

TEMPLATE

DEVIATION REQUEST FORM

PUBLICATION DATE **11.04.2022**

Version **5.0**

A. To be completed by Gold Standard

1| Decision

1.1 | Date – 31/08/2022

1.2 | Decision

The requested deviation is approved, and the PD can claim for the entire duration of the GS monitoring period i.e., 01/01/2018 - 31/12/2019. However, PD shall ensure the following:

1. A continuity in the Project's monitoring activities is maintained and PD is able to justify that no monitoring gaps exist (especially for SDG parameters) within the Monitoring Period(s). However, if gap(s) exist, the project shall justify that conservative approach(es) have been applied in line with section 3 of the [Deviation Approval Requirements and Procedures \(version 1.2\)](#) and overarching GS principles (as applicable).
2. The PD shall 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 two 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_295	
Date of decision	31/08/2022	
Precedent (YES/NO)	No	
Precedent details	N/A	
Date of submission	28/February/2022	
Project/PoA/VPA	Project	ID – GS1367
	<input type="checkbox"/> PoA	ID – GSXXXX
	<input type="checkbox"/> VPA	ID – GSXXXX
Project/PoA/VPA title	Betulia Hydroelectric Project	
Date of listing		
GS Standard version applicable		
Date of transition to GS4GG (if applicable)	01/March/2022	
Date of transition to Gold Standard from another standard (e.g. CDM) (if applicable)	n.a.	
Date of design certification/inclusion (if applicable)	01/10/2015	
Location of project/PoA/VPA	Host country(ies): Honduras	
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/222	
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	Deviation-Delay in follow up visit by the VVB due to Force Majeure	
Specify applicable rule/requirements/methodology, with exact paragraph reference and version number	APPLICABILITY OF MINIMUM SITE VISIT REQUIREMENTS BY VVB –Publication date: 16/08/2021 Section 2.2.3 and 2.2.4	

Specify the monitoring period for which the request is valid (if applicable)	Start date 01/01/2018 End date 31/12/2019
Submitted by	Contact person name: Rogier van Meenen
	Email ID: r.van.meenen@global-climate.nl
	Organisation: Renewable Energy Developers
	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes; VVB name: EPIC Sustainability Services Private Limited VVB Staff name(s): R. Vijayaraghavan (Lead Auditor)
Any previous deviations approved for the same project activity/PoA/VPA(s)?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> In the transition review process of 2021-2022

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):

For the 2nd monitoring period a visit to the Host Country was done in 2019, to prepare and conduct further assistance. On a mission to assist promoters & developer (PD) Renewable Energy Developers SA (RED SA), this link via <https://www.global-climate.nl/hulp-aan-promoters-developers/> describes the situation in the region in June 2019, when I was here for the last time. It turned out that social turmoil was dangerous already. I urged ourselves as PD to prepare the 2nd verification in 2020, but that kept being made impossible. Until date, see annex, reasons of social turmoil in the region continued (violence and insecurity), clarifying the ongoing problematic situations in the Host Country. These are on top of the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak that is a reason

separately and applied via your separate Interim Measures, hence just mentioned in the Annex, because the local representative of RED SA in Honduras started monitor and collect occurrences of the local situation since 2018. In the beginning of 2021 I was feeling secure about the extended Covid-19 Interim Measures to not make it required for an on-site visit firstly until 30-06-2021, later until 31-12-2021, that we started to make progress in the 2nd verification by hiring a VVB as from June-August 2021. We were not in the assumption that this 3 year period applies only at the end of 2021.

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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.*

Current monitoring period: 1st Jan 2018 to 31st December 2019 (2nd monitoring)

Physical visit conducted: around April 2018 during the first monitoring period

As per the GS rule, follow up visit should have been conducted before around April 2021. But the follow up visit was conducted only on 14th December 2021. Hence project developer is seeking deviation from the said rule.

As per the website <https://www.sectorasegurador.es/seguro-viajar-honduras/#Resumen-Riesgos-para-Viajar-a-Honduras-debido-al-clima> reviewed, the verification team has observed the following conditions prevailing in Honduras since 2018 to till date.

