

TEMPLATE

DEVIATION REQUEST FORM

PUBLICATION DATE **11.04.2021**

Version **5.0**

A. To be completed by Gold Standard

1 | Decision

1.1 | Date – 12/08/2022

1.2 | Decision

The deviation is approved. However, the PD 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 1.2](#) and have conducted the audit under the guidance of a GS-approved VVB.

The validating/verifying VVB shall ensure the following:

- a) The Objective observer (OO) is selected to conduct the assessment as per the checklist provided.
- b) The site visit conducted by the OO during the verification shall confirm the status of the project operation and the mitigation plan in place to tackle the negative impacts of the project.
- c) 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 VVB shall report the above-mentioned information in the verification report.

The PD shall document the deviation request, its implications, and GS' decision in the appropriate section of the Monitoring Report (for the relevant MP).

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.

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

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_285	
Date of decision	12/08/2022	
Precedent (YES/NO)	No	
Precedent details	N/A	
Date of submission	02/08/2022	
Project/PoA/VPA	Project	ID – GS5463
	<input type="checkbox"/> PoA	ID – GSXXXX
	<input type="checkbox"/> VPA	ID – GSXXXX
Project/PoA/VPA title	Oromia Cookstove Distribution Project	
Date of listing	Not known	
GS Standard version applicable	Gold Standard for the Global Goals	
Date of transition to GS4GG (if applicable)	09/03/2020	
Date of transition to Gold Standard from another standard (e.g. CDM) (if applicable)	N/A	
Date of design certification/inclusion (if applicable)	14/06/2017	
Location of project/PoA/VPA	Host country(ies) : Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia	
Scale of the project/PoA/VPA	<input type="checkbox"/> Microscale <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Small scale <input type="checkbox"/> Large scale	
Gold Standard Impact Registry link of the project/PoA/VPA	https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/967	
Status of the project/PoA/VPA	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Listed <input type="checkbox"/> Certified design <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified project	
Title/subject of deviation	Application of the Conflict and Emergency Zone Procedure for MP3 (01.01.2020 – 31.12.2021)	
Specify applicable rule/requirements/methodolog	Principles and Requirements, version 1.2 Annex B Conflict and Emergency Zones	

y, with exact paragraph reference and version number	
Specify the monitoring period for which the request is valid (if applicable)	Start date 01.01.2020 End date 31.12.2021
Submitted by	Contact person name: Sven Bratschke Email ID:sven@bridge-builders.de Organisation: Bridge Builders Project participant: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes; VVB name:4KEarthscience VVB Staff name(s): Chetan Swaroop Sharma
Any previous deviations approved for the same project activity/PoA/VPA(s)?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

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):

Due to the ongoing conflict in the project area (Oromia region) an on-site audit by an external party will not be possible. Hence, we would like to apply the Gold Standard rules and requirements stated in the Principles and Requirements, v.1.2 document, Annex B – Conflict and Emergency Zones.

The conflict in the Oromia region is already ongoing for several years leading to a very volatile security situation in the project area. In 2021 the ongoing conflict worsened when the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) declared war in the project area. The OLA is fighting Ethiopian government forces with the aim to establish an own state for the Oromo people.

The declaration of war and the violent conflict made movements between villages difficult to nearly impossible. The combination of the COVID-19 pandemic and the difficult security situation led to the situation that all monitoring activities for MP3 had to be paused in August 2021. At the end of August 2021 more than 210 people got killed in different locations around Oromia region and across several days of violence. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/8/26/ethiopia-rights-commission-says-150-killed-in-attack-in-oromiya>

The situation remained tense for several months with attacks and massacres in the project area. It was only in January 2022 when the field staff was able to continue with the Monitoring exercise and the conduction of the KPT that involve visits to households in three consecutive days.

For the last years, the overall security situation has been very volatile and unpredictable which had severe impacts on the project's implementation and monitoring. Only recently the region was hit again by multiple acts of terror, when in June 2022 about 230 people were killed in a massacre in the village of Tole (<https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/more-than-200-feared-dead-in-ethiopia-massacre/>). The Ethiopian Peace Observatory tracks the violent attacks all around Ethiopia. Maps clearly show that Oromia region is one of the core regions of violence events during the last weeks: <https://epo.acleddata.com/2022/07/20/epo-weekly-9-15-july-2022/>.

Consequently, many governments advice their citizens again any travel to Oromia region and especially to the project's geographical area of West Wollega Zone. Among those governments are for example the British government (<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/ethiopia>) or the Canadian government (<https://travel.gc.ca/destinations/ethiopia>). The German government warns for events of kidnapping in the West Wollega Zone (<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/de/ReiseUndSicherheit/aethiopiensicherheit/209504>). Travel warnings are not only issued for non-Ethiopian citizens. Even Ethiopian staff from the project proponent who are residing in Addis Ababa are currently not able to travel to the project area due to the ongoing conflict. The envisioned VVB for this verification (4KEarthscience) has already send an email explaining that an on-site audit would not be possible.

Therefore, we do not see the possibility to conduct the on-site visit based on the

regular requirements and submit this deviation request to SustainCert to allow the application of the Conflict and Emergency Zone procedure for MP3 (01.01.2020 – 31.12.2021). This would mean that PP suggests three Objective Observer candidates that fulfill the requirements by GS/SustainCert and are willing to go on-site. VVB will work closely together with the selected OO to perform the on-site audit.

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

**Guidance* If required by SustainCERT or Gold Standard for this particular deviation, please add here the VVB's opinion.*

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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):

GS allows for the application of the Conflict and Emergency Zone procedure under its core requirements and sets clearly defined procedures as to how this audit shall take place and under which conditions the procedure can be applied.

All monitoring data and supporting documents will be submitted to the auditors and Objective Observer allowing them to first conduct a desktop assessment of the Monitoring Report and its supporting documents against applicable Activity Requirements, Gold Standard Methodology and Product Requirements.

The on-site audit under the Conflict and Emergency Zone procedure will be conducted by a trained Objective Observer. As long as the Objective Observer is a local person and willing to go on-site, he/she will be able to visit and interview households and key stakeholders. The OO will further be able to assess whether negative impacts and risks have been mitigated and/or have been caused due to the project implementation. Thus, the OO will verify the monitoring results on the ground and

receive a good insight into the project, its implementation and how the monitoring has been realized. He/She will be able to consult with the VVB and coordinate accordingly to ensure that the principles of accuracy, completeness and conservativeness are ensured.

Findings of the OO will be incorporated into a Verification Appraisal Report that will be submitted together with the official Verification Report of the VVB to SustainCert.

The Conflict and Emergency Zone Procedure has already been applied for this project in a previous Monitoring Period with the same auditor of the VVB. No issues in terms of data accuracy, completeness and conservativeness were identified. Thus, the team of PP as well as the auditor already know the important components of how to realize such an audit and the specifics of this project.

Consequently, the deviation complies with GS rules and requirements.

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

**Guidance* If required by SustainCERT or Gold Standard for this particular deviation, please add here the VVB's opinion.*

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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):

This deviation only refers to a change of the on-site visit. An Objective Observer will still go on-site and physically inspect the project, the technology and interview households. Hence, there are no impacts due to this deviation on project design,

safeguarding principles assessment, SDG assessment, emissions reductions, monitoring frequency, data quality or any other relevant aspect of the project.

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

**Guidance* If required by SustainCERT or Gold Standard for this particular deviation, please add here the VVB's opinion.*

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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.)*

Version number	Release date	Description
5	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	14.01.2021	
3	16.07.2020	
2	03.05.2018	
1	01.07.2017	Initial adoption