

TEMPLATE

DEVIATION REQUEST FORM

PUBLICATION DATE **11.04.2021**
Version **5.0**

A. To be completed by Gold Standard

1 | Decision

1.1 | Date – 16/08/2023

1.2 | Decision

The requested deviation is APPROVED. The following requirements/recommendations shall be taken into consideration.

Requirements for project developer:

Usage survey -

The remote usage survey shall be done with the primary cook only.

The remote monitoring survey results shall be compared with the usage rate estimated based on previous monitoring events (based on similar VPAs). The expected usage rate for current monitoring period can be estimated based on usage trend observed for each age- group in previous years in other similar VPAs. The conservativeness of the monitored parameter obtained using remote surveys should be informed by the results of the monitored parameter from the previous monitoring period in other similar VPAs.

The project must apply the conservative value for usage rate - survey results or expected usage rate based on trends observed in previous years in other similar VPAs,

whichever is lower. If the conservative value for usage rate is higher than 90%, the project can claim maximum up to 90% in line with the Good Practice monitoring requirements of the Cookstove Usage monitoring guidelines.

The sample size for carrying out usage surveys shall be increased from a minimum of 30 per vintage to a minimum of 40 per vintage.

Requirements for VVB:

- a. The VVB shall cross-verify the results by listening to the recorded conversation and/or speaking with randomly selected end-users.
- b. VVB shall ensure the completeness and conservativeness of the monitored parameters at the time of verification and issuance review.
- c. VVB may use alternative means to verify project usage claims and ensure conservativeness; for example, accounting the manufacturer specifications or similar stove specifications on the durability of the stove; project maintenance records, etc.
- d. In the situation that the VVB cannot perform physical site visit due to the conflicting situation in the country, the VVB must follow Annex B of Principles and Requirements version 1.2 and ensure that:
 - An Objective observer (OO) is selected to conduct the assessment.
 - The site visit conducted by the OO during the verification shall confirm the status of the project operation and the mitigation plan in place to tackle the negative impacts of the project.
 - Assess and demonstrate how the selected OO has prior experience working in conflict zones/areas that pose a high risk to life and/or health.
 - The VVB shall also demonstrate OO's involvement in other activities within the project's geographical area.
 - The VVB shall report the above-mentioned information in the verification report.

Recommendations (non-binding)

The project developer should apply the following measures, where reasonably feasible, to substantiate the monitoring results.

The project developer may records Video/telephonic conversation with the end-user. The project developer/ VVB must take due precautions and must not record any conversation without seeking prior consent from end-user.

Photographic evidence – The project developer may gather photographs of the project stoves/ kitchen, where possible, to collect visual data on the status of the stove. Please refer to Cookstove Usage guidelines for further instruction on the use of photographic evidence for usage assessment.

The validity of deviation:

The usage rate results obtained applying this approach can be used only for the current MP.

The Project developer that can re-establish monitoring sooner, may resort to the original registered monitoring approach sooner, clearly recording the date of changing from interim to registered monitoring.

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_489	
Date of decision	16/08/2023	
Precedent (YES/NO)	Yes	
Precedent details	Perform remote monitoring of a survey and remote site visit in conflict zone.	
Date of submission	17/07/2023	
Project/PoA/VPA	Project	ID – GSXXXX
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PoA	ID – GS11189
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VPA	ID – GS11306
Project/PoA/VPA title	VPA Title: Improved Cookstove and Safe Water Programme – Nigeria – VPA 48	
Date of listing	30/07/2021	
GS Standard version applicable	GS4GG	
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)	02/02/2022	
Location of project/PoA/VPA	Host country(ies): Nigeria	
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	https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/3327	
Status of the project/PoA/VPA	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Listed <input type="checkbox"/> Certified design <input type="checkbox"/> Certified project	
Title/subject of deviation	Request for allowing remote project monitoring / audit visits in Kaduna & Kano region due to security concerns	
Specify applicable rule/requirements/methodology, with exact paragraph reference and version number	Para 2.2.5 under section 2, Step 2: "Household Usage Survey", of the v2.0 of the Requirements and Guidelines: Usage Rate Monitoring	
Specify the monitoring period for which the request is valid (if applicable)	Start date 01/11/2021 End date 31/10/2022	
Submitted by	Contact person name: Mark C. Turgesen	
	Email ID: mturgesen@impactwater.co	
	Organisation: Impact Water 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:

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

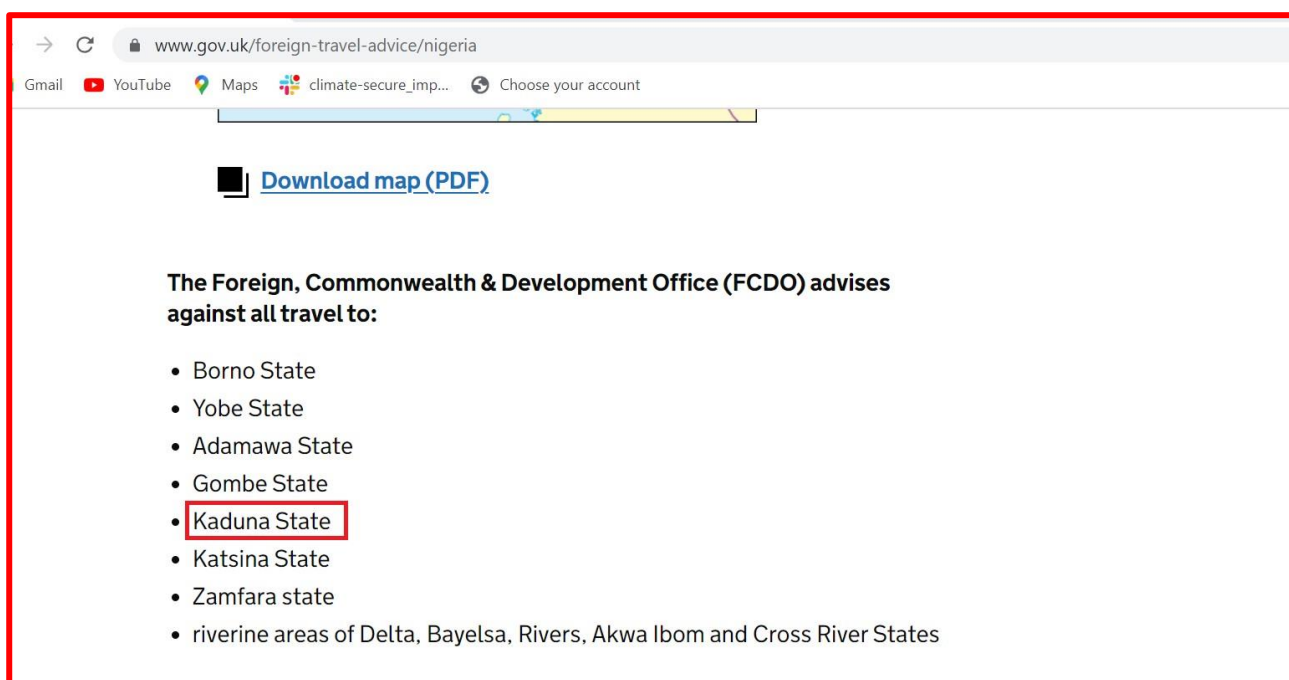
The stated goal of the VPA is the widespread dissemination of improved charcoal cook stoves (ICS) to households in Nigeria.

For verification of the concerned monitoring period 01/11/2021-31/10/2022 (CP1-MP1), PP has started in-person project monitoring survey in July 2023 for randomly selected samples in line with V2.0 of the **Requirements and Guidelines: Usage Rate Monitoring**. However, a majority of randomly selected samples for one stratum falls in **"Kaduna and Kano Region"**. The current situation in Kaduna and Kano state, specifically the ongoing security concerns, is not encouraging for conducting the physical project monitoring surveys.

