

TEMPLATE

DEVIATION REQUEST FORM

PUBLICATION DATE **11.04.2021**

Version **5.0**

A. To be completed by Gold Standard

1 | Decision

1.1 | Date – 11/01/2023

1.2 | Decision

The applied deviation request is **APPROVED**. The PD may claim the third crediting period of the project starting from 20/04/2022 considering that all the requirements of the Principles and Requirements are complied with. The decision is subject to fulfilment of the following condition:

- i. The PD shall ensure that 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).
- ii. The PD shall document the deviation request, its implications, and GS' decision in the appropriate section of the GS PDD.

The validating VVB shall, through appropriate means at its disposal, evaluate the Project's compliance with the above-mentioned condition and provides its opinion in the Validation 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

2| Background information

Deviation Reference Number	DEV_352	
Date of decision	11/01/2023	
Precedent (YES/NO)	No	
Precedent details	NA	
Date of submission	20/12/2022	
Project/PoA/VPA	Project	ID – GS566
	<input type="checkbox"/> PoA	ID – GSXXXX
	<input type="checkbox"/> VPA	ID – GSXXXX
Project/PoA/VPA title	Prony and Kafeate wind farms	
Date of listing		
GS Standard version applicable	GS4GG Principles & Requirements (Ver-1.2) (section 5.1.46)	
Date of transition to GS4GG (if applicable)		
Date of transition to Gold Standard from another standard (e.g. CDM) (if applicable)	06/02/2021	
Date of design certification/inclusion (if applicable)	20/04/2010	
Location of project/PoA/VPA	New Caledonia	
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/1001	
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 from GS4GG principles and requirement, section 5.1.46 regarding delay in design certification renewal so as to obtain 3 rd Crediting Period of the project from next day of expiry of 2 nd Crediting period.	
Specify applicable rule/requirements/methodology	Principles and requirement, version 1.2, published in October 2019, para:	

<p>gy, with exact paragraph reference and version number</p>	<p>5.1.45 To maintain Gold Standard Certified Project status beyond five years, a Project must undergo Design Certification Renewal. This process shall begin (defined by the submission of a Renewal opinion by a VVB for Design Review to Gold Standard) no later than the last date of current certification cycle. Note that review of the Design Certification Renewal may complete after the last date of current crediting period. In this case, the renewal date shall be the first day after the end date of the current certification cycle.</p> <p>5.1.46 indicates "Delay in the completion of re-validation beyond the last date of current certification cycle shall result in a reduction of any issuance of Certified Products and/or Impact Statements available during following certification cycle (for example, a delay of 1 year beyond the first cycle shall mean that no Certified Impact Statements shall be issued for the period of delay)."</p> <p>Covid 19: Interim Measures, version 6, Published in June 2022, para:</p> <p>5.1.1 Where project submission timelines are affected by COVID-19, the project developer may seek an extension by submitting a request to Gold Standard. It includes but is not limited to the following key submission stages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Submission of the project within one year of the start date; - Successful completion of validation within two years of the date of project - Listing; - Completion of first verification within two years (5 years in case of A/R) of project implementation date or design certification or design certification renewal, whichever is later; - Submission of design review no later than the last date of the current certification cycle; Claiming retroactive crediting (extension of retroactive crediting period to cover delays in addition to maximum allowed period of 2 years); - Submission of the annual report. <p>5.2.2 Extension requests shall be submitted before the declared end date of these Interim Measures.</p>
--	---

Specify the monitoring period for which the request is valid (if applicable)	Start date: NA End date: NA
Submitted by	Contact person name: Mr. Chetan Aggarwal
	Email ID: standards@southpole.com , c.aggarwal@southpole.com
	Organisation: South Pole Carbon Asset Management 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 type="checkbox"/> If yes; VVB name: VVB Staff name(s):
Any previous deviations approved for the same project activity/PoA/VPA(s)?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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)

3 | Deviation detail

3.1 | Description of the deviation:

The South Pole Carbon Asset Management Ltd. is requesting a deviation from section 5.1.46 of the GS4GG principles and requirements, for project activity GS-566 Prony and Kafeate wind farms. The Prony site is located in the South province in the village of Mont Dore and the Kafeate is located in the North province in the village of Koné to continue the issuance of VERs for the period 20/04/2022 to 20/04/2029 as part of the 3rd crediting period.

New Caledonia is a small island which is vulnerable to extreme weather events and also affected by the pandemic, the main causes of delay were:

1. Covid during the month of March, June to August, and December 2022.
2. Extreme weather events such as cyclones on 31 December 2021 to 05 January 2022, 09-12 February 2022, 04-09 April 2022, 18-22 May 2022, flooding in February 2022 and earthquakes occurred on 31 March 2022¹ and 15 August 2022².

