

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-426
Date of decision	08/06/2026
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

The deviation is approved.

The CME 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 CME 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 CME will be responsible for contracting and covering the costs of the Objective Observer. The relationship between and among the CME, the Objective Observer and Gold Standard shall be established in a Memorandum of Understanding that must be signed by all parties. The CME 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 CME 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 CME 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 CME'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)	

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 :	Jakob Zenz
Email ID ⁴ :	jakob@econetix.net
Organisation: ⁵ :	Econetix GmbH
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	GSXXXX GSXXXX	GS XXXX GS XXXX	GS 12470
Host country(ies)	DRC		
Project Title	Uplifting communities through clean energy in the DRC – VPA 1		
Registry link	https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/4483		
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 dd/mm/yyyy	☐ Certified design dd/mm/yyyy	☒ Certified project 23/01/2026
			☐ Other <i>If other, specify here</i> dd/mm/yyyy

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	☐ 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 <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	DEVRQ-146		
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	GS4GG Principles and Requirement para 2.1.1 regarding deviation on case-to-case basis for on-site visit in conflict and emergency zones
	Version	Version 2.0
	Paragraph	ANNEX B – CONFLICT AND EMERGENCY ZONES - Para 2.1.1 regarding deviation on case-to-case basis for on-site visit in conflict and emergency zones: Gold Standard will assess applications on a case-by-case basis. To be eligible for the rule deviation described herein, there must be evidence that demonstrates that VVBs are not willing to go on-site. Furthermore,

		the applicant must demonstrate prior experience working in conflict zones/areas that pose a high risk to life and/or health. And show involvement in other activities within the considered area, apart from implementing the project under review. Alternatively, the establishment of a formal collaboration with partners who have such experience and involvement in the considered area may qualify under these rules as long as the collaboration is sustained over the entire certification period of the Project.
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6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	Request for Rule Deviation and Remote Audit/Objective Observer Due to Conflict Zone Restrictions in DRC	
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	01/05/2025
	End date	31/12/2025
Summarise the changes	In accordance with the requirements of the Gold Standard GS4GG Principles and Requirements Version 2.0, Annex B – Conflict and Emergency Zones, Section 2.1.1, ECONETIX hereby requests a deviation for project GS12470 due to the ongoing conflict situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The project activities are located in areas currently affected by severe security concerns, armed violence, and travel restrictions, making physical access highly unsafe for international personnel. Multiple publicly available sources continue to report escalating instability and attacks in the region, demonstrating the operational challenges associated with conducting on-site verification activities. ECONETIX approached the appointed VVB to undertake the mandatory site visit and verification activities as required under Gold Standard procedures. However, the VVB formally declined to proceed with the on-site assessment because of the security risks and inability to safely deploy personnel to the project locations. Due to the prevailing conflict conditions, ECONETIX has also been unable to identify any alternative VVB willing to conduct physical verification visits in the concerned regions. The continued inability to undertake site visits may significantly delay the verification process and affect the scheduled review timelines of the VPAs. At the same time, the project is expected to deliver substantial sustainable development benefits by improving access to energy-efficient solutions for thousands of households in the DRC while contributing to greenhouse gas emission reductions. To address these exceptional circumstances, the Project Proponent requests Gold Standard approval for an alternative verification approach, including remote verification measures and/or the use of an Objective Observer in line with applicable Gold Standard provisions for conflict and emergency zones. Once the security situation in the region	

	stabilizes and travel conditions improve, the Project Proponent commits to facilitating physical on-site verification for subsequent verification events.						
Reason for deviation	The project activities are situated in conflict-affected regions within the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where ongoing violence, instability, and security threats continue to restrict safe travel and field access. Due to these conditions, VVBs are unwilling to conduct on-site verification activities. Publicly available reports and supporting evidence demonstrating the security situation in the project area have already been provided.						
Proposed resolution	The Project Proponent has submitted supporting documentation and publicly available evidence regarding the ongoing conflict situation in the DRC. In addition, the appointed VVB was formally approached to conduct the required site visit; however, the VVB declined due to safety concerns associated with travel to the project area. Considering the exceptional circumstances, the Project Proponent requests Gold Standard approval to proceed with verification through remote audit arrangements and/or deployment of an Objective Observer, in line with Gold Standard requirements applicable to conflict and emergency zones. Physical on-site verification will be undertaken in future verification events once the security situation improves and travel to the project area becomes feasible.						
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" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #00a0a0; color: white;"> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;">Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation</th><th style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;">Annual emission reduction/removal after applying deviation</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">XYZ tCO₂e</td><td style="padding: 5px;">XYZ tCO₂e</td></tr> <tr> <td style="height: 20px;"></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	There is no impact on the project design, safeguarding principles, SDG assessment, data quality, potential risk or any other aspects of the project due to this deviation. The VPA will abide by all Gold Standard requirements.						

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</i>	Yes ☐ No ☒ <i>If answer is yes, fill the information in section 6.4 below.</i>
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<u>Procedures</u> or request is submitted by the VVB.	
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6.4 | VVB's assessment

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