



TEMPLATE

DEVIATION REQUEST FORM

PUBLICATION DATE **11.04.2021**

Version **5.0**

A. To be completed by Gold Standard

1 | Decision

1.1 | Date – 04/12/2023

1.2 | Decision

The deviation is approved.

PD can continue with the Preliminary Review process considering a submission date on 12/06/2023 and that the invoice is paid.

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

The executed activity is the "Programme of Activity- Improved Cookstoves and Healthy Lives in Nepal" under GS reference ID GS-12215. This project operates on a microscale, and its corresponding VPA is identified as "Improved Cookstoves and Healthy Lives in Nepal, VPA-1, GS-12216."

Outlined as a retroactive, the project officially commenced on 12/06/2022, the start date designated as one year prior to the first submission of the documents to the Gold Standard. The LSC for this Project was conducted on 10/05/2023, with the feedback round concluding on 09/06/2023. In tandem, the final documents were submitted to the Gold Standard website on 12/06/2023. It is essential to note that, in accordance with requirements, the project incorporates stoves built within the last year from the date of the initial submission. The PP also tried to upload the documents again and again, but the portal was not functioning properly.

Subsequently, a series of challenges and technical issues arose, primarily concerning Value Added Tax (VAT) matters in invoices during the payment phase raised by the SustainCert. Numerous open legal and technical discussions ensued, consuming significant time for resolution, as a result of which the documents which were originally submitted on 12/06/2023, marking 12/06/2022 as the start date of the project, had to be uploaded again later multiple times on later dates. Consequently, this prolonged period of resolution has disrupted the project certification cycle, incurring substantial costs. This predicament is particularly impactful for our field partners in Nepal, as they heavily rely on carbon revenues to sustain this high-impact project.

In light of these circumstances, we respectfully request your consideration of the original submission date, i.e., 12th June 2023, as the project's first submission date to the Stakeholder Consultation. Furthermore, we propose reverting back a year, designating the start date of the project as 12th June 2022, in accordance with the retroactive crediting rules of the Gold Standard.

Deviation Reference Number	DEV_580	
Date of decision	04/12/2023	
Precedent (YES/NO)	No	
Precedent details	N/A	
Date of submission	22/11/2023	
Project/PoA/VPA	Project	ID – GSXXXX
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PoA	ID – GS12215
	<input type="checkbox"/> VPA	ID – GS12216
Project/PoA/VPA title	Improved cookstoves and healthy lives in Nepal	
Date of listing	12/06/2023	
GS Standard version applicable	Version 1.2	
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	Host country(ies) -Nepal	
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		
Status of the project/PoA/VPA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Listed <input type="checkbox"/> Certified design <input type="checkbox"/> Certified project	
Title/subject of deviation	Project start date delay due to Gold Standard portal and Invoice issues	
Specify applicable rule/requirements/methodology, with exact paragraph reference and version number	The Gold Standard Simplified Methodology for Efficient Cookstoves, Version 3.0	
Specify the monitoring period for which the request is valid (if applicable)	Start date	End date
Submitted by	Contact person name: Bhushan Trivedi	
	Email ID: Bhushan.Trivedi@climatepartner.com	
	Organisation: ClimatePartner Impact	
	Project participant: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	

<p>Validation and Verification body (VVB opinion shall be included, where required by the applicable rules/requirements or request is submitted by the VVB).</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes; VVB name: VVB Staff name(s):</p>
<p>Any previous deviations approved for the same project activity/PoA/VPA(s)?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

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 retroactive activity and was first submitted to Gold standard on 12/06/2023 and 12/06/2022 was identified as a project start date. As per the recent discussion with SustainCert the mentioned project start date is not applicable and asked to change for November 2023. The project documents were uploaded at first at SustainCert website on 12/06/2023, however there were delays due to some technical reason faced by SustainCert portal and invoicing system related to VAT. Hence, the project developer was not able to process the invoice. We kindly request to proceed with the deviation to approve the start date as 12/06/2022.

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):

After all the issues (including the portal and VAT) were resolved from the SustainCert, the corresponding invoices were raised successfully, the fee is already paid

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):

The Project partner is completely reliant on the revenue from carbon and does not have any other revenue stream. Shifting the start date of the project is completely unacceptable to this project as it would result in all the stoves in that time-frame being ineligible for crediting, this could even result in a time frame complete stoppage of this project. We would humbly request you to consider our original date of submission, ie., 12th June 2023 as the first date of submitting the project to GS, and going back a year, the start date of the project be 12th June 2022 as per the GS retroactive crediting rules.

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"> - 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