

GOLD STANDARD VERIFICATION REPORT

For: CO2balance UK Ltd

REPORT NO.: GS5951-GS6042VER02&04



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Abbreviations used in this Report

CAR	Corrective Action Request
CL	Clarification request
CO2	Carbon dioxide
CO2e	Carbon dioxide equivalent
DR	Document Review
EF	Emission Factor
ERPA	Emission Reduction Purchase Agreement
ER	Emission Reductions
FAR	Forward Action Request
GWP	Global Warming Potential
GS	Gold Standard
GHG	Greenhouse gas(es)
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
kWh	Kilo Watt Hour
MW	Mega Watt
NC	Non-Conformity
NCV	Net Calorific Value
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
ODA	Official Development Assistance
PDD	Project Design Document
PD	Project Developer
tCO2e	Tonnes of CO2 equivalents
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
GS4GG	Gold Standard for the Global Goals
ICS	Improved Cookstove
MWh	MegaWattHour
MR	Monitoring Report
POA	Programme of Activity
SGP	Safeguarding Principles
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SC	SustainCERT
TPDDTEC	Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralised Thermal Energy Consumption
UN	United Nations
VVB	Validation and Verification Body
VER	Verified Emission Reduction
VPA	Voluntary Project Activity

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1 OBJECTIVE AND CRITERIA

1.1 Objective

Gold Standard projects must undergo independent verification of emission reductions and overall compliance with Gold Standard rules as the basis for issuance of Gold Standard Voluntary Emission Reductions (GS VERs).

The objective of this verification is to determine if the GHG statement and other reporting information is accurate and conforms with the criteria defined in Gold Standard rules.

This report details the objectives, scope, criteria, methodology and findings of this process and a final opinion.

The Gold Standard requires that the final version of this report is published in the public domain. The client to whom this report is addressed therefore acknowledges that the final version of this report will be published unless SustainCERT (SC) are informed in writing within 1 business day following issuance of the final version to the client.

1.2 SCOPE

GHG related activity	Verification
Project Title (s)	GS1247 VPA 122 Zoba Anseba Community Safe Water GS1247 VPA 123 Zoba Anseba Community Safe Water GS1247 VPA 124 Zoba Anseba Community Safe Water GS1247 VPA 125 Zoba Anseba Community Safe Water GS1247 VPA 126 Zoba Anseba Community Safe Water GS1247 VPA 129 Zoba Anseba Community Safe Water GS1247 VPA 130 Zoba Anseba Community Safe Water
GS ID (s)	VPA 122 – GS 5951 VPA 123 – GS 5952 VPA 124 – GS 5953 VPA 125 – GS 5954 VPA 126 – GS 5955 VPA 129 - GS 6041 VPA 130 – GS 6042
GS Project Type	CSA – SWS
PoA Title (if applicable)	Improved Kitchen Regimes Multi-Country PoA

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POA ID (if applicable)	GS1294
Responsible Party	SustainCERT

The scope of verification covers the emissions reductions project in that is prepared in accordance with the Monitoring Report of the GS5951, GS5952, GS5953, GS5954, GS5955, GS6041 and GS6042 listed above.

Consistent with Gold Standard requirements, only the following GHGs are considered within the scope of the assessment: CO₂ CH₄ N₂O.

1.3 Criteria

The criteria for this verification are defined in the following documents stated in the Monitoring Report (MR)

- GS4GG Principles & Requirements
- GS4GG Stakeholder Consultation Requirements & Guidelines
- GS4GG Safeguarding Principles & Requirements
- GS4GG GHG-Emissions-Reduction-Sequestration-Product-Requirements
- Design Certified PDD (s) version 9.0

Optional Requirements

- 100-GS4GG-Programme-of-Activity-Requirements-
- Applied methodology Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralized Thermal Energy Consumption Version 1

2 TEAM COMPOSITION

Verification Team

Name	Qualification	Coverage of sectoral/technical area	Host country experience	Conducted Site visit / Remote Audit
Tanvi Bongale	TL	☒ (Energy)	☒	☒
Shivraj Sharma	TL	☒ (Energy)	☒	

Independent Review team and approver

Name	Role	Coverage of technical area
Neha Rao	Independent R	☒ (All)
Nayan Jyoti Deka	Trainee IR	☒ (All)
Neha Rao	Approver	☒ (All)

