

FORM

FORM - DEVIATION REQUEST SUBMISSION

PUBLICATION DATE: 12/11/2024

VERSION: 6.0

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RELATED DOCUMENTS

– [Deviations Approval Requirements and Procedures](#)

CONTACT DETAILS

The Gold Standard Foundation
International Environment House 2
Chemin de Balexert 7-9
1219 Châtelaine Geneva, Switzerland
Tel +41 22 788 70 80
Email help@goldstandard.org

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-355
Date of decision	17/05/2026
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

The deviation request is conditionally approved. The project developer is requested to apply the cap value of 80% for the non-compliance period (i.e., for the monitoring period 01/12/2023 – 30/11/2024) for considering the risk of contamination during transportation between the borehole outlets (point of delivery) to the end-user premises.

The VVB shall assess whether other projects in the region encountered the same security issue and, if not, provide a justification explaining why this project was specifically affected.

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

The project developer 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 project developer. The project developer shall comply with all other applicable standard requirements until unless specifically mentioned in the deviation decision. The project developer shall document the deviation request, its implications, and GS' decision in the appropriate section of the project document.

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

The verifying VVB shall, through appropriate means at disposal, evaluate that the project's compliance with the above-mentioned conditions and provide VVB opinion in the verification report.

4.2.4 | Directions for the Gold Standard, if applicable

The review team shall check the information reported by the project developer and the VVB for appropriateness, accuracy and consistency.

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	

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 :	Solange de Lacoste
Email ID ⁴ :	solange@crescendo-africa.org
Organisation: ⁵ :	Crescendo Afforestation Foundation
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	GS12213 GSXXXX	GS XXXX GS XXXX	GS XXXX GS XXXX
Host country(ies)	Nigeria		
Project Title	Crescendo Safe Water Supply		
Registry link	https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/4142		
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>16/01/2024</i>	☐ Certified project <i>dd/mm/yyyy</i>
			☐ Other <i>If other, specify here</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	☒ 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	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	Methodology for Emission Reductions from Safe Drinking Water Supply
	Version	Version 1.0
	Paragraph	para 4.1.a parameter SDWS 18

6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	Temporary deviation from SDWS 18 household-level water testing requirement	
	☒ Temporary	☐ Permanent

Confirm the nature of changes related to deviation	not expected to occur beyond one monitoring period	
	The deviation applies exclusively to the current monitoring period due to exceptional security constraints in the project area and is not expected to continue beyond this period. The project will revert to full compliance with SDWS 18 requirements in the subsequent monitoring period.	
Relevant monitoring period, if applicable	Start date	01/12/2023
	End date	30/11/2024
Summarise the changes	During the current monitoring period, water quality testing was conducted at the borehole outlets (point of delivery) instead of in transport containers at end-user premises, as required under Parameter SDWS 18. This alternative monitoring arrangement applied exclusively to the defined non-conforming monitoring period resulting from security constraints.	
Reason for deviation	The deviation resulted from exceptional and unforeseen security incidents that occurred in December 2023 in Plateau State, Nigeria. Between December 2023 and November 2024, Plateau State in central Nigeria experienced repeated episodes of violent attacks, including coordinated massacres in December 2023 that killed hundreds and ongoing armed incidents in 2024. These conditions created a high-risk security environment that prevented safe household visits during the monitoring period. These events were beyond the control of the Project Developer and created a temporary situation in which safe access to households could not be ensured. The deviation is strictly temporary in nature and limited to the defined monitoring period. The project will revert to full compliance with SDWS 18 requirements in the subsequent monitoring period, subject to stabilization of the security context. 1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2023_Plateau_State_massacres 2. https://www.csw.org.uk/2024/02/01/report/6158/article.htm 3. https://morningstarnews.org/2024/11/herdsmen-kill-three-christians-in-plateau-state-nigeria/ 4. https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/10-christians-including-pregnant-woman-massacred-in-nigeria-s-plateau-state 5. https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/attacks-nigerias-plateau-state-leave-least-30-dead-2024-01-25/	
Proposed resolution	The project implemented an alternative monitoring arrangement for the non-conforming monitoring period by conducting microbial water quality testing at borehole outlets (point of delivery). This approach ensures conservativeness because: - Testing was conducted at the primary distribution point prior to household handling; - Full SDWS 18 statistical and QA/QC requirements were applied; - The sampling size and 90/10 confidence rule were respected; - No adjustment to emission reduction calculations was made;	

	- Emission reductions were not increased or recalculated based on alternative assumptions. Given that the deviation concerns only the sampling location and does not affect baseline emissions, project emissions, leakage emissions, or the quantity of safe drinking water (Qy), there is no risk of overestimation of emission reductions. The project confirms that this alternative monitoring arrangement applies solely to the defined monitoring period and that full compliance with SDWS 18 will resume in the subsequent monitoring period.						
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	The deviation does not impact baseline emissions , project emissions, leakage emissions or Emission reduction calculation (Equation 11). The deviation concerns exclusively the monitoring location under SDWS 18 and does not alter the calculation methodology or monitored parameters used for emission reduction quantification.						

