



# DEVIATION REQUEST FORM

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PUBLICATION DATE **14.1.2021**

Version **4.0**

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## A. To be completed by Gold Standard

### 1 | Decision

#### 1.1 | Date – 01/12/2021

#### 1.2 | Decision

The deviation request is partially approved. The PD must:

1. Apply the Q1(2021) water quality test results to other quarters of 2021 for calculation of emission reduction for first monitoring period i.e., 02/07/2020 to 31/07/2021
2. Conduct a physical (preferably) or a remote monitoring of water quality for the next monitoring period while considering the seasonal variations and if the result is lower than the values used for the current MP, water quality results shall be adjusted retrospectively, and emission reduction be deducted in the next MP. For e.g., if the WQ results used in current monitoring period (02/07/2020 - 31/07/2021) demonstrate that 70% of the households are provided with water of required quality, and the quantitative/qualitative surveys in the next monitoring period arrive at a value of 60%, then the emission reduction claimed during the MP under this deviation request shall be

retroactively adjusted for the reduced instances of achieving the required water quality.

3. Follow the requirements given below if the PD conducts remote monitoring in the next monitoring period.
4. Document the deviation request, its implications, and GS' decision in the appropriate section of the GS Monitoring Report (for the relevant MP). The verifying VVB shall, through appropriate means at its disposal, evaluate the Project's compliance with the above condition(s) and provides its opinion in the Verification Report.

SustainCert shall review both the PD's response and the VVB's assessment/opinion of the same and take appropriate steps.

#### FAR for the PD

If the PD conducts remote monitoring for water quality testing in the next monitoring period, they must demonstrate the appropriateness of the same along with details of hindrances faced for conducting physical monitoring.

#### FAR for the verifying VVB/SC:

The VVB/SC shall ensure that conservative values for the water quality are used, and the emission reduction is retrospectively adjusted in the subsequent monitoring period, as appropriate. VVB must also provide its opinion on the above-mentioned FAR raised on the PD.

The Project Developer, while carrying out remote surveys, must include the following qualitative criteria for Water Quality–

- a. Reported incidence of water borne disease in children/members in last 30 days
- b. User satisfaction
- c. Level of hygiene including but not limited to hand washing & safe storage practices being followed.

The above criteria shall be included in the survey questionnaires and the results be recorded. If for a particular household, the answer to any of the above criteria indicates that the treated water may not be fit for consumption, the household shall be considered not providing safe drinking water and failing the water quality test. For example, if any incidence of water borne disease is reported in last 30 days, the water

quality should be assumed as not meeting the requirements and the emission reductions shall be discounted accordingly.

Non-binding recommendation:

The project developer should apply the following measures, where reasonably feasible, to substantiate the monitoring results –

- a. The project developer may record Video/telephonic conversation with the end-user. The project developer/VVB (if applicable) must take due precautions and must not record any conversation without seeking prior consent from the end-user.
- b. Photographic evidence –The project developer may gather photographs of the project SWS units, where possible, to collect visual data on the status, safe water storage practices, etc. of the unit.
- c. Water Quality -Project Developer can obtain an endorsement of their Water Quality results from a local health/medical officer representative. For example, the officer can provide input on incidences of water borne disease, incidence of floods, infiltration events etc. during the monitoring period. This information/feedback from medical officer shall be included in the MR along with an explanation on the likely impact on the water quality in the project area for the VVB/SC to assess.

Requirements for VVB (if applicable):

Where possible, VVB shall interview the local health/ medical officer representatives to seek an opinion on Water Quality during the monitoring period.

The validity of deviation:

The results obtained applying this deviation can be used for Monitoring period from 02/07/2020 - 31/07/2021.

