

GOLD STANDARD VERIFICATION REPORT

For: Carbonsink Group S.r.l (Carbonsink)

REPORT NO.:
GS6752: MP05
GS7311: MP05
GS7567: MP03
GS7566: MP04
GS10657: MP04
GS10658: MP04
GS10659: MP04
GS10783: MP03
GS10784: MP03



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Abbreviations used in this Report

CAR	Corrective Action Request
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CL	Clarification request
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide
CO ₂ e	Carbon dioxide equivalent
DNA	Designated National Authority
DR	Document Review
EF	Emission Factor
ERPA	Emission Reduction Purchase Agreement
ER	Emission Reductions
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
FAR	Forward Action Request
GWP	Global Warming Potential
GS	Gold Standard
GHG	Greenhouse gas(es)
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IRR	Internal Rate of Return
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
tCO ₂ e	Tonnes of CO ₂ equivalents
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
BH	Borehole
GS4GG	Gold Standard for the Global Goals
ICS	Improved Cookstove
MWh	MegaWattHour
CH ₄	Methane
MR	Monitoring Report
N ₂ O	Nitrous Oxide
POA	Programme of Activity
SGP	Safeguarding Principles
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SC	SustainCERT

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TPDDTE	Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralised Thermal Energy
C	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 validation/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 objectives of this verification are to determine if the environmental information 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

Related activity	Verification
Project Title (s)	GS5658 VPA 7: Water is Life, Madagascar GS5658 VPA 9: Water is Life - Phase II, Madagascar GS5658 VPA 13: Water is Life, Madagascar GS5658 VPA 14: Water is Life, Madagascar GS5658 VPA 16: Water is Life, Madagascar GS5658 VPA 17: Water is Life, Madagascar GS5658 VPA 18: Water is Life, Madagascar GS5658 VPA 23: Water is Life, Madagascar GS5658 VPA 24: Water is Life, Madagascar
Project ID (s) (i.e.: GS-ID)	GS6752 GS7311 GS7567 GS7566 GS10657 GS10658 GS10659

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	GS10783 GS10784
Project Type	Borehole
PoA Title (if applicable)	PoA – Climate Finance for Sustainable Development
POA ID (if applicable)	GS5658
Responsible Party	Carbonsink Group S.r.l (Carbonsink)
Validation/Verification programme	GSF

The scope of verification covers the emissions reductions project in that is prepared in accordance with the Monitoring Report of the GS ID (s) listed above.

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

Consistent with SC accreditation scope, only the following GHGs are considered within the scope of the assessment: CO₂ CH₄ N₂O.

2 TEAM COMPOSITION

Validation/Verification Team

Name	Qualification	Coverage of sectoral/technical area	Host country experience	Conducted Site visit / Remote Audit
Nayan Jyoti Deka	TL	☒ (All)	☒	☒
Muskan Chawla	Auditor	-	-	-
Alistair Galloway	Trainee Auditor	-	-	-

Independent Review team and approver

Name	Role	Coverage of technical area
Indrapal Parmar	Independent R	☒ (All)
Shivraj Sharma	Approver	N/A

3 PROJECT INFORMATION

3.1 Monitoring Period

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Start of Monitoring Period	GS6752: 31/08/2022 GS7311: 31/08/2022 GS7567: 31/08/2022 GS7566: 31/08/2022 GS10657: 31/08/2022 GS10658: 31/08/2022 GS10659: 31/08/2022 GS10783: 31/08/2022 GS10784: 31/08/2022
End of Monitoring period	GS6752: 17/11/2023 GS7311: 25/11/2023 GS7567: 30/08/2023 GS7566: 30/08/2023 GS10657: 30/08/2023 GS10658: 30/08/2023 GS10659: 30/08/2023 GS10783: 30/08/2023 GS10784: 30/08/2023
Total Emission Reductions	GS6752: 2,404 GS7311: 1,938 GS7566: 7,815 GS7567: 7,754 GS10657: 7,772 GS10658: 6,529 GS10659: 7,762 GS10783: 8,584 GS10784: 7,763
Total SDG 3	GS6752: 1,188 GS7311: 950 GS7566: 4,793 GS7567: 4,756 GS10657: 4,767 GS10658: 4,046 GS10659: 4,760 GS10783: 5,377 GS10784: 4,811

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Total SDG 6	GS6752: 1,250 GS7311: 1,000 GS7566: 5,045 GS7567: 5,006 GS10657: 5,018 GS10658: 4,259 GS10659: 5,011 GS10783: 5,660 GS10784: 5,064
Total SDG 12	GS6752: 1 GS7311: 1 GS7566: 1 GS7567: 1 GS10657:1 GS10658: 1 GS10659: 1 GS10783: 1 GS10784:1
Date of MR Report	20/12/2023
Version of MR Report	2.0

3.2 Annual projections

Annual Average Emission Reductions (SDG 13)	N/A since this is verification
Total SDG x	N/A since this is verification
Total SDG y	N/A since this is verification
Total SDG z	N/A since this is verification

4 VERIFICATION/VALIDATION OPINION

Unmodified Opinion	☒
Modified Opinion (see reasons below)	☐
Adverse Opinion (see reasons below)	☐

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Disclaimer of Opinion (see reasons below)

☐

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

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

Considering the following information and the one provided in this report:

Project related activity	Verification
Type of validation/verification	GS6752: 5 GS7311: 5 GS7567: 3 GS7566: 4 GS10657: 4 GS10658: 4 GS10659: 4 GS10783: 3 GS10784: 3
Project Title (s)	GS5658 VPA 7: Water is Life, Madagascar

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	GS5658 VPA 9: Water is Life - Phase II, Madagascar GS5658 VPA 13: Water is Life, Madagascar GS5658 VPA 14: Water is Life, Madagascar GS5658 VPA 16: Water is Life, Madagascar GS5658 VPA 17: Water is Life, Madagascar GS5658 VPA 18: Water is Life, Madagascar GS5658 VPA 23: Water is Life, Madagascar GS5658 VPA 24: Water is Life, Madagascar
Responsible Party	Carbonsink Group S.r.l (Carbonsink)
Type of environmental Information statement	Historical in nature
Start of Monitoring Period	GS6752: 31/08/2022 GS7311: 31/08/2022 GS7567: 31/08/2022 GS7566: 31/08/2022 GS10657: 31/08/2022 GS10658: 31/08/2022 GS10659: 31/08/2022 GS10783: 31/08/2022 GS10784: 31/08/2022
End of Monitoring period	GS6752: 17/11/2023 GS7311: 25/11/2023 GS7567: 30/08/2023 GS7566: 30/08/2023 GS10657: 30/08/2023 GS10658: 30/08/2023 GS10659: 30/08/2023 GS10783: 30/08/2023 GS10784: 30/08/2023
Date of MR Report/PDD	20/12/2023
Version of MR Report/PDD	2.0

Verification period is equal to the monitoring start and end dates mentioned above.

SustainCERT (SC) concludes that:

Verification

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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

Vintage-wise VERs for these VPAs are -

VPA	Start date	End date	Net GHG emission reductions or removals (tCO ₂ e)
GS6752	31/08/2022	31/12/2022	665
	01/01/2023	17/11/2023	1,739
	Total		2,404
GS7311	31/08/2022	31/12/2022	527
	01/01/2023	25/11/2023	1,411
	Total		1,938
GS7566	31/08/2022	31/12/2022	2,633
	01/01/2023	30/08/2023	5,182
	Total		7,815
GS7567	31/08/2022	31/12/2022	2,613
	01/01/2023	30/08/2023	5,141
	Total		7,754
GS10657	31/08/2022	31/12/2022	2,619
	01/01/2023	30/08/2023	5,153
	Total		7,772
GS10658	31/08/2022	31/12/2022	2,200
	01/01/2023	30/08/2023	4,329
	Total		6,529
GS10659	31/08/2022	31/12/2022	2,615
	01/01/2023	30/08/2023	5,147
	Total		7,762
GS10783	31/08/2022	31/12/2022	2,892
	01/01/2023	30/08/2023	5,692

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	Total		8,584
GS10784	31/08/2022	31/12/2022	2,616
	01/01/2023	30/08/2023	5,147
	Total		

Verified GHG emission reductions and removals in the above verification period:

