

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-429
Date of decision	15/06/2026
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 request is approved given that the PA-Aligned TPDDTEC methodology (V5.0) was published on 5 May 2026, the proposed project is granted automatic exemption and has 6 months from the publication date to complete and submit the PA-Aligned Crediting Period Renewal package. The project developer shall commence PA Alignment preparation at the earliest opportunity and engage a qualified VVB with a PA-aligned auditor on the team.

The project developer shall refer to the clarification below to the points raised:

1. Automatic exemption and 6-month window: Confirmed that the crediting period renewal submission deadline is 5 November 2026 (6 months from the methodology publication date of 5 May 2026).
2. Transitional provisions: Not applicable as the automatic exemption applies directly to the project situation.
3. Continuity of crediting period: Provided that the PA-Aligned crediting period renewal submission is made by the 5 November 2026 deadline, there will be no gap or break in the project's crediting period/certification status.

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 validating VVB shall, through appropriate means at disposal, evaluate that the project's compliance with the above-mentioned conditions and provide VVB opinion in the validation 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)	

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 :	Surendra Kumar Shrestha, PhD
Email ID ⁴ :	shrestha@sahasfoundation.org.np
Organisation: ⁵ :	Sahas 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 GS6886	☒ VPA
GS ID	GS6886 GS6887	GS 6886	GS 6887 GS XXXX
Host country(ies)	Nepal		
Project Title	Community Level Green Energy Promotion in Nepal		
Registry link	https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/1784		
Scale	☐ Microscale (GS) ☒ Small scale ☐ Large scale ☐ Other, if applicable please specify below <i>Insert text here</i>		
Certification Status and corresponding	☐ Listed	☐ Certified design	☒ Certified project ☐ Other <i>If other, specify here</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

date of latest status	dd/mm/yyyy	dd/mm/yyyy	13/02/2020	dd/mm/yyyy
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 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 Summary of the CL, CAR, FAR not more than 200 words. Include reference to document, page number		

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	GS TPDDTEC (Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralised Thermal Energy Consumption) – PA-Aligned Version V5.0; GS4GG Principles and Requirements; Crediting Period Renewal Requirements and Procedures
	Version	TPDDTEC V5.0 (PA-Aligned, published 05/05/2026); previously applied: GS TPDDTEC v3.1 (v2)
	Paragraph	Paragraph(s) governing PA Alignment requirements and automatic exemption/6-month submission window for Crediting

		Period Renewal under GS4GG (specific clause to be confirmed by Gold Standard as part of this deviation request)
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6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	PA-Aligned Methodology Published 12 Days Before Crediting Period End	
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	18/05/2021
	End date	17/05/2026
Summarise the changes	We write with respect to the project "Community Level Green Energy Promotion in Nepal" (VPA-01, GS6887), which is currently in its first crediting period running from 18 May 2021 to 17 May 2026, operating under GS TPDDTEC v3.1 (v2). We wish to bring to Gold Standard's attention a situation that has arisen as a result of the publication timing of the PA-Aligned version of the TPDDTEC methodology (V5.0), which was officially published on 5 May 2026, only 12 days before the project's crediting period end date of 17 May 2026. Through this deviation request, we respectfully seek Gold Standard's guidance on the following: first, clarification of whether our project remains eligible for the automatic exemption and, if so, whether the 6-month PA-Aligned CPR submission window may be considered to commence from the date of methodology publication (5 May 2026), which would establish a CPR submission deadline of 5 November 2026, rather than requiring a full PA-Aligned CPR by 17 May 2026. We humbly submit that the 12-day window between methodology publication and the crediting period end is genuinely insufficient to: (1) thoroughly review and understand TPDDTEC V5.0, which introduces significant changes including a new 5-step baseline approach; (2) update the Project Design Document and monitoring plan accordingly; (3) engage and contract a qualified Validation/Verification Body (VVB) for PA Alignment Validation; and (4) complete the required validation process. Second, we respectfully request Gold Standard's consideration of whether the crediting period may be permitted to continue without a break in certification status while the PA Alignment process is being completed, given that any gap would arise solely from circumstances wholly outside our control. Refer to latest version of Deviation Request Requirements and Procedures for requirements and guidelines	
Reason for deviation	We respectfully submit that the primary reason for this deviation request is the publication timing of the PA-Aligned TPDDTEC methodology (V5.0), which was unavailable for the vast majority of the project's current crediting period and was only officially published on 5 May 2026 — a mere 12 calendar days before the crediting period end date of 17 May 2026. This timing was entirely outside the control of the project developer and CME, and we humbly submit that 12	

