

As no physical stakeholder consultation was conducted for this, the applicable safeguard assessment for Nepal biogas Support Programme-PoA was followed.

ii. Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) outcome

>> (Specify the relevant SDG target for each of three SDGs addressed by the project. Refer most recent version of targets here .)

As no physical stakeholder consultation was conducted for this, the applicable SDG outcome for Nepal biogas Support Programme-PoA was followed.

>>Give analysis of difference between own sustainable development assessment and the one resulting from the blind exercise with stakeholders. Explain how both were consolidated.

Since the safeguard assessment and the SDG outcomes was validated and verified during LSC, during validation and verification of Nepal Biogas Support Programme-PoA which is similar program in nature with the proposed project activities, the applicable final safeguard

assessment and the SDG indicator for Nepal Biogas Support programe-PoA was followed for this project also.

SECTION E. SUSTAINABILITY MONITORING PLAN

E. 1. Discussion on Sustainability monitoring Plan

>>Discuss stakeholders' ideas on monitoring sustainable development indicators. Do people have ideas on how this could be done in a cost effective way? Are there ways in which stakeholders can participate in monitoring?

Since no physical stakeholder consultation was done for the PA, the approach taken for Nepal Biogas Support Programme-PoA will be followed for this project activity as well. The majority of the monitoring parameters relevant to each indicator will be included in the standard GS4GG monitoring report which will be verified by the GS/VVB.

E. 2. Discussion on continuous input / grievance mechanism

>> Discuss the Continuous input / grievance mechanism expression method and details, as discussed with local stakeholders.

	Method Chosen (include all known details e.g. location of book, phone, number, identity of mediator)	**Justification**
Continuous Input / Grievance Expression Process Book		
Telephone access	1. Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC) toll free number: 16600144566 2. Nepal biogas promoters association Central Office Kathmandu: 01- 5535116 3. Nepal biogas promoters association regional offices: 1. Pokhara: 061-526785 2. Butwal: 071-551514 3. Itahari: 025-5817745 4. Nepalgunj: 081-528066 5. Dhangadi: 091- 527379 6. Chitwan: 056- 521749 4. Gold Standard Foundation:	

	Chemin de Balexert 7-9, 1219 Châtelaine International Environment House 2, Geneva, Switzerland e-mail: help@goldstandard.org; certification@goldstandard.org	
Internet/email access	www.aepc.gov.np Grievance section.	
Nominated Independent Mediator (optional)		
Other		

All issues identified during the crediting period through any of the Methods shall have a mitigation measure in place. The identified issue should be discussed in the monitoring report and the corresponding mitigation measure should be added to sustainability monitoring plan.

SECTION F. DESCRPTION OF THE DESIGN OF THE STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK ROUND

>>Once the feedback round will be completed, this section will be completed.

ANNEX 1. ORIGINAL PARTICIPANTS LIST

>> N/A

ANNEX 2. ORIGINAL EVALUATION FORMS

>> N/A