FORM

FORM - DEVIATION REQUEST SUBMISSION

PUBLICATION DATE: **20/05/2026**
VERSION: **6.1**
NEXT PLANNED UPDATE: **15/05/2028**

RELATED DOCUMENTS
– Deviations Approval Requirements and Procedures

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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 help@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 Secretariat

4.1 | General information

DEVIATION REFERENCE NUMBER	DEVRQ- 459
Date of decision	07/08/2026
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

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] :	Herman Noppen
Email ID[4] :	h.noppen@southpole.com
Organisation:[5]:	CO2logic
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	*GS12447*	*GS XXXX* *GS XXXX*	*GS XXXX* *GS XXXX*
Host country(ies)	Democratic Republic of Congo		
Project Title	Idiofa Lobi		
Registry link	https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/4607		
Scale	☐ Microscale (GS) ☐ Small scale ☒ Large scale ☐ Other, if applicable please specify below *Insert text 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

Certification Status and corresponding date of latest status	☐ Listed	☒ Certified design[6]	☐ Certified project[7]	☐ Other *If other, specify here*
	dd/mm/yyyy	*06/10/2025*	*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 ☐ Agriculture Activity Requirements ☐ Blue Carbon and Freshwater Wetlands Activity Requirements ☐ Engineered removals 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

[6] Design certification date

[7] Date of first issuance approval by Gold Standard

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	Validation & Verification Standard
	Version	2.0
	Paragraph	9.3.4

6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	Remote site visit due to Ebola outbreak and related travel restrictions	
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	06/10/2022
	End date	31/12/2025
	☐ NA	
Summarise the changes	As per the *Validation and Verification Standard*, v2.0 paragraph 9.3.4: It is mandatory for the VVB to conduct an on-site inspection at verification for the design certified project activity if: a. It is the first verification for the VVB with regard to this project activity; As per the *GHG Emissions Reductions and Sequestration Product Requirements*, v2.1, paragraph 12.1.4: A physical site visit by VVB is b. mandatory at the first verification of a project. The VVB and project proponent propose to do a remote audit and sending local expert on site instead of entire VV team.	
Reason for deviation	In light of the severe Ebola outbreak in the host country DRC (Ebola disease outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and	

	Uganda), and in accordance with the advisory issued by the Government of India (2c1ba58591b94ed8a892935e75e8006f.pdf), VVB has assessed the condition of host country and confirmed that it is unsafe to travel to Congo during this outbreak, therefore VV team from India is unable to conduct an on-site visit due to the unforeseen conditions in the project region.
Proposed resolution	The VVB has contacted a local expert who is experienced in the community, reforestation and agroforestry activities who will assist the VVB team to carry out the on-site assessment through pre-approved audit plan as required by the GS4GG requirements. This arrangement will maintain impartiality and avoid any conflict of interest, while fully meeting the requirements outlined in sections 7.5.2–7.5.3 of the *Validation/Verification Body Requirements V3.0*.
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 *(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… ☒ NA
Summary of the impact	No impact results on the project and/or its design. The results of the project in terms of Ers and SDGs will be assessed remotely rather than physically on site
Insert text here	

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*	Yes ☐ No ☐ *If answer is yes, fill the information in section 6.4 below.*

Procedures or request is submitted by the VVB.	

Note: As shown in the attached email, the VVB has requested and approved of this deviation.

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):	

6.4 | Documents:

6.4.1 | 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.*)

1. Email_VVB.pdf: Email from VVB confirming they cannot travel to the project site (public)
2. CV Bony NDEKE Anglais.pdf: CV from proposed local expert (confidential)
3. ECDC Ebola outbreak article (public)
4. Indian authorities travel advice (public)

DOCUMENT HISTORY

VERSION NUMBER	RELEASE DATE	DESCRIPTION
6.1	15.05.2026	Editorial and structural changes to the template
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