TEMPLATE

DEVIATION REQUEST FORM

PUBLICATION DATE **11.04.2021**

Version **5.0**

A. To be completed by Gold Standard

1| Decision

1.1 | Date – 02/05/2023

1.2 | Decision

The deviation request is **not approved.**

Projects are eligible under the microscale scheme if the annual emission reductions achieved are limited to a maximum of 10,000 tonnes of CO2eq in each and every year of the crediting period. Whenever actual emission reductions, as per the verification report, exceed the upper threshold, the project can still request issuance, but the claimable emission reductions are capped at 10,000 tonnes of CO2eq per year.

Project Developer can still perform the verification and claim for emission reductions but cap the issuance per year to 10,000 tonnes of CO2eq.

The verifying VVB shall, through appropriate means at its disposal, evaluate the project's compliance with the above condition and provide its opinion in the Verification Report.

SustainCert shall review both the project developer'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)

1| Background information

Deviation Reference Number	DEV_395	
Date of decision	08/05/2023	
Precedent (YES/NO)	No	
Precedent details	NA	
Date of submission	/04/2023	
Project/PoA/VPA	Project	ID – GSXXXX
	☐ PoA	ID – GSXXXX
	☒ VPA	ID – GS11029
Project/PoA/VPA title	GS5658 VPA 33: Access to energy for local development and women's empowerment in Cabo Delgado Province, Mozambique	
Date of listing	01/02/2023	
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)	31/01/2023	
Location of project/PoA/VPA	Mozambique	
Scale of the project/PoA/VPA	☒ Microscale ☐ Small scale ☐ Large scale	
Gold Standard Impact Registry link of the project/PoA/VPA	https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/3017	
Status of the project/PoA/VPA	☐ New ☐ Listed ☒ Certified design ☐ Certified project	
Title/subject of deviation	>10,000 tCO_2e per year due to not homogeneous ICS distribution	
Specify applicable rule/requirements/methodolo	GS MS Simplified Methodology for Efficient Cookstoves v1.	

gy, with exact paragraph reference and version number	
Specify the monitoring period for which the request is valid (if applicable)	Start date 22/03/2020 End date 10/03/2023
Submitted by	Contact person name: Gianluca Persia Email ID: gianluca.persia@carbonsink.it g.persia@southpole.com
	Organisation: Carbonsink/South Pole
	Project participant: Yes ☐ No ☒
Validation and Verification body (VVB opinion shall be included, where required by the applicable rules/requirements or request is submitted by the VVB).	Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes; VVB name: VVB Staff name(s):
Any previous deviations approved for the same project activity/PoA/VPA(s)?	Yes ☐ No ☒

2| Deviation detail

2.1 | 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.*

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

The cookstoves distribution for the project started in March 2020. In the registered PDD the aim was to distribute around 4,000 project ICS "Mbaula Poupa Lenha".
However, it was mentioned that possible new devices would have been added in future.
The project at the end reached 7,182 ICS distributed.
The cookstoves distribution started with a low rhythm. In fact at the end of 2020 the ICS distributed reached the 1,152 units (16% of total). The maximum distribution was reached in 2021 with 4830 units (67%) (Figure 1.).