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3 PROJECT INFORMATION

3.1 Monitoring Period

Start of Monitoring Period	GS5951: 01/12/2020 GS5952: 01/12/2020 GS5953: 01/12/2020 GS5954: 01/12/2020 GS5955: 01/12/2020 GS6041: 01/12/2020 GS6042: 01/12/2020																																																																								
End of Monitoring period	GS5951: 30/11/2021 GS5952: 30/11/2021 GS5953: 30/11/2021 GS5954: 30/11/2021 GS5955: 30/11/2021 GS6041: 30/11/2021 GS6042: 30/11/2021																																																																								
Total Emission Reductions	01/12/2020 to 31/12/2020 <table><tr><td>VPA</td><td>GS5951</td><td>GS5952</td><td>GS5953</td><td>GS5954</td><td>GS5955</td></tr><tr><td>ERs (tCO₂)</td><td>401</td><td>311</td><td>311</td><td>287</td><td>267</td></tr><tr><td>VPA</td><td colspan="2">GS6041</td><td colspan="3">GS6042</td></tr><tr><td>ERs (tCO₂)</td><td colspan="2">537</td><td colspan="3">479</td></tr></table> 01/01/2021 to 30/11/2021 <table><tr><td>VPA</td><td>GS5951</td><td>GS5952</td><td>GS5953</td><td>GS5954</td><td>GS5955</td></tr><tr><td>ERs (tCO₂)</td><td>4374</td><td>3390</td><td>3272</td><td>3136</td><td>2906</td></tr><tr><td>VPA</td><td colspan="2">GS6041</td><td colspan="3">GS6042</td></tr><tr><td>ERs (tCO₂)</td><td colspan="2">5843</td><td colspan="3">5209</td></tr></table> TOTAL <table><tr><td>VPA</td><td>GS5951</td><td>GS5952</td><td>GS5953</td><td>GS5954</td><td>GS5955</td></tr><tr><td>ERs (tCO₂)</td><td>4,775</td><td>3,701</td><td>3,683</td><td>3,423</td><td>3,173</td></tr><tr><td>VPA</td><td colspan="2">GS6041</td><td colspan="3">GS6042</td></tr><tr><td>ERs (tCO₂)</td><td colspan="2">6,380</td><td colspan="3">5,688</td></tr></table>	VPA	GS5951	GS5952	GS5953	GS5954	GS5955	ERs (tCO ₂)	401	311	311	287	267	VPA	GS6041		GS6042			ERs (tCO ₂)	537		479			VPA	GS5951	GS5952	GS5953	GS5954	GS5955	ERs (tCO ₂)	4374	3390	3272	3136	2906	VPA	GS6041		GS6042			ERs (tCO ₂)	5843		5209			VPA	GS5951	GS5952	GS5953	GS5954	GS5955	ERs (tCO ₂)	4,775	3,701	3,683	3,423	3,173	VPA	GS6041		GS6042			ERs (tCO ₂)	6,380		5,688		
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Total SDG 3	92.27% decrease in household smoke (All VPAs)																																																																								
Total SDG 5	1.29 hours per household per day decrease in firewood collection time (All VPAs)																																																																								

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Total SDG 6	16,433 additional people gain access to safe water.					
	VPA	GS5951	GS5952	GS5953	GS5954	GS5955
	Persons	2,546	1,973	1,964	1,826	1,692
	VPA	GS6041		GS6042		
	Persons	3,401		3,032		
Date of MR Report	27/09/2022					
Version of MR Report	4					

3.2 Annual projections

Annual Average Emission Reductions (SDG 13)	10,000 tCO2 for all VPAs					
Total SDG 3	80% reduction in exposure to Household Air Pollution due to boiling water					
Total SDG 5	At least 0.5 hours of time saved by borehole project on average per household per day					
Total SDG 6	VPA	GS5951	GS5952	GS5953	GS5954	GS5955
	Persons	1,919	1,543	1,481	1,538	1,478
	VPA	GS6041		GS6042		
	Persons	2,932		2,855		

4 VERIFICATION OPINION

Unmodified Opinion	☒
Modified Opinion (see reasons below)	☐ N/A
Adverse Opinion (see reasons below)	☐ N/A
Disclaimer of Opinion	☐ N/A

The project representative to whom this report is addressed is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of GHG and other reporting information in accordance with Gold Standard rules.

