

DEVIATION REQUEST FORM

PUBLICATION DATE 11.04.2021

Version 5.0

A. To be completed by Gold Standard

1 | Decision

1.1 | Date – 03/08/2023

1.2 | Decision

The applied deviation is approved exclusively for the requested VPAs and next monitoring period of each VPA. However, the PD shall:

Ensure that the verification site visit frequency stated under clause 3.1 of the Site Visit and Remote Audit Requirements and Procedures – V2.0 will be followed in the subsequent verifications.

Ensure that credits are claimed only for the remotely verified monitoring period of

- 2nd verification of GS1247 VPA 256 (GS10735)
- 2nd verification of GS1247 VPA 257 (GS10736)
- 1st verification of GS1247 VPA 258 (GS10737)

considering the conflict situation in the project location during the mentioned MP only. The PD shall follow the regular verification cycles for all the subsequent verifications.

Document the deviation request, its implications, and GS' decision in the appropriate section of the GS Monitoring Report (for the relevant MP).

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

For the purpose of current remote verification, the VVB shall follow requirements, procedures and guidelines stated in Site Visit and Remote Audit Requirements and Procedures – V2.0 for remote verifications.

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

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Deviation Reference Number	DEV_456	
Date of decision	03/08/2023	
Precedent (YES/NO)	Yes	
Precedent details	Site visits in conflict zone	
Date of submission	16/05/2023	
Project/PoA/VPA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project <input type="checkbox"/> PoA <input type="checkbox"/> VPA	ID – GS10735, GS10736 & GS10737
Project/PoA/VPA title	GS1247 VPA 256 Northern Ethiopia Community Safe Water GS1247 VPA 257 Northern Ethiopia Community Protected Springs GS1247 VPA 258 Northern Ethiopia Community Protected Springs	
Date of listing	GS10735- 09/04/2021 GS10736- 09/04/2021 GS10737- 23/04/2021	
GS Standard version applicable	TPDDTEC V3.1	
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	Ethiopia	
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	GS10735 GS Registry (goldstandard.org) GS10736 GS Registry (goldstandard.org) GS10737 GS Registry (goldstandard.org)	
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 to physical site visit requirement due to ongoing regional tension and violence	

Comentado [MP1]: Insert

Comentado [MP2]: Insert VPA links

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Specify applicable rule/requirements/methodology, with exact paragraph reference and version number	Section 3.1.1 of the Site Visit and Remote Audit Requirements and Procedures Version 1.0
Specify the monitoring period for which the request is valid (if applicable)	Start date End date Ongoing
Submitted by	Contact person name: Matthew Pike
	Email ID: matthew.pike@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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input 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):

The project developer is requesting the delay to a physical site visit requirement due to ongoing violence and regional tension in the project area and a deviation from Section 3.1.1 of the Site Visit and Remote Audit Requirements and Procedures Version 1.0.

The Amhara region of Ethiopia continues to see ongoing political and military tension.

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The central government's announcement of planning to dismantle and disarm the regional forces met with significant violent protests in major cities and towns. This has led to the loss of life for two foreign aid workers recently.

Our project partner in the region has expressed concerns for the safety of any external or foreign attending auditors should a physical site visit have been pushed for. We have agreed to submit a deviation request as part of the ongoing Verification review and plan a remote site visit with the VVB and in a manner that is safe to be conducted.

The project has not been able to conduct a physical site visit until now due to the ongoing situation. PD had hoped the situation would have improved over the last period but that is not the case.

Northern Ethiopia has seen war in the last two years, during the projects activity, which impacted the Tigray and Amhara regions. The situation remains complex and ever-changing.

Below the PD has included documented reports of the ongoing situation.

[Ethiopia's Amhara region hit by protests over move to dissolve regional forces - BBC News.](#)

[Gun battles erupt in Ethiopia as PM axes Amhara region's security force | Global development | The Guardian](#)

[Ethiopia: Government should respect the right to peaceful protest and immediately release detained media staff. - Amnesty International.](#)

[Aid group says two employees killed in Ethiopia's Amhara region | Reuters](#)

The PD elects to continue to monitor the situation closely, as they have since the project's inception, and make arrangements for a physical VVB site visit at the earliest safe opportunity to do so.

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

Comentado [MP3]: These two look the same?
Can you also find one about the 2 aid workers

**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 conflict and ongoing situation in the region is beyond the PD's and implementation partners control; however, the nature of this deviation is temporary, and a future physical site visit will be conducted when deemed safe and appropriate. A remote audit, to be conducted by CarbonCheck VVB as part of the current ongoing verification will allow for comparable findings- they have a track record of conducted remote audits to a high level.

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):

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Confident that remote site visit will yield required and comparable results to physical visit- GoldStandard have also stated success with remote audits during and since COVID.

Regional issues can impact the project's ongoing activities- however PD is confident in how the project has been managed until now considering the challenges. Further action (e.g. additional deviation measures) may be requested if other activities are impacted. The project has managed to achieve other activities during the monitoring period.

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

