

TEMPLATE

DEVIATION REQUEST FORM

PUBLICATION DATE **11.04.2021**

Version **5.0**

1 | To be completed by Gold Standard

2 | Decision

2.1 | Date – 01/09/2025

2.2 | Decision

The request is not approved due to lack of valid justification of non-compliance.

Regarding the design change, the Project Developer is encouraged to submit a new request for the inclusion of the new CHRE cookstove model.

2.3 | Is this decision applicable to other project activities under similar circumstances?

NA

A. To be completed by the Project Developer/Coordinating and Managing Entity and/or VVB requesting deviation (Submit deviation request form in Microsoft Word format)

3| Background information

The "Improved cookstove in Guinea" project is a micro-scale project validated and registered under no. GS880 with Gold Standard. As described in the PDD, it was submitted to GS by Bolivia Inti Sud Soleil¹, but its implementation in Guinea is managed and coordinated by Coopération Atlantique Guinée 44². This relationship is formalised in an agreement between the 2 NGOs.

The first two monitoring reports were submitted to and validated by GS. The last report, covering 2015 and 2016, was validated in December 2018.

Despite the health context (Ebola 2013-2016, COVID-19 March 2020 to October 2022) and the social and political context (sporadic strikes and riots, demonstrations and riots during the constitutional referendum in March 2020, coup d'état in September 2021), the project has continued its activities and monitoring.

However, no monitoring report was filed with Gold Standard due to (i) a sharp drop in the price of a tonne of CO2 on the carbon market and (ii) internal reasons within the two partner associations (INTI and Guinée 44):

financial difficulties quick turnover in management positions³

In this context of internal turbulence, we acknowledge that we did not pay sufficient attention to the post-labelling procedures, in particular the principles of submitting an annual report and an audit within 5 years.

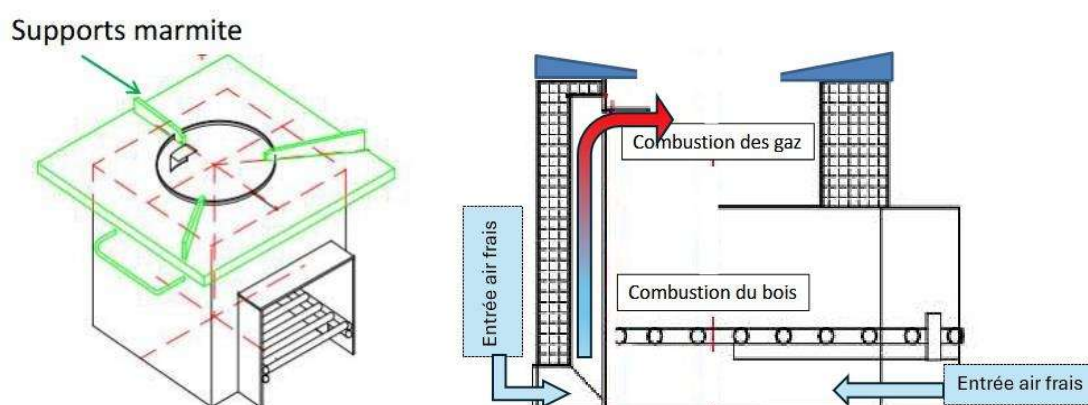
Through this request, our commitments and the evidence we present, we hope to obtain your approval and remove the final obstacles to the examination of our application by Sustain Cert.

¹ Bolivia Inti Sud Soleil has since changed its name to INTI

² Coopération Atlantique Guinée 44 also changed its name to Guinea 44.

³ For the record: end of Elsa Cardinal's contract in July 2020 (10 years at the management of G44, Charline Attia from August 2020 to June 2021 then Benoit Tricoche from July 2021 to March 2022. Elsa then acts as interim from April to October 2022 before the recruitment of Virginie Bineau. INTI à décrire ? avec départ Vincent Dulong, début Agnès Rizzo puis Ana El Kaïm

However, we would also like to point out that by carefully reading the principles and requirements of GS, we understand that we must inform GS of any changes in the shape of the cooker. Indeed, at the same time as the production and sale of the cooker model (CBE) validated by the PDD, we continued our research in order to reduce production costs. A new, more compact cubic model was therefore designed and tested before launching production and sale in 2020. The principle adopted improves efficiency by injecting heated air at the top of the cooker to promote the combustion of the gases generated by the surge in timber. The hearth remains cylindrical. It is inserted into a square envelope serving as a support for the pot. The volume (9 liters) between the envelope and the hearth is filled with ash which has an insulating effect allowing a temperature above 500°C to be maintained in the heart of the hearth. On the upper plate, the pot supports are sized to slow the exit of combustion gases and maintain a high temperature in the heart of the hearth. Thicker sheets retain heat better and aim for longer tool durability. To better visualize the technique, see a 3D view and section of the cooker below.



