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
The Gold Standard Foundation
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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.

Table of Content

4| Decision summary

To be completed by Gold Standard

4.1 | General information

DEVIATION REFERENCE NUMBER	DEVRQ-401
Date of decision	20/04/2026
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 is approved.

The project developer and VVB 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 project developer 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 project developer will be responsible for contracting and covering the costs of the Objective Observer. The relationship between and among the project developer, the Objective Observer and Gold Standard shall be established in a Memorandum of Understanding that must be signed by all parties. The project developer 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 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 developer. The project developer 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 project developer'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]	☐ 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] :	Chetan Swaroop Sharma
Email ID[4] :	chetan@4kearthscience.com
Organisation:[5]:	4K Earth Science Pvt. Ltd.
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	*GS10869* *GSXXXX*		*GS XXXX* *GS XXXX*		*GS XXXX* *GS XXXX*
Host country(ies)	Burkina Faso				
Project Title	Nagreongo Solar PV				
Registry link	**https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/2826**				
Scale	☐ Microscale (GS) ☐ Small scale ☒ Large scale ☐ Other, if applicable please specify below *Insert text here*				
Certification Status and corresponding	☐ Listed	☐ Certified design		☒ Certified project	☐ Other *If other, specify here*

[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

date of latest status	*dd/mm/yyyy*	*dd/mm/yyyy*	*09/06/2022*	*dd/mm/yyyy*

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Applied version of Standard</td><td colspan="5">☒ GS4GG</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">☐ Previous version of Gold Standard</td><td colspan="4">Version no.</td></tr>
<tr><td>☐ 1.0</td><td>☐ 1.1</td><td>☐ 1.2</td><td>☐ 2.2</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="4">Transition date, if applicable</td><td colspan="3">From previous GS version to GS4GG</td><td colspan="2">dd/mm/yyyy</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">From another standard to GS4GG</td><td colspan="2">dd/mm/yyyy</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Name of another standard</td><td colspan="4">☐ CDM</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">☐ Other
Name of the Standard – Insert text here</td></tr>
<tr><td>Applicable activity requirement</td><td colspan="5">☒ Renewable Energy Activity Requirements
☐ Community Services Activity Requirements
☐ Land-use and Forests Activity Requirements
☐ Other
Insert name here</td></tr>
</table>

5.4 | Project deviation history

<table>
<tr><td colspan="3">Is there any deviation request(s) for the same project activity/PoA/VPA(s) that was submitted to GS previously? If yes, below information.</td><td>☐ Yes
☒ No</td></tr>
<tr><td>Reference number</td><td colspan="3">Insert Text here</td></tr>
<tr><td>Status of the deviation</td><td>☐ Approved</td><td>☐ Rejected</td><td>☐ Under review</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">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?</td><td colspan="3">☒ Yes ☐ No</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Summary of the findings
Performance review, monitoring period 1, page 1 FAR#2 : During the next verification, it is essential to assign an approved GS auditor to conduct an onsite visit and audit all aspects related to GS4GG, in addition to the technical areas.</td></tr>
</table>

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

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Standard document reference</td><td>Title</td><td>VALIDATION/VERIFICATION BODY REQUIREMENTS</td></tr>
<tr><td>Version</td><td>Version 3.0</td></tr>
<tr><td>Paragraph</td><td>8.3.1.2</td></tr>
</table>

