

TEMPLATE

# DEVIATION REQUEST FORM

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PUBLICATION DATE **11.04.2021**

Version **5.0**

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## A. To be completed by Gold Standard

### 1 | Decision

**1.1 | Date – 20/09/2023**

**1.2 | Decision**

The applied deviation is approved exclusively for this monitoring period. However, the project developer shall:

- A) Ensure the subsequent verification of the involved VPAs shall mandatorily involve a physical onsite visit by the VVB.
- B) The remote audit shall be conducted as prescribed and/or suggested by section 4,5 and 6 of the [Site visit and remote audit requirements and procedures](#). The CME shall apply the requirements or guidance contained in the above-mentioned sections pragmatically to the PoA and VPA.
- C) Ensure that credits are claimed for the remotely verified monitoring period only, considering the ongoing violent protests in Myanmar during the mentioned MP only. The PD shall follow the regular verification cycles for all the subsequent verifications.

The PD shall 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](#).

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**

**2| Background information**

Deviation Reference Number	DEV_497	
Date of decision	20/09/2023	
Precedent (YES/NO)	No	
Precedent details	NA	
Date of submission	17/08/2023	
Project/PoA/VPA	Project	ID – GSXXXX
	<input type="checkbox"/> PoA	ID – GS1729
	<input type="checkbox"/> VPA	ID – GS6129, GS6338, GS6599, GS7394, GS7465
Project/PoA/VPA title	GS1729 Myanmar Stoves Campaign	
Date of listing	NA	
GS Standard version applicable	2.0	
Date of transition to GS4GG (if applicable)	NA	
Date of transition to Gold Standard from another standard (e.g. CDM) (if applicable)	NA	
Date of design certification/inclusion (if applicable)	NA	
Location of project/PoA/VPA	Republic of the Union of Myanmar	
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	<a href="https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/1498">https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/1498</a>	
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	Exemption from the Objective Observer visit, owing to the unstable conditions in the country due to the military coup.	
Specify applicable rule/requirements/methodology	The Gold Standard Simplified Methodology for Efficient Cookstoves, Version 01, February 2013.	

gy, with exact paragraph reference and version number	4.1.1 (b) of "Site visit and remote audit requirement and procedures", and in line with 2.2.3(i) of "Applicability of minimum site visit requirement by VVB"
Specify the monitoring period for which the request is valid (if applicable)	
Submitted by	Contact person name: Shailendra Kewat Email ID: shail.kewat06@gmail.com Organisation: Soneva Foundation 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes; VVB name: Carbon Check India Private limited VVB Staff name(s) Team leader: Harish Sharma Trainee assessor: Shalini Yadav
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:

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

Soneva Foundation, the CME of the Myanmar Stoves Campaign, in the light of recent COVID events and military coup resulted into movement restrictions, requests the exemption in conducting the site visit by the Objective Observer as per the GS4GG Microscale project requirements. A published news article about unstable conditions of the country is attached with the deviation request.

Instead a remote audit can be conducted.

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

From above Description of deviation, it is observed that due to security reasons travelling to Myanmar is not advised. Furthermore, as per VVB secondary research through various government websites, it is found that various international bodies including UK, US and Australian Govt. also issued not to visit advisory for Myanmar due to civil unrest and security reasons. Therefore, considering the third-party security report shared by CME and its secondary research, VVB recommends a remote site visit for the given micro scale VPAs. As per the requirement, for the remote site visit VVB has developed risk assessment based on the non-conduction of the on-site visit and possible mitigations to avoid the risk associated with the remote site assessment given in section 3.3. Furthermore, the VVB opinion on the assessment of deviation is provided in section 3.2.2

### 3.2 | Assessment of the deviation:

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

The alteration follows all important aspects of remote audit requirements. The quality of data is not compromised here.

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

In line with 4.1.1 (b) of "Site visit and remote audit requirement and procedures", and in line with 2.2.3(i) of "Applicability of minimum site visit requirement by VVB" as informed by the Developer the site visit is not possible due to security conditions in Myanmar and the significant impact of delaying the site visit on project developer due to timeline/commitments. Hence, referring to section 4.1.1 (b), VVB proposes to replace the mandatory on-site visit with a remote audit. The impact assessment has been carried out to analyze the risk associated with the non-conduction of mandatory physical on-site inspection for verification which is in line with the Annex 1 Risk assessment guideline of "Site visit and remote audit requirement and procedures" and the same is provided in section 3.3.2.

