

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
International Environment House 2
Chemin de Balxert 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

1 General Guidelines.....	2
1.1 Applicability.....	2
2 Submission of deviation form	2
3 Implementation of deviation decision	2
4 Decision summary	4
4.1 General information.....	4
4.2 Decision.....	4
4.3 Applicability to other activities	4
5 Deviation Request Details.....	6
5.1 Submitted by.....	6
5.2 Details of the entity and its representative submitting the form	6
5.3 Background information	6
5.4 Project deviation history	7
6 Deviation detail	8
6.1 Standard document reference.....	8
6.2 Description of the deviation	8
6.3 VVB information.....	11
6.4 VVB's assessment	11
6.5 Documents:	11

4| Decision summary

To be completed by Gold Standard

4.1 | General information

DEVIATION REFERENCE NUMBER	DEVQR-430
Date of decision	27/05/2026
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 approved following the approval for DEVQR-260, DEVQR-287 and DEV_804 in recognition of the continued force majeure conditions (civil unrest) in Haiti that have impacted the project developer's ability to complete project activities within previously approved timelines.

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 Gold Standard's 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)	
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

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. Joshua Hester-Goralski
Email ID ⁴ :	josh@unlockingcommunities.org
Organisation: ⁵ :	Unlocking Communities
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 12856	GS 23557 ⁶ GS 23573
Host country(ies)	Haiti		
Project Title	GS12856 VPA-1 Unlocking Communities High Efficiency Charcoal Cookstove for Households GS12856 VPA-2 Unlocking Communities Water Filters for Institutions		
Registry link	https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/5499 https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/5517		
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

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

⁶ The original GS ID for the VPA was 12910. This VPA was split into 3 VPAs – GS23557, 23573 and 23574. Please refer to CLRQ255.

date of latest status				<i>If other, specify here</i>
	25/03/2026	dd/mm/yyyy	dd/mm/yyyy	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	DEV_804 ⁷ DEVRQ-260 ⁸ DEVRQ-287 ⁹		
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>		

⁷ The original GS ID for the VPA was 12910. This VPA was split into 3 VPAs – GS23557, 23573 and 23574. Please refer to CLRQ255.

⁸ The original GS ID for the VPA was 12910. This VPA was split into 3 VPAs – GS23557, 23573 and 23574. Please refer to CLRQ255.

⁹ The original GS ID for the VPA was 12910. This VPA was split into 3 VPAs – GS23557, 23573 and 23574. Please refer to CLRQ255.

6| Deviation detail

6.1 | Standard document reference

Standard document reference	Title	1) GHG Emission Reduction and Sequestration Product Requirements 2) Programme of Activity Requirements and Procedures, version 3.0
	Version	1) GHG Emission Reduction and Sequestration Product Requirements, version 3.1 2) Programme of Activity Requirements and Procedures, version 3.0
	Paragraph	1) Paragraph 10.4.1 of the 'GHG Emission Reduction and Sequestration Product Requirements, version 3.1' 2) Paragraph 3.4.1 of the 'Programme of Activity Requirements and Procedures, version 3.0'

6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	Request for extension to the timelines stipulated by the project developer in previously approved deviation requests for design review submission (DEVRQ-260) and carrying out various monitoring activities (DEVRQ-287) under the project.	
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)
	Through this deviation request, the project developer seeks an extension to the timelines that it had stipulated in the previously approved deviation request about submitting documents for design review (DEVRQ-260) and carrying out various monitoring activities (DEVRQ-287) under the project. The deviation is therefore temporary in nature and is not related to any exemption from the GS4GG requirements ¹⁰ .	
Relevant monitoring period, if applicable	Start date	01/08/2023
	End date	31/12/2025
Summarise the changes	Unlocking Communities (UC), which is one of the very few carbon project developers providing clean cooking technologies and safe drinking water to the local population in the conflict-ridden country of Haiti, had applied for deviation to allow retroactive issuance for a period exceeding two years and relaxation on monitoring frequency, in recognition of the persistent conflict and civil unrest that has severely impacted project operations since inception As per the approved deviation:	

¹⁰ The current deviation must be evaluated in conjunction with the already approved deviation requests for the project (i.e. DEVRQ-260 and DEVRQ-284) and must not be treated as a one-off request.

