



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	DEVRQ-252
Date of decision	25/02/2026
Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved [No precondition to apply the deviation decision] <input type="checkbox"/> Conditionally approved [Decision is subject to compliance with the precondition defined below] <input type="checkbox"/> Not approved [reason for rejection is provided in decision summary]

4.2 | Decision

4.2.1 | Decision Summary

The deviation is approved.

The CME shall comply with the requirements stated in Annex B – Conflict and Emergency Zones of the latest [Gold Standard Principles and Requirements](#).

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

The CME shall ensure that the Objective Observer (OO) has been selected for the on-site audit as required by para 2.1.2 of the Annex B of Principles and Requirements version 2.1 and have conducted the audit under the guidance of a GS approved VVB. The CME will be responsible for contracting and covering the costs of the Objective Observer. The relationship between and among the CME, the Objective Observer and Gold Standard shall be established in a Memorandum of Understanding that must be signed by all parties. The CME shall document the deviation request, its implications, and GS' decision in the appropriate section of the GS Monitoring Report (for the relevant MP).

Note – The CME shall note that the decision is based on the information provided in the deviation request form and only against the applicable standard requirement quoted in the form below by the developer. The CME shall comply with all other applicable standard requirements unless specifically mentioned in the deviation decision.

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

The VVB shall provide a checklist to the selected Objective Observer before the site visit, to assist the Objective Observer in assessing the relevant aspects related to the Project's Verification. The checklist must be limited to issues that the VVB thinks would be necessary to check on-site to form the Verification opinion.

The verifying VVB shall ensure the following:

- The Objective observer (OO) is selected to conduct the assessment as per the checklist provided.

- The site visit conducted by the OO during the verification shall confirm the status of the project operation and the mitigation plans in place to tackle the negative impacts of the project.
- Assess and demonstrate how the selected OO has prior experience working in conflict zones/areas that pose a high risk to life and/or health. The VVB shall also demonstrate OO’s involvement in other activities within the project’s geographical area.

The Verifying VVB shall, through appropriate means at its disposal, evaluate the Project’s compliance with the above-mentioned conditions and provides its opinion in the Verification Report.

4.2.4 | Directions for the Gold Standard, if applicable

The assurance team shall review both the CME’s response and the VVB’s assessment/opinion of the same and take appropriate steps.

4.3 | Applicability to other activities

Is this decision applicable to other projects under similar circumstances? ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does this decision set a precedent for future projects with similar circumstances? ²	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Precedent details (if applicable to other activities)	

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.

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 :	Stefano Rota Martir
Email ID ⁴ :	s.rota@southpole.com
Organisation: ⁵ :	Carbonsink group srl
Are you an authorized project participant as per the cover letter submitted for this activity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

5.3 | Background information

Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Project activity	<input type="checkbox"/> PoA GSXXXX	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VPA	
GS ID			GS10776	
Host country(ies)	Mozambique			
Project Title	GS5658 VPA 21: Access to energy for local development and women's empowerment in Cabo Delgado Province, Mozambique			
Registry link	https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/2733			
Scale	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Microscale (GS) <input type="checkbox"/> Small scale <input type="checkbox"/> Large scale <input type="checkbox"/> Other, if applicable please specify below <i>Insert text here</i>			
Certification Status and corresponding date of latest status	<input type="checkbox"/> Listed	<input type="checkbox"/> Certified design	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified project	<input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>If other, specify here</i>
	<i>dd/mm/yyyy</i>	<i>dd/mm/yyyy</i>	<i>dd/mm/yyyy</i>	<i>dd/mm/yyyy</i>

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

Applied version of Standard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GS4GG			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Previous version of Gold Standard	Version no.		
		<input type="checkbox"/> 1.0	<input type="checkbox"/> 1.1	<input type="checkbox"/> 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	<input type="checkbox"/> CDM <input type="checkbox"/> Other Name of the Standard – Insert text here		
Applicable activity requirement	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewable Energy Activity Requirements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Services Activity Requirements <input type="checkbox"/> Land-use and Forests Activity Requirements <input type="checkbox"/> Other Insert name here			

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.			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Reference number	Insert Text here		
Status of the deviation	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> 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?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
	Summary of the findings Summary of the CL, CAR, FAR not more than 200 words. Include reference to document, page number		

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	Site Visit And Remote Audit Requirements And Procedures
	Version	V2.0
	Paragraph	Para 3.1.2

6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	Exemption from a mandatory physical site visit	
Confirm the nature of changes related to deviation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Temporary (e.g. not expected to occur beyond one monitoring period)	<input type="checkbox"/> 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	08/03/2022
	End date	07/03/2024
Summarise the changes	An exemption from a site visit is requested for the 2 nd Verification of the project. The methodology "Site Visit And Remote Audit Requirements And Procedures" v.2 in paragraph 3.1.2 establishes that after the first verification the onsite visit shall take place every 3 years. However, the paragraph 2.2.3 of "Applicability Of Minimum Site Visit Requirements By VVB" establishes that for safety reasons is allow to replace a site visit with a remote audit.	
Reason for deviation	The ongoing conflicts and disorders in Mozambique represent a significant risk factor for carrying out activities on site. The unsafe situation has caused difficulties in progressing with projects based in Mozambique. This led to the requirement for a site visit. However, according to the latest news from October 2025 , the situation in Mozambique appears to be unsafe, particularly in the Cabo Delgado Region and more specifically in the districts of Montepuez and Balama where the project is located, where there have been several disorders.	
Proposed resolution	The CME's request to the standard is to be able to carry out a remote audit for this monitoring period, considering the unsafe situation in the project area.	
Is there any potential temporary or permanent impact of deviation on other aspects of the project?	Select the relevant area:	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Project design <input type="checkbox"/> Local stakeholder consultation <input type="checkbox"/> Safeguarding principles <input type="checkbox"/> SDG assessment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regulatory compliance <input type="checkbox"/> Additionality <input type="checkbox"/> Applicability of methodology <input type="checkbox"/> 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}
	<input type="checkbox"/> any other matrix, please specify...	
Summary of the impact	<i>The deviation request won't impact the value of ER and any values correlated with the targets SDGs.</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</i>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <i>If answer is yes, fill the information in section 6.4 below.</i>
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Procedures or request is submitted by the VVB.	
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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	According to travel advisories issued by the US Department of State ⁶ and the UK Foreign Office ⁷ , traveling to Cabo Delgado Province is considered unsafe due to health risks, crime, civil unrest, and terrorism. The US Department of State has classified this area under highest threat, Level 4: Do Not Travel.	
VVB's assessment of impact of deviation request	"Site Visit And Remote Audit Requirements And Procedures" version 2 in paragraph 3.1.2 establishes that the onsite visit shall take place every 3 years for verification activities. The deviation would mean that the project is not compliant with the above requirement.	
VVB recommendation	The travel to the project location presents risks to the VVB personnel as highlighted in the assessment provided above.	
VVB details	VVB name:	Carbon Check (India) Private Limited
	Auditor name(s):	Pankaj Kumar, Leslie Tekapso
	Email (s):	pankaj@carboncheck.co.in , Leslie@carboncheck.co.in

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.

⁶ <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/mozambique-travel-advisory.html>

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/mozambique>

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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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