**1.3 | Is this decision applicable to other project activities under similar circumstances?**

No

**B. To be completed by the Project Developer/Coordinating and Managing Entity and/or VVB requesting deviation** (Submit deviation request form in Microsoft Word format)

**2| Background information**

Deviation Reference Number	DEV_202	
Date of decision	01/12/2021	
Precedent (YES/NO)	NO	
Precedent details	N/A	
Date of submission	01/11/2021	
Project/PoA/VPA	Project	ID – GSXXXX
	<input type="checkbox"/> PoA	ID – GSXXXX
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VPA	ID – GS10735, GS10736, and GS10737
Project/PoA/VPA title	GS1247 VPA 256 Northern Ethiopia Community Safe Water GS1247 VPA 257 Northern Ethiopia Community Protected Springs GS1247 VPA 258 Northern Ethiopia Community Protected Springs	
Location of project/PoA/VPA	Host country(ies) Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia	
Scale of the project/PoA/VPA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Microscale <input type="checkbox"/> Small scale <input type="checkbox"/> Large scale	
Gold Standard Impact Registry link of the project/PoA/VPA	GS10735 - <a href="https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/2724">https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/2724</a> GS10736 - <a href="https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/2725">https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/2725</a> GS10737 - <a href="https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/2726">https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/2726</a>	
Status of the project/PoA/VPA	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Listed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified design <input type="checkbox"/> Certified project	
Title/subject of deviation	Tigray Conflict Deviation	
Specify applicable rule/requirements/methodology and version number	TPDDTEC v3.1 Section A3.3.E Section A3.4 Section 3.C.b	

Specify the monitoring period for which the request is valid (if applicable)	MP 1: Start date 02/07/2020 End date 31/07/2021 MP 2: Start date 01/08/2021 End date 31/07/2022
Submitted by	Contact person name: Katri Hastings
	Email ID: katri.hastings@co2balance.com
	Organisation: CO2balance UK Ltd
	Project participant: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Validation and Verification body (VVB opinion shall be included, where required by the applicable rules/requirements or request is submitted by the VVB).	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  If yes; VVB name:  Auditor name:

### 3 | Deviation detail

#### 3.1 | Description of the deviation:

*\*Guidance\* Use the space below to describe the deviation and substantiate the reason for requesting deviation from applicable rules/requirements. Please include all relevant information in support of the request. You are requested to follow the principles for requesting deviations, given in the [Deviation Approval Procedure/ Design Change Requirements](#).*

##### 3.1.1 | Deviation detail (to be completed by Project developer):

The civil war conflict in Tigray the northern region of Ethiopia has resulted in some field activities for the VPA’s GS10735, GS10736, and GS10737, being halted until the partner organization, Vita, deem it safe for their staff to continue with field activities. The conflict which has been raging for 10 months has escalated and is affecting the area of our projects in South Gonder, Amhara. The area has been taken over by the rebellion group of Tigray People’s Liberation Front. The projects in Laygayint are easily entered from northern area.

Please refer to the following news articles for more detail.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-58450223>

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/04/1090152>

Whilst Vita feels it is probable that for the immediate future some field activities can continue the situation is very uncertain at this time. Currently the rebel group have been removed from South Gonder where they have been for the last few weeks. Vita have checked on the water points following the conflict, they have found no water point/structural damaged. However due to government property being looted,

including reagents used for water quality testing, water quality testing and the related support from the local government will be delayed until the looted equipment and materials have been replaced and the government office, and staffs are active and functional. We are closely following the situation; however, it is difficult to predict whether further disruption to the projects are likely.

Field activities affected that will be postponed:

- Quarterly Water Quality Testing

Field activities affected that may be postponed:

- Usage and Project Surveys
- Hygiene campaign monitoring

Methodology components affected:

TPDDTEC v3.1 Section A3.3 Application of the Monitoring Methodology for Water Treatment Project Scenarios

Due to the conflict Vita's field staff may not be able to undertake the required monitoring. This will include:

TPDDTEC v3.1 section A3.3.E states "Water quality must be tested every quarter, with the first test within 6 months of the stated project start date. In addition, PPs shall ensure that water quality is tested at least once during seasons where there is a high chance of contamination, for example, the rainy season. Local non-accredited laboratories can do the quarterly water quality testing. However, at least once every two years, accredited laboratories must perform the water quality testing."

TPDDTEC v3.1 Section A3.4 states "The project proponent shall report the activities conducted each year in the annual monitoring report. Any major changes in the health status of the water users as a result of contaminated water (e.g. an outbreak of water related disease) must be reported and, if relevant, a strategy put in place to address it through the hygiene campaign"

TPDDTEC v3.1 Section 3.C.a states the monitoring survey is to be "completed annually, beginning 1 year after project registration".