Before the final validation of the prototype, cooking tests were carried out in May 2019 with 5 families. The results are equivalent to those obtained with the previous cooker, both in terms of wood consumption and cooking time (Table below from Michel Perrin INTI mission report June 2019).

Average	3 stones	CBE (old model)	DC5 without ashes	DC5 with ashes (new model)
Wood Consumption (g)	4500	2700	2930	2420
Cooking time duration (mn)	86,8	86,2	80,5	81,9
Wood consumption en g /mn	51,84	31,32	36,40	29,55

This new model (called CHRE high energy efficiency cooker) was only marketed from 2020 and its traceability is easy because the numbering system was modified on this occasion.

If GS determines that this new model cannot be included in the carbon savings results, we can easily remove them and produce a new report excluding sales of this model (i.e. those from 2020).

Reminder : A first deviation form (DEV_455) was submitted to you and was partially approved (August 2023). The file then passed into the hands of Sustain-Cert (from the payment in October 2023 of their invoice 23802050). We then received a first email from SC informing that "Your Internal Verification request is therefore planned in our system and set to start on Friday, 15 December 2023". In the 1st stage SC only wanted to take into account 2020-2023 credits. We were able to lift this restriction thanks to mail exchanges in April 2024 with Owen Hewlett (GS Chief Technical Officer). Further discussions with SC revealed that it was now the two points we are submitting in this new deviation form that were preventing the final study of our report.

Please note that in 2024, march the 4th, Michel PERRIN informed Indrapal PARMAR (SC) that :*" Pierre thevenot (p.thevenot54@gmail.com) will replace Michel Perrin as SC's interlocutor regarding the ongoing validation for the GS880 project. Ana Elkaim (ana.elkaim@boliviainti.org) and Virginie Bineau (virginie.bineau@guinee44.org) will be team member. Exchanges concerning this project should therefore be addressed to Pierre who will be your correspondent for this project"*. Pierre THEVENOT is a volunteer at Guinée 44. And that INTI is « *Bolivia Inti Sud Soleil* » new official name, as Guinée 44 is for former « *Coopération Atlantique Guinée 44* ».

Deviation Reference Number	DEVREQ-27	
Date of decision	01/09/2025	
Precedent (YES/NO)	No	
Precedent details	NA	
Date of submission	22/06/2024	
Project/PoA/VPA	Project	ID – GS880
	☐ PoA	ID – GSXXXX
	☐ VPA	ID – GSXXXX
Project/PoA/VPA title	Improved cookstoves in Guinea	
Date of listing	15/06/2016	
GS Standard version applicable	GS V2.1	
Date of transition to GS4GG (if applicable)	03/10/2018	
Date of transition to Gold Standard from another standard (e.g. CDM) (if applicable)	NA	
Date of design certification/inclusion (if applicable)	15/06/2016	
Location of project/PoA/VPA	GUINEA	
Scale of the project/PoA/VPA	☒ Microscale ☐ Small scale ☐ Large scale	
Gold Standard Impact Registry link of the project/PoA/VPA		
Status of the project/PoA/VPA	☐ New ☐ Listed ☒ Certified design ☒ Certified project	
Title/subject of deviation	Non submission of annual reports on time and Delay in verification by Objective observers	
Specify applicable rule/requirements/methodology, with exact paragraph reference and version number	Principles & requirements Version 1.2 (oct.2019) 5. PROJECT CYCLE c) VERIFICATION & PERFORMANCE REVIEW d) ANNUAL REPORTING ANNEX B - CONFLICT AND EMERGENCY ZONE 2 APPROVAL PROCEDURES (b)SELECTION OF OBJECTIVE OBSERVER	
Specify the monitoring period for which the request is valid (if applicable)	Start date 01/01/2017 End date 31/12/2023	
Submitted by	Contact person name : THEVENOT PIERRE Email ID : p.thevenot54@gmail.com	