This year brings new challenges from the beginning. Effect of climate change can easily be noticed in this region. With increasing cyclonic activities and their intensity, operation of wind farm is at high risk of breakdown. Project is a renewable energy activity which completed its 2nd crediting period on 19/04/2022. We request a deviation to continue the Renewal of Crediting Period (RCP) process of the project activity and allow the renewal of crediting period from the next day after the end date of the current certification cycle(i.e., 20/04/2022).

¹ <https://www.volcanodiscovery.com/earthquakes/6721228/2022-03-30/20h57/magnitude7-New-Caledonia.html>

² <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/others/earthquake-of-61-magnitude-hits-noumea-new-caledonia20220815041528/>

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

As per the Principles and requirement, version 1.2 request for renewal of crediting period has to be submitted before the last date of the existing crediting period, which can't be done without prior consideration of the project owners. We request a deviation from Principles and requirement, version 1.2 to allow us to continue the Renewal of Crediting Period (RCP) process of the project from the next day after the end date of the current certification cycle.

There are two major reasons for the delay –

1. **Covid** – Total travel restrictions³ due to covid were in place till August 2022. As per the WHO⁴ details, a sharp rise in the number of cases was observed in the month of March and June to August of the year with the daily average number of active cases above 500. Recently on 05/12/22, 2193 confirmed cases have been reported to WHO.

Due to the remote location of the island and less population, the devastating effects of the pandemic is more compared to well-connected nations. With increases in the number of cases project staff got infected which affected the management of the organisation.

2. **Extreme weather events** – Extreme weather events affect the working of the organisation. Due to the below-mentioned events management was focused on taking precautionary measures and resume the working after the occurrence of the disaster by doing visual checks of each generating unit which requires more working hours.
 - In light of natural disasters such as flooding⁵ in the month of February 2022 due to a level two cyclone in parts of New Caledonia, authorities advised people to stop all activity and seek shelter immediately.

³<https://gouv.nc/actualite-covid-19>

⁴<https://covid19.who.int/region/wpro/country/nc>

⁵<https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/461257/tropical-cyclone-dovi-causes-major-flooding-in-vanuatu>

- Cyclone's Seti in January, Dovi in February, Fili in April, and Gina in May this year clearly represent how vulnerable this small island is due to climate change. Due to four consecutive cyclones⁶ and high wind speed in the region, safety of wind turbines and site implementation of the renewable energy project activity were taken in priority to avoid any negative impact on the project activity. Wind turbines have giant propeller-like blades that are growing more vulnerable in cyclonic conditions.
- New Caledonia out of an abundance of caution, consider vacating multistory buildings where shaking occurred twice due to earthquakes in this year. A visual check is done to monitor effect of earthquakes on structure and its foundation.

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

Not Applicable

3.2 | Assessment of the deviation

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

As described in the description and section 3.1.1 project activity got affected due to an uncontrollable situation which occurred due to changing climatic conditions. With the increase in intensity and frequency of cyclones Seth, Dovi, Fili and Gina project onsite operation and safety of the wind turbine were at high risk. Unfortunately, the lack of availability and understanding of the RCP requirements of the Project Owner also contributed towards the delay in the submission of the RCP request.

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

Not Applicable

3.3 | Impact of the deviation:

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

The cause for the request for deviation is aligned with the Gold Standards vision and mission and does not affect the positive impacts of the project activity or any other relevant aspect of the project during the delay period (few months only), the project

⁶ <https://www.worlddata.info/oceania/new-caledonia/cyclones.php>

owner has continued to monitor all parameters as approved during the design certification.

The above deviation will not cause any impact on the data quality or attract any potential risk on GS related to any issuance or any other material impact affecting the quality of the project and thus no potential risk is attributed to GS Project activity.

The deviation requested adheres to the Principles and Requirements set forth by GS4GG and complies with:

- Emissions reductions: the requested deviation will have no impact on these. Primary data collection has led to more conservative emission reduction calculations, given the expected usage rate drop-off.
- SDG impacts: the requested deviation is related to the management of the project only. As such, it will have no impact on the project SDGs,
- Potential risk: no risk is perceived in this request. Conservativeness is possibly the most significant consideration, and it is dealt with in the previous section.
- Environmental Integrity- The VERs generated from the project activity are not overestimated because of deviation and conservativeness are ensured.
- Contribution to Sustainable Development Goals- SDG contributions that the project is designed to achieve are in line with GS4GG requirements and the above deviation does not have any potential impact on the certified SDGs claimed during the current crediting period.
- Safeguarding Principles and requirements- The deviation does not create any impact upon the safeguarding principles and requirements set forth by GS4GG.

Compliance with Host Country Regulations- The project does not create any conflict with Host Country regulations and all the host country regulations are followed.

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

Not applicable

3.4 | Documents:

Version number	Release date	Description
5	11.04.2022	<p>Additional information added:</p> <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 <p>Guidance on VVB opinion</p>
4	14.01.2021	
3	16.07.2020	
2	03.05.2018	
1	01.07.2017	Initial adoption