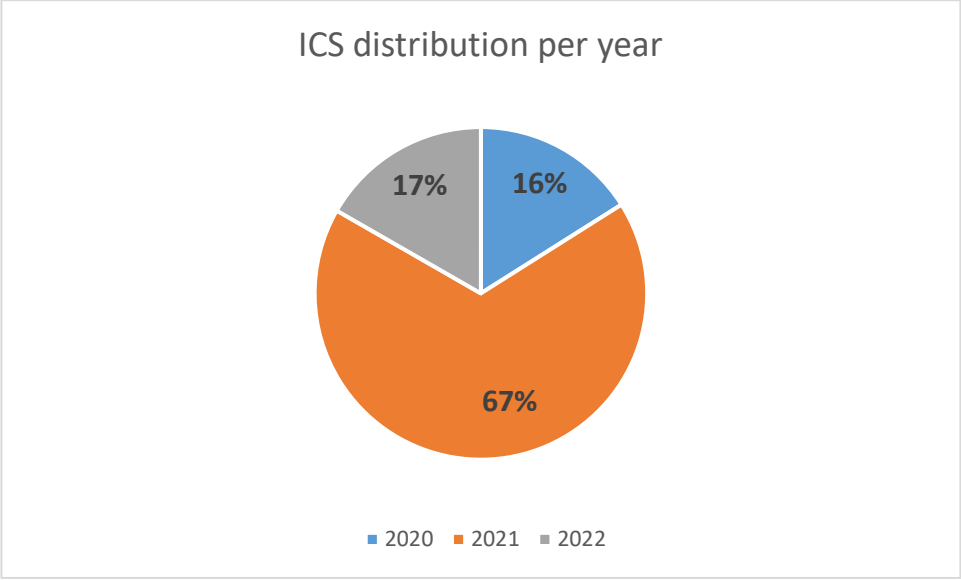
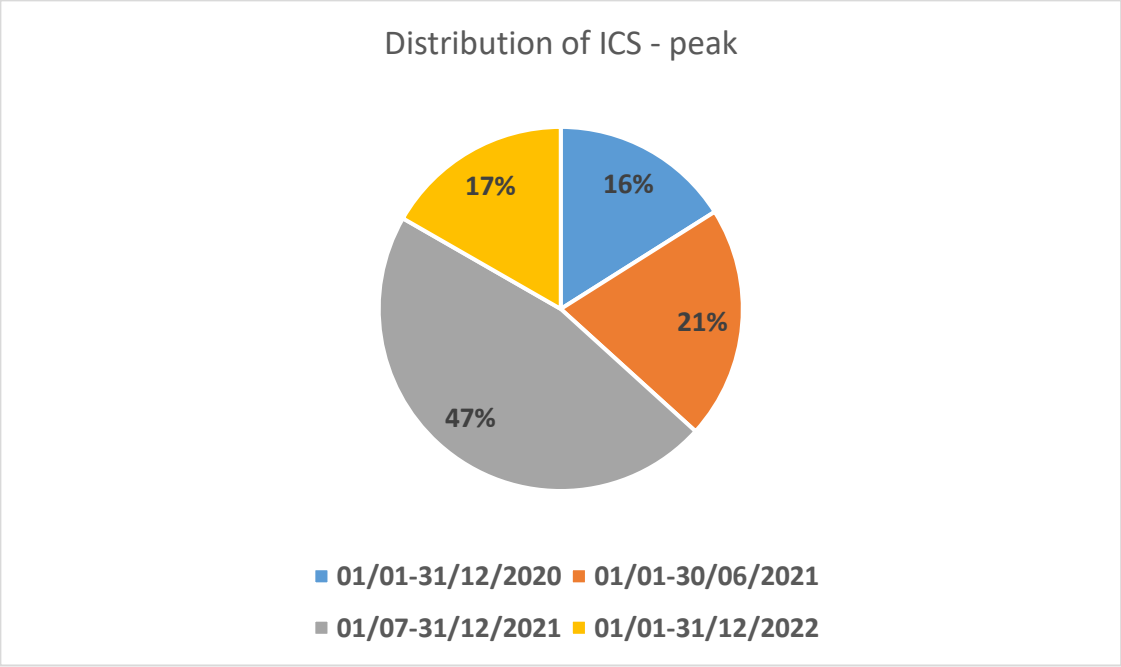


Figure 1. Distribution per year

If we look more closely to the months of distribution, we note a peak in the second part of 2021, where 47% of the total amount of distributed ICS is concentrated in just 6 months (Figure 2).[1]



[1] Please refer to the tab "ICS distribution" of "GS11029_Selling Database legna_2022.xlsx"

It can be underlined that from July 2021 till February 2022 the 63% of total ICS distribute is concentrated (Figure 3), against a prospected uniform distribution of devices. This is responsible for non-uniformity in the amount of project emissions reduction registered.