SustainCERT is responsible for expressing this verification opinion on the GHG and other reporting information based on the evidence gathering procedures documented in this report. The GHG verification was planned and carried out in accordance with ISO 14064-3

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(Specification with guidance for the verification of greenhouse gas statements) to provide a reasonable level of assurance that the information is accurate.

Reason for Modified Opinion (if applicable)	N/A
Reason for Adverse Opinion (if applicable)	N/A
Reason for Disclaimer (not issuing) of Opinion (if applicable)	N/A

Conclusion:

SustainCERT (SC) concludes that:

The GHG emission reductions are calculated without material misstatements for the aforementioned monitoring period and has been prepared in accordance with the verification criteria and is a materially correct and fair representation of GHG other reporting information. Our opinion refers to reported project's information on GHG emissions and resulting reductions, which were determined using the valid and certified baseline, monitoring plan and other relevant documents.

Based on the information we have assessed; we can confirm that the implementation of the project resulted in the aforementioned emission reductions during the corresponding monitoring period.

Authorised Signatory Name:	Neha Rao, Senior Director, CVV Excellence
Signature	DocuSigned by:  4E14C0A23A4744E...
Date of this report approval	17/01/2023
Version of this report	02
Office Location	Luxembourg

The verification of the GHG statement was conducted in accordance with ISO 14064-3 and corresponding GHG scheme.

The responsible party is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the GHG statement in accordance with the criteria.

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5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Desk Review

An initial verification documentary review was conducted by SustainCERT involving

- A review of the data and information presented in the MR to verify their completeness.
- A review of the approved monitoring plan and monitoring methodology
- An evaluation of data management and quality control system used in the generation and reporting of data and information

A Protocol was used to assess each requirement during the execution of assessment activities and is explained below.

Whenever the assessment question does not immediately lead to a conclusion, clarifications (CLs) and corrective action requests (CARs) are issued as Findings/Comments against the relevant Rule and Assessment Question.

If a Findings is closed, it will result in a conclusion of either OK, a Forward Action Request (FAR) or an Observation (OBS). If a Finding cannot be closed and a requirement cannot be shown to be met, an NC (Non-conformity) is issued.

OK, CARs, CLs, FARs, OBS and NC are further explained below:

- OK - issued when a requirement has been met.
- CAR (Corrective Action Request) - issued if one of the following occurs:
 - There is a risk that emission reductions cannot be monitored or calculated
 - Mistakes have been made in applying assumptions, data or calculations of emission reductions that will impact the quantity of emission reductions
 - Gold Standard requirements have not been shown to be met
- Clarification request (CL) - issued if information is insufficient or not clear enough to determine whether a requirement has been met
- Forward Action Requests (FARs) – issued to highlight issues related to implementation that require review at the next verification
- Observations (OBS) - issued where there may be a possible future non-conformity against a requirement.
- Non-Conformity (NC) – issued if a requirement has not been met and cannot be met.

To demonstrate transparency, all Findings are transferred to a separate Review Feedback table (shown below) to provide a written record of how they are discussed and how the conclusion was reached. A transcript of the Review Feedback is available as Appendix 1, which also includes a list of the Supporting Document (s) provided and reviewed.

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5.2 Site Visit

During this verification, objective observer conducted the onsite visit to the project site from 11/04/2022 to 12/04/2022. The same was followed up by a remote audit conducted by the team leader on 24/05/2022 to do the following:

1. Assess the design/operation of the Project
2. Interview personnel and stakeholders regarding the Project operation and data collection procedures.
3. Cross check reported information with evidence observed on site.

Onsite visit and remote audit confirmed that the project has been implemented as per the registered VPA-DD and the monitoring mechanism as explained in the monitoring report.