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	VVB confirms that the deviation is temporary in nature, applicable exclusively to the monitoring period 01/12/2023 to 30/11/2024. Based on the documentation provided, including third-party public reports concerning the security situation in Plateau State, Nigeria during the relevant period, the VVB determines that: • The deviation resulted from exceptional and unforeseen security incidents occurring during the monitoring period. • The events were beyond the control of the Project Developer. • The Project Developer has confirmed that the deviation is limited to one monitoring period and that monitoring will revert to full compliance with SDWS 18 household-level testing requirements in the subsequent monitoring period. The deviation therefore meets the requirements of GS Deviation Request Requirements and Procedures v2.0, specifically paragraph 3.2.4, requiring confirmation that the change is temporary and beyond the control of the project developer.
VVB's assessment of impact of deviation request	VVB determines that a temporary change from the certified monitoring plan has occurred during the monitoring period 01/12/2023 – 30/11/2024, specifically concerning the sampling location under Parameter SDWS 18. Instead of conducting water quality testing at household level (transport containers), testing was undertaken at the borehole outlet (point of delivery). The Project Developer proposed an alternative monitoring arrangement in accordance with paragraph 3.2.3(a), rather than applying the most conservative values approach under paragraph 3.2.4(b). The VVB confirms that the alternative monitoring arrangement was clearly described; SDWS 18 statistical requirements, including the prescribed sample size and 90/10 confidence rule, were maintained; QA/QC procedures were applied; and no recalculation or upward adjustment of emission reductions was made. The deviation therefore satisfies the procedural requirements of paragraph 3.2.3(a).

The VVB further assessed whether the alternative monitoring arrangement could result in overestimation of emission reductions. Testing at the borehole outlet reflects water quality prior to household transport and storage and therefore does not directly capture potential secondary contamination at household level. The 2-test conducted at the stage of completing of installation, (28th October 2023) and after 6 months of operation (15th June 2024) reflects that the water is safe for drinking and inline with the national water quality standards. Additionally, emission reductions under the applied methodology are primarily driven by baseline fuel consumption, project fuel consumption, and the quantity of safe water delivered (Qy). The deviation does not affect baseline emissions, project emissions, leakage emissions, the quantity of safe drinking water distributed, or the emission reduction calculation parameters (Equation 11).

Furthermore, the PD has made sure to take necessary measures to create awareness regarding hygiene and sanitation practices among the end users. The VVB has assessed the WASH reports and confirms that the PD has conducted appropriate hygiene campaigns to train communities on water, sanitization and hygiene practices. The households were trained appropriately on the storage of water in their households to prevent waterborne diseases and promote hygiene behaviours such as handwashing, safe water storage and proper sanitization. The VVB has assessed the training lists, attendance lists and the agenda to confirm the same.

Accordingly, the deviation relates solely to the verification of the water quality compliance location and does not affect emission quantification variables. No increase in emission reduction claims has occurred, and although no discount factor was applied, the methodological structure ensures that no quantification bias leading to overestimation arises.

The VVB therefore concludes that the temporary deviation is limited to the monitoring location requirement under SDWS 18, does not impact project design, stakeholder consultation, safeguarding principles, SDG assessment, regulatory compliance, or additionality, and does not alter the annual emission reduction volume. There is no risk of

	overestimation of GHG emission reductions as a result of the deviation.	
VVB recommendation	The VVB recommends that: • The temporary deviation for the monitoring period 01/12/2023 – 30/11/2024 be accepted; • The Project Developer shall revert to full compliance with SDWS 18 household-level water testing in the subsequent monitoring period; • Evidence of reinstatement of household-level sampling shall be reviewed during the next verification. No adjustment to verified emission reductions is required for the current monitoring period.	
VVB details	VVB name:	Earthood Services Limited
	Auditor name(s):	Team Leader: Rahul Dev Gautam TA Expert 3.1: Rahul Dev Gautam GS Approved Auditor: Rahul Dev Gautam Verifier: Rahul Dev Gautam Local Expert: Kumden Nanbal Luka
	Email (s):	operations@earthood.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.

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