



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 applied deviation is approved exclusively for this monitoring period.

The PD and the verifying VVB shall follow the requirements set in Annex B of the Principle and Requirements v1.2. and other relevant means of verification as per the Validation and Verification Standard V1.0.

Compliance with above mentioned paragraph shall be reflected in the VVB Verification report and explain how the site visit was conducted 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.

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_581	
Date of decision	04/12/2023	
Precedent (YES/NO)	No	
Precedent details	N/A	
Date of submission	15/11/2023	
Project/PoA/VPA	<input type="checkbox"/> Project	ID – GS5391
	<input type="checkbox"/> PoA	ID – GSXXXX
	<input type="checkbox"/> VPA	ID – GSXXXX
Project/PoA/VPA title	EcoMakala Virunga Energy project	
Date of listing	17/06/2017	
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)	N/A	
Location of project/PoA/VPA	Host country(ies) Democratic Republic of Congo	
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/1558	
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	Deviation sought as part of the 5 th verification (vintage 2022)	
Specify applicable rule/requirements/methodology, with exact paragraph reference and version number	Site Visit and Remote Audit Requirements and Procedures v2.0 Paragraph 3.1.2	
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: Carlos Garcia-Borreguero
	Email ID: c.borreguero@affiliate.southpole.com
	Organisation: CO2logic
	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 VVB Staff name(s): Rishi Kishore Raychoudhury
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 proposed deviation concerns the verification of the monitoring period 01/11/2021 – 31/10/2022 of the stand-alone project GS 5391 [Ecomakala Virunga Energy Project](#)

In order to comply with the Site Visits and Remote Audit Requirements and Procedures v2.0 Paragraph 3.1.2, the frequency of physical visit is at least once every three years after the first physical visit. The last physical visit was conducted for MP2 in February 2020.

For MP3, in 2021, no site visit could be conducted due to the restrictions related to the COVID crisis.

For MP4, in 2022, no site visit could be organized due to security reasons, and the presence of the Rwanda-backed M23 rebels in the region of North Kivu.

This year, for MP5, 3 years and half after the last physical site visit, it is still impossible to go to the region of North Kivu and Goma, where the project takes place. Indeed, it is strongly recommended to avoid the region of North Kivu, due to the [instability of the](#)

region. Please check [here](#) the information of the World Health Organisation. Different embassies ([France](#), [Belgium](#)) strongly recommend to their citizens to avoid any travel to this region or to postpone any trip.

Therefore, we request a deviation to conduct the audit remotely, with a local technical expert appointed by the VVB, or through an Objective Observed selected by SustainCert.

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):

In this context, the project developer and the VVB consider that a physical site visit is not feasible.

However, as per the paragraph 6.2.1 of the "Site Visit and Remote Audit Requirements and Procedures", both PD and VV consider a remote audit feasible for the project's context.

Indeed, the PD and all interviewees have the capability and aptitude to undergo the remote assessment in the chosen medium (MS Team or Google Meet).

Furthermore, the PD has implemented the registered monitoring plan, and has a data management system where records, data, etc, that can be audited remotely.

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):

This deviation will have no impact on the mentioned aspects of the project: project design, safeguarding principles assessment, SDG assessment, emissions reductions, monitoring frequency, data quality, and potential risks, as all these aspects will be covered by the VVB through remote audits based on the project documentation.

Besides, the proposed approach (i.e., desk review) would limit any risk associated with physical site visit within the country for the involved participants (see Section 3.1).

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