TPDDTEC v3.1 Section 3.C.b states "Usage Survey - Completed annually, or more frequently, and in all cases on time for any request of issuance".

As the Water Consumption Field Test was completed this year July 2021 no test is required until 2023 so is not included in the deviation request.

To summarise, the Tigray conflict has impacted the water quality test schedule of the project. There is also the potential that annual monitoring surveys, such as the monitoring and usage surveys, could be affected as the situation has not entirely stabilised in the region.

3.1.2 | VVB opinion (to be completed by VVB, if applicable):

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### 3.2 | Assessment of the deviation:

*\*Guidance\* Use the space below to describe how the deviation complies with the requirements, and, where applicable, the accuracy, completeness and conservativeness is ensured. Please include all relevant information in support of the request.*

3.2.1 | Deviation assessment (to be completed by Project developer):

Water Quality Testing deviation:

2021's Q2's Water quality tests for MP1 were unable to go ahead due to a lack of reagent available. This was caused by looking as a result of the conflict, this issue continued into Q3 of 2021, part of MP2, resulting in no ability to undertake water quality testing in this quarter either. The WQT schedule has resumed as soon as it was possible to do so. Water quality tests were undertaken in October 2021, Q4 of 2021. Due to the limited reagent available the Q4 tests were undertaken on the oldest waterpoints, those repaired in 2020, our project partner felt this was the most effective way to keep the efficacy of the project under the difficult circumstances. This has resulted in the waterpoints repaired in 2021 to not be tested within the first 6 months of their repair. Quarterly water quality testing will resume for this point unless the conflict situation prevents the partner to do so. In order to maintain the integrity of the project the PD and project partner have closely monitored feedback from communities to check for water borne illnesses, and continue the chlorination schedule, where possible, to prevent water quality

deterioration. To ensure conservatism, if the next WQT of a water point conducted fails, no crediting days will be claimed from the date of the last passed WQT and date of next subsequent pass.

Annual Monitoring Surveys deviation:

This deviation is to make SustainCert aware that there is a risk that the conflict will affect the PD's ability to undertake some monitoring activities. It is highly uncertain whether the Usage Survey and annual WASH training where hygiene campaigns occur will be postponed. If these activities are postponed, a further deviation request will be submitted to Gold Standard with an approach that will account for conservative assumptions and/or discount factors to emission reductions claimed for monitored parameters affected.

The conflict situation is beyond the PD's control; however, the nature of this deviation is temporary, and the project will revert back to its original design after the conflict has resolved.

3.2.2 | VVB opinion (to be completed by VVB, if applicable):

### 3.3 | Impact of the deviation:

*\*Guidance\* Use the space below to describe the impact of the deviation on project design, safeguarding principles assessment, SDG assessment, emissions reductions, monitoring frequency, data quality, potential risk or any other relevant aspect of the project. Please substantiate the impact assessment with relevant and verifiable data/information.*

3.3.1 | Impact assessment (to be completed by Project developer):

Project Design: No change. Postponement to the implementation of the usage survey, Project Survey, Follow-ups that include hygiene campaigns monitoring and Water Quality Test will occur. The postponement length is very uncertain, it is outside the control of the project developer.

SDG assessment: No change.



Emissions reductions: Usage rate is a key parameter in emissions reductions calculations. A conservative cap of 90% will be applied to the usage rate if usage surveys are not possible to be completed.

Monitoring Frequency: The deviation will postpone quarterly water quality tests and may postpone usage survey, and annual WASH training visits where hygiene campaigns monitoring occurs deviating from the TPDDTEC v3.1 Section 3.C.a and 3.C.b requirements on annual surveying.

Data Quality: No change, QA/QC procedures in the VPA-DD will still be implemented.

Potential risk: Risk is related to the uncertainty of length and impact of the conflict.

3.3.2 | VVB opinion (to be completed by VVB, if applicable ):

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### 3.4 | Documents:

*\*Guidance\* List of documents provided (note that once a decision has been made by Gold Standard, this deviation form along with supporting documents will be made public on the Gold Standard website. If any of the supporting documents are confidential, please indicate here to ensure they are omitted.)*

GS10735 VPA 256 VPA DD\_v5

GS10736 VPA 257 VPA DD\_v5

GS10737 VPA 258 VPA DD\_v1