

Gold Standard and Atmosfair exchange re LifeStraw Grievance reopening January 2017

From: Marion Verles <marion.verles@goldstandard.org>
Date: Thursday, 26 January 2017 at 17:39 **To:** Dietrich Brockhagen <brockhagen@atmosfair.de> **Cc:** "Silke.Karcher@bmub.bund.de" <Silke.Karcher@bmub.bund.de>, Norbert Gorißen <norbert.gorissen@bmub.bund.de>, "Christoph Bals (GW)" <bals@germanwatch.org>, Klaus Milke <klaus.milke@t-online.de>, Denis Machnik <machnik@atmosfair.de>, "freymann@atmosfair.de" <Freymann@atmosfair.de>, Sven Bratschke <bratschke@atmosfair.de>, Sarah Leugers <sarah.leugers@goldstandard.org>, Lisa Rosen <lisa.rosen@goldstandard.org>, Owen Hewlett <owen.hewlett@goldstandard.org>
Subject: Re: Over issuance of Life Straw project Kenya, Stanford study

Dear Dietrich,

Thank you for reaching out to us to let us know about the upcoming Carbon Crooks screening and your follow-up communication about the Stanford study.

First, to recap on the documentary, we refer to the exchanges over the course of October and December 2016, during which time we considered the points you raised. Our conclusion then was that no new evidence had been provided that had not been scrutinized and decided upon by our Technical Governance Committee. We therefore considered the grievance concerning the Carbon Crooks findings to be closed. We would have liked to attend the screening in Berlin in person, but learning about it so late is prohibitive with our schedules. In our absence, we would request that you refer to the positions we provided in the summary of the grievance at that point, as and when relevant. [Link is here.](#)

Regarding the Stanford study: We had received notice of it in the form of an abstract shortly before you circulated to us on 01st December. As communicated to you on 14th December, we noted that we would review the full paper in early 2017. Having now had the opportunity to do so, we consider that the provision of alternative monitoring data for an overlapping time period and from a credible source does indeed warrant further consideration. We will therefore re-open our grievance process in light of this evidence. We would like to caution that, at this stage, this does not constitute any assumption on our part as to the outcome; it is important that the process is followed properly to ensure fairness to all parties. We will review communications as per our grievance process and will shortly post relevant documents to our website.

Separate to the findings of the paper in relation to the LifeStraw project are the general recommendations for independent monitoring at a systemic level. This discussion has already begun within Gold Standard, but we welcome a consortium including atmosfair, Stanford University, and other concerned stakeholders. The consortium would need to consider the issue holistically in order to achieve the right balance of integrity and practicality to ensure the recommendations are also viable for projects to implement the ground. Reaching such a consensus would require resources and could have significant market-level implications. Since this appears a priority for atmosfair, perhaps you would consider joining us in securing such funding? A thought we had was to approach funders like the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which have served as diligent watch dogs and also might want to contribute to finding solutions to the shortcomings they have highlighted. Indeed, we welcome a discussion on forming a consortium

Gold Standard

to conduct a thorough assessment of options and stakeholder inputs to improve technology distribution project MRV generally to make improvements at the market level. Please let me know your thoughts on this.

Regards,

Marion Verles
Chief Executive Officer

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De : Dietrich Brockhagen <brockhagen@atmosfair.de> **Date :** mercredi, 25 janvier 2017 10:17 **À :** Marion Verles <marion.verles@goldstandard.org>, Owen Hewlett <owen.hewlett@goldstandard.org> **Cc :** Silke Karcher <Silke.Karcher@bmub.bund.de>, Norbert Gorissen <norbert.gorissen@bmub.bund.de>, Christoph Bals <bals@germanwatch.org>, Klaus Milke <klaus.milke@t-online.de>, Denis Machnik <machnik@atmosfair.de>, "freymann@atmosfair.de" <Freymann@atmosfair.de>, Sven Bratschke <bratschke@atmosfair.de> **Objet :** Over issuance of Life Straw project Kenya, Stanford study

Dear Marion an Owen,
last December I asked you about the point in time when you became aware of the attached Stanford Study on the Kenya water filter project. Unfortunately I did not get an answer on this question. However, I have now evaluated the Stanford study. Please find the findings attached in the word and in the excel document (sheet "Übersicht").

In short, the study results show that the water filters were actually used far less (-20% to -60%) than monitored by Vestergaard Frandsen and subsequently issued by the Gold Standard. The resulting over-issuance by the Gold Standard can be easily calculated by a rule of three to amount to almost 3 million VERs, even taken into account previous issuance corrections by the Gold Standard foundation based on the Berkely study.

This is no longer a debate about the past of a terminated project and methodological nitty gritty, this goes to the root of climate integrity. So far the Gold Standard foundation had commissioned its own study on the project by the Berkely air monitoring group, which led to some initial issuance corrections. However, the Berkely study did not carry out onsite interviews or measurements of filter users. By contrast, the Stanford Study is entirely independent, and it includes a full scale verification with many hundreds on-site interviews and measurements of filter users. The results of the Stanford study more than echo atmosfair's critique of the project. I therefore upheld atmosfair's grievances and our demands including the swift notification of VER traders and restoring VERs from other projects.

Please publish this email along with the attachments on the Grievance section of the Gold Standard website and advise on the consequences taken by the Gold Standard.

Kind regards,
Dietrich Brockhagen

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