

TEMPLATE

DEVIATION REQUEST FORM

PUBLICATION DATE **11.04.2021**

Version **5.0**

A. To be completed by Gold Standard

1 | Decision

Date – 26/06/2023

Decision

The deviation request is approved to extend the possibility to conduct the Survey from 01 October 2023 to 31 January 2023 due to potential extreme weather conditions as it has been evidenced during the last years in the host country.

However, the PD must provide information and evidence the reasons for not being able to comply with the annual monitoring in its monitoring report. PD shall also complete the monitoring as soon as the weather condition allows it but also considering that the weather conditions will allow the PD in future to perform the survey in the annual frequency as required by the applied methodology.

The PD shall ensure and demonstrate that GHG emission reductions will not be overestimated as a result of the deviation and where applicable, the PD shall apply conservative assumptions and/or discount factors to the calculations to the extent required to ensure conservativeness.

The PD shall document the deviation request, its implications, and GS' decision in the appropriate section of the Monitoring Report.

The verifying VVB shall, through appropriate means at its disposal, assess the information presented by the PD and evaluate the Project's compliance with the above-mentioned conditions and provides its opinion in the Verification Report. The VVB shall also provide its opinion on how this will not be a permanent and continues change and non-compliance with the annual frequency for the mentioned parameters.

SustainCert shall review both the PD's response and the VVB's assessment/opinion of the same and take appropriate steps.

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_463	
Date of decision	26/06/2023	
Precedent (YES/NO)	Yes	
Precedent details	Delay in annual monitoring of survey due to extreme weather conditions.	
Date of submission	21/06/2023	
Project/PoA/VPA	Project	ID – GSXXXX
	<input type="checkbox"/> PoA	ID – GS1247
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VPA	ID – GS11212 , GS11213
Project/PoA/VPA title	GS1247 VPA 311 Guatemala Improved Cookstoves Project (GS11212) GS1247 VPA 312 Guatemala Improved Cookstoves Project (GS11213)	
Date of listing	01/06/2020	
GS Standard version applicable	GS Simplified Methodology for Efficient Cookstoves version 1.1	
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	Guatemala	
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	GS11212 https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/3201 GS11213 https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/3202	
Status of the project/PoA/VPA	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Listed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified design <input type="checkbox"/> Certified project	
Title/subject of deviation	Extension of the Annual Monitoring Period due to extreme weather conditions	

Specify applicable rule/requirements/methodology, with exact paragraph reference and version number	GS Simplified Methodology for Efficient Cookstoves version 1.1 "C. Monitoring Studies i. Monitoring shall consist of checking of a representative sample, once every year (annually) to ensure that project cookstoves are still operating by carrying out the usage survey as per the guidelines below."
Specify the monitoring period for which the request is valid (if applicable)	Start date: 29/10/2022 End date: 28/10/2023
Submitted by	Contact person name: Maria Jimenez Nanhekhan Email ID: maria.jimenez@co2balance.com Organisation: CO2balance 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

3| Deviation detail

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](#).*

Deviation detail (to be completed by Project developer):

According to the Simplified Methodology for Efficient Cookstoves Version 1.1, the Annual Monitoring, which consists of the Kitchen Survey and the Usage Survey, should be conducted annually, meaning they should be conducted before 28/10/2023.

During the time in which Annual Monitoring would be conducted (between June-November), the Project Area in Guatemala suffers from [recurring extreme weather conditions](#) as these are the [wettest months of the year](#). There are [frequent landslides and flash floods](#), roads get washed out entirely or are closed. In addition, local authorities impose many restrictions on vehicle movement as a safety measure. These conditions, as observed in previous years, make mobility in these areas difficult and often dangerous.

The rainy season in Guatemala in 2022 left [38 people dead, 15 people reported missing and over 15 injured](#). In particular, [10 people died in the municipality of Alta Verapaz](#), which is located inside the project area. The majority of municipalities within the project area (especially [Quiché, Alta Verapaz, Huehuetenango and Santa Rosa](#)) have been identified as areas which are particularly susceptible to landslides and flooding.

