

TEMPLATE

DEVIATION REQUEST FORM

PUBLICATION DATE **11.04.2022**

Version **5.0**

A. To be completed by Gold Standard

1 | Decision

1.1 | Date – 21/11/2022

1.2 | Decision

The applied deviation is approved exclusively for this monitoring period (i.e., 30/07/2021-29/07/2022). However, the PD shall:

- i. Ensure that the verification site visit frequency stated under clause 3.1 of the [Site Visit and Remote Audit Requirements and Procedures – V1.0](#) will be followed in the subsequent verifications.
- ii. Ensure that credits are claimed for the remotely verified monitoring period of 30/07/2021-29/07/2022 only, considering the Ebola Virus Outbreak induced restrictions during the mentioned MP only. The PD shall follow the regular verification cycles for all the subsequent verifications.
- iii. 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-mentioned conditions and provide its opinion in the Verification Report.

For the purpose of current remote verification, the VVB shall follow requirements, procedures and guidelines stated in [Site Visit and Remote Audit Requirements and Procedures – V1.0](#) for remote verifications.

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_312	
Date of decision	21/11/2022	
Precedent (YES/NO)	No	
Precedent details	N/A	
Date of submission	31/10/2022	
Project/PoA/VPA	Project	ID – GSXXXX
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PoA	ID – GS2393
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VPA	ID – GS2296
Project/PoA/VPA title	PoA Title: Impact Carbon and myclimate Safe Water and Improved Cookstoves Global Programme of Activities VPA Title: Impact Carbon and myclimate Safe Water and Improved Cookstoves Global PoA - Uganda VPA	
Date of listing	28/08/2014	
GS Standard version applicable	GS4GG	
Date of transition to GS4GG (if applicable)	12/07/2019	
Date of transition to Gold Standard from another standard (e.g. CDM) (if applicable)	NA	
Date of design certification/inclusion (if applicable)	03/09/2014	
Location of project/PoA/VPA	Uganda	
Scale of the project/PoA/VPA	<input type="checkbox"/> Microscale <input type="checkbox"/> Small scale <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Large scale	
Gold Standard Impact Registry link of the project/PoA/VPA	https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/319	
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	Remote audit site visit due to outbreak of Ebola in the Host Country	
Specify applicable rule/requirements/methodology, with exact paragraph reference and version number	Site Visit and Remote Audit Requirements and Procedures – V1.0, clause 3.1.1.(b)	
Specify the monitoring period for which the request is valid (if applicable)	Start date 30/07/2021 End date 29/07/2022	

Submitted by	Contact person name: Rohit Lohia
	Email ID: rohit.lohia@climate-secure.com
	Organisation: Climate Secure
	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: TÜV NORD CERT GmbH VVB Staff name(s): Prakash Mishra
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:

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

The project activity involves sale and distribution of water purification technologies in Uganda. The types of technologies included are water purification technologies that use UV light, ceramic filters, membranes, or chemicals to purify water instead of boiling water in the baseline scenario. The target groups of the technologies are households and institutions. The purpose of the VPA is to achieve widespread distribution and effective use of low-carbon water purification technologies in low-income households as well as institutions in the host country.

For verification of the concerned monitoring period 30/07/2021-29/07/2022 (CP2-MP2) a physical audit site visit was scheduled between November 14 -18, 2022¹ in line with clause 3.1.1 (b) of Site Visit and Remote Audit Requirements and Procedures – V1.0. However, On 20 September 2022, the government of Uganda confirmed² an outbreak of Sudan strain of the Ebola virus centered on Mubende district, 90 miles from Kampala. The cases have since been confirmed in various other districts as well. As of 26/10/2022, the virus had spread to seven Ugandan districts in total, killing 30 out of 109 infected persons within 35 days³ indicating towards an escalating and detrimental nature of the outbreak.