	Organisation: Guinée44 (field project manager of PDD submitted by INTI (ex: Bolivia Inti Sud Soleil)
	Project participant: Yes ☒ No ☐
Validation and Verification body (VVB opinion shall be included, where required by the applicable rules/requirements or request is submitted by the VVB).	Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes; VVB name: VVB Staff name(s):
Any previous deviations approved for the same project activity/PoA/VPA(s)?	Yes ☐ No ☐

4| Deviation detail

4.1 | Description of the deviation:

**Guidance* Use the space below to describe the deviation and substantiate the reason for requesting deviation from applicable rules/requirements. Please include all relevant information in support of the request. You are requested to follow the principles for requesting deviations, given in the [Deviation Approval Procedure/ Design Change Requirements](#).*

4.1.1 | Deviation detail (to be completed by Project developer):

We acknowledge that we have not paid sufficient attention to the procedures to follow post-labelling, in particular the principles of submitting an annual report and verification within 5 years.

We would like to emphasize that despite a health context (Ebola 2013-2016, COVID-19 March 2020 to October 2022), social and political context (sporadic strikes and riots, demonstrations and riots during the constitutional referendum of March 2020, coup d'état of September 2021) the project continued its activities and monitoring.

However, no monitoring report has been filed with Gold Standard due to (i) a context of a sharp drop in the price of a tonne of CO₂ on the carbon market and (ii) internal reasons (financial difficulties and rapid succession to management) which affected the two partner associations (INTI and Guinea 44).

4.1.2 | VVB opinion (to be completed by VVB, if applicable):

**Guidance* If required by SustainCERT or Gold Standard for this particular deviation, please add here the VVB's opinion.*

4.2 | Assessment of the deviation:

**Guidance* Use the space below to describe how the deviation complies with the requirements, and, where applicable, the accuracy, completeness and conservativeness is ensured. Please include all relevant information in support of the request.*

4.2.1 | Deviation assessment (to be completed by Project developer):

Annual Reporting

We recognize that GS obligation of Annual reporting have not been respected. We already explained the reasons in 3.1.1. Nevertheless, as detailed in Background, project have been implemented in full agreement with PDD until 31 December 2019. Since 2020, project is still going on, following the same principles, guidelines and field activities, but (see details in background) producing, promoting and selling a new model of cookstove.

We can prove that the project has been active without interruption and provide as proof the activity reports produced and submitted to our financial partners, in particular the "Agence Française de Développement" (AFD) main one for the COFIFAM project:

- o Interim report from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2019.
- o Final execution report from January 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021

The project has since continued under the name SONEYA (if necessary we can provide activity reports filed with its main financial partner the Pays de La Loire Region until 2024).

Verification

If GS approve this deviation form, we propose to organize as soon as possible a field verification. We already have 3 CV to submit to Sustain Cert which will select the best Objective observer to perform the verification.

(On peut mettre la liste tout de suite ici si cela est nécessaire)

4.2.2 | VVB opinion (to be completed by VVB, if applicable):

**Guidance* If required by SustainCERT or Gold Standard for this particular deviation, please add here the VVB's opinion.
Following our documents and phone exchange with GS and SC and*

4.3 | Impact of the deviation:

**Guidance* Use the space below to describe the impact of the deviation on project design, safeguarding principles assessment, SDG assessment, emissions reductions, monitoring frequency, data quality, potential risk or any other relevant aspect of the project. Please substantiate the impact assessment with relevant and verifiable data/information.*

4.3.1 | Impact assessment (to be completed by Project developer):

Non compliance with GS Annual reporting had no impact on safeguarding principles, SDG assessment, emissions reductions, monitoring frequency, data quality or potential risk.

GS verification regulation delayed had no impact on safeguarding principles, SDG assessment, emissions reductions, monitoring frequency, data quality or potential risk.

4.3.2 | VVB opinion (to be completed by VVB, if applicable):

**Guidance* If required by SustainCERT or Gold Standard for this particular deviation, please add here the VVB's opinion.*

4.4 | Documents:

**Guidance* List of documents provided (note that once a decision has been made by Gold Standard, this deviation form along with supporting documents will be made public on the Gold Standard website. If any of the supporting documents are confidential, please indicate here to ensure they are omitted.)*

Version number	Release date	Description
5	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	14.01.2021	
3	16.07.2020	
2	03.05.2018	
1	01.07.2017	Initial adoption