

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	DEVREQ-60
Date of decision	30/01/2025
Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved [No precondition to apply the deviation decision] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conditionally approved [Decision is subject to compliance with the precondition defined below] <input type="checkbox"/> Not approved [reason for rejection is provided in decision summary]

4.2 | Decision

4.2.1 | Decision Summary

The deviation is conditionally approved.

Please note the following requirements that must be adhered to as part of this approval:

- The project developer (PD) or validation/verification body (VVB) shall comply with the stipulations outlined in Annex B – Conflict and Emergency Zones of the Gold Standard Principles and Requirements.
- An objective observer must be hired to ensure the integrity and impartiality of the verification process.

4.2.2 | Directions for the project developer/CME, if applicable

Please see above

4.2.3 | Directions for the Validation and Verification Body (VVB), if applicable

The VVB shall verify compliance with the conditions mentioned above and report the same in the relevant verification report.

...

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	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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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.

Does this decision set a precedent for future projects with similar circumstances? ²	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Precedent details (if applicable to other activities)	

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 :	Gianluca Persia
Email ID ⁴ :	g.persia@southpole.com
Organisation: ⁵ :	Carbonsink Group S.r.l.
Are you an authorized project participant as per the cover letter submitted for this activity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

5.3 | Background information

Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Project activity		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PoA GSXXXX	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VPA
GS ID			GS 12102	GS 12247
Host country(ies)	Mozambique			
Project Title	GS12102 VPA-4 Improved cooking experience to reduce charcoal consumption in Tete, Mozambique			
Registry link	https://platform.sustain-cert.com/public-project/3494			
Scale	<div><input type="checkbox"/> Microscale (GS)</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Small scale</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Large scale</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Other, if applicable please specify below</div> <div>Insert text here</div>			
Certification Status and corresponding date of latest status	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Listed	<input type="checkbox"/> Certified design	<input type="checkbox"/> Certified project	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
	14/03/2024	dd/mm/yyyy	dd/mm/yyyy	If other, specify here 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GS4GG			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Previous version of Gold Standard	Version no.		
		<input type="checkbox"/> 1.0	<input type="checkbox"/> 1.1	<input type="checkbox"/> 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	<input type="checkbox"/> CDM <input type="checkbox"/> Other Name of the Standard – Insert text here		
Applicable activity requirement	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewable Energy Activity Requirements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Services Activity Requirements <input type="checkbox"/> Land-use and Forests Activity Requirements <input type="checkbox"/> 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.			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Reference number	N/A		
Status of the deviation	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> 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?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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	Validation and Verification Standard
	Version	2.0
	Paragraph	17.3.2
Standard document reference	Title	Site Visit and Remote Audit Requirements and Procedures
	Version	2.0
	Paragraph	3.4.1

6.2 | Description of the deviation

Title	<i>Non-compliance with site visit requirements at the verification due to temporary force-majeure events in Mozambique</i>	
Confirm the nature of changes related to deviation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Temporary (e.g. not expected to occur beyond one monitoring period)	<input type="checkbox"/> Permanent (e.g. deviation from requirements prior to submission for certification)
	<i>Deviation from minimum physical site visit requirements during the first VPA Verification with VVB due to force-majeure events in Mozambique caused by political instability and safety concerns</i>	
Relevant monitoring period, if applicable	Start date	03/07/2023
	End date	02/07/2024
Summarise the changes	The site visit foreseen to be performed during the verification process initiated with VVB Carboncheck in December 2024 shall be performed remotely as per the occurring civil disorders in Mozambique documented in the annexes which rise concerns to perform on-site field activities.	
Reason for deviation	Post-electoral protests occurring in Mozambique	
Proposed resolution	While a site visit for validation had been performed in June 2024, the current unpredictable situation in Mozambique led the Project Developer to request a deviation from minimum site visit requirements and perform the audit remotely as per GS4GG procedures upon approval of the current situation.	
Is there any potential temporary or permanent impact of deviation on other aspects of the project?	Select the relevant area:	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Project design <input type="checkbox"/> Local stakeholder consultation <input type="checkbox"/> Safeguarding principles <input type="checkbox"/> SDG assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory compliance <input type="checkbox"/> Additionality <input type="checkbox"/> Applicability of methodology <input type="checkbox"/> Annual emission reduction volume (if yes, fill the table below)	
	Annual emission reduction/removal before applying deviation	Annual emission reduction/removal after applying deviation
	XYZ tCO ₂ e	XYZ tCO ₂ e
	<input type="checkbox"/> any other matrix, please specify...	
Summary of the impact	No relevant impact is foreseen as the physical site visit required for verification shall be performed at earliest availability during next stage of verification (second monitoring period). Also, the remote audit which shall be performed through video interviews to relevant stakeholders. No impacts on the implemented	

	monitoring plan have been detected. Moreover, the project has been audited once during its validation in June 2024, where an actual physical site visit occurred.
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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <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	As per para. 3.4.1 of GS4GG "Site Visit and Remote Audit Requirements and Procedures – V2.0" and accordingly as per para 17.3.2 (a) of GS4GG "Validation and Verification Standard V2.0" <i>It is mandatory for the VVB to conduct a physical on-site inspection at verification for the design certified VPA if it is the first verification for the VVB with regard to this VPA.</i> Hence, the site visit is required but due to political instability ⁶ and safety concerns ⁷ remote audit is preferred, and it will be conducted in accordance with para. 5.2.5 of GS4GG "Site Visit and Remote Audit Requirements and Procedures – V2.0" with the help of a local expert.
VVB's assessment of impact of deviation request	This deviation is temporary and results in conducting the remote audit with the help of a local expert in accordance with para 5.2.5 of GS4GG "Site Visit and Remote Audit Requirements and Procedures – V2.0", in lieu of a physical site visit and does not impact any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project design - Local stakeholder consultation

⁶ [Venâncio Mondlane: Mozambique opposition leader says protests must go on for '2 to 3 months'](#)

⁷ [What is Driving Mozambique's Post-electoral Protests? | Crisis Group](#)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safeguarding principles - SDG assessment - Regulatory compliance - Additionality - Applicability of methodology - Annual emission reduction volume 	
VVB recommendation	Temporary deviation request to be applied for the current verification and a physical site visit shall be conducted during next verification.	
VVB details	VVB name:	Carbon Check (India) Private Ltd.
	Auditor name(s):	Manas Halder Piyush Raj
	Email (s):	manas@carboncheck.co.in piyush@carboncheck.co.in

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. "[What is Driving Mozambique's Post-electoral Protests?](#)" International Crisis Group (15/11/2024)

Document 2. "[Mozambique opposition calls for new protests as post-vote tensions escalate](#)" africanews.com (last update 04/12/2024)

Document 3. "[Mozambique protests must go on for months, opposition leader says](#)" BBC (02/12/2024)

Document 4. VVB Email Communication on Remote Audit feasibility (received 23/01/2025)

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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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