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Appendix: 1- CLARIFICATION REQUESTS, CORRECTIVE ACTION REQUESTS

Internal Verification Form for GS Micro Scale Projects and Micro VPAs under Gold Standard for the Global Goals

Scope	CSA
Review Types	Verification
Corresponding Templates	Monitoring Report V1.1

Project Details	
Project/VPA Title (s) and GS ID (s)	GS1247 VPA 122 Zoba Anseba Community Safe Water (GS5951) GS1247 VPA 123 Zoba Anseba Community Safe Water (GS5952) GS1247 VPA 124 Zoba Anseba Community Safe Water (GS5953) GS1247 VPA 125 Zoba Anseba Community Safe Water (GS5954) GS1247 VPA 126 Zoba Anseba Community Safe Water (GS5955) GS1247 VPA 129 Zoba Anseba Community Safe Water (GS6041) GS1247 VPA 130 Zoba Anseba Community Safe Water (GS6042)
PoA Title and GS ID	GS1247 Improved Kitchen Regimes Multi-Country PoA

Monitoring Period Information	
Duration of this monitoring period:	01/12/2020 to 30/11/2021
Crediting Period Sequence Number:	1 st
Monitoring Period Sequence Number:	GS5951: (01/12/2020) to (30/11/2021) MP4 GS5952: (01/12/2020) to (30/11/2021) MP4 GS5953: (01/12/2020) to (30/11/2021) MP4 GS5954: (01/12/2020) to (30/11/2021) MP4 GS5955: (01/12/2020) to (30/11/2021) MP4 GS 6041: (01/12/2020) to (30/11/2021) MP2 GS 6042: (01/12/2020) to (30/11/2021) MP2

OO Assigned	Yes ☒	No ☐
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Review Feedback

Review Feedback Round:	i
Supporting Document (s) provided and Reviewed	Round 1: • Monitoring Report (GS5951-55_GS6041-42_MR_MP4-MP2_v1.pdf) • ER Calculation Sheet - (VPA 122_MP4_ER_Calcs_v1.xlsx) - (VPA 123_MP4_ER_Calcs_v1.xlsx) - (VPA 124_MP4_ER_Calcs_v1.xlsx) - (VPA 125_MP4_ER_Calcs_v1.xlsx) - (VPA 126_MP4_ER_Calcs_v1.xlsx) - (VPA 129_MP2_ER_Calcs_v2.xlsx) • (VPA 130_MP2_ER_Calcs_v2.xlsx)

Review Feedback Round:	ii
Supporting Document (s) provided and Reviewed	Round 2: • Monitoring Report (GS5951-55_GS6041-42_MR_MP4-MP2_v4_CLEAN.pdf) • ER Calculation Sheet (GS5951-55 6041-42_ERs_calcs_v4.xlsx) • GS5951-55_GS6041-42_MR_MP4-MP2_v4_TRACK.pdf • RCFs.pdf • Roles and responsibilities.pdf • Sales_Record_Confidential_v2.xlsx • WQT Anseba combined.pdf

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	• ZA_BH_RS MP4.xlsx
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Decision:

Rejected	☐
Request for clarifications and /or corrective action	☐
To be submitted for external verification	☐
Verified	☒

Review Results: Please respond to the following comments and/or requests for additional information and update your project documentation where needed.

Sections	Clarifications and/or corrective action needed	Response by Project Representative
Section D.2	1. Parameter Up,y: As per section D.3, the Up,y “has been capped at 90% to capture the impact of seasonality on the usage”, however the PP applied 92.27% in the ER calculation. PP shall explain.	PP has updated. The 90% cap was wrongfully applied, and the ERs and MR have been updated with the actual value which is 92.27%. In order to capture seasonality, the usage survey asks questions on the water collection habits for both dry and wet season. The usage rate is then calculated weighting the usage rate from the wet season and the usage rate from the dry season (for both borehole and other sources) for crediting purposes. PP has corrected the reference to 90% cap the MR
	Round 2: The PD has provided the usage survey which confirms the value mentioned by the PD i.e., 92.27%.The finding is closed.	
	2. PP is requested to submit the verifiable supporting evidence for each high-risk monitoring parameter:	i. The “Sales_Record_Confidential” is the main monitoring record for the “number of people using each borehole in the project”. The spreadsheet reports the lists of

