

TEMPLATE

DEVIATION REQUEST FORM

PUBLICATION DATE **11.04.2021**

Version **5.0**

A. To be completed by Gold Standard

1 | Decision

1.1 | Date – 25/01/2023

1.2 | Decision

The deviation request proposes that the national forest definition of the project's host country (Ghana) as provided by the Forestry Commission be considered for the activity, though this forest definition is different from the submission by the host country to UNFCCC. The justification is that Forestry Commission, Ghana has already communicated the national forest definition to UNFCCC in its National FRL submission. It has been verified that the forestry definition in the FRL submission was developed after consultations, and is the same as proposed in the deviation (section 2.2, Ghana's National Forest Reference Level). Forestry Commission, Ghana has also mentioned in their communication to the project developer that the country forest definition in UNFCCC shall be revised/rectified. It is understood that the project developer has also been advised by the Forestry Commission to use the definition provided by them. Under this circumstance, the deviation is approved with the following conditions:

- This proposed deviation in forest definition cannot be applied for carbon credit component of the same or similar projects, and its acceptance is valid only for this specific case.
- It shall be ascertained within an appropriate time, as discerned by the VVB, to check whether the country forest definition at UNFCCC is being revised or not.
- The forest definition will be applicable for baseline and activity scenarios.

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_365	
Date of decision	25/01/2023	
Precedent (YES/NO)	No	
Precedent details	[to be completed by Gold Standard]	
Date of submission	06/01/2023	
Project/PoA/VPA	Project	ID – GS11569
	<input type="checkbox"/> PoA	ID – GSXXXX
	<input type="checkbox"/> VPA	ID – GSXXXX

Project/PoA/VPA title	Sankofa Project – Empowered by Alliances for Action
Date of listing	Not yet listed
GS Standard version applicable	Gold Standard for the Global Goals
Date of transition to GS4GG (if applicable)	n/a
Date of transition to Gold Standard from another standard (e.g. CDM) (if applicable)	n/a
Date of design certification/inclusion (if applicable)	n/a
Location of project/PoA/VPA	Ghana
Scale of the project/PoA/VPA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Microscale <input type="checkbox"/> Small scale <input type="checkbox"/> Large scale
Gold Standard Impact Registry link of the project/PoA/VPA	n/a
Status of the project/PoA/VPA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Listed <input type="checkbox"/> Certified design <input type="checkbox"/> Certified project
Title/subject of deviation	Forest definition
Specify applicable rule/requirements/methodology, with exact paragraph reference and version number	203_V1.2.1_AR_LUF Activity Requirements Page 3. Terms and definitions Forest. A forest is defined by the Designated National Authority (DNA) of the project's host country http://cdm.unfccc.int/DNA/index.html .
Specify the monitoring period for which the request is valid (if applicable)	n/a
Submitted by	Contact person name: 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 checked="" 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"/>

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):

South Pole Carbon Asset Management Ltd. is requesting a deviation from the terms and definitions of the Gold Standard Land use and forestry activity requirements Version 1.2.1, for Sankofa project activity.

According to the listing on the UNFCCC the forest definition for Ghana is:

- Minimum area: 0.1 ha
- Minimum tree crown cover: 15%
- Minimum tree height: 5 m

This definition was communicated by the DNA on the 6 November 2007: [1706_ghana.pdf \(unfccc.int\)](#) (NB difference on minimum tree height).

However, a new definition of forest for Ghana was agreed upon in 2011 which was communicated to the DNA:

- Minimum area: **1** ha
- Minimum tree crown cover: 15%
- Minimum tree height: 5 m

Please find below the notification defining the new forest definition of Ghana by Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology

*In case of reply, the
Number and date of this
Letter should be quoted.*

Our Ref:

MES/TA/006/45



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
P.O. BOX M232
ACCRA

July 21, 2011

Your Ref:

Republic of Ghana

Tel: 0302-660005/ 666 049 / 662 626

Fax: 0302- 660005 913 / 662 533

NEW FOREST DEFINITION FOR GHANA

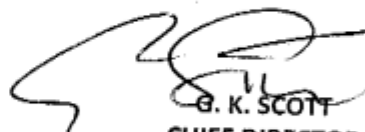
After a series of stakeholders consultations amongst personnel from the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the Forestry Commission, Universities, Forestry Research Institute of Ghana, the environmental Protection Agency, Industry Players, civil Society Organizations amongst others, a new forest definition of Ghana was agreed on at the final stakeholder meeting held on March 1, 2011 at the Forestry Commission's Auditorium.

The definition is as below:

"A piece of land with a minimum area of 1 hectare, with a minimum tree crown cover of 15% crown cover, with existing tress species having the potential of attaining more 15% crown cover, with trees which have the potential or have reached a minimum height of 5.0 meters at maturity in situ".

This decision is being communicated by the Designate National authority to the United Nations Framework convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Executive Board.

We count on your usual cooperation.


G. K. SCOTT
CHIEF DIRECTOR
for: MINISTER

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION
ON CLIMATE CHANGE
BONN- GERMANY

The forest definition used by Ghana for their reference scenario is the same as this one. When we consulted the Forestry Commission of Ghana about these different definitions of forest, they communicated that we should use the later definition for the eligibility assessment required for the Sankofa Project (Letter attached for reference), i.e.

- Minimum area: **1** ha
- Minimum tree crown cover: 15%
- Minimum tree height: 5 m



FORESTRY COMMISSION (CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS)

P.O. BOX 434, ACCRA - GHANA
TEL: (233-302) 401210 / 401216 / 401227
Fax: (233-302) 401197
E-mail: info.bqa@fghana.org
Website: www.fghana.org

Our Ref: FC/A-10/3F-214-7/12

Your Ref:

17th August, 2020

**The Sankofa Project Manager
South Pole Group UK Ltd.
London**

Dear Sir,

RE: ADOPTION OF DEFINITION OF FOREST AS REFLECTED IN GHANA'S NATIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY AND GHANA'S NATIONAL FOREST REFERENCE LEVEL COMMUNICATED TO AND ACCEPTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC)

We acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 11th June 2020 regarding the above subject with respect to the Sankofa Project.

We subsequently provide Ghana's current forest definition in use since 2011 which has been used in the preparation of its GHGI reports produced since that time and the FRL as below:

"A piece of land with a minimum area of 1 hectare, with a minimum tree crown cover of 15%, with existing trees species having the potential of attaining more 15% crown cover, with trees which have the potential or have reached a minimum height of 5.0 meters at maturity in situ"

The above definition is also hosted on the UNFCCC website and the Country will work to rectify any other definition other than this. We have also attached the official communication of Ghana's Forest Definition when it was revised and accepted, sent through its Designated National Authority to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), for your attention.

To strengthen the benefits of the GCFRP and Sankofa Project, you are informed to liaise with the Director, Climate Change to discuss steps towards deepening this budding partnership.

We look forward to your cooperation.

Yours faithfully,

**JOHN M. ALLOTEY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

cc: The Director, Climate Change
Forestry Commission
Accra

VISION: To leave future generations and their communities with richer, better, more valuable forestry and wildlife endowments than we inherited.

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):

The deviation request will not change the project in anyway. It will comply with the host country definition of forest and will ensure consistency of reporting.

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):

The proposed deviation will have no impact on the project design, safeguards emission reductions or any other potential project risks.

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