



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-391
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

Thank you for submitting the deviation request.

The deviation is approved.

[Agriculture Activity Requirements](#) (para. 4.5.1), requires retroactive projects to submit the design certification request with positive validation opinion to Gold Standard within five years of its start date. Where [Agriculture Activity Requirements](#) apply, projects are allowed to deviate from [Site visit and remote audit requirements and procedures](#) (para.3.1.1) which mandates physical site visit within two years of project start date.

Also, as per (para 4.4.2) [Agriculture Activity Requirements](#) the maximum period for retroactive issuance is from the project start date, but to a maximum of three years prior to the date of project design certification.

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

N/A

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

VVB should check compliance with deviation decision

4.2.4 | Directions for the Gold Standard, if applicable

N/A

4.3 | Applicability to other activities

Is this decision applicable to other projects under similar circumstances? ¹	☐ Yes ☒ No
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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.

Does this decision set a precedent for future projects with similar circumstances? ²	☐ Yes ☒ No
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Precedent details (if applicable to other activities)

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 :	Mr. Gaurav Kaushik
Email ID ⁴ :	gaurav@pnpindia.org.in
Organisation: ⁵	Partners in Prosperity
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		PoA: GS13121	GS13122 GS13123 GS13124 GS13125 GS13126 GS13127
Host country(ies)	India		
Project Title	Pro-climate paddy cultivation for reducing methane emission and saving water		
Registry link	https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/4953		
Scale	☐ Microscale (GS) ☒ Small scale ☐ Large scale ☐ Other, if applicable please specify below		

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

Insert text here

Certification Status and corresponding date of latest status	☒ Listed	☐ Certified design	☐ Certified project	☐ Other <i>If other, specify here</i>			
	12/02/2025	dd/mm/yyyy	dd/mm/yyyy	dd/mm/yyyy			
Applied version of Standard	☒ GS4GG						
	☐ Previous version of Gold Standard	Version no. <table><tr><td>☐ 1.0</td><td>☐ 1.1</td><td>☐ 1.2</td><td>☐ 2.2</td></tr></table>			☐ 1.0	☐ 1.1	☐ 1.2
☐ 1.0	☐ 1.1	☐ 1.2	☐ 2.2				
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 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.		☐ 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 FAR 1 – Project Start Date The project start date has been confirmed as 08/02/2024.	

	FAR 2 – Crediting Period
	The project crediting period has been confirmed as 5 years, renewable twice.
	FAR 3 – Project Scale
	The project has been confirmed as a Small-Scale activity, and this classification has been applied consistently throughout the documentation.
	FAR 4 – Stakeholder Consultation Completion
	The stakeholder consultation meeting has been completed, and the consultation report has been finalized.
	FAR 5 – Stakeholder Documentation Requirements
	Stakeholder consent has been documented, and both redacted and non-redacted versions of the consultation report have been prepared for submission.
	FAR 6 – Land Eligibility Assessment
	The Land Eligibility Assessment has been completed and will be submitted at validation.

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	Gold Standard for the Global Goals – Principles & Requirements
	Version	V2.1
	Paragraph	Section 5.1.37 “The project may take into account retroactive period for performance Certification of Certified Impact Statement and /or Products. The maximum period for Retroactive Certification is two years (three years for A/R & AGR) prior to the date of Project Design Certification unless otherwise stated in a specific Impact quantification methodologies or Product Requirements.” GHG Emissions Reduction & Sequestration Product Requirements Ver. 3.2, Para 10.2.1

		"The start date of Crediting Period is the date of start of operation (start of planting for A/R Projects) or a maximum of two years (three years for A/R & AGR) prior to the date of Project Design Certification, whichever occurs later."
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6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	Extension for Crediting Period Start Date	
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	08/02/2024
	End date	31/12/2025
Summarise the changes	The project developer requests approval to claim emission reduction from 08/02/2024 which is project activity start date due to delay in validation of Programme of Activities GS13121 and associated VPAs (VPA 1 GS13122; VPA 2 GS 13123; VPA 3 GS 13124; VPA 4 13125; VPA 5 13126; VPA 6 GS13127), despite validation not being initiated within two years of the project start date (February 2024), as generally required under the Gold Standard Principles & Requirements. The delay occurred due to challenges in operationalizing the digital system under the Gold Standard digital MRV (dMRV) pilot, specifically delays related to the availability and readiness of the required technical infrastructure. These technical constraints were outside the control of the project developer and prevented the timely initiation of the intended digital monitoring workflows. To avoid further delays and ensure continued implementation of the project, the project developer has decided to proceed with standard monitoring procedures consistent with the applicable methodology. The agreement with the Validation and Verification Body (VVB) was signed in September 2025, and the validation process is currently underway, with the site visit scheduled for March 2026. The requested deviation therefore relates solely to the timing of validation initiation and does not affect the project design, monitoring methodology, or environmental integrity of the project activities.	

Reason for deviation	The requested deviation relates to the project activity crediting period start date and credit claim from start date of project activity. The project start date is February 2024; however, validation could not be initiated within the two-year timeframe due to delays associated with the operationalization of the digital MRV systems under the dMRV pilot programme. These delays were caused by technical readiness issues outside the control of the project developer. As a result, the project developer has elected to proceed with standard monitoring arrangements to ensure that validation can proceed without further delay while maintaining the integrity of project monitoring.
Proposed resolution	The project developer proposes to proceed with validation of PoA GS13121 and associated VPAs (VPA 1 GS13122; VPA 2 GS 13123; VPA 3 GS 13124; VPA 4 13125; VPA 5 13126; VPA 6 GS13127) while maintaining the original project start date of February 2024. Monitoring will be conducted using standard methodology-compliant monitoring procedures, ensuring that the quantification of emission reductions remains accurate, conservative, and transparent. The validation process is currently underway, and the validation site visit is scheduled for March 2026. The proposed resolution ensures that: • project monitoring complies with Gold Standard methodology requirements • emission reduction calculations shall apply required quantification approach • the original project start date reflects the actual commencement of project activities Approval of this deviation will therefore allow the project to proceed with validation without compromising the current project implementation.
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>	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						
	☐ any other matrix, please specify...						
Summary of the impact	The requested deviation does not affect the design or implementation of the Programme of Activities (PoA) GS13121 and the associated VPAs (VPA 1 GS13122; VPA 2 GS 13123; VPA 3 GS 13124; VPA 4 13125; VPA 5 13126; VPA 6 GS13127). Project activities have been implemented continuously since the project start date of February 2024, and monitoring systems have been operationalized. All monitoring data and implementation records are available and will be reviewed by the Validation and Verification Body during validation.						

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.
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VVB's assessment of impact of deviation request		
VVB recommendation		
VVB details	VVB name:	Carbon Check (India) Private Limited
	Auditor name(s):	Kiran K V
	Email (s):	kiran@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. Signed agreement between Partners in Prosperity and Carbon Check (India) Private Limited

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