

TEMPLATE

# DEVIATION REQUEST FORM

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PUBLICATION DATE **11.04.2022**

Version **5.0**

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## 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., 01/01/2022-31/08/2022). 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 the credits are claimed for the remotely verified monitoring period of 01/01/2022-31/08/2022 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_324	
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 – GS447
	<input type="checkbox"/> PoA	ID – GSXXXX
	<input type="checkbox"/> VPA	ID – GSXXXX
Project/PoA/VPA title	Improved Cookstoves for Social Impact in Ugandan Communities (formerly “Efficient Cooking with Ugastoves”)	
Date of listing	26/03/2009	
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)	26/03/2009 (Date of initial design certification CP1) 24/06/2021 (Date of design certification CP3)	
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	<a href="https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/793">https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/793</a>	
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 01/01/2022      End date 31/08/2022	
Submitted by	Contact person name: Rohit Lohia	
	Email ID: <a href="mailto:rohit.lohia@climate-secure.com">rohit.lohia@climate-secure.com</a>	
	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 purpose of the project is dissemination of improved cookstoves (ICS) in Uganda. The project by dissemination of ICS replaces existing, less efficient traditional cooking stoves using biomass (charcoal or wood-fuel) fuel for cooking. The ICSs significantly reduce biomass fuel consumption and emission of indoor air pollutants, resulting in an improved living environment for recipients. By reducing non-renewable biomass fuel consumption, the ICS results in reduction of equivalent GHG emissions.

For verification of the concerned monitoring period 01/01/2022-31/08/2022 (CP3-MP2) a physical audit site visit was scheduled between November 14 -18, 2022<sup>1</sup> 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 confirmed<sup>2</sup> 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 days<sup>3</sup> indicating towards an escalating and detrimental nature of the outbreak.

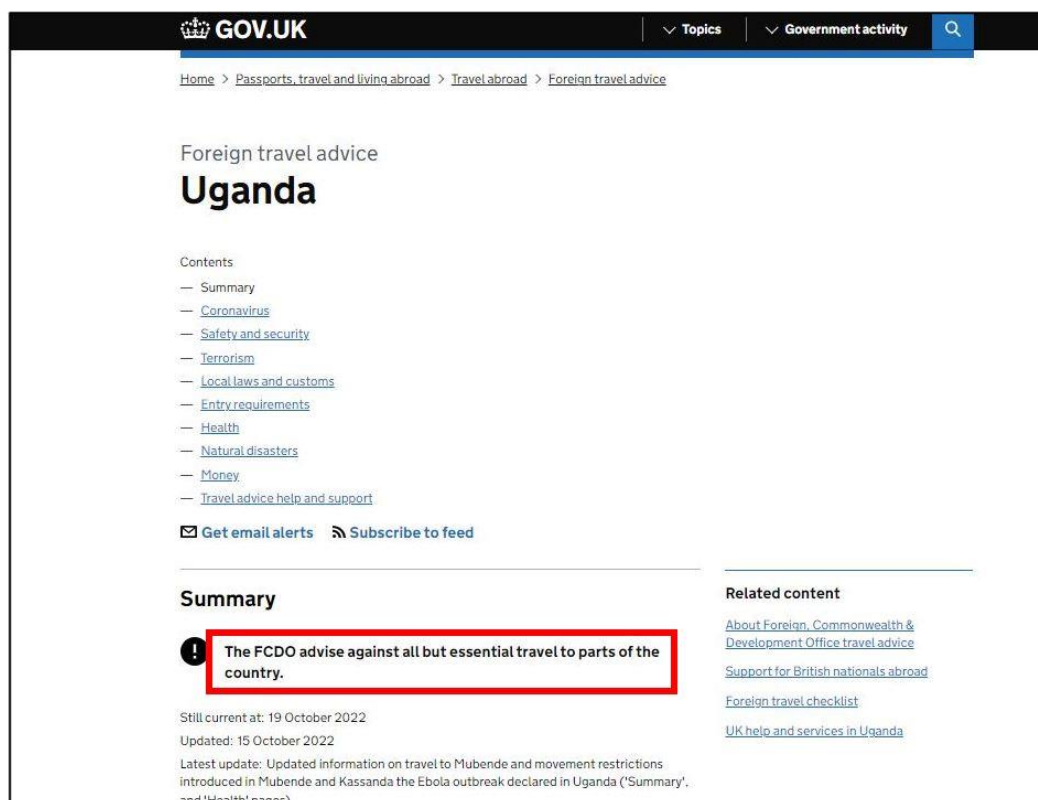
Following are some news article covering the scenario prevalent in the Uganda with regard to the outbreak:

- <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

<sup>1</sup> The last physical on-site audit was conducted from 27 - 30 May 2019 for the monitoring period 01/10/2017 – 30/09/2018. Subsequently, the following audit visits (in June 2020, Oct 2020, Aug 2021 and Mar 2022) 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.

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

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



Owing to such damaging nature of the Ebola and the associated risk due to higher mortality rate of about 50%<sup>4</sup> 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 01/01/2022-31/08/2022 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):

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 a physical on-site audit. VVB has requested PP to ensure access and infrastructure to conduct remote interviews (audio/video calls) to

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

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 (CP2 (MP3, MP4, MP5, MP6, MP7) and CP3 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 (information and Communication Technology), 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., CP3).

### 3.4 | Documents:

None

Version number	Release date	Description
5	11.04.2022	Additional information added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- date of listing, design certification, transition</li> <li>- standard version</li> <li>- specific reference to a requirement deviated from</li> <li>- any previous deviations/design changes approved</li> </ul> Guidance on VVB opinion
4	14.01.2021	
3	16.07.2020	
2	03.05.2018	
1	01.07.2017	Initial adoption