

Project Design Document (PDD)

Pilot Project for W+ Standard

Women's Time Savings from Biogas in Nepal

Document Prepared By WOCAN

Project Name	Biogas Project in Nepal
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1. DESCRIPTION OF W+ ACTIVITIES

1.1 Background

The W+ Standard and its complementary Program Guidance Document were developed in 2012 and 2013 in response to the concern that women - who are often primary farmers and environmental managers in developing economies - are not compensated for benefiting from climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts. Climate and carbon financing mechanisms were identified as providing opportunities to provide benefits to women and support their empowerment, through specific project design enhancements that could improve both women's well-being and carbon project outcomes.

The W+ is a social standard that guides project developers in identifying and measuring the social and economic benefits of building women's empowerment and equality into their projects. However, as the W+ is a social standard that measures women's empowerment improvements in the six domains of food security, health, knowledge and education, time, leadership, and income and assets, further development is required to assure that each of these aligns to the procedures and protocols of carbon project development, and to develop ways to include the distribution and measurement of benefits to women. Because the six domains of the standard must be implementable, measurable and verifiable over a range of project contexts and types, and to be used in conjunction with other standards, WOCAN supported the development of methods for measuring outcomes/impacts in each domain, to produce a set of guidance documents for W+ users.

1.2 Summary Description of the W+ Activities Implemented

WOCAN selected a biogas programme of the Alternative Energy Promotion Center (AEPC) in Nepal for W+ method development, field testing and the first pilot project. Based on a consultation with rural women leaders and AEPC staff of and other interested organisations held in Kathmandu, Nepal in October 2013, the TIME domain was selected for the first method development exercise. WOCAN assembled a Task Force that included carbon project developers, gender and women's empowerment experts, and others to develop a method to measure the impacts for TIME, using both quantitative and qualitative methods, including the development of formulas and survey questionnaires to guide W+ users. Questions relevant to the other five domains and related to Do No Harm assessment were also developed alongside those of TIME and tested in the field.

In May 2014, WOCAN will implement Phase 1 of the first pilot project for the W+ Standard, in 2 districts in Nepal, selected in collaboration with the WOCAN Nepal Coordinator, AEPC, HIMAWANTI and ASTHA. During this Phase, The W+ Team will utilize the TIME method, the questions for Do No Harm assessment and other guidance found in the W+ Program Guidance and Standard to implement the 'proof of concept' phase of the pilot project.

This phase will include the following steps:

- Stakeholder Consultations in the districts
- Baseline Surveys with non-users of biogas (as proxies for the users before they began use of the biogas)
- Measurement of the Results, using the same survey questionnaire with biogas users

- Analysis of Do No Harm, using Survey Questionnaire
- Establishment of revenue sharing mechanism

This work will be reviewed by the Standard Committee (including a social impact specialist and auditor) in mid- September to assure compliance with the W+ standard and protocols for similar standards.

1.2 Project Sector(s) and Type(s)

Energy sector (replacing fuelwood by biogas)

1.3 Project Implementer(s)

Organization name	Alternate Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC)
Contact person	Raju Laudari
Title	Assistant Director
Address of Home Office and Field Office	Kumultar, Kathmandu
Telephone	
Email	rajulaudari@gmail.com

1.4 Other Entities Involved in the Project's W+ Activities

Organization name	HIMAWANTI
Role in the project	Disbursement of revenues to women's groups
Contact person	Rama Ale Magar
Title	Director
Address	Kathmandu, Nepal
Telephone	
Email	nhimawanti@gmail.com

1.5 Project's Activities Start Date(s)

The Project of AEPC in these two districts started prior to 2012, so some households have had biogas digesters for more than 2 years, and some less. For the sake of this application

of the W+ Standard, the start up date of 1 July 2012 was used. The monitoring period was from May to September 2014.

2. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY INPUT

2.1 Stakeholder consultation

The stakeholder consultation required several steps:

Step 1: Listing all the stakeholders by order of Importance and Influence. Both the influence and importance of different stakeholder groups can be ranked along simple scales and mapped against each other, as an initial step in determining appropriate strategies for their involvement. Both variables can be assessed in a preliminary manner based on the knowledge of those familiar with the stakeholders concerned. More in-depth assessments of importance and influence would require direct consultations (for instance, to ask local-level stakeholders for their reactions to a proposed intervention)

Stakeholders in order of Importance and Influence are as follows:

Stakeholders	Levels of Importance ¹ and Influence ²
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s Groups • Private Sector 	<i>Low Influence and high Importance:</i> require special efforts to ensure that their needs are met and their participation is meaningful
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AEPC 	<i>High influence and high importance:</i> should be closely involved throughout to ensure their support for the project
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Administration • Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment • Ministry of Women’s Development 	<i>High influence and low importance:</i> are not the target of the project but may oppose the intervention; therefore, they will need, as appropriate, to be kept informed and their views acknowledged to avoid disruption or conflict
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICIMOD • Relevant donors 	<i>Low influence and low importance:</i> are unlikely to be closely involved in the project and require no special participation strategies (beyond any information-sharing strategies aimed at the ‘general public’).

¹ Importance relates to the degree to which achievement of project goals depends on the active involvement of a given stakeholder. Stakeholders who are important to a project are generally those whose needs the project seeks to meet as well as those whose interests may converge with the objectives of the project.

² Influence refers to the power that stakeholders have over the project. It can be exercised by controlling the decision making process directly and by facilitating or hindering the project’s implementation. This control may come from a stakeholder’s status of power, or from informal connections with leaders.

Step 2: At this stage, a preliminary stakeholder consultation was held with WOCAN's primary partners for the implementation of the project. The meeting was attended by senior leaders/management from HIMAWANT and AASTHA, WOCAN Board Member and WOCAN project staff.

This consultation was to deliberate on strategic ways to proceed with the subsequent stakeholder consultations that were to follow.

A key issue that emerged from the discussion between WOCAN members and management of HIMAWANTI and AASTHA was that at the initial stages of the consultation process with women's groups at the community level, any discussion on sharing of monetary benefits accruing from sale of w+ units could potentially cloud other relevant discussions. It was agreed that the initial stage (s) of the discussion on benefits sharing mechanisms should be limited to generating information on existing mechanisms that are currently employed by women's groups. Such a discussion should explore gaps and opportunities of existing benefits sharing mechanisms to provide an informed basis for a project developer to introduce monetary benefits that (may) accrue with sales of w+ credits .

Step3: Stakeholder consultations were held with representatives of women's biogas user groups: 16 participants in Sindhuli and 12 participants in Kavre. The main aim of the consultations was to introduce the w+ Standard, and generate discussions on existing benefit sharing mechanisms of resources. The consultations were conducted as follows:

- A: introduction to goals and objectives of W+ standard
- B: eliciting the benefits of bio gas technology for women (see annex 1)
- C: eliciting information on existing resource distribution mechanisms, particularly of women's groups (see annex 2)
- D: identify skills development needs to ensure more efficient access to external resources from district and national levels (see annex 3)

Step 4: Information sharing meetings were conducted with District Administration officials were held in both the Districts.

Meetings were held with the following stakeholders from the public and private sectors:

- Local Development Officer (LDO): The District Administration Office is the repository of all development funds for the district and hence, an important source of resources for all local development plans. A district level representation of the AEPC is also situated in this office. Hence, it is important to register the project with the district office to ensure that project activities become part of the district development plans. It is also a potential source of funds that can be accessed by women's groups following capacity building activities designed for phase 2 of the project
- Private sector biogas plant producers: dissemination of biogas plants operate through private sector companies that build and install plants in households, and receive payments from the AEPC. While a mechanism has been created to link biogas developers and installers with local communities, the present challenge is the late payments to installers by the AEPC. As a result, many such bio gas installers have not received payments for work and materials already expended, and such a bottleneck could potentially hinder future expansion of the biogas scheme. Bio gas operators

however, expressed great potential in providing training to local users on plant maintenance and repair.

- Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment. The ministry is represented in the District Administration Office and is an important stakeholder in terms of scaling out of lessons that emerge from the project.
- Ministry of Women's Development: the ministry is also represented in the District Administration. There is very little coordination between the AEPC and the local chapter of the women's ministry at present. However, future potential for collaboration needs to be explored, and hence they need to be informed of developments of the project.

2.2 Training community women as enumerators to conduct the survey questionnaire

A total of 20 women (18 female and 2 male) were trained as enumerators to implement the survey. The surveys were coded and translated into Nepali, and the trainings were conducted in each district for a day each.