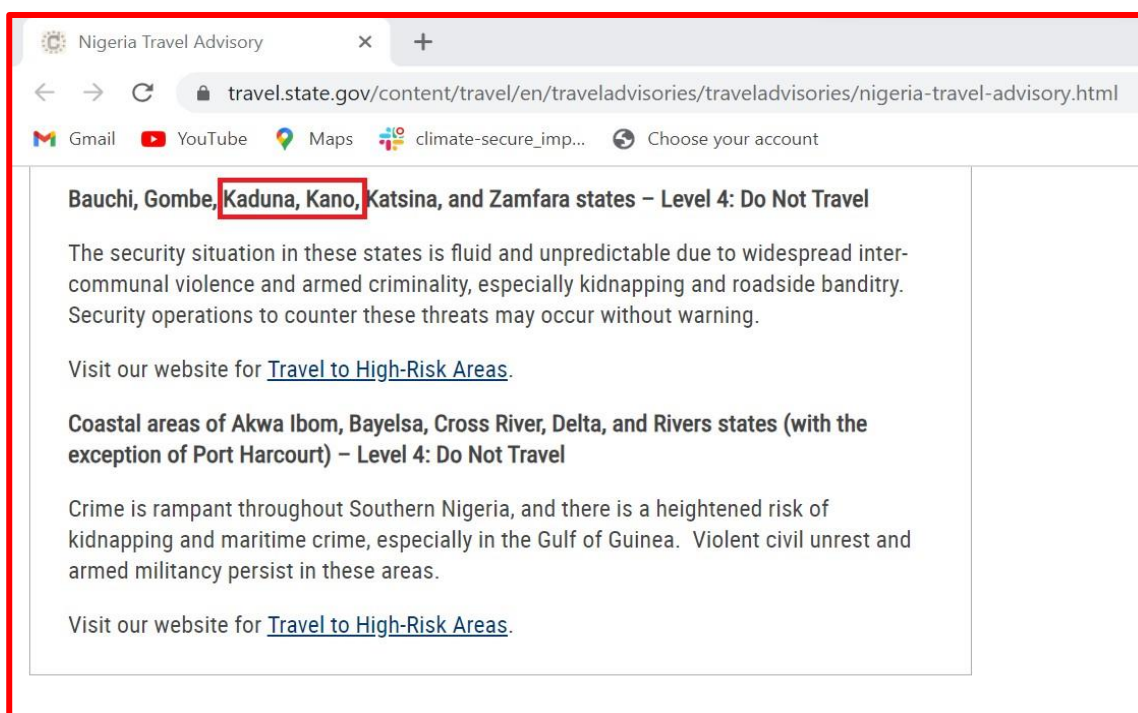
Following are few news articles, covering the tumultuous scenario prevalent in the Kaduna and Kano State currently:

- <https://nigeria.un.org/en/223830-un-condemns-killing-children-and-women-zangon-kataf-kaduna-state>
- <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2023/04/24/horrific-tale-of-southern-kaduna-crises>
- <https://crisis24.garda.com/alerts/2023/04/nigeria-suspected-bandits-storm-community-in-birnin-gwari-lga-kaduna-state-april-12>
- <https://travel.gc.ca/destinations/nigeria?wbdisable=true#:~:text=Regional%20risk%20level%20%2D%20Avoid%20all,states%20of%20Plateau%20and%20Kogi>
- <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2023/04/24/horrific-tale-of-southern-kaduna-crises>
- <https://dailytrust.com/how-kano-government-is-addressing-security-challenges-across-schools/>
- <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/rest-of-world/armed-men-kill-at-least-30-in-north-nigeria-villages/articleshow/100769174.cms?from=mdr>

Considering aforesaid unrest, the UK government's travel advisory **restricts all travelers** planning a trip to Kaduna State (<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/nigeria>)



Also, the US government's travel advisory places Kaduna and Kano States under "Don't Travel" category for all travelers (<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/nigeria-travel-advisory.html>)



Considering the safety and well-being of the project monitoring team / audit team, it is requested to allow the PP to conduct remote project monitoring for the samples selected randomly from Kaduna and Kano region for the concerned monitoring period. The samples outside these regions shall be monitored physically. This shall allow the MRV obligations to be fulfilled while ensuring the safety of the project monitoring personnel. The project monitoring conducted remotely, shall minimize any potential safety risks to the team due to security concerns. Similarly, VVB acceptance sampling based audit

samples, if any, from Kaduna or Kano states shall be allowed to be audited remotely. The VVB shall also verify, audit samples from other regions physically.

The PP therefore, seeks deviation against Para 2.1.5 under the step 2: "Household Usage Survey" of the v2.0 of the Requirements and Guidelines: Usage Rate Monitoring and it is requested to allow the PP to conduct a remote project monitoring survey for samples selected from Kaduna and Kano Region.

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

NA

3.2 | Assessment of the deviation:

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

The deviation does not impact the applicability, accuracy, completeness, or conservativeness of GHG assertion. The PP seeks deviation only against Para 2.1.5 under the step 2: "Household Usage Survey" of the v2.0 of the **Requirements and Guidelines: Usage Rate Monitoring**. Apart from this PP shall follow the requirements and guidelines of the Usage rate monitoring.

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

NA

3.3 | Impact of the deviation:

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

No impact envisaged.

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

NA

3.4 | Documents:

NA

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