

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-435
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 request is not approved. The Project Developer (PD) must conduct the Stakeholder Consultation now with **currently available stakeholders**. This includes mandatory categories defined in the [Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements](#) and the [Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Guidelines](#). The impacted people might not necessary be the household who lived in the project location prior to 2020 but the people who got impacted due to the occupied land, flooding risk, people in the downstream of the river, local authorities and government bodies, local NGOs working on environment, social issues, or community development in the region, etc.

In case there is resettlement of people in nearby villages, prior to the **first verification**, the PD must perform a fresh assessment to identify any newly returned or newly identified stakeholder groups (e.g., resettled households) that may be impacted by the project. If new groups are identified at that stage, a full new Local Stakeholder Consultation (LSC) is not required. Instead, the PD may use **alternative feedback collection methods** (surveys, targeted focus groups, or the Stakeholder Feedback Round) to capture their input and incorporate it into the project design or monitoring plan.

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

The validating VVB and VVB verifying the first monitoring period shall assess and report project's compliance with the deviation decision above.

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
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 :	Julie Noller
Email ID ⁴ :	jnoller@socartrading.com
Organisation: ⁵ :	SOCAR Trading SA
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	GS23587 GSXXXX	GS XXXX GS XXXX	GS XXXX GS XXXX
Host country(ies)	Azerbaijan		
Project Title	GKE Small Hydropower Plants		
Registry link	Not yet listed		
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	☐ Certified design	☐ Certified project ☒ Other Under Preliminary review

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

	dd/mm/yyyy	dd/mm/yyyy	dd/mm/yyyy	18/03/2026
Applied version of Standard	☒ GS4GG			
	☐ Previous version of Gold Standard	Version no.		
		☐ 1.0	☐ 1.1	☐ 1.2
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	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 <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	Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements
	Version	V2.1
	Paragraph	3.6.6 For a retroactive project, the project developer shall conduct, at a minimum, a physical meeting before project submission for preliminary review.

6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	Deviation Request on the Timing of the Stakeholder Consultation Meeting	
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)
	The stakeholder consultation meeting is being planned and will be conducted as soon as possible. Therefore, this deviation is temporary.	
Relevant monitoring period, if applicable	Start date	Dd/mm/yyyy
	End date	Dd/mm/yyyy
Summarise the changes	As per Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements, V2.1, paragraph "3.6.6 For a retroactive project, the project developer shall conduct, at a minimum, a physical meeting before project submission for preliminary review.", the physical meetings could not be conducted before the preliminary review due to the fact that stakeholders are currently not living in the villages near the power plant. Organizing a physical meeting with local stakeholders in Lachin and Kalbajar districts in Azerbaijan, was not possible due to the instability in the region. Lachin and Kalbajar had been the focus of territorial disputes and military tensions, particularly since the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh war. This is why the stakeholders are scattered around different cities in Azerbaijan, making it difficult to identify, contact, plan and gather them in a secure and accessible location. Logistical constraints also played a role, as some areas lack the infrastructure necessary to host secure and well-organized meetings as well as stable internet connection. The weather in the region during winter (between October to March) also prevents such organization in the mountainous region. Although Azerbaijan has initiated efforts to rebuild and resettle the district, and to reconstruct the villages, the process is ongoing and the residents of those villages have not returned yet. The combination of population movements, and the district's strategic significance contributed to an environment that is not unsuitable to host a physical stakeholder meeting. It has been a challenge to identify stakeholders and their current living locations. The process is ongoing and the stakeholder consultation meetings are being planned for as soon as they can happen. This issue has been addressed to the relevant executive body responsible for temporary settlement and social protection. The stakeholder consultation process will be conducted as soon as possible, using the most appropriate invitation methods, taking into account the project context, stakeholders, and local and national circumstances. Appropriate language will be used during meetings with each stakeholder. Stakeholder inclusivity will be prioritized. Every aspect of the meetings will be designed to align with stakeholder consultation requirements. The project owner is dedicated to managing this process in the best way possible. Moreover, the executive body	

	mentioned above will be consulted and this process will be carried out in line with their regulations as well as GS requirements. A deviation in line with GS requirements is being submitted about the timing of the stakeholder consultation meeting by this deviation request form. Should you require any additional information, clarification, or supporting documentation regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.						
Reason for deviation	As per Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements, V2.1, paragraph "3.6.6 For a retroactive project, the project developer shall conduct, at a minimum, a physical meeting before project submission for preliminary review.", the physical meetings could not be conducted before the preliminary review due to the fact that stakeholders are currently not living in the villages near the power plant.						
Proposed resolution	The stakeholder consultation process will be conducted as soon as possible, using the most appropriate invitation methods, taking into account the project context, stakeholders, and local and national circumstances. Appropriate language will be used during meetings with each stakeholder. Stakeholder inclusivity will be prioritized. Every aspect of the meetings will be designed to align with stakeholder consultation requirements. The project owner is dedicated to managing this process in the best way possible. Moreover, the executive body mentioned above will be consulted and this process will be carried out in line with their regulations as well as GS requirements. The stakeholder consultation process is planned to be completed before validation.						
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	The deviation does not impact the project design, implementation, monitoring, or environmental and social integrity of the project activity. The deviation relates only to the timing of the local stakeholder consultation meeting. The project owner remains committed to conducting the stakeholder consultation process in full alignment with GS requirements as soon as conditions allow. Relevant						

	executive authorities responsible for temporary settlement and social protection are being consulted to support stakeholder identification and engagement. Therefore, the deviation is temporary in nature and does not compromise stakeholder inclusivity, transparency, or the overall credibility of the project. Should you require any additional information, clarification, or supporting documentation regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.
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Insert text here

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.

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