GS6752

Year	Baseline emissions or removals (tCO ₂ e)	Project emissions or removals (tCO ₂ e)	Leakage emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Net GHG emission reductions or removals (tCO ₂ e)
31/08/2022-17/11/2023	2,404	0	0	2,404
Total	2,404	0	0	2,404

GS7311

Year	Baseline emissions or removals (tCO ₂ e)	Project emissions or removals (tCO ₂ e)	Leakage emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Net GHG emission reductions or removals (tCO ₂ e)
31/08/2022-25/11/2023				1,938
Total				

GS7566

Year	Baseline emissions or removals (tCO ₂ e)	Project emissions or removals (tCO ₂ e)	Leakage emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Net GHG emission reductions or removals (tCO ₂ e)
31/08/2022-30/08/2023	7,815	0	0	7,815
Total	7,815	0	0	7,815

GS7567

Year	Baseline emissions or removals (tCO ₂ e)	Project emissions or removals (tCO ₂ e)	Leakage emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Net GHG emission reductions or removals (tCO ₂ e)
31/08/2022-30/08/2023	7,754	0	0	7,754

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Total	7,754	0	0	7,754
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GS10657

Year	Baseline emissions or removals (tCO ₂ e)	Project emissions or removals (tCO ₂ e)	Leakage emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Net GHG emission reductions or removals (tCO ₂ e)
31/08/2022-30/08/2023	7,772	0	0	7,772
Total	7,772	0	0	7,772

GS10658

Year	Baseline emissions or removals (tCO ₂ e)	Project emissions or removals (tCO ₂ e)	Leakage emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Net GHG emission reductions or removals (tCO ₂ e)
31/08/2022-30/08/2023	6,529	0	0	6,529
Total	6,529	0	0	6,529

GS10659

Year	Baseline emissions or removals (tCO ₂ e)	Project emissions or removals (tCO ₂ e)	Leakage emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Net GHG emission reductions or removals (tCO ₂ e)
31/08/2022-30/08/2023	7,762	0	0	7,762
Total	7,762	0	0	7,762

GS10783

Year	Baseline emissions or removals (tCO ₂ e)	Project emissions or removals (tCO ₂ e)	Leakage emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Net GHG emission reductions or removals (tCO ₂ e)
31/08/2022-30/08/2023	8,584	0	0	8,584
Total	8,584	0	0	8,584

GS10784

Year	Baseline emissions or removals (tCO ₂ e)	Project emissions or removals (tCO ₂ e)	Leakage emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Net GHG emission reductions or removals (tCO ₂ e)
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	removals (tCO ₂ e)			
31/08/2022- 30/08/2023	7,763	0	0	7,763
Total	7,763	0	0	7,763

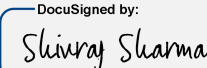
The conclusion is reached based on the following criteria:

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 GS6752: Ver 05, GS7311: Ver 04, GS7567: Ver 08, GS7566: Ver 08 ,GS10657: Ver 05, GS10658: Ver 05, GS10659: Ver 05, GS10783: Ver 04, GS10784: Ver 04.

Optional Requirements

- 100-GS4GG-Programme-of-Activity-Requirements-
- Applied methodology Technologies and practices to displace decentralized thermal energy consumption (TPDDTEC), version 3.1

Authorised Signatory Name:	Shivraj Sharma
Signature	DocuSigned by:  4E3DA74DBE7A462...
Date of this report approval	22/12/2023
Version of this report	01
Office Location	Luxembourg

The verification / validation 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. The completed Protocol is available in section 5.5 below.

5.2 Example Protocol

The name/section of the reporting template is indicated in the top row					
Type	Ref	Rule	Assessment Question	Findings/Comments	Conc.
V or I This indicates the type of assessment. V = validation/verification I = inclusion (a streamlined validation for VPAs)	Details the section and section number in the reporting template (PDD or MR)	Provides a reference to the GS rule	Question used to determine compliance with the rule, or if the rule is applicable	Used to track clarifications or corrective actions raised when the assessment question does not immediately lead to a conclusion.	Conclusion of each assessment question.

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

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- 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 (along with the relevant Rule and Assessment Question) 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.

