



Gold Standard[®]
for the Global Goals

FORM

FORM - DEVIATION REQUEST SUBMISSION

PUBLICATION DATE: 12/11/2024

VERSION: 6.0

NEXT PLANNED UPDATE: 12/11/2026

RELATED DOCUMENTS

– [Deviations Approval Requirements and Procedures](#)

CONTACT DETAILS

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1| General Guidelines

1.1 | Applicability

- 1.1.1 | This form is to be completed for projects (project activities/PoAs/VPAs) seeking deviation or is/are at a risk of deviating from any [applicable requirements](#), GS4GG-specific requirements listed in the applicable [Methodologies](#) or any other deviations occurring in any of the various aspects of the project.
- 1.1.2 | Refer to the latest version of [Deviation Request Requirements and Procedures](#) for detailed information on the procedures and requirements.
- 1.1.3 | This form can be used in the following instances i.e.,
 - a. Deviation from GS4GG requirements and/or applicable methodologies prior to submission for certification with GS4GG.
 - b. Temporary changes to a certified project - which include changes from the registered monitoring plan, the applied methodologies or other standard documents - that are expected **not** to occur beyond a given monitoring period.
- 1.1.4 | For any permanent changes to a design certified project, the requirements set in [Design Change Approval Requirements and Procedures](#) shall be followed.

2| Submission of deviation form

- 2.1.1 | This form shall be submitted in Microsoft Word (.doc) format to Gold Standard at deviations@goldstandard.org
- 2.1.2 | Forms with incomplete/inaccurate information shall not be considered for review and shall be returned to the applicant.

3| Implementation of deviation decision

- 3.1.1 | The decision prescribed in this form shall be considered by the entity applying for deviation for further course of action.

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4| Decision summary

To be completed by Gold Standard

4.1 | General information

DEVIATION REFERENCE NUMBER	DEVQR-112
Date of decision	29/07/2025
Decision	☐ Approved [No precondition to apply the deviation decision] ☒ Conditionally approved [Decision is subject to compliance with the precondition defined below] ☐ Not approved [reason for rejection is provided in decision summary]

4.2 | Decision

4.2.1 | Decision Summary

In consideration of ongoing verifiable security challenges in Mali and the official suspension of NGOs and associated field operations by the Government of Mali due to geopolitical developments; the Project Developer's request of seeking temporary deviation from the requirement for a physical site visit is approved.

The VVB may hire an objective observer for the audit of the scope mentioned.

4.2.2 | Directions for the project developer/CME, if applicable

The developer shall retain all documentation used during this deviation period for future audits or clarifications.

4.2.3 | Directions for the Validation and Verification Body (VVB), if applicable

1. The VVB is authorized to hire an objective observer for assessment of the PoA GS2486 and VPA GS2744, in lieu of an on-site visit, for the current renewal period only.
2. Document and justify the adequacy and limitations of the remote assessment in the Validation/Verification Report.
3. The VVB must clearly record in the report any risks or uncertainties identified due to the lack of a physical site visit, and how these were mitigated.
4. The VVB shall follow the requirements of [Annex B Principles and Requirements](#)

4.2.4 | Directions for the Gold Standard, if applicable

N/A

4.3 | Applicability to other activities

Is this decision applicable to other projects under similar circumstances? ¹	☐ Yes ☒ No
Does this decision set a precedent for future projects with similar circumstances? ²	☐ Yes ☒ No
Precedent details (if applicable to other activities)	
NA	

5 | Deviation Request Details

To be completed by the entity requesting deviation - (Project Developer/Coordinating and Managing Entity and/or VVB)

5.1 | Submitted by

- ☒ Project developer
☒ CME
☐ VVB
☐ Other (specify...)

5.2 | Details of the entity and its representative submitting the form

Item	Information
Name ³ :	Fulgence AKAFFOU
Email ID ⁴ :	f.akaffou@geres.eu
Organisation: ⁵	GERES (Groupe Energies Renouvelables, Environnement et Solidarités)
Are you an authorized project participant as per the cover letter submitted for this activity?	☒ Yes ☐ No

5.3 | Background information

Type	☐ Project activity	☒ PoA GSXXXX	☒ VPA
GS ID	GSXXXX	GS 2486	GS 2744

¹ If this is marked yes, this means that any other project (PoA/VPA/PA) in similar situation may apply the decision of this deviation to their project as well. The project developer/VVB may quote this deviation decision in the relevant certification documents. This is relevant to only the projects which have already entered the certification cycle with GS4GG.

² If this is marked yes, it means the decision is valid to all the future projects which will enter the certification cycle with the similar situation. This is relevant to all the projects which are not yet design certified with GS4GG or have not submitted their documents for preliminary review yet.

³ Name of the individual representing the entity requesting the deviation

⁴ Email ID for further correspondence related to the deviation request

⁵ The name of the entity requesting the deviation

Host country(ies)	Mali, Benin											
Project Title	Programme of Activities for Local Improved Cookstoves in West Africa.											
Registry link	https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/492											
Scale	☐ Microscale (GS) ☒ Small scale ☐ Large scale ☐ Other, if applicable please specify below <i>Insert text here</i>											
Certification Status and corresponding date of latest status	☐ Listed <i>dd/mm/yyyy</i>	☒ Certified design <i>20/05/2021</i>	☒ Certified project <i>01/06/2021</i>	☐ Other <i>If other, specify here</i> <i>dd/mm/yyyy</i>								
Applied version of Standard	☒ GS4GG ☐ Previous version of Gold Standard											
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="4">Version no.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐ 1.0</td> <td>☐ 1.1</td> <td>☐ 1.2</td> <td>☒ 2.2</td> </tr> </table>				Version no.				☐ 1.0	☐ 1.1	☐ 1.2	☒ 2.2
Version no.												
☐ 1.0	☐ 1.1	☐ 1.2	☒ 2.2									
Transition date, if applicable	From previous GS version to GS4GG		<i>dd/mm/yyyy</i>									
	From another standard to GS4GG		<i>21/05/2014</i>									
	Name of another standard		☒ CDM ☐ Other Name of the Standard – Insert text here									
Applicable activity requirement	☐ Renewable Energy Activity Requirements ☒ Community Services Activity Requirements ☐ Land-use and Forests Activity Requirements ☐ Other <i>Insert name here</i>											

5.4 | Project deviation history

Is there any deviation request(s) for the same project activity/PoA/VPA(s) that was submitted to GS previously? If yes, below information.			☐ Yes ☒ No
Reference number	Insert Text here		
Status of the deviation	☐ Approved	☐ Rejected	☐ Under review
Were there any findings (CL, CAR, FAR) raised during any certification step (preliminary review, design and/or performance review etc.) that are relevant to this deviation request?	☐ Yes ☐ No Summary of the findings <i>Summary of the CL, CAR, FAR not more than 200 words. Include reference to document, page number</i>		

6| Deviation detail

To be completed by the entity requesting deviation (Project Developer/Coordinating and Managing Entity and/or VVB)

6.1 | Standard document reference

Standard document reference	Title	Validation and Verification Standard
	Version	V1.0
	Paragraph	para 6.3.9

6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	Site visit requirements for PoAs and VPAs	
Confirm the nature of changes related to deviation	☒ Temporary	☐ Permanent
	not expected to occur beyond one renewal period.	
Relevant monitoring period, if applicable	Start date	Dd/mm/yyyy
	End date	Dd/mm/yyyy
Summarise the changes	The renewal of the PoA period may or may not include an on-site visit by a VVB who (remotely) assesses the PoA against all applicable GS4GG requirements.	

Reason for deviation	During our 2021-2028 renewal process of the PoA in reference 9941 and the CPA, numerous events beyond our control made the audit with physical visit impossible. These include: the security issue, and the decision by the Malian government to suspend, with immediate effect, all activities carried out by associations, non-governmental organizations, and similar organizations operating in the territory of the Republic of Mali with funding or with material or technical support from France. This situation led us to request and obtain an extension for the submission of the RCP PoA and CPA to the UNFCCC Executive Secretariat. In addition, the impossibility of organizing a physical visit to Mali for validation and verification activities, we were granted an exemption. The project developer has field experience, with 4 field verifications and sector actors involved in the process. This provision allowed us to authorize the auditor to remotely evaluate the design and monitoring plan of the project, consequently completing the approval of the 2021-2028 renewal - CDM of PoA No. 9941. Thus, in accordance with the validation and verification standards, the requirements for site visits according to the Gold Standard activity program requirements. For the same reasons, we kindly request your grant of an exemption request for the remote assessment of the design and monitoring plan of our PoA GS2486 and its VPA GS2744, against the applicable requirements, with the support of a local expert based in Mali.
Proposed resolution	The project developer has completed extensive process verifications and has the PoA and VPA documentation, including the design document and monitoring and reporting plan, as well as any updates to key project information after achieving listed project status. A local consultant (a Malian expert) will be recruited to verify all supporting documents and evidence demonstrating compliance with all applicable GS4GG requirements. This expert will thus be able to facilitate the VVB's remote assessment of the initial design and the monitoring plan for the PoA and its VPA in a real situation.
Is there any potential temporary or permanent impact of deviation on other aspects of the project?	Select the relevant area: ☐ Project design ☐ Local stakeholder consultation ☐ Safeguarding principles ☐ SDG assessment ☐ Regulatory compliance ☐ Additionality ☐ Applicability of methodology ☐ Annual emission reduction volume (<i>if yes, fill the table below</i>)

	Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation Annual emission reduction/removal after applying deviation
	XYZ tCO_{2e} XYZ tCO_{2e}
	☒ N/A
Summary of the impact	N/A
Insert text here	

6.3 | VVB information

Is a VVB opinion on the deviation request required? <i>VVB opinion shall be included, where required by the requirements under Deviations Request Requirements and Procedures or request is submitted by the VVB.</i>	Yes ☐ No ☐ <i>If answer is yes, fill the information in section 6.4 below.</i>
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6.4 | VVB's assessment

The below information is to be completed by VVB, if applicable.		
VVB's assessment of deviation request	Please confirm the nature of deviation.	
VVB's assessment of impact of deviation request		
VVB recommendation		
VVB details	VVB name:	
	Auditor name(s):	
	Email (s):	

6.5 | Documents:

6.5.1 | List of documents provided (*note that once a decision has been made by Gold Standard, this deviation form will be made public on the Gold Standard website. Kindly refrain from including any confidential information in the form.*)

Document 1.

Document 2.

Document n.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

VERSION NUMBER	RELEASE DATE	DESCRIPTION
6.0	12.11.2024	Editorial and structural changes to the template
5.0	11.04.2022	Additional information added: - date of listing, design certification, transition - standard version - specific reference to a requirement deviated from - any previous deviations/design changes approved - Guidance on VVB opinion
4.0	14.01.2021	Editorial changes
3.0	16.07.2020	Editorial changes
2.0	03.05.2018	Editorial changes
1.0	01.07.2017	Initial adoption