

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	DEVRQ-202
Date of decision	27/08/2025
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

The request is conditionally approved in recognition of

1. Security risks in Burkina Faso in 2024–2025, supported by verifiable third party sources, which make VVB travel unsafe.
2. The Project Developer has identified four independent Objective Observer candidates in line with the requirements under section 3.5 of the PoA requirements (independent experts from local universities, NGOs, consultancies). This approval applies only to the 01/01/2024 – 31/12/2024 monitoring period for VPAs 25–28 and 50–51 under GS1340.

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

1. PD shall arrange for the OO site visit no later than Nov 2025.
2. PD must provide candidate profiles for OOs and obtain GS approval of the appointed OO before the visit
3. PD shall confirm in the monitoring report that no ERs will be claimed beyond two years from the date of the OO visit for VPAs 50 and 51.

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

1. VVB shall evaluate the OO's Verification Appraisal Report and incorporate it into the Verification Report submitted to GS.
2. VVB must explicitly report on any limitations of assurance due to the deviation and describe mitigation steps.
3. VVB shall ensure compliance with GS "Site Visit & Remote Audit Requirements & Procedures v2.0" and the OO requirements under PoA Procedures section 3.5–3.6.

4.2.4 | Directions for the Gold Standard, if applicable

NA

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 :	Alexia Timmermans
Email ID ⁴ :	a.timmermans@southpole.com
Organisation: ⁵ :	CO2Logic
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 GSXXXX	GS XXXX GS XXXX	- GS11070 (VPA-25)

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

		- GS11071 (VPA-26) - GS11072 (VPA-27) - GS11073 (VPA-28) - GS12037(VPA-50) - GS12038 (VPA-51)
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Host country(ies) Burkina Faso

Project Title

- GS1340 Efficient cookstoves in Burkina Faso - VPA-25 - Solidagro F3PA cookstoves in Passoré (GS 11070)
- GS1340 Efficient cookstoves in Burkina Faso - VPA-26 - Solidagro F3PA cookstoves in Passoré (GS 11071)
- GS1340 Efficient cookstoves in Burkina Faso - VPA-27 - Solidagro F3PA cookstoves in Passoré (GS 11072)
- GS1340 Efficient cookstoves in Burkina Faso - VPA-28 - Solidagro F3PA cookstoves in Passoré (GS 11073)
- GS1340 Efficient cookstoves in Burkina Faso - Solidagro F3PA cookstoves in Passoré - VPA 50 (GS 12037)
- GS1340 Efficient cookstoves in Burkina Faso - Solidagro F3PA cookstoves in Passoré - VPA 51 (GS 12038)

Registry link

<https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/3463>
<https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/3058>
<https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/3059>
<https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/3060>
<https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/3998>
<https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/3999>

Scale

☒ Microscale (GS)
☐ Small scale
☐ Large scale
☐ Other, if applicable please specify below
Insert text here

Certification Status and corresponding date of latest status	☐ Listed	☐ Certified design	☒ Certified project	☐ Other <i>If other, specify here</i>
	dd/mm/yyyy	dd/mm/yyyy	14/07/2022 (GS 11070- GS 11073) 09/11/2023 (GS12037 and GS 12038)	dd/mm/yyyy

Applied version of Standard	☒ GS4GG			
	☐ Previous version of Gold Standard	Version no.		
		☐ 1.0	☐ 1.1	☐ 1.2
Transition date, if applicable	From previous GS version to GS4GG		dd/mm/yyyy	
	From another standard to GS4GG		dd/mm/yyyy	
	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			
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	Annex B of Principles and Requirements
	Version	V2.1
	Paragraph	2.1.2

6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	Request of OO site visit due to unsafety reasons, conflict zone.	
Confirm the nature of changes related to deviation	☒ Temporary (e.g. not expected to occur beyond one monitoring period)	☐ Permanent (e.g. deviation from requirements prior to submission for certification)

	Insert Text here (if required) to support the selection	
Relevant monitoring period, if applicable	Start date	01/01/2024
	End date	31/12/2024
Summarise the changes	As per Principles and Requirements v2.0, para 5.1.26: "Verification includes a site visit by a VVB who assess the following against all Gold Standard Requirements including applicable Activity Requirements, Gold Standard Methodology and Product Requirements: - The Monitoring Report - All supporting evidence and documents included by the Project Developer to demonstrate conformity A site visit with an Objective Observer took place in July 2025, so at first sight a site visit would not be necessary. However, clause 3.1.1. of 'Site visit and Remote Audit Requirements and Procedures – V2.0' states "At minimum, the VVB shall conduct a physical site visit within 2 years of the project start date". In this context, the project start date is defined as the date of installation of the first cookstove under the VPA. The relevant start date is the following: - VPA 50: 17/07/2023 - VPA 51: 08/10/2021 This will be the first verification for this VPA, which means a site visit is necessary. However, the site visit is not feasible due to safety issues that occurred in 2024 and 2025, like terroristic attacks. The VVB site visit will be substituted with local OO site visit, as per annex B para 2.1.2 of Principles and Requirements. Refer to latest version of Deviation Request Requirements and Procedures for requirements and guidelines. Besides, the visit with the OO (if the request above is approved) will only take place in October or November 2025, which falls outside the window given by the requirement that the site visit should take place within 2 years after the project start date.	
Reason for deviation	Safety problems The delay in conducting the site visit within two years of the project start date is primarily due to recent team changes within our organization, which unfortunately led to an oversight in this matter. Additionally, the verifications for these projects are carried out collectively for the entire group of VPA's (VPA 25-28 and 50-51). A delay in the previous verification (vintage 2023, VPA 25-28) subsequently impacted the timeline for the current verification. We acknowledge the importance of timely compliance and are making every effort to catch up and stay on track moving forward.	
Proposed resolution	We would like to opt for a site visit conducted by an objective observer instead of the VVB, as per annex B para 2.1.2 of Principles and Requirements. We would like to suggest the four following profiles as candidates for being the objective observer for this monitoring period: - Combassere Alain - Kalmongo Régis Antoine	