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Sections	Clarifications and/or corrective action needed	Response by Project Representative
	i. Evidence, monitoring records for the “number of people using each borehole in the project”. The PP shall also clarify how this parameter was monitored with the boreholes which are closed to each other (e.g., ZA011 and ZA043, ZA023 and ZA024, etc.) ii. PP shall clarify if the WQTs were carried out at the required frequency as prescribed in the methodology.	households for each borehole, specifying No. of children/adults and totals, phone numbers and distance from the BH. As these projects are applying TPDDTEC v.1, there isn't specific requirement of the frequency of monitoring of the users lists. The users reported in the “Sales_Record_Confidential” are then used for the SDGs calculations. The users lists for those boreholes in very close proximity are undergoing a duplicate check and duplicates, if found, are removed in order to avoid double counting. ii. As these projects are applying TPDDTEC v.1, the methodology does not specify the frequency. In accordance with the PDDs of the projects included in the review, the quality of treated water should be completed biennial. In order to be more proactive, WQTs are carried out annually for all boreholes included in the project. PP has shared the WQTs results approved by the Water Resources Department of the Ministry of Land Water and Environment.
	Round 2: i. PD has confirmed that users lists for boreholes in very close proximity are undergoing a duplicate check and duplicates, if found, are removed in order to avoid double counting. The rationale accepted to close the finding. ii. PD has provided the WQTs results approved by the Water Resources Department of the Ministry of Land Water and Environment which is sufficient to close the finding.	FAR 1: The duplication check for user lists for boreholes and its outcome shall be demonstrated by the PD in the next verification.
	3. The PP shall describe in detail the actual sampling process for this monitoring period, including: the location (zones, villages) of all monitoring surveys, how the random selection of villages and households were conducted. Please provide sampling protocol, screenshots of random number generation if related.	PP has explained in Section B.1. 1. The boreholes are divided in age groups and given a random number. 2 age groups were identified.

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Sections	Clarifications and/or corrective action needed	Response by Project Representative
		2. A random sample is generated from each of the age group of Boreholes. 3. Successively, after assigning a random number to the households included in the randomly selected boreholes, a minimum of 100 households are randomly selected. 4. For this specific MP, 60 households were selected from the age group 0-1 and 50 from age group 2-3 (a minimum 30 HHs per age group is required). PP has attached the Random Sample
	Round 2: PD has demonstrated the sampling criteria and approach towards selection towards random numbering in a separate MS excel (ZA_BH_RS MP4.xlsx). The finding is closed.	
Section E	4. PP is requested to provide the photos of all grievance expression process books placed at all boreholes	PP has asked our in-country partner to provide the log-books for this MP. If any are available, the log-books will be shared in the next round of review.
	Round 2: Finding is closed based on the FAR 2.	FAR 2: PD shall submit the evidence regarding grievance received for this and next monitoring period during the next verification.
FAR#1 (from previous verification)	5. PD shall provide full transparency on maintenance programme roles and responsibilities. This should include: the process of recording and reporting all faults/breakdowns and when a technology starts working again. It should also include a summary of all planned annual maintenance tasks and the downtime expected for these tasks. Monitoring reports must have % total borehole downtime (and days) recorded transparently in Project Technology Days parameter box.	PP has attached "Roles and Responsibilities" pdf doc. Borehole downtime and days were recorded transparently in the Emission Reduction spreadsheets, reporting also the Reason of the maintenance. PP has updated Project Technology Days parameter box
	Round 2: PD has provided the Roles and Responsibilities document which refers to the responsibilities of interested parties along with frequency. The same is accepted and therefore the finding is closed.	
FAR#2	6. For the next usage survey, PDs are requested to capture impact of seasonality.	In order to capture seasonality, the usage survey asks questions on the water collection habits for both dry and wet season. The

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Sections	Clarifications and/or corrective action needed	Response by Project Representative
(from previous verification)		usage rate is then calculated weighting the usage rate from the wet season and the usage rate from the dry season (for both borehole and other sources) for crediting purposes
	Round 2: Finding is closed.	
FARs not addressed correctly	7. PP is requested to submit the monitoring result for the failure days of the boreholes and consider them in the PTDs.	Failure days have been updated in the Emission Reduction spreadsheets and have been included in the PTDs. PP has also shared the RCFs collected during this MP (please refer to "RCFs" pdf doc)
	Round 2: Relevant evidence and rationale have been provided by the PD therefore the finding is closed.	

Conclusion

The project can be Verified after the above Clarifications and/or Corrective Actions have been resolved.

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Appendix: 2 – FORWARD ACTION REQUESTS

Summary of Forward Action Requests (FARs):

Forward Action Request # 1: The duplication check for user lists for boreholes and its outcome shall be demonstrated by the PD in the next verification.

Forward Action Request # 2: PD shall submit the evidence regarding grievance received for this and next monitoring period during the next verification.

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