

TEMPLATE

DEVIATION REQUEST FORM

PUBLICATION DATE **11.04.2021**

Version **5.0**

A. To be completed by Gold Standard

1 | Decision

1.1 | Date – 26/07/2023

1.2 | Decision

The deviation request is partially approved.

The project developer shall continue with the renewal of crediting period as per section e) of clause 5 stated in [Principles & Requirements](#).

Considering the deviation request was received by SustainCERT before the end of the Crediting period of the earliest VPA, the validation process may be completed in a reasonable time of three months from the date of the deviation decision.

Renewal would be provisional and subject to the prospective statutory instrument relating to carbon credit projects by the Government of Zimbabwe.

The project developer shall document the deviation request, its implications, and GS' decision is documented in the appropriate section of the Validation Report.

The verifying VVB shall, through appropriate means at its disposal, evaluate the Project's compliance with the above requests 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

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_448	
Date of decision	26/07/2023	
Precedent (YES/NO)	NO	
Precedent details	NA	
Date of submission	02/06/2023	
Project/PoA/VPA	Project	ID – GSXXXX
	<input type="checkbox"/> PoA	ID – GSXXXX
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VPA	ID – GS6518-23
Project/PoA/VPA title	Manicaland Safe Water	
Date of listing	20/03/2018	
GS Standard version applicable		
Date of transition to GS4GG (if applicable)	GS4GG	
Date of transition to Gold Standard from another standard (e.g. CDM) (if applicable)		
Date of design certification/inclusion (if applicable)	23/05/2019	
Location of project/PoA/VPA	Zimbabwe	
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	https://platform.sustain-cert.com/certification/projects/1227/reviews	
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	Rev-validation Delay due to National Carbon Credit Framework	
Specify applicable rule/requirements/methodology, with exact paragraph reference and version number	Not Applicable	

Specify the monitoring period for which the request is valid (if applicable)	Start date	End date
Submitted by	Contact person name: George Syder	
	Email ID: george.syder@co2balance.com	
	Organisation: CO2balance UK 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"/>	

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):

Due to the recent release of a National Carbon Credit Framework in Zimbabwe, all existing Carbon Projects in the country are void and must undergo registration under the National Carbon Credit Registry. As a result of this announcement, it is expected that the upcoming re-validation will need to be paused as we seek approval from the Zimbabwe Government and assess whether the projects are still financially viable. The deviation request is that the project can retroactively re-validate the project after the end of Crediting Period 1, after approval from the government has been received, without any penalty to the applicable dates of the project.

The VPAs are due to end Crediting Period 1 on the following dates:

- GS6519 - 09/06/2023

- GS6520 - 08/06/2023
- GS6521 - 28/06/2023
- GS6522 - 07/06/2023
- GS6523 - 20/06/2023

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):

It is our understanding that there is currently no applicable reference to the requirements. However, this deviation may set precedent for navigating the uncertainties of government regulation. In terms of the project, if accepted this will have no impact on data collection, and current accuracy, completeness, and conservativeness will be maintained. This deviation is purely administrative.

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 deviation is expected to have a considerable impact on project design and potential risk, with the financial model of the project needing to be reassessed.

The deviation is not expected to have a considerable impact on elements of safeguarding, SDG assessment, emissions reductions, monitoring frequency, and data quality as project monitoring and activities will continue as the National Registration process is ongoing. Only if the project is unable to register under the National Registry will GS VERs not be generated and verified, however in this scenario the local population will still be realizing these benefits. At this point the project will close and not continue. In this instance the project benefits will end.

In the case that registration is successful, the project will continue as usual, however there may be some delay in the validation and verification timeline. Regardless, as above, this will not impact the effectiveness of the project on the ground.

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.)*

- Zimbabwe Carbon Credit Framework (Confidential)

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

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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