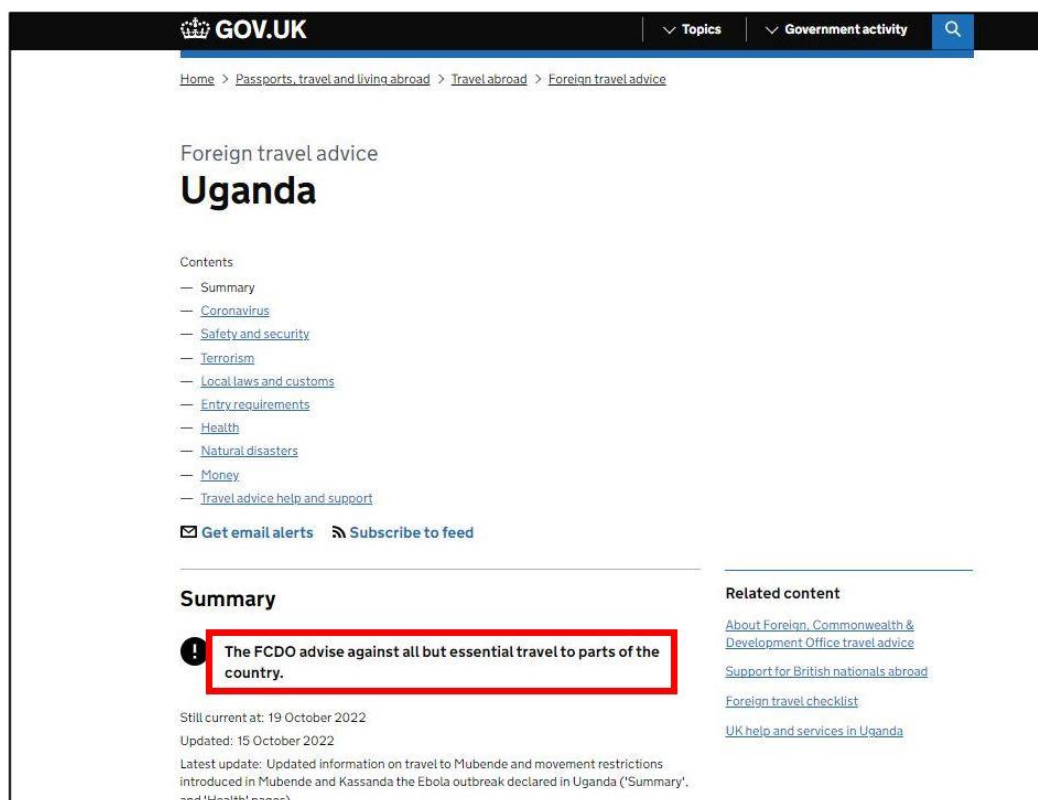
¹ The last physical on-site audit was conducted from 27 - 30 May 2019 for the monitoring period 01/07/2017 – 31/12/2018. Subsequently, the following audit visits (in Dec 2020 and Dec 2021) were conducted remotely due to COVID pandemic risk and physical site visits were not required earlier with COVID interim measures being in place till 30 June 2022 unconditionally.

² <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/9/20/uganda-confirms-ebola-outbreak-after-patient-dies>

³ <https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/follow-sops-or-risk-lockdown-minister-3999588>

Following are some news article covering the scenario prevalent in the Uganda with regard to the outbreak:

- <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/10/17/world/uganda-ebola-lockdown-intl-hnk/index.html>
- <https://www.aljazeera.com/gallery/2022/10/18/photos-uganda-battles-to-contain-spread-of-ebola>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/s1018-ebola-outbreaks-uganda.html>
- <https://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/2022-DON410>
- Travel Advisory



Owing to such damaging nature of the Ebola and the associated risk due to higher mortality rate of about 50%⁴ when compared to 3.5 % fatality rate of COVID19, it is requested to allow the VVB to conduct a remote verification audit and complete the issuance for the period 30/07/2021-29/07/2022 as a deviation to clause 3.1.1(b) of the Site Visit and Remote Audit Requirements and Procedures – V1.0.

3.2 | Assessment of the deviation:

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

The deviation is not impacting the applicability, accuracy, completeness, or conservativeness of GHG assertion.

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

⁴ <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/ebola-virus-disease>

The deviation requested seeking exemption from physical onsite audit visit considering the current Health security situation in the host country of Uganda is assessed to be imperative and reasonable. VVB could assess the articles cited above, and also conducted independent research of the current situation of Ebola outbreak in Uganda. Further, VVB's conducted independent interviews with local people and concludes that the Ebola outbreak is a genuine health risk to the VVB team for conducting a physical on-site audit. Thus, this deviation holds good for the requested Monitoring period, to be remotely assessed by VVB instead of physical on-site audit. VVB has requested PP to ensure access and infrastructure to conduct remote interviews (audio/video calls) to verify the project information / assertion accurately and objectively under the current MP.

3.3 | Impact of the deviation:

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

No impact envisaged.

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

The same VVB with the same verification team leader has assessed / verified multiple historic monitoring periods of this project consecutively (CP1 (MP2, MP3 and MP4) and CP2 MP1) including physical on-site audits and thus, the VVB is well versed with the on-ground situation including project technology, distribution, usage rate, monitoring data management and monitoring system etc. Additionally, VVB shall conduct remote audit using ICT, preferring video (wherever possible) mode to objectively verify on-ground information including installed technology, continued usage and other monitoring parameters.

Thus, this deviation is not expected to have any negative impact on the verification of MP#2 under the current crediting period (i.e., CP2).

3.4 | Documents:

None

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