The households located within Chimaltenango should be the most accessible, however during the rainy season in 2022 the roads were [completely impassable](#) due to landslides and [sinkholes which opened up](#) and swallowed vehicles.

This time period (June-November) also coincides with the [Atlantic hurricane season](#), such as Hurricane Julia which hit Guatemala in October 2022, [killing 28 people, predominantly in Alta Verapaz and Huehuetenango](#) which are located in the project area.

These recurring weather conditions put the safety and lives of the in-country field workers at risk when trying to undertake the surveys, and do not meet the safeguarding conditions.

Usually, the heavy rains begin to disperse around the beginning of November, however the impacts can last weeks to months after this. PP is requesting an extension, that allows PP to conduct Annual Monitoring surveys once it is safe for the in-country team to do so, after the rains have subsided. This will likely mean AM is conducted outside of the 1-year requirement.

Supporting evidence is found in the links highlighted in the text above, with examples of the impacts of the rainy season during 2022. PP is submitting this deviation request as these extreme weather patterns take place every year, as they have done historically. These challenges were evidenced in the previous deviation request submitted, which can be referred to for photos and videos provided by the field team.

PP proposes to extend the Monitoring Period (and thus deadline for completion of Annual Monitoring surveys) to 31/01/2024. Moving forward, PP would look to ensure all future monitoring is within the methodological requirements of this date.

As outlined in the background information, this deviation relates to the current VPAs (GS11212 and GS11213). In addition, we are planning to conduct a Design Change on them in the near future, to bundle them with GS12174-81 currently undergoing Validation.

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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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.*

Deviation assessment (to be completed by Project developer):

Gold Standard Safeguarding Principles & Requirements

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/>

Principle 3 – Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions

“(b) Ensures that projects to provide workers with safe and healthy working conditions and to prevent accidents, injuries, and disease.”

To ensure the safety of the in-country field team, we cannot conduct Annual Monitoring during extreme weather conditions.

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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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.*

Impact assessment (to be completed by Project developer):

The deviation will extend the duration of Monitoring Period 2 and allow for conducting annual monitoring surveys outside of the 365-day deadline. Emissions Reductions will therefore be calculated over a longer period. The deviation is not foreseen to impact the SDG impact, monitoring frequency, safeguarding principles, or any other aspect of project implementation. The ultimate purpose of this deviation is to meet safeguarding principles and ensure the safety of the team, alongside keeping a high level of data quality and transparency.

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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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.)*

Informative links have been provided in Deviation Detail 3.1.1 (above) and below in this document.

[Natural disasters - Guatemala travel advice - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

[World Weather Information Service \(wmo.int\)](https://www.wmo.int)

[Weather Alert for U.S. Citizens: Rainy Season and Hurricane Season 2023 \(June 9, 2023\) - U.S. Embassy in Guatemala \(usembassy.gov\)](https://usembassy.gov)

[Guatemala llega a 38 muertes por las lluvias en 2022 y rebasa marca de 2021 - SWI swissinfo.ch](https://www.swissinfo.ch)

[El mapa de Conred que alerta sobre más de 10 mil puntos de riesgo a inundaciones y deslizamientos en Guatemala \(prensalibre.com\)](https://www.prensalibre.com)

[Clima en Guatemala: No hay paso de Occidente a la capital por un derrumbe en el km 154 de la ruta Interamericana en jurisdicción de Nahualá, Sololá \(prensalibre.com\)](https://www.prensalibre.com)

[IMÁGENES: Hundimiento en Villa Nueva se extiende por varios metros y así amanece este domingo \(prensalibre.com\)](https://www.prensalibre.com)

[At least 28 killed as Julia tears through Central America - CBS News](https://www.cbsnews.com)

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

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