	a) DEVRQ 260: CME received an exemption to the retroactive crediting requirement under GS4GG, wherein the final submission of documents and payment of required fees for design review to GS was to be completed in a way that the date of design certification would have been on or before 30th April 2026 (9 months extension). b) DEVRQ 287: CME received an exemption from the monitoring frequency requirement, and the results of the ongoing monitoring surveys were allowed to be applied to the monitoring period 01-08-2023 to 31-12-2025. The monitoring activities were planned to be completed by end of March 2026. The unrest in the country has made it impossible for the ground team to safely conduct the field monitoring and data collection required to address the outstanding validation findings, despite repeated attempts. We are actively working to close the issues and are confident that an extension will provide sufficient time to compile and submit the required documentation. We request that Gold Standard consider this force majeure circumstance and grant the following extension: a) Request 1: Submission of documents for design review to GS on or before 30th June 2026. This would mean the overall extension of a year from the 2-year retroactive crediting rule instead of 9 months which was originally approved. b) Request 2: Completion of monitoring activities by mid of July. This will not have major implication considering CME has already provided details on how they will ensure conservativeness in the results.
Reason for deviation	Since 2021, Haiti has experienced significant civil unrest and widespread gang violence following the assassination of the country's President. According to a recent United Nations report, approximately 85% of Haiti's territory is currently under gang control¹¹. This ongoing violence has resulted in the displacement of over 1.3 million Haitians. While Haitian police have conducted multiple operations to reclaim territory from armed groups, these efforts have not achieved sustained stability in the affected regions. Last year, at the time of submission of the previously approved deviation requests (DEVRQ-260 and DEVRQ-287) UNSC had approved a gang suppression mission (GSF) in Haiti¹² and this move was expected to ease tensions in the region and thereby ensure a return to normalcy. Though the situation appeared to be optimistic initially however, by the end of Q1 2026 it was clear that GSF has largely remained unsuccessful in curbing widespread gang-violence in Haiti¹³.

¹¹ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/07/1165373>

¹² <https://www.un.org/en/delegate/haiti-new-%E2%80%9898suppression-force%E2%80%99-haiti-amid-gang-violence>

¹³ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/04/1167362>

	The scale of the crisis in Haiti is evident from the following reports: a) According to recent report published by the UN Security Council¹⁴ (April 2026) overall violence in the country remains at critically high levels. b) Coordinated attacks by the gangs have been reported in different parts of the country thereby forcing people to flee their homes¹⁵. The ongoing crisis in Haiti has significantly increased the turnaround time for the local team to collect on-field data required for closing the validation findings and has also severely restricted the project developer's ability to conduct field-based monitoring activities.
Proposed resolution	The project developer would like to highlight the project is in its advanced stages of validation, wherein major work has been completed therefore, the project developer is confident that there will be no further delays in the design review submission, and the submission process shall be completed on or before 30th June 2026. The field-based monitoring activities have already commenced under the project and based on the evolving geopolitical situation in the country, the project developer has increasingly realized that agencies such as GSF (Gang Suppression Force) have not been able to effectively curb gang-violence in the region therefore, instead of relying on them, the project developer has now designed a staggered approach to carry out the monitoring activities. Under this approach, based on local advisories, the project developer shall routinely evaluate the on-ground situation across the project specific regions and shall accordingly dispatch teams to carry out activities in regions which are relatively calmer. This exercise shall be repeated until all the selected samples have been covered for the monitoring activities. While this approach is very time intensive, it is, however, the most viable option given the situation prevalent in the country. The project developer is therefore reaching out to GS4GG in order to grant an extension by 31st July, 2026 to complete these monitoring activities.
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>)

¹⁴ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2026/03/gangs-expand-reach-haiti-amid-persistent-deadly-violence-un-human-rights>

¹⁵ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/3/31/at-least-70-killed-30-wounded-in-haiti-gang-attack-rights-group-says>

	Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation Annual emission reduction/removal after applying deviation
	XYZ tCO_{2e} 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.
NA	

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>
--	---

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: Deviation Request 260

Document 2: Deviation Request 287

Document 3: Clarification Request 255

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