5.3 Example Review Feedback

Rule	Assessment Question	Findings/Comments	Developer Response
Copied from the Protocol	Copied from the Protocol	Copied from the Protocol, the nature (and number – e.g. CAR 1/CAR 2) of the Finding is included for traceability	The response should include an explanation of what evidence has been provided in response to the Finding

5.4 Site Visit

A site visit is chosen on the basis of risk assessment.

It was determined during our Risk Analysis that a site was not required.

It was determined during our Risk Analysis that a site was not required because objective observer onsite visit was carried out on 05/12/2022 – 12/12/2022, during previous monitoring period verification and no significant changes have been made to the project since this validation. No site visit was therefore undertaken.

The remote document review was carried out on 20-12-2023.

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5.5 ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL

The Protocol covers the key thematic areas in Gold Standard certification and is tailored to the review type and the mandatory reporting template (MR/PDD). The key thematic areas addressed in the Protocol are:

- GHG emission reductions (known as SDG 13 contributions)
- Other SDG contributions
- Compliance with Safeguarding Principles
- Compliance with Stakeholder Consultation (LSC) requirements

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Appendix: 1- CLARIFICATION REQUESTS, CORRECTIVE ACTION REQUESTS

Review Feedback Round:	ii
Supporting Document (s) provided and Reviewed	○ GS6752_9 VPAs_Ex post ER calculation_ver01 • Monitoring-Report_ver01(7) • WCFT Report 2023 • Water_Quality_Tests(1) • Sample Selection_US_WCFT_2023 • Maintenance Plan 2023 • Hygiene campaign reports 2023 • GS6752-7311Deviation-Request-Form_DEV_518
Supporting Document (s) provided and Reviewed	• Monitoring-Report_ver02.docx • REPORT IEST.pdf • Sarah.pdf • Hygiene campaign reports 2023.pdf • Sample Selection_US_WCFT_2023v.2.xlsx • GS6752-7311Deviation-Request-Form_DEV_518.pdf • Grievance Book.pdf • GS6752_9 VPAs_Ex post ER calculation_ver02.xlsx • 9 VPAs.MD.GEN.010.Verification_Final _Findings(6).docx • 7. Maintenance Plan 2023.xlsx

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Rule	Assessment Question	Findings/Comments CAR#01	Developer Response
		Under KPI table in MR, the MP end dates for GS6752 is mentioned as 17/11/2023 , similarly for VPA GS7311, it is 25/11/2023. PD should correct the date of the MP, since these end dates is beyond the realistic Monitoring period end i.e. 30/08/2023. Furthermore, the MSA was signed on 2 nd Nov with SC, so how come , PD has included a futuristic date for MP, as the monitoring is ongoing for these two VPAs while VVB is undertaking the assessment of the project documents.	Deviation Request 518 approved on 22/09/2023. Please refer to "GS6752-7311Deviation-Request-Form_DEV_518" uploaded on SC app. 1 Decision 1.1 Date – 11/09/2023 1.2 Decision The deviation is approved. The PD can include in the last Monitoring Period the residual days to align the same with the end date of the crediting period.
	Rd 2	GS Response (Round II) This comment/request is closed	

Rule	Assessment Question	Findings/Comments CAR#02	Developer Response
		KPI table 1. PD shall check and correct the SDG13 values w.r.t the ER sheet "Summary of SDG 13" for VPA GS7566, GS7567, 10657, 10658,10659, GS10783-4.	Relative sections have been corrected accordingly. Please refer to "Monitoring-Report_vero2" uploaded on SC app.
	Rd 2	GS Response (Round II) This comment/request is closed	

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Rule	Assessment Question	Findings/Comments CAR#03	Developer Response
		Table 2, PD shall correct the end date of MP for GS6752 and GS7311.	Please refer to CAR#01.
	Rd 2	GS Response (Round II) This comment/request is closed	

Rule	Assessment Question	Findings/Comments CAR#04	Developer Response
		Fixed ex ante values have been checked and they match the Design Certified PDD/VPA-dd except for 'EFp,non-co2' cited as 8.692 whereas 'EFb,non co2' is presented as 9.46 in section D.1 of the monitoring report.	For the 2020 IPCC AR4 GWP values have been applied (8.692) and after 01 January 2021, IPCC AR5 GWP values. (9.46). https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/standards/RU-2020-PR-V1.2-GWP-values.pdf
	Rd 2	GS Response (Round II) This comment/request is closed	

