

## Narrative report

### 1. General Information

Name of Organisation	Pro Climate International
Address	Buea-Cameroon
P.O. Box	286 Buea
Contact Person	Mr. Jean Claude Tsafack
Email	tsafack@pci-cameroon.org
Phone number	+237 676272887    +237 233323652
Fax number	
Project Title	The Cameroon Heat Retention Cooker Project
Project-No	Gold Standard Reg. No.: GS5444
Project Period	From 08.2017 till 07. 2023
Reporting Period	From 01.02.2018 till 31.07.2018
Date of Report	01.08.2018
Author	Mr. Jean Claude Tsafack  Director

## **2. Change within the organisation**

During the reporting period no changes or important events related to the management structure, to the planning system, to the composition of the staff or to other issues have taken place within the organization.

## **3. Changes of social, political, economic and ecological project context**

The social and political situations in the Anglophones speaking regions (South West and Nord West regions) remain tense. With the arrest of some leaders of the secessionists group, the political crisis can worsen or improve. But many political parties, civil society organizations and international bodies such as the Commonwealth and the United Nations are appealing for dialog between the government and various opposition groups.

The presidential election is planned for the month of October 2018 and many observers are concerned about the increasing violence and insecurity in the affected regions which can lead to civil war.

At the moment, this is not affecting the implementation of the project and its objectives that much. During so called ghost town days, we remain at home and start activities only Tuesday till Saturday. However, if the situation degraded considerably, the management will relocate or intensify the project's activities in the West and Littoral regions which are safer and not following ghost towns movements being initiated by the secessionist groups.

## **4. Outcome and impact**

**Project Objective: Deliver at least 27,967 tons Gold Standard Verified carbon Emissions Reduction (GS-VERs) through the dissemination of 6,000 home made heat retention cooking bags in households of the SW, LT and W regions of Cameroon by 2023**

Indicators	Achievement of objectives	Planned activities	Implemented activities
<p>1. 4.171 tons GS-VERs delivered to EWDE in first quarter of 2019</p>	<p>480 bags from the pilot project are in used and have been generating VERs since 2015. Additionally, the production of 2800 bags by end of 2018 is ongoing to reach at least 3000 bags in operation before 2019.</p>	<p>0.Elaborate a work plan for the project            1-Train 4-6 seamstresses on the production of the bags            2-Produce and distribute 2800 bags by end 2018            3-Train staff on the monitoring and marketing of the bags            4. Establish a functioning production-storage-distribution system of the bags.            5-Identification of communities and women groups and marketing of the bags            6. Maintenance of the database            7. First monitoring campaign under GS registered carbon project GS5444 including 3-days Kitchen Performance Tests and usage survey for about 120 households</p>	<p>0. A work planned has been elaborated. Employment contracts have been signed with the staffs assigned to the project. Contracts have also been signed with the suppliers of raw material notably the fabric and the polystyrene.</p> <p>1. Four seamstresses have been trained in the production of the bags and are working under the supervision of the accountant and the project coordination.</p> <p>2. To date 2578 bags have been produced and 2313 distributed at a subsidized price of 6,000 FCFA per bag, giving a total of 2313 +480(from the pilot phase) equal to 2793 bags in use.</p> <p>3. All staffs have been trained in the distribution and monitoring of the bags and are successfully organizing distribution campaigns in the markets, women’s groups and other associations.</p> <p>4. A functioning production, identification with serial numbers and distribution system of the bags is in place. A store has been rented to store raw material and final product.</p>

		<p>5. Church groups, women groups, associations, governmental organizations are being sensitized about the bags and the feedback is very good. PCI is being invited by various groups to present it project and to sell the bags. The Regional Delegation of the Ministry of Women Empowerment and the Family for the South West Region invited us in Yaoundé to present our project in the framework of the NEPAD activities on Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Programme in Cameroon. PCI is gaining a lot in terms of visibility, confidence from key stakeholders and the common users thank to this project.</p> <p>6. A database (sent via email) has been conceived and entries of produced, stored and sold bags are done and controlled on daily basis.</p> <p>7. Preparations are ongoing for the first monitoring campaign which will take place between mid August and mid October 2018.</p>
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## **4.1 Observations relevant to project progress**

We observed the following:

- We have deploy systematic marketing in markets places, groups and associations in Buea and the bags are becoming very famous, especially among women then they are the ones who manage cooking in many households. But we still have cases where people are still sceptical and still attributing the performance of the bags to magic or witchcraft or are afraid they could get sick eating food cooked inside the bag. We recently took a cooking bag back from a women who first bought it with a lot of enthusiasm but later on told us that her doctor advice her not to use the bag because she could get cancer. In such cases, we still insist on the harmlessness of the bags when used properly.