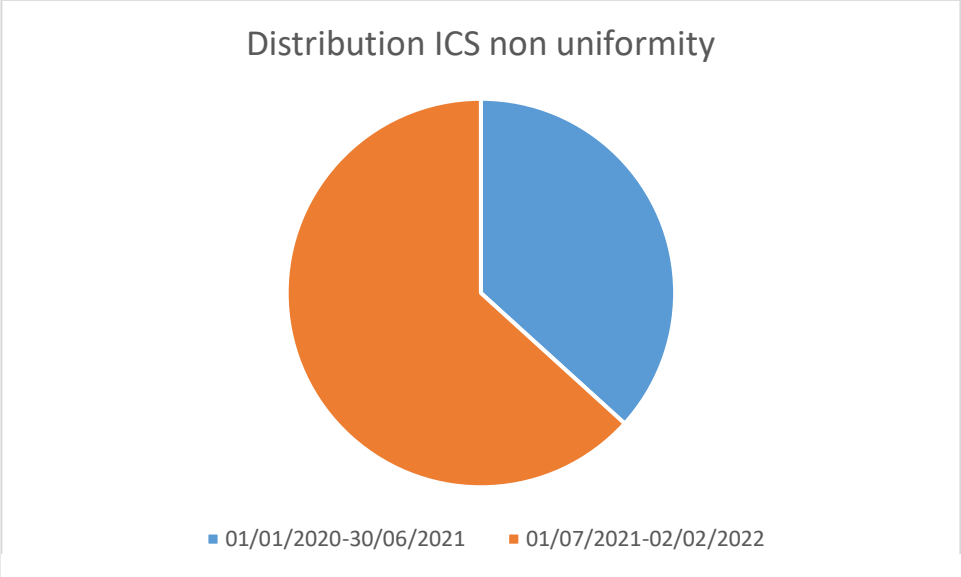


Figure 3. Non-uniformity in distribution.

The peak registered in the distribution is reflected into the peak of Emissions reductions registered in year 2022 as per calculation provided:

TOTAL EMISSION REDUCTION			
Project year	**Emission reduction**	**Leakage adjustment**	**ERs after leakage**
22/03/2020 - 31/12/2020	570	29	542
01/01/2021 - 31/12/2021	7.750	387	7.362
01/01/2022 - 31/12/2022	19.893	995	18.899
01/01/2023-10/03/2023	3793	190	3.603

Even if we considered the division per vintage, the 10,000 tons are overcame:

TOTAL EMISSION REDUCTION			
Project year	**Emission reduction**	**Leakage adjustment**	**ERs after leakage**
22/03/2020 - 21/03/2021	1.038	52	986
22/03/2021 - 21/03/2022	11.427	571	10.856
22/03/2022 - 10/03/2023	19.460	973	18.487

2.1.2 | 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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2.2 | 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.

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

Requirements, accuracy and completeness

As per Microscale project requirements v.1.2, section 2 "General Eligibility Criteria", is previewed to not overcome the 10,000 tons of CO_2 emissions reduction per project year. However, the distribution of project ICS didn't reflect the expectations, in the first year of project the distribution followed a very slow rhythm and as mentioned above there was a peak of ER due to the increased intensity of distribution. The total amount achieved is 30,406 tons per 4 years (2020-2023). If we look at the calculation per year we found the 2022 as the only year in which the 10,000 tons are overcame, on the other side if we look at the division per vintage, the period 22/03/2022-10/03/2021 is the one in which the 10,000 tons are abundantly exceeded. In 4 years the average of ER achieved is 7,601, hence the annual average is in line with the requirements.

2.2.2 | 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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2.3 | 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.

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

Impact on project design

The proposed deviation does not involve any changes in the Project Design so there will be no impact on this.

Impact on Safeguard Principles Assessment

The projects activities will remain unchanged during all the crediting period, and, also the social, economic and environmental impacts are not influenced. Thus, the proposed deviation is not having any impact on the Safeguard Principles Assessment, but if the expected carbon revenues will not be achieved, could be probably difficult to proceed with the monitoring activities for the next year.

Impact on emissions reductions and SDG assessment

There are in year 2022 8,899 tons of ER that are in plus to previewed 10,000 tons. If this deviation request would not be approved there will be a cap in the ER.

Monitoring frequency

There will be no change in the frequency of monitoring.

Data quality and/or potential risks

The monitoring activities will be carried out in line with the applied methodology. The quality of the data will have thus the same attention and accuracy as without the deviation.

2.3.2 | 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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2.4 | 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.)*

Ex post calculation sheet:

GS11029_Ex Post Calculation_ver02.xlsx

Selling Database :

GS11029_Selling Database legna_2022_ver02.xlsx

Monitoring report:

GS11029_Monitoring Report v1.docx

Version number	Release date	Description
5	11.04.2022	Additional information added: - 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