	calendar days is an objectively insufficient period within which to: (1) thoroughly review and understand the significant changes introduced by V5.0, including the new 5-step baseline approach; (2) update the Project Design Document and monitoring plan accordingly; (3) identify, engage, and contract a qualified Validation/Verification Body (VVB) for PA Alignment Validation; and (4) complete the required validation process. The deviation from the standard submission timeline therefore arises solely from circumstances beyond our reasonable control. We are fully committed to compliance with Gold Standard's PA Alignment requirements and are ready and willing to begin the renewal process immediately upon receiving clarity on the applicable timeline. In addition to the above, we respectfully request that the crediting period be permitted to continue without a break or gap in certification status while the PA Alignment process is being completed. A break in the crediting period would unfairly penalise a project that has operated in good faith throughout its certification cycle and has been unable to complete PA Alignment solely due to the late availability of the required methodology. We kindly request that Gold Standard consider allowing the crediting period to continue uninterrupted, consistent with the spirit of equitable and proportionate treatment of certified projects in analogous circumstances.
Proposed resolution	We kindly request Gold Standard's consideration of each element: (1) Clarification of whether our project remains eligible for the automatic exemption and, if so, confirmation that the 6-month PA-Aligned CPR submission window may be considered to commence from the date of methodology publication (5 May 2026), establishing a CPR submission deadline of 5 November 2026. (2) In the event the automatic exemption is determined not to apply, we would be very grateful for clarification on what transitional provisions or grace periods may be available to projects in our situation, together with a reference to the specific clause in the normative document governing this scenario. (3) Consideration of whether the crediting period may be permitted to continue without a break or gap in certification status while the PA Alignment validation process is being completed, given that any such gap would arise solely from circumstances outside the project's control. We wish to emphasise that the proposed resolution is conservative and proportionate. We do not seek to avoid PA Alignment requirements or to extend the crediting period beyond what is warranted; we simply seek clarity on the applicable timeline and equitable treatment in light of the very late availability of the PA-Aligned methodology. We will commence PA Alignment preparation without delay upon receipt of Gold Standard's guidance, and will engage a qualified VVB at the earliest opportunity. No changes to the project's monitoring plan, emission reduction calculations, or SDG contributions are proposed during this period, and environmental integrity and SDG contributions remain fully maintained. Describe the proposed resolution for example proposed alternative monitoring arrangements for the non-conforming monitoring period. We respectfully submit that the proposed resolution is fully consistent with GS4GG environmental integrity principles. The project does not

	seek to alter, extend, or change its monitoring plan, emission reduction calculations, or SDG impact assessments in any way. The request is limited solely to clarity on the applicable submission timeline for the PA-Aligned CPR and a request for continuity of the crediting period during the transition. We can confirm that no overestimation of GSVERs or other certified products would result from the proposed resolution, and that the conservativeness of the project's approach is maintained throughout. The project's SDG contributions, safeguarding compliance, and host country regulatory compliance remain fully intact and are entirely unaffected by this deviation request. We remain grateful for Gold Standard's continued support and guidance. Please include all relevant information in support of the request.						
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	We wish to confirm that this deviation request relates solely to the applicable timeline for submission of a PA-Aligned Crediting Period Renewal and the continuity of the crediting period during that process. It does not involve any proposed changes to the project design, monitoring plan, emission reduction methodology, SDG assessment, safeguarding assessment, additionality demonstration, or regulatory compliance status. We can confirm that there is no anticipated impact on the annual emission reduction volume, as no changes to monitoring or calculation approaches are proposed. The only aspect affected is the crediting period renewal submission timeline and status continuity, which are the subjects of this deviation request. The project remains fully compliant with all GS4GG requirements applicable to its current certified design and monitoring plan, and we are committed to maintaining that standard going forward. as selected above. Please substantiate the impact assessment with relevant and verifiable data/information.						
This deviation request relates solely to the applicable timeline for submission of a PA-Aligned Crediting Period Renewal. It does not involve any changes to the project design, monitoring plan, emission reduction methodology, SDG assessment, safeguarding assessment, additionality demonstration, or regulatory compliance status. There is no impact on the							

annual emission reduction volume, as no changes to monitoring or calculation approaches are proposed. The only aspect potentially affected is the crediting period renewal submission timeline, which is the subject of this deviation request. The project remains fully compliant with all GS4GG requirements applicable to its current certified design and monitoring plan.

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.	
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 1. GS TPDDTEC PA-Aligned Methodology V5.0 (published 05/05/2026) – official publication from Gold Standard website

Document 2. GS Registry entry for Community Level Green Energy Promotion in Nepal (GS6886/GS6887) confirming crediting period dates (18 May 2021 – 17 May 2026)

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