The participants were very keen and interested to become enumerators and many expressed satisfaction of actually conducting the survey by themselves rather than acting as assistants to external survey enumerators as many had done so before this experience.

In order to ensure quality of the process, the following process has been established:

- A. Each enumerator is responsible for conducting interviews with 25/26 households
- B. All the enumerators will gather in their respective district headquarters after conducting 5 initial surveys to ensure that they have understood the process and to identify and redress gaps in their knowledge if they exist
- C. Each District is coordinated by a district coordinator who will make visits to each site to ensure that the local enumerators are conducting the survey correctly
- D. The 2 District coordinators are responsible for timely collection of all survey results as well as the quality of information. The final survey data will be submitted to the WOCAN coordinator by June 14, 2014.
- E. This data will then be inputted into a software and the statistician will aggregate the data to be sent to WOCAN in Bangkok, Thailand.

3. SELECTION OF DOMAINS

Based on a consultation with rural women leaders and AEPC staff of and other interested organisations held in Kathmandu, Nepal in October 2013, the TIME domain was selected for the first method development exercise.

4. BENEFIT SHARING MECHANISM

There are several existing mechanisms that serve as informal means to share resources within women's groups in the two project sites. While there is the need to build considerable group capacity to manage resources more effectively, the existing local mechanisms can potentially serve as a foundation for distribution of w+ benefits when they accrue. A recent SDC (Swiss

Development Cooperation) funded study of local savings groups points out many gaps (e.g elite capture, exclusion of poorest families etc), several recommendations have been made to redress such gaps. A resource distribution mechanism for w+ needs to be based on the following considerations in the two project areas:

- At present, the initial consultation with the management of HIMAWANTI and AASTHA proposed that it is too premature to discuss the development for a sharing mechanism for w+ generated resources at this stage of the project implementation.
- However, it was recommended that HIMAWANTI and AASTHA can function as the main body for resource distribution through their local women's groups (bio gas users)
- Additional rules for distribution and access resources by non-user poorer households need to be established through consultation in their various constituency groups. For example, an agreed upon percentage of the total resources needs to be made available to enable poorer non-user households to access interest free loans for installation of bio gas plants
- Such a consultation process will be conducted upon the availability of funds made through the sales of w+ units

Challenge (s)

The main challenge (s) for establishing a resource distribution mechanism are as follows:

- In the absence of a (larger) intermediary body like HIMAWANTI, AASTHA, MICRO FINANCE SCHEME etc), distribution of benefits to smaller, disparate user groups, or to individual households is not a realistic option
- Identification of intermediary groups may be hampered by limited numbers of women's groups or women-led groups

Recommendation (s)

- In the absence of women or women-led intermediary body, W+ benefits can be channeled through existing bodies (co-operatives, federations, larger producer/user groups etc).
- In such cases, a percentage of w+ benefits will need to be put aside for capacity development for integrating gender/women – sensitive approaches for resource distribution.

APPENDIX 1: Activities for Stakeholders in Phase 1 and 2

Stakeholders	Levels of Importance ³ and Influence ⁴	Activities for phase 1 and phase 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's Groups • Private Sector 	<p><u>Low Influence and high Importance</u>: require special efforts to ensure that their needs are met and their participation is meaningful</p>	<p>Capacity development to enable increased access to resources (energy development funds) from District Administration and national bodies. Skills needs identified by women's groups are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leadership 2. Planning for local organizational capacity 3. Biogas maintenance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AEPC 	<p><u>High influence and high importance</u>: should be closely involved throughout to ensure their support for the project</p>	<p>Continual briefing/presentations of project progress Briefing/presentations on gaps identified by private sector in accessing payments Engaging APEC district staff to identify best practices for institutionalizing into national schemes of AEPC</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Administration • Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment • Ministry of Women's Development 	<p><u>High influence and low importance</u>: are not the target of the project but may oppose the intervention; therefore, they will need, as appropriate, to be kept informed and their views acknowledged to avoid disruption or conflict</p>	<p>Information sharing on lessons generated from project implementation to generate feedback to be incorporated into project activities for phase 2.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICIMOD • Relevant donors 	<p><u>Low influence and low importance</u>: are unlikely to be closely involved in the project and require no special participation strategies (beyond any information-sharing strategies aimed at the 'general public').</p>	<p>Information sharing through presentations and publications at the end of the project</p>

³ Importance relates to the degree to which achievement of project goals depends on the active involvement of a given stakeholder. Stakeholders who are important to a project are generally those whose needs the project seeks to meet as well as those whose interests may converge with the objectives of the project.