Summary of the risks and dangers

Honduras is a very dangerous country, so if you decide to travel there you should keep in mind that your physical integrity may be at risk. Violence is common, as well as robberies and assaults. The police have a huge corruption problem and the war between the Omara gangs is very bloody. The army has displaced the police in citizen security and the political climate is very unstable.

Summary Risks to Travel to Honduras due to the weather

The rainy season can cause heavy rains that can temporarily cut off part of the country, and also cause floods and landslides. During this time it is not uncommon to experience typhoons or hurricanes that destroy the infrastructure of some parts of the territory.

Summary of the risks in the Transportation of Honduras:

Using public transport is highly risky, so it is recommended that if you have to travel you always do so with private transport from solvent companies that offer minimum security measures, that do not pick up any passengers during the journey and that they pick you up at your place of lodging and drop you off at the exact place you want to go.

Summary of Personal Security Risks in Honduras

Suffering robberies, robberies or attacks is very common in the country: there is great violence present in all parts of the country regardless of the time of day. Violent robberies are extremely frequent and murder figures are very high, so extreme precautions must be taken. It is recommended to avoid being out on the street at night, no matter where you are, never go alone, avoid going anywhere on foot and always use private transport. The physical integrity of foreigners is not guaranteed and the Spanish Embassy, as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, recommend not traveling to the country except for reasons of force majeure.

Summary of Health Risks in Honduras

The diseases present in the country are common throughout Central America, but the health systems are not adequate. Public health suffers from a great lack of investment and there are few private hospitals, so getting Zika, Chikungunya or Dengue can be a serious problem. In addition to these diseases, it must be taken into account that if you suffer any type of mishap that involves a medical visit or intervention, you will also have problems accessing quality medical care.

Information on security and personal protection in Honduras

Thefts, violence, scams and vandalism in Honduras Honduras has a homicide rate of between 51 and 60 per hundred thousand inhabitants, which places it among the countries with the most murders in the world.

Among the factors that cause the murders are gangs such as Mara Salvatrucha and Barrio 18, and related to these, drug trafficking. Honduras is an almost obligatory place of passage to the United States for both illegal immigrants and drugs, leading to clashes between security forces and gangs. There is an associated problem, police corruption, documented even with cases of extrajudicial executions.

Homicides in Honduras are daily and, despite the fact that the murder rate has dropped in recent years, the number of homicides remains alarming.

During the last two years, militarization has increased with the coming to power of Juan Orlando Hernández, creating a new police force, the Military Police, responsible for public order.

The security situation in Honduras remains critical. There are countless cases of common crime throughout the country. The Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs recommends that you travel there only in essential situations. If you decide to travel, it is strongly advised not to travel at night by road or in peripheral areas of cities, as well as extreme precautions during the day throughout the territory.

Organized crime, drug trafficking, assaults and kidnappings in Honduras

Throughout the Honduran territory, foreign citizens must take extreme precautions and observe self-protection measures, especially in large urban centers (Tegucigalpa, La Ceiba and San Pedro Sula). Due to the great insecurity and the little success of the police and the army that took over the functions of the police, there is a high number of firearms for self-defense, so it is not uncommon to see firearms in the streets and premises.

Assaults with firearms are very common in the three large cities, which is why traveling on foot is strongly discouraged. It is recommended that only private means of transport be used with the windows rolled up throughout the journey and the car insurance locked. If you are attacked, it is recommended not to put up any type of resistance to avoid personal injury.

The maras or youth gangs have had a great boom in the last twenty years, which causes even more violence and instability. The maras are criminal organizations dedicated to drug trafficking, extortion and murder. In Honduras there is a presence of maras, the best known and most violent being the Salvatrucha MS-13 and the Pandilla 18.

Its origin is in Los Angeles, in the United States, where gangs were organized to protect Salvadorans who fled from the civil war in their country and who suffered harassment from local gangs.

They soon grew in number and influence and spread to El Salvador as many of their leaders were extradited, installed in their country of origin, and then spread to neighboring Honduras. Its members are distinguished by their numerous tattoos that cover their entire bodies, even going so far as to tattoo their faces. They are infamous for their violence and a code of their own that consists of revenge, pride, and cruel retribution.