- We equally observed that staffs from institutions such as schools are very interested in the bag. We found our self explaining how the bag works to students during chemistry and physics lessons under the invitation of their teachers in some secondary schools in Buea.

- Cooking in heat retaining cooking bags is very unusual in Cameroon. This technology is not known by a very large majority of the population. So people don't believe it would work. Cooking demonstrations are crucial and they are considerably contributing to increase the purchase and adoption of the bags. People are also happy to taste free food, sometimes traditional food from the wonderful bag.

- Regarding the production of the bags, we realized that collecting polystyrene from waste wasn't an easy task coupled with the competition with other collectors. But when we visited the company supplying polystyrene, we realized that they have a large stock of recycled polystyrene which they sometimes dispose off in the nature and we agreed with them to crush it and supply at least 50% of recycled polystyrene in every order. The advantage being that they already have a crushing machine. This will enable this company to partly overcome the problem of surplus waste polystyrene in their factory.

A part from magical considerations and scepticism about the cooking bags, no relevant negative outcome of the project can be observed now. Instead the bag is getting very popular and we have the challenge to keep the production and distribution within this micro scale carbon project. Also no event or incident has been observed which could interfere with the accomplishment of the goal of the project which is the contribution to fight against global warming by reducing carbon emissions in the atmosphere.

## **4.2 Methods applied to access project's impact and outcome**

### Direct methods

Direct observations: We visit communities and discuss with group leaders. We demonstrate the use of the bags to groups and at times in market places. Cooking experiments on different food types are conducted, the participants taste it and we get their feedback.

During monitoring, we conduct Kitchen performance Tests directly in Households and we measure their fuel wood consumption within 3-days as to determine if the bag is enabling fuel wood savings or not. We also assess the durability and the quality of the bags in use by the households.

#### Indirect methods

Questionnaire/discussion guide: We administer structured questionnaires to households to evaluate the negative and positive effects of the new bags in their homes. This questionnaire is destined mainly for the evaluation of environmental, social and economic aspects of the bags in the randomly selected households during monitoring campaigns.

#### Trend Analysis

- We organize regular meetings with staff after contact visits, demonstration and distribution of the bags in the communities to adopt a constant communication strategy and gather observations/remarks that will help implementing the project successfully.
- We also listen to the news and watch TV-programs related to environmental protection, especially topics related to climate change.
- We have noted in this regards an increasing interest of the administrative authority for environmental protection, forestry and women empowerment as well as the general public about our project, notably we are increasingly being invited to seminars, conferences where we can present our climate protection project.

## **5. Conclusion**

The planned activities will enable us to achieve the project objective. We rely on the dynamism and experience of our staff but also on the carbon consultant who is assisting us in the monitoring of the bags and the verification procedures in order to claim VERs from the Gold Standard Foundation.

The most important lessons learned during this reporting period can be resumed as followed:

We have observed during the distribution of the bags in the communities that the bags are differently accepted by men and women. In some households, men are supporting the purchase and usage of the bags whereas their wife is against the idea. In the other households, men are reluctant to the idea of buying and using the bags. We are learning therefore that much sensitization has to be done in such a way that many people know about this new cooking technology using a bag. Moreover, even if cooking is still the duty of women in many households, men and women groups have to be sensitized with the same intensity.

The heat retention cooking bag will probably gain more and more ground in the communities. Already now, we can envisage a development project later on in which women groups are producing and marketing the bags as an income generative activity and/or poverty alleviation measure. The micro scale carbon project will lay the foundation for a larger Cameroon wide project, then we are convince that every household in Cameroon needs the wonderful cooking bag which in any case enables energy savings for cooking.

**Appendix: Pictures from the field**

