⁴ Influence refers to the power that stakeholders have over the project. It can be exercised by controlling the decision making process directly and by facilitating or hindering the project's implementation. This control may come from a stakeholder's status of power, or from informal connections with leaders.

APPENDIX 2:

Date	Location	No. of People	Activities	Outcome/Lessons
4 th May	Kathmandu	National Chairperson HIMAWANTI: Roma Ale Magar, Chairperson Kavre District: Nanu Ghatane AASTHASecretary for Sindhuli District Sobha Karki WOCAN Board member: Kanchan Lama WOCAN Nepal Coordinator: Dibya Gurung WOCAN Associate: Barun Gurung	Stakeholder Consultation with HIMAWANTI, AASTHA	<p>A key issues that emerged from the discussion between WOCAN members and management of HIMAWANTI and AASTHA was that at the initial stages of the consultation process with women's groups at the community level, any discussion on sharing of monetary benefits accruing from sale of w+ units could potentially cloud other relevant discussions. It was agreed that the initial stage (s) of the discussion on benefits sharing mechanisms should be limited to generating information on existing mechanisms that are currently employed by women's groups. Such a discussion should explore gaps and opportunities of existing benefits sharing mechanisms to provide an informed basis for a project developer to introduce monetary benefits that (may) accrue with sales of w+ credits</p> <p>It is critical however to determine precise stage (s) of increasing transparency (the level of information increase).</p> <p>Additionally, it is also important to identify the amount and time of information flow (s) to different stakeholders based on the results of stakeholder analysis. This process of stakeholder identification should make clear the <i>importance</i> and <i>influence</i> of each stakeholder (for details see the section on stakeholder analysis)</p>
10 th May	Sindhuli District	16 Beneficiaries (14 women and 2 men)	Initial Stakeholder Consultation with 16 representatives of the beneficiaries of the Bio Gas technology. <u>Step 1:</u> introduction to goals and objectives of W+ standard <u>Step 2:</u> eliciting the benefits of bio gas technology for women <u>Step 3:</u> eliciting information in existing resource distribution mechanisms,	

			particularly of women's groups <u>Step 4:</u> identify skills development needs to ensure more efficient access to external resources from district and national levels	
11 th May	Sindhuli	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistant LDO AECP officials Market Technical Beneficiary 	Stakeholder Consultations with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> District Administration AEPC staff Private sector bio-gas producer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Giving the government stakeholders basic information about W+. Engaging in active discussions about the co-benefits. Discussing their level of involvement and interaction with the project Stakeholders from the public and private sector (s) require separate attention. The district administration and AEPC staff
12 th May	Sindhuli	10 enumerators 4 facilitators	Enumerator Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic information about the project Breakdown discussion of the survey forms Practical attempt of the survey forms. Clarifying doubts about the questions on the survey form Explain the terminologies related to the survey Teaching them the methods of interaction with their interviewee Correcting the mistakes on the survey forms Conversions of time formats
15 th May	Kavre	12 Beneficiaries 4 Facilitators	Grassroot Beneficiary Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detail information given to the grassroots beneficiaries about W+. Getting them familiar with the terms and terminologies. Active interaction and group activities to bring out their perspective about social and personal issues brought about by the use of Bio gas. Understanding what trainings do the beneficiaries want? Discussing the available functioning distribution mechanism in local organizations.
16 th May	Kavre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LDO Women Development Officer 	Government Beneficiary Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Giving the government stakeholders basic information about W+. Engaging in active discussions about the co-benefits. Discussing their level of involvement and interaction with the project

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market Technical Beneficiary • DISC and AECF officials 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussing precedent of the project like Carbon Market. • Discussing the sustainability and outreach of the project • Discussing the different standards of measurements. • Understanding the Bio-Gas User market from the service providers' point of view. Understanding the relationship dynamics between the bio-gas users, the service providers and the government bodies.
17 th May	Kavre	11 Enumerators 4 Facilitators	Enumerators Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic information about the project • Breakdown discussion of the survey forms <p>Practical attempt of the survey forms</p>