



# 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 – 28/09/2023**

#### **1.2 | Decision**

The deviation request is approved.

The PD shall ensure that a continuity in the Project's monitoring activities is maintained and PD is able to justify that no monitoring gaps exist (especially for SDG parameters) within the Monitoring Period(s). However, if gap(s) exist, the project shall justify that conservative approach(es) have been applied in line with section 3 of the Deviation Approval Requirements and Procedures (version 1.2) and overarching GS principles (as applicable).

The verifying VVB shall confirm that the monitoring approaches are correct and conservative for the emission reduction calculations.

The PD shall ensure that an Objective Observer (OO) is selected for the on-site audit as required by paragraph 2.1.2 of the Annex B of Principles and Requirements version 1.2 and have conducted the audit under the guidance of a GS-approved VVB.

The VVB shall ensure the following:

- a) The Objective observer (OO) is selected to conduct the assessment as per the applicable requirements.
- b) 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.
- c) 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 its verification report.

The Project Developer shall clearly 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 condition 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?**

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_528	
Date of decision	28/09/2023	
Precedent (YES/NO)	No	
Precedent details	N/A	
Date of submission	27/09/2023	
Project/PoA/VPA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project	ID – GS913
	<input type="checkbox"/> PoA	ID – GSXXXX
	<input type="checkbox"/> VPA	ID – GSXXXX
Project/PoA/VPA title	Efficient Wood Fuel Stove-Cooking-Sets, Lesotho	
Date of listing	06/02/2012	
GS Standard version applicable	GS4GG	
Date of transition to GS4GG (if applicable)	15/06/2020	
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	Lesotho	
Scale of the project/PoA/VPA	<input type="checkbox"/> Microscale <input checked="" 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/1255">https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/1255</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	Remote audit due to Lesotho visa application suspension	
Specify applicable rule/requirements/methodology, with exact paragraph reference and version number	Site Visit and Remote Audit Requirements and Procedures – V1.0 §3.1.1 b	
Specify the monitoring period for which the request is valid (if applicable)	Start date 01/12/2021    End date 28/08/2022	

Submitted by	Contact person name: Zoltán Müller-Karpe
	Email ID: mueller-karpe@atmosfair.de
	Organisation: atmosfair gGmbH
	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): Rishi Kishore Raychoudhury
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 VVB is not able to perform an on-site visit for the audit of MP11 (01/12/2021 - 28/08/2022) as Lesotho has suspended all Visa applications citing the outbreak of the Corona Virus as reason:

“Due to the outbreak of the Corona Virus (COVID-19) and its effects, applicants are advised to suspend all visa application plans until further notice.”

Regardless of the actual underlining reason the fact remains that no visa applications are possible and it is unclear when the Visa application suspension will be lifted.

Due to this, travelling to Lesotho is not possible for the VBB. A delay of the on-site audit is not possible as the Project developer has obligations towards their client to deliver the VERs in time.

Therefore, the VBB is planning to perform a remote audit with the assistance of a local expert.

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.*

VVB in coordination with CME tried to get E-Visa for the onsite audit for the project. However, E-visa for Lesotho is suspended due to Covid-19 outbreak in the country<sup>1</sup>. Further, VBB tried to apply for a Visa directly through the embassy with the help of a travel partner. However, Lesotho Embassy has instructed to physically submit the visa application to the Immigration Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Kingdom of Lesotho. When CME went there to deliver the VISA document, they got reply from immigration that they are issuing full work permits there (e.g. for 2 years actually working in Lesotho) and no standard visiting tourist/business visas. The mails of conversation from the embassy is attached with the form.

**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 household interviews will still be performed with the assistance of the local expert. Water Boiling Test procedures, stove identification and other monitoring data and requirements can be verified remotely. Therefore, no impact on accuracy, completeness and conservativeness is expected.

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

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<sup>1</sup> [visa lesotho tourism documents travel evisalesotho.com](https://visa.lesotho.travel/evisalesotho.com)

*\*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):

No impact expected.

#### 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.*

As VBB already started the desk review of the MR and the supporting documents there is no impact expected. Moreover, VVB will comply with the GS principles and requirements including remote audit requirements and assess impact associated with remote audit. The same will be considered while performing the remote audit and will be described in the verification report along with mitigation measure taken.

### 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.)*

GS913\_MP11\_Emails\_VisaApplication-CONFIDENTIAL.pdf

Evisa-Lesotho-Website-Sept2023.jpg



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