Rule	Assessment Question	Findings/Comments CAR#05	Developer Response
		PD shall demonstrate to ensured that a confidence/precision of 95/10 is achieved for each of the project activity or alternatively lower bound of the 95% confidence level is to be used in WCFT. Furthermore, PD shall demonstrate that the equipment used for WCFT are standard measuring equipments.	Please refer to Tab "Water Consumption" within "Sample Selection_US_WCFT_2023 v.2" uploaded on SC app. Each container was weighed using a portable spring scale calibrated according to the manufacturer's. The manufacturer recommends that the calibration be done at the place where the weighing will take place (see picture below).

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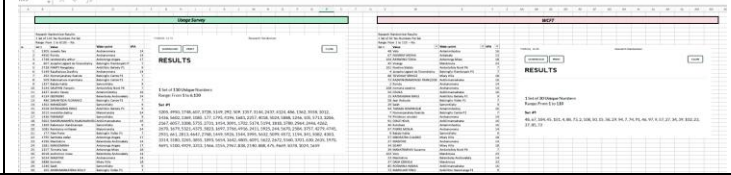


Rule	Assessment Question	Findings/Comments CAR#o5	Developer Response
			
	Rd 2	GS Response (Round II) This comment/request is closed	

Rule	Assessment Question	Findings/Comments CAR#o6	Developer Response
		Section E.5., PD shall check and correct the values of estimated ER as per the approved PDD for the VPAs GS10659 and GS10783	Section E.5 has been corrected.
	Rd 2	GS Response (Round II) This comment/request is closed	

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Rule	Assessment Question	Findings/Comments CAR#07	Developer Response
		PD shall submit the following documents - evidence for project survey and usage survey, baseline water boiling test, , evidence of sample selection on random basis, , evidence of leakage assessment, Hygiene survey – PD shall provide the attendance list.	1. Evidence for project survey and usage survey, please refer to the following documents : - “Sample Selection_US_WCFT_2023 v.2” - “Sarah.pdf” interviewed form screenshot. 2. Baseline water boiling test: “REPORT IEST” 3. Sample selection on random basis, please refer to “Sample Selection_US_WCFT_2023 v.2” 4. Leakage assessment: Section C of the MR 5. Hygiene survey, please refer to “Hygiene campaign reports 2023”. Only the names of the speakers have been registered. For future campaigns, a proper attendance list will be completed. Sample Selection HH 
	Rd 2	GS Response (Round II) This comment/request is closed	

Rule	Assessment Question	Findings/Comments CAR#08	Developer Response
		Section E.4. - The net benefit calculation is to be corrected for the update in baseline emissions computations. the ER sheet still has reference to and uses 8.692 as the factor for calculations instead of 9.46. Open.	Please refer to the response above.

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Rule	Assessment Question	Findings/Comments CAR#08	Developer Response
	Rd 2	GS Response (Round II) This comment/request is closed	

Rule	Assessment Question	Findings/Comments CAR#09	Developer Response
		Refer ER sheet. – PD shall clarify , how they have arrived a Capped operational days of 0.98 for GS6752, similarly please explain the same for other 8 VPAs.	Please refer to “Maintenance Plan 2023” uploaded to SC app.
	Rd 2	GS Response (Round II) This comment/request is closed	

Rule	Assessment Question	Findings/Comments CAR#10	Developer Response
		A comparison of ex ante (estimated) and achieved SDG Impacts has been provided in the monitoring report. Please indicate the original and capped values in section E.6 of the monitoring report for transparency	Section E.5 has been corrected accordingly.
	Rd 2	GS Response (Round II) This comment/request is closed	

Rule	Assessment Question	Findings/Comments CL#11	Developer Response
		Section G.1. - Please submit a formal declaration that no legal challenges arose during the monitoring period. Please also submit the copy of grievance book.	No legal challenges arose during the monitoring period. Please refer to “Grievance Book”
	Rd 2	GS Response (Round II) This comment/request is closed	

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Appendix: 2 - FORWARD ACTION REQUESTS

No FAR has been raised.

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