6.2 | Description of the deviation

<table>
<tr><td>Title</td><td colspan="3">Site visit deviation</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Confirm the nature of changes related to deviation</td><td colspan="2">☒ Temporary
(e.g. not expected to occur beyond one monitoring period)</td><td>☐ Permanent
(e.g. deviation from requirements prior to submission for certification)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Insert Text here (if required) to support the selection</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Relevant monitoring period, if applicable</td><td>Start date</td><td colspan="2">01/07/2024</td></tr>
<tr><td>End date</td><td colspan="2">31/12/2025</td></tr>
<tr><td>Summarise the changes</td><td colspan="3">During the previous performance review (from MP n°1) done by SustainCert. A FAR was raised i.e., During the next verification, it is essential to assign an approved GS auditor to conduct an onsite visit and audit all aspects related to GS4GG, in addition to the technical areas.
The request exemption from assigning a Gold Standard-approved auditor for the onsite visit. Due to ongoing security concerns and instability in the host country, it is not feasible to deploy a GS-approved auditor for onsite activities. Current travel advisories and risk assessments indicate elevated threats that pose unacceptable risks to personnel safety, including potential for civil unrest, kidnapping, or other security incidents affecting international auditors.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Reason for deviation</td><td colspan="3">The security in Burkina Faos cannot be insured for visitors as per country advice from UK, USA, and France
https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/conseils-aux-voyageurs/conseils-par-pays-destination/burkina-faso/
https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/burkina-faso
https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/burkina-faso-travel-advisory.html</td></tr>
<tr><td>Proposed resolution</td><td colspan="3">1. Onsite technical audits will be performed by locally based, qualified auditors under direct supervision of the GS-approved auditor. This is in line with para 8.3.1.2 of the VALIDATION/VERIFICATION BODY REQUIREMENTS, Version 3.0 which specify that Team Leader is not mandatory to visit the site, however Technical Expert should visit the site.
2. Remote audit conducted by the GS-approved auditor using secure video conferencing, document review, and GPS-verified data submission. This is in line with Site Visit and Remote Audit Requirements and Procedures – V2.0
3. All findings documented with timestamps, geolocation data, and stakeholder confirmations for full traceability.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Is there any potential temporary or permanent impact of deviation on other aspects of the project?</td><td colspan="3">Select the relevant area:
☐ Project design
☐ Local stakeholder consultation
☐ Safeguarding principles
☐ SDG assessment
☐ Regulatory compliance
☐ Additionality</td></tr>
</table>

	☐ Applicability of methodology ☐ Annual emission reduction volume *(if yes, fill the table below)* Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation: *XYZ* tCO_2e Annual emission reduction/ removal after applying deviation: *XYZ* tCO_2e ☐ any other matrix, please specify…
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.
No impact. Onsite technical audits will be performed by locally based, qualified auditors under direct supervision of the GS-approved auditor. This is in line with para 8.3.1.2 of the VALIDATION/VERIFICATION BODY REQUIREMENTS, Version 3.0 which specify that Team Leader is not mandatory to visit the site, however Technical Expert should visit the site.	

6.3 | VVB information

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

6.4 | VVB's assessment

The below information is to be completed by VVB, if applicable.

VVB's assessment of deviation request	Temporary
VVB's assessment of impact of deviation request	No impact. Onsite technical audits will be performed by locally based, qualified auditors under direct supervision of the GS-approved auditor. This is in line with para 8.3.1.2 of the VALIDATION/VERIFICATION BODY REQUIREMENTS, Version 3.0 which specify that Team Leader is not mandatory to visit the site, however Technical Expert should visit the site.
VVB recommendation	1. Onsite technical audits will be performed by locally based, qualified auditors under direct supervision of the GS-approved auditor. This is in line with para 8.3.1.2 of the VALIDATION/VERIFICATION BODY REQUIREMENTS, Version 3.0 which specify that Team Leader is not mandatory to visit the site, however Technical Expert should visit the site. 2. Remote audit conducted by the GS-approved auditor using secure video conferencing, document review, and GPS-verified data submission. This is in line with Site Visit and Remote Audit Requirements and Procedures – V2.0

		3. All findings documented with timestamps, geolocation data, and stakeholder confirmations for full traceability.
VVB details	VVB name:	4K Earth Science PVT. LTD.
	Auditor name(s):	Mr. Chetan Swaroop Sharma
	Email (s):	chetan@4kearthscience.com

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