### 3.3 | Impact of the deviation:

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

In the current situation of restricted travel, the above arrangement is the best possible option to get credible data from end-users. This will not have any impact on the quality of data received.

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

Sl. No	Identification of potential risks	Mitigation measures	Risk Mitigated
1.	Risk associated to verify	During remote interviews	

	project implementation and operation with respect to the registered/included documents (PDD/PoA DD, CPADD)	by means of using audio call (as feasible) and real time photographs at the time of remote inspection, the name plate which includes capacities can be checked. Cross checking the same through the interview of other relevant stakeholders/program implementation partner. Logbooks can be checked randomly over video call/ by means of remote access, either synchronously (in real time) or asynchronously (when applicable). In case if the option of video call is not available then the photographic evidence of the sample sites can be asked from CME.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>
2	Risk associated to verify implemented monitoring plan with the registered/included documents (PDD/PoA-DD, VPA-DD) and applied baseline and monitoring methodology.	This risk can be mitigated by conducting remote interview via audio/video (as feasible) call with end users to cross check the Monitoring parameters described in certified versions of POA-DD / VPA-DD vis-à-vis their monitoring equipment/ procedures and also to check records like logbooks, receipts and calibrations certificates etc.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>
3	Risk associated to verify that the actual monitoring	This risk can be mitigated during remote interview	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b>

	<p>systems and procedures comply with the monitoring systems and procedures described in the monitoring plan.</p>	<p>video call/video recording/a real time photo (as feasible) of the monitoring equipment along with make and model, to check whether calibration of each of the measuring equipment is done at intervals specified in the registered document (PDD/PoA DD/VPA DD). Furthermore, this can be cross verified by reviewing of all the calibration certificates and taking note of the date of calibration on each one for each specific monitoring equipment. Interviewing the relevant personnel to ensure that the calibration procedures are being followed as per the registered monitoring plan.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b></p>
4	<p>Risk associated to evaluate the GHG emission reduction data and express a conclusion with a reasonable level of assurance on whether the reported GHG emission reduction data is free from material misstatement.</p>	<p>The identified risk can be mitigated by managing access to the records during audio/video calls (as feasible). It can be verified whether a project has adequate controls related to data changes/updates, version tracking, traceability, security and whether data is reproduceable from the sample sheets. Furthermore, data quality control personnel can also</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b></p>

		be interviewed to establish the level of assurance.	
5	Risk associated to verify that reported GHG emission data is sufficiently supported by evidence.	<p>The identified risk can be mitigated during remote interview by asking complete set of data for the monitoring period and Information provided in the monitoring report can be cross-checked with other sources such as survey reports and comparing the results with VVB's acceptance sampling. To check whether, calculations of baseline emissions and emission reduction has been carried out in accordance with the formulae and methods described in the monitoring plan and the applied methodology.</p> <p>Furthermore, appropriate/correct emission factor value has been applied or not.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>
6	Any outstanding FAR(s)/pending issue(s) since the previous physical site visit.	The identified risk shall be mitigated by ensuring that the CME responds to the applicable FARs from previous certification/performance review.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>
7	Any gaps in monitoring data, if any, that cannot be justified as per applicable requirements.	As per the shared data no such gap exists for the proposed monitoring period.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>
8	Any design	The identified risk is not applicable as the project is	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b>



	change(s)/temporary deviation(s) since the previous physical site visit.	in the design certification stage.	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>
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### 3.4 | Documents:

*List of documents provided*

Published risk management report by EXERA to ascertain the unstable conditions.

Version number	Release date	Description
5	11.04.2022	Additional information added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- date of listing, design certification, transition</li> <li>- standard version</li> <li>- specific reference to a requirement deviated from</li> <li>- any previous deviations/design changes approved</li> </ul> Guidance on VVB opinion
4	14.01.2021	
3	16.07.2020	
2	03.05.2018	
1	01.07.2017	Initial adoption