

TEMPLATE

DEVIATION REQUEST FORM

PUBLICATION DATE **11.04.2021**

Version **5.0**

A. To be completed by Gold Standard

1 | Decision

1.1 | Date – 13/07/2023

1.2 | Decision

Approved.

Project Developer shall include stakeholder categories f: Gold Standard representative and g: relevant international Gold Standard NGO supporters with representation in the region and all Gold Standard NGO supporters located in the host country of the project within the stakeholder feedback round.

They should be given full access to the non-technical summary, public consultation invitations, draft stakeholder consultation report containing minutes of meetings and the project developer's 1st round of responses to queries raised during meetings.

The project developer should ensure points 3.6.7-3.6.9 of the stakeholder consultation and engagement guidance and points 3.6.9 – 3.6.12 of the stakeholder consultation and engagement requirements are followed.

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 Verification 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?

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_454	
Date of decision	13/07/2023	
Precedent (YES/NO)	No	
Precedent details	N/A	
Date of submission	07/06/2023	
Project/PoA/VPA	Project	ID – GSXXXX
	<input type="checkbox"/> PoA	ID – GSXXXX
	<input type="checkbox"/> VPA	ID – GSXXXX
Project/PoA/VPA title	Boundiali solar PV	
Date of listing	Not yet	
GS Standard version applicable	GS4GG	
Date of transition to GS4GG (if applicable)	-	
Date of transition to Gold Standard from another standard (e.g. CDM) (if applicable)	-	
Date of design certification/inclusion (if applicable)	-	
Location of project/PoA/VPA	Host country(ies) : Côte d'Ivoire	
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	-	
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	Inclusion of GS-specific stakeholders at Feedback Round stage	
Specify applicable rule/requirements/methodology, with exact paragraph reference and version number	Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements v2.1	
Specify the monitoring period for which the request is valid (if applicable)	Start date	End date
Submitted by	Contact person name: Alexandre Dunod	
	Email ID: a.dunod@aera-group.fr	
	Organisation: AERA Group	
	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):

Boundiali solar PV is a first-of-its-kind, large-scale solar PV project in Cote d'Ivoire (47MW), which chronology is as follows:

- public consultations as part of EIA process: 22/11/2018 (from preparation meetings end of 2018, through non-technical summary, grievance mechanism and final physical public consultation mid 2019)
- first financial expenditure : oct 2018
- start of construction : 13/12/2021
- market conditions amendment : 22/01/2023
- expected commissioning : end of June 2023

Since the public consultation occurred before the start date, it qualifies as a regular (not retroactive) project, thus no retroactivity limit of 1y applies, and the project will kick-off soon its Preliminary Review, Stakeholders Feedback Round and Design Certification this year.

Côte d'Ivoire being ranked as Lower Middle income economy and solar not having penetrated beyond 5% of the total grid installed capacity, the project will demonstrate

eligibility and apply for automatic additionality as the First of its Kind large-scale solar PV in the country. Besides, the project will contribute to more than 3 SDGs including SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy)

When it comes to Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements, the already conducted consultations (from preparation meetings end of 2018, through non-technical summary, grievance mechanism and final physical public consultation mid 2019) do comply with the GS expectations, except that neither f. Gold Standard representative nor g. Relevant international Gold Standard NGO Supporters were included yet in the earlier consultations invitation process (as they were held in Cote d'Ivoire).

We seek deviation from the Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements to extend the project's consultation to these f. & g. GS-specific contacts during the Stakeholder Feedback Round which will launch soon before project submission for preliminary review.

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):

Given that the stakeholders consultation process is not yet completed until the 1-month SFR is held, and based on the already extensive consultation process physically held in Côte d'Ivoire where none of the f. Gold Standard representative nor g. Relevant international Gold Standard NGO Supporters are located, the inclusion of the same at electronic Stakeholders Feedback Round appears still timely and practical,

with any eventual comment to be duly taken into consideration by Project developers/implementers and VVB before Preliminary Review submission.

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):

Delayed inclusion of remote f. Gold Standard representative nor g. Relevant international Gold Standard NGO Supporters is not likely to have any impact on project design, safeguarding principles assessment, SDG assessment, emissions reductions, monitoring frequency, data quality, potential risk or any other relevant aspect of the project.

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.)*

Boundiali PV ESIA (Centrale solaire Boundiali-EIES-Rapport VF_Mai 2021_vf_O2)
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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