



**Gold Standard**<sup>®</sup>  
for the Global Goals

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 – dd/mm/yyyy

14/02/2024

#### 1.2 | Decision

The Deviation request is Approved. Considering the Performance certification is under process but not completed in line with P&R 5.1.1.e, the project has been given an extension until 06/04/2024 to complete the performance certification by VVB.

#### 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_607	
Date of decision	14/02/2024	
Precedent (YES/NO)	No	
Precedent details	NA	
Date of submission	05/01/2024	
Project/PoA/VPA	<input type="checkbox"/> Project	ID – GS11173
	<input type="checkbox"/> PoA	ID – GSXXXX
	<input type="checkbox"/> VPA	ID – GSXXXX
Project/PoA/VPA title	Decentralized clean cooking for smallholder farmers in Mexico	
Date of listing	30/07/2021	
GS Standard version applicable	Gold Standard for the Global Goals	
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)	06/01/2022	
Location of project/PoA/VPA	Mexico	
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/3160">https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/3160</a>	
Status of the project/PoA/VPA	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Listed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified design <input type="checkbox"/> Certified project	
Title/subject of deviation	Delay in Performance Certification	
Specify applicable rule/requirements/methodology	Principles and Requirements v1.2, Section 5.1.1.e	

gy, with exact paragraph reference and version number	
Specify the monitoring period for which the request is valid (if applicable)	Start date 01/04/2023      End date 30/09/2023
Submitted by	Contact person name: Stephanie Zayed / Carlos Caba
	Email ID: <a href="mailto:stephanie@sistema.bio">stephanie@sistema.bio</a> / <a href="mailto:carlos@sistema.bio">carlos@sistema.bio</a>
	Organisation: Buen Manejo del Campo S.A de C.V (dba Sistema.bio)
	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 type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  If yes; VVB name: N/A  VVB Staff name(s): N/A
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 PD is requesting a deviation from Gold Standard for Global Goals Principles and Requirements v1.2, Section 5.1.1.e: *The number of Performance Certifications in a five-year certification cycle is not limited although it must take place at least once, no later than two years after Project implementation or Design Certification, whichever is later. In case of Design Certification Renewal, it must take place no later than two years after Design Certification Renewal.*

The project GS11173 was Design Certified on January 6th, 2022, while Project Implementation started on April 1st, 2021. Considering the rule above, the project should undergo Performance Certification no later than two years after Design Certification, which was later than Project Implementation, thus, no later than January 6th, 2024.

This deviation purpose is to request an extension to undergo Performance Certification passed January 6th, 2024 (later than two years after Design Certification), due to the situation that was out of control of the PD. Please refer to the section below for further details.

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.*

N/A

### 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):

Sistema.bio is a social enterprise that manufactures and distributes high-quality, affordable biodigesters that enable farmers around the world to convert waste into energy and fertilizer.

Sistema.bio is implementing a Gold Standard Project Activity GS11173 Decentralized clean cooking for smallholder farmers in Mexico, which consist in waste management, clean energy and regenerative agriculture on family farms with the objective to enable farmers to convert waste into energy, promoting sustainability, independence, and productivity while mitigating the greenhouse gas emissions generated by farms in Mexico.

Per Gold Standard Principles and Requirements v1.2, Section 5.1.1.e: *The number of Performance Certifications in a five-year certification cycle is not limited although it must take place at least once, no later than two years after Project implementation or Design Certification, whichever is later. In case of Design Certification Renewal, it must take place no later than two years after Design Certification Renewal.*

The project GS11173 was Design Certified on January 6th, 2022, while Project Implementation started on April 1st, 2021. Considering the rule above, the project should undergo Performance Certification no later than two years after Design Certification, which was later than Project Implementation, thus, no later than January 6th, 2024.

With this in mind, the PD contracted a VVB on June 22nd, 2023, and agreed upon a timeline to ensure compliance with the rule described above. The PD also notified SustainCERT about the commencement of the Verification on October 5th, 2023, via email. The PD facilitated site visits between October 16th, 2023, and October 20th, 2023, and responded to the findings raised by the VVB on October 27th, 2023.

The expectation and agreement with the VVB was to have a Final Verification Report by early December 2023, considering time between findings, technical reviews, etc. However, the PD received the first round of findings from the Technical Review until December 29th, 2023, leaving only one-week for the PD to provide responses and receive feedback from the audit team and the Technical Reviewer, a tight and unrealistic timeline to complete for submission before January 6th, 2024.

From October 27th, 2023, to December 29th, 2023, the PD made multiple follow ups with the VVB, where the VVB did not raise additional issues or findings about the project during this period but cited internal matters as the reason for the delays.

On December 19th, 2023, the PD reached out to SustainCERT for guidance on how to approach this situation in case the PD did not have a Final Verification Report to submit January 6th, 2024. A response by SustainCERT was provided on December 22nd, 2023, advising to create a deviation request explaining the delay. Hence, as per the recommendation, the project is submitting this deviation to request an extension to undergo Performance Certification passed January 6th, 2024 (later than two years

after Design Certification), due to the situation explained above which was out of control of the PD.

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.*

N/A

### 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 not impact the project design, safeguarding principles assessment, SDG assessment, emissions reductions, monitoring frequency, data quality, potential risk, