

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

4.1 | General information

DEVIATION REFERENCE NUMBER	DEVRQ-268
Date of decision	01/06/2026
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

Thank you for submitting the deviation request.

Please note that the deviation request has been partially approved.

The lack of awareness of the Standard's rules cannot constitute grounds for granting a deviation. However, based on the additional documentation submitted regarding financial challenges and climatic constraints, the deviation request has been partially approved.

The project may only claim emission reductions for a period of up to five years prior to the date of the latest site visit. For example, if the latest site visit took place on 5 June 2026, the eligible crediting period may begin from 6 June 2021 onwards.

Also, the following conditions should be complied with:

1. The data for the entire duration starting from 01/01/2019 must still be reported, even if the issuance of credits is capped to the five-year period prior to the site visit. The VVB shall ensure that there is no shortfall in the reported data

2. As per [Principles & Requirements](#) paragraph 5.1.39 and 5.1.40 an annual report shall be submitted for each monitoring year by end of next calendar year for which verification is not completed, and failure to submit these reports may result in decertification of the project. The project is granted an extension to submit the annual reports for the missing years by 31 December 2026 or before conclusion of performance review whichever occurs earlier.

- a. For the renewal of the crediting period, the project has been granted a deviation to submit the required renewal documentation to gold standard before 31st December 2026. The project will be allowed to claim credits for the delayed period, provided that all required documents are submitted by 31st December 2026.

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

CME shall report the deviation in monitoring report along with the details of compliance with the conditions and decision.

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

VVB shall assess adherence to the deviation decision

4.2.4 | Directions for the Gold Standard

The assurance review team must review PD's and VVB's reporting and establish compliance with the decision.

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)	

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 :	Suzetti Jubitza Ramirez Medina
Email ID ⁴ :	reforestacion@coopnorandino.com.pe SuzettiRamirez@coopnorandino.com.pe
Organisation: ⁵	Norandino Agrarian Cooperative
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	GS3381 GSXXXX	GS XXXX GS XXXX	GS XXXX GS XXXX
Host country(ies)	Peru		
Project Title	Reforestation Sierra Piura		
Registry link	https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/1800		
Scale	☐ Microscale (GS) ☒ Small scale ☐ Large scale ☐ Other, if applicable please specify below <i>Insert text here</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

Certification Status and corresponding date of latest status	☐ Listed	☐ Certified design	☒ Certified project	☐ Other <i>If other, specify here</i>
	<i>dd/mm/yyyy</i>	<i>dd/mm/yyyy</i>	<i>14/08/2019</i>	<i>dd/mm/yyyy</i>
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		<i>14/08/2025</i>	
	From another standard to GS		<i>30/04/2014</i>	
	Name of another standard	☐ CDM		
		☒ Other Name of the Standard – CarbonFix		
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	PRINCIPLES & REQUIREMENTS / LAND USE & FORESTS ACTIVITY REQUIREMENTS
	Version	V.2.1 / V1.2.1
	Paragraph	Para 5.1.29 & 5.1.46 / 3.1.12

6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	Delayed verification / design certification. Reason: Financial and climatic constraints of the Norandino Agrarian Cooperative	
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	01/01/2019
	End date	31/12/2024
Summarise the changes	The project conducted a monitoring survey (field inventory) covering 3,645 trees in 236 plots in May 2025, for a monitoring period from 01/01/2019 – 31/12/2024. Monitoring is very challenging, due to the steep slopes and a huge number of small management units. The monitoring period thus covers 6 instead of 5 years. Moreover, renewal of design certification has not been done yet, because due to financial constraints, it needs to be done in combination with verification. The last verification covered the monitoring period from 01/01/2010 to 31/12/2018. In August 2019, Gold Standard approved the transition to GS4GG (on 14/08/2019), marking the beginning of a new certification cycle under the updated standard. According to Gold Standard's rules, the project was required to: 1. Conduct a performance verification for the period 2019–2023, and 2. Complete the Design Certification Renewal before August 2024 (five years after the transition approval to GS4GG). Refer to latest version of Deviation Request Requirements and Procedures for requirements and guidelines	
Reason for deviation	- As a small agrarian cooperative from Peru, the project owner faces financial constraints that convert verifications into a huge effort (cost approx. 60,000 US\$) - Between 2023 and 2024, the Piura region was severely affected by extreme events associated with the El Niño phenomenon, which hindered access to reforestation areas, damaged local infrastructure, and delayed the preparation of monitoring and data collection activities. In addition, during this period, the organization was still recovering from the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which significantly limited the financial and human resources available to carry out the monitoring activities planned for 2024. - The project was developed originally under CarbonFix where regulations were simplified with much lower cost implications. The transition to GS after GS purchased CarbonFix implies increased costs which affect the financial viability of the project. - It is also important to mention that, as an institution, we were not aware that a re-certification was required every five years, considering that the first verification was carried out eight years after the project's start. Although this requirement is indicated in the Gold Standard	

	guidance, as a cooperative, we assumed that our certified status remained valid, since upon accessing the Assurance Platform — which we were only able to access on June 27, 2025 — we observed that the project appeared as certified and active. Furthermore, in March 2025, we were charged the annual registration fee of USD 1,000 corresponding to the 2025 period, which reinforced our understanding that the project maintained its active status within the Gold Standard Registry. For this reason, we did not review the standard's requirements again, as we believed everything was in order.				
Proposed resolution	We request to be exempted from the rule 5.1.46 of Principles and Requirements V.2.1 which defines that no VERs are issued for the duration of the delay, in our case after 31.12.2023 when the 5-year verification and design certification renewal cycle ended. We request VER issuance to be allowed for a 6-year monitoring period, given the constraints faced. There are no implications for monitoring as such, there was no deviation in the monitoring methodology and ER calculation. Please include all relevant information in support of the request.				
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><i>Total ER in Monitoring Period 2: approx. 10,000 tCO₂e</i></td><td><i>Total ER in Monitoring Period 2: approx. 12,000 tCO₂e</i></td></tr> </tbody> </table> ☐ any other matrix, please specify...	Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation	Annual emission reduction/removal after applying deviation	<i>Total ER in Monitoring Period 2: approx. 10,000 tCO₂e</i>	<i>Total ER in Monitoring Period 2: approx. 12,000 tCO₂e</i>
Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation	Annual emission reduction/removal after applying deviation				
<i>Total ER in Monitoring Period 2: approx. 10,000 tCO₂e</i>	<i>Total ER in Monitoring Period 2: approx. 12,000 tCO₂e</i>				
Summary of the impact	Describe the impact of the deviation on each relevant aspect of the project as selected above. Please substantiate the impact assessment with relevant and verifiable data/information. The only impact is on the monitoring period length and the period of VER issuance. There are no impacts on data quality or methodologies applied.				

6.3 | VVB information

Is a VVB opinion on the deviation request required?	Yes ☐ No ☒
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VVB opinion shall be included, where required by the requirements under Deviations Request Requirements and Procedures or request is submitted by the VVB.	If answer is yes, fill the information in section 6.4 below.
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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. Monitoring report

Document 2. PDD

Document 3. Letter of justification

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