Generally, maras and gangs have little presence outside of the three largest and most important urban areas, the capital Tegucigalpa and its metropolitan area, the city of La Ceiba, the third largest city in the country, and San Pedro Sula and its department, Cortés. Despite its majority concentration in urban centers, there are different foci in rural areas.

Terrorism in Honduras

The country does not suffer from terrorism, at least that which is commonly understood, although the scourge of the maras has led the government to pass a law that classifies gang members as terrorists, and includes in the same bag demonstrators who organize protests against the government.

Added to this is an increase in repression and persecution against activists, such as the well-known case of the murder of environmental activist Berta Cáceres in 2016.

Safety in public transport in Honduras:

It is strongly discouraged to use any means of public transport, as security is poor and robberies and violent robberies can occur.

The verification team has also reviewed the following websites

Risk in transport:

<https://www.elpais.hn/tag/extorsion/>

<https://es.insightcrime.org/noticias/analisis/extorsion-desplazamiento-victimas-perpetradores-honduras/>

Extortion of the transport sector has increased in recent days, with up to five different groups extorting carriers on the same route, as reported by Nelson Fernández, president of the Special Service Transport Federation of Honduras (Fetraseh). As a result of the situation, they cannot meet the quotas that the same extortion groups have established for them.

Risk due to COVID:(during April 2020 -2021)

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/covid-3/coronavirus-honduras>

<https://proceso.hn/colon-epicentro-del-crimen-la-exclusion-y-el-covid/>

Key Information for Travelers to Honduras

Make sure you are vaccinated and up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines before traveling to Honduras.

If you are not up to date with COVID-19 vaccines, avoid travel to Honduras.

Even if you are up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines, you may still be at risk for getting and spreading COVID-19.

Anyone 2 years or older should properly wear a well-fitting mask in indoor public spaces.

Follow all requirements and recommendations in Honduras.

SPIKE IN COCAINE SEIZURES TARGETS HONDURAS' ATLANTIC REGION:(DURING FEB 2021 AND APRIL 2021)

A string of significant cocaine seizures in the Atlantic region of Honduras presents a stark reminder of the region's importance to international narcotics trafficking. Between January and mid-April 2021, Honduran authorities seized nearly four tons of cocaine in

the department of Colón — strategically located on a drug corridor that crosses the Atlantic coast — according to seizure data compiled in a report by Proceso Digital. Only the seizures from Colón already exceed the total cocaine seized in Honduras in all of 2019, and during the first half of 2020, according to official figures. The largest seizure occurred on March 19, when the Honduran police discovered 1.6 tons of cocaine stored in a vacant lot in the municipality of Iriona, in Colón, according to a report by Proceso Digital. Weeks later, the authorities found 911 kilos of cocaine in a warehouse in a neighboring town. In February, the Honduran army intercepted a ship off the Atlantic coast and found 1.3 tons of cocaine hidden in a secret compartment during an inspection at a dock in Trujillo, Colón, according to Proceso Digital.

Based on the above conditions, Travelling to Honduras was not feasible for the project developer during the delay period.

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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):

PD monitored locally and secured the accuracy and completeness of the monitoring indicators, just like the first monitoring period. The conservativeness is ensured where PD has been confronted with a serious drought in the year 2019, by which, due to the natural character of the project, i.e. run-of-the-river hydroelectric powerplant (no dam applied!!) a 42% drop in electricity generation took place, compared to the maximum year before then (a year in the first monitoring period). As a result, the generated GS VERs as an average are conservative below the anticipated annual emission reductions.

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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.*

The deviation requested is about the lack of follow up physical visit.

Since the project developer has provided the electricity statements for the entire monitoring period, there is no lack of monitoring. The verification team has accepted the deviation.

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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):

As explained in the previous section over the conservativeness that is ensured, the emissions reductions of the first 4 months in the second monitoring period that are subject to be regarded as not eligible, add up to a total which is still conservative for the whole second monitoring period. Other than the emissions reductions, further addressing the impact, there is no impact of other issues such as project design, safeguarding principles assessment, SDG assessment, monitoring frequency, data quality, potential risk or any other relevant aspect of the project.

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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.*

Due to the deviation, there is no impact on actual emission reduction achieved by the project.

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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.)*

Annex ENGLISH-HEADINGS-violencia e inseguridad en Honduras de 2018

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