	- Seone Hamidou - Zerbo Issa Their CVs will be sent alongside this deviation request. Besides, we aim to carry out the site visit with the Objective Observer as soon as possible to avoid any further delays in the verification cycle and ensure timely compliance moving forward. We will not claim any credits beyond 2 years from the date of the site visit for these two VPA's. Document 1. Burkina Faso Aclcd Data report https://acleddata.com/data-export-tool/ where all the dangerous events occurred during 2024 and 2025 have been listed. Document 2. https://edition.cnn.com/2024/10/04/africa/burkina-faso-massacre-600-dead-french-intel-intl/index.html Document 3. https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c77x45y130lo						
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> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation</th><th>Annual emission reduction/removal after applying deviation</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>XYZ tCO₂e</td><td>XYZ tCO₂e</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> ☐ any other matrix, please specify...	Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation	Annual emission reduction/removal after applying deviation	XYZ tCO ₂ e	XYZ tCO ₂ e		
Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation	Annual emission reduction/removal after applying deviation						
XYZ tCO ₂ e	XYZ tCO ₂ e						
Summary of the impact	<i>No impact results on the project and/or its design. The results of the project in terms of SDGs will be assessed by OO site visit rather than VVB site visit.</i>						
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. Burkina Faso Acled Data report <https://acleddata.com/data-export-tool/> where all the dangerous events occurred during 2024 and 2025 have been listed.

Document 2. <https://edition.cnn.com/2024/10/04/africa/burkina-faso-massacre-600-dead-french-intel-intl/index.html>

Document 3. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c77x45y130lo>.
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cgj871wej3lo>

Document 4. Copy of email of contracted VVB about no-intention to have a site visit due to unsafety reasons.

"CC IPL 2748 and 2749 _ Site Visit planning.pdf"

19-08-2025, 08:34

South Pole AG Mail - CCIPL 2748 and 2749 : Site Visit planning



Alexia Timmermans <a.timmermans@southpole.com>

CC IPL 2748 and 2749 : Site Visit planning

Piyush Raj <piyush@carboncheck.co.in>

Tue, Aug 19, 2025 at 8:25 AM

To: Alexia Timmermans <a.timmermans@southpole.com>

Cc: Anubhav Dimri <anubhav@carboncheck.co.in>, Carlotta Zini <c.zini@southpole.com>, Herman Noppen <h.noppen@southpole.com>, Leslie Tekapso <leslie@carboncheck.co.in>

Dear Alexia,

As per "Site Visit and Remote Audit Requirements and Procedures – V2.0" and Validation and Verification standard v2.0 (para. 17.3.2) following VPAs required onsite inspection for verification of MP:

- CCIPL 2748 (PoA ID-GS1340, VPA IDs-GS11070, GS11071, GS11072, GS11073, **GS12037, GS12038**).
- CCIPL 2749 (PoA ID GS1340 VPAIDs- GS11950, GS11951, GS11952, GS11953, GS11954, GS11980, **GS11981**).

VVB has assessed the conditions in project region of host country **Burkina Faso** and concludes that the current situation presents security challenges with significant risks towards safety of the auditors travelling to the project site. VVB's assessment is based on following travel advisory guidelines issued by various governments.

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/burkina-faso-travel-advisory.html>

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/burkina-faso>

<https://travel.gc.ca/destinations/burkina-faso>

<https://www.smarttraveller.gov.au/destinations/africa/burkina-faso>

As per above sources, the project region is a conflict zone and presents dangerous security situation and the high threat of terrorism, kidnapping and violent crime especially for foreigners. Considering this scenario, the VVB would like to express its unwillingness to carry out the mandatory physical site visit.

Kindly let me know in case of further requirements.

Kind Regards,

Piyush Raj

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ik=b005da0c0f&view=pt&search=all&permmsgid=msg-f:1840864039542259985&simpl=msg-f:18408640395422...> 1/3

19-08-2025, 08:34

South Pole AG Mail - CCIPL 2748 and 2749 : Site Visit planning

Team Leader / Technical Expert



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Proud to share that We are the world's first globally accredited Designated Operational Entity (DOE) under Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement!

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Document 5. CV Combassere Alain_English

Document 6. CV Kalmongo Régis Antoine_english

Document 7. CV SEONE Hamidou_EN

Document 8. CV ZERBO Issa_english

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