



# 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 – 06/11/2023**

**1.2 | Decision**

The deviation request is partially approved, only for this monitoring period, as long as the VVB can demonstrate how, without the presence of the Objective Observer in this conflict zone, it was possible to comply with §2.1.6 of Annex B of the Principle and Requirements v1.2.

Compliance with above mentioned paragraph shall be reflected in its Verification report and explain how the remote audit allowed the VVB to reach to a conclusion on its verification.

Additionally, the PD shall:

- Ensure that a continuity in the Project's monitoring activities has been 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 1.1) and overarching GS principles (as applicable).

- Document the deviation request, its implications, and GS' decision in the appropriate section of the GS Monitoring Report (for the relevant MP) and the verifying VVB shall, through appropriate means at its disposal, evaluate the Project's compliance with the above condition and provide its opinion in the Verification Report.
- 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.

**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_557	
Date of decision	06/11/2023	
Precedent (YES/NO)	No	
Precedent details	N/A	
Date of submission	Dd/mm/yyyy	
Project/PoA/VPA	Project	ID – GSXXXX
	<input type="checkbox"/> PoA	ID – GSXXXX
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VPA	ID – GS6750
Project/PoA/VPA title	GS5658 VPA 5: Resilience with Safe drinking water in Somali Regional State (Ethiopia)	
Date of listing	23/05/2019	
GS Standard version applicable	GS4GG	
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)	16/07/2021	
Location of project/PoA/VPA	Host country(ies) 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	<a href="https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/1511">https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/1511</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	Objective Observer site visit postponement	
Specify applicable rule/requirements/methodology, with exact paragraph reference and version number	Technologies and practices to displace decentralized thermal energy consumption (TPDDTEC), version 3.1 Community Services Activity Requirements (version 1.2)	
Specify the monitoring period for which the request is valid (if applicable)	Start date 29/06/2022	End date 28/06/2023

Submitted by	Contact person name: Carlotta Zini
	Email ID: c.zini@southpole.com
	Organisation: CARBONSINK
	Project participant: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" 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:

*\*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 is located in the Somali region, neighboring Somalia country. Border areas on the African continent have always been affected by instability, however, in particular in February 2023 in the project region there were moments of tension due to uncontrolled immigration from neighboring Somalia, as reported here on the UNHCR website: <https://www.unhcr.org/news/tens-thousands-arrive-ethiopia-fleeing-recent-clashes-somalia>.

In addition as per previous year, the activity of terroristic organization AlShabaab continues to generate a climate of insecurity and danger in moving within the territory, all exacerbated by the difficult climate situation: <https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/ethiopia-somali-region-access-snapshot-june-2023>.

During this monitoring period, as per the project cycle, the site visit of the Objective Observer was scheduled for the month of February 2023, however, once the selection

of the OO had already taken place, the safety conditions for the reasons cited above did not allow the carry out activities. So by mutual agreement with the SustainCERT team we tried to postpone it first to April and then again to June.

In June the security conditions allowed the planning of the site visit, however the difficulties encountered were at an organizational level with the objective observer. As per the email exchange between the SustainCERT team (represented by Indrapal Parmar for this project), the CarbonSink team (represented by Carlotta Zini) and Mr. Henok Woldeyohannes (the selected OO), no suitable solution was found for the purchase of the flight ticket for travel to the place of investigation by the OO. SustainCERT was unable to anticipate this type of expense, both in terms of form and amount, just as Carbonsink does not have enough budget lines to justify such an expense, especially since it must insist on an impartial relationship with Mr. Henok and there is no the signing of any contract. Mr. Henok for his part declared himself unavailable to cover the air ticket. Therefore, as agreed with Indrapal Parmar, it was decided to try to postpone this site visit until the next monitoring, starting from scratch with the selection of personnel.

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.*

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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):

Requirements, accuracy and completeness

As per paragraph 11.1.2 of MICROSCALE PROJECT REQUIREMENTS:

"A microscale project must be subjected to an Objective Observer appraisal and site visit at least once within two years of date of Design certification or the start of certification/crediting period, whichever is later."

The project developer and local field team of COOPI NGO (the project partner) together with SustainCERT team, tried since the beginning of the year to arrange as best as possible the site visit in line with the timeline above cited, however this 1 year delay will not have any impact on the accuracy and completeness of the data to be monitored by the future selected OO, and all the other elements of the monitoring plan like survey methods will remain the same.

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):

Impact on project design

The proposed deviation does not involve any changes in the Project Design so there will be no impact on this.

Impact on Safeguard Principles Assessment

The other project activities will remain unchanged during the crediting period, and, also the social, economic, and environmental impacts are not influenced. Thus, the proposed deviation is not having any impact on the Safeguard Principles Assessment.

Impact on emissions reductions and SDG assessment

The proposed deviation will have no impact on the quantity of ERs or on the quantity of the SDG impacts. Also, there will be no impact on the overestimation of ERs or on the quantity of the other SDG impacts.



Monitoring frequency

The deviation will have a delay on the monitoring frequency foreseen by the methodology. The delay is due to the site visit arrangements, because the local field team planned to perform the annual monitoring survey simultaneously to the OO site visit to optimize as best as possible logistic costs. However, the delay is just few months and thus not foreseen to have any impact or risk for overestimation of the quantity of ERs or the other SDG impacts.

Data quality and/or potential risks

Except for the timing, the monitoring activities will be carried out in line with the applied methodology. The quality of the data will have thus the same attention and accuracy as without the deviation in implementation time (for example, field staff training, sample size, and statistical analysis, etc.). Hence, the proposed deviation will have no impact on the quality of data and there will be no risk in performing the usage survey.

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"> <li>- date of listing, design certification, transition</li> <li>- standard version</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- specific reference to a requirement deviated from</li> <li>- any previous deviations/design changes approved</li> </ul> <p>Guidance on VVB opinion</p>
4	14.01.2021	
3	16.07.2020	
2	03.05.2018	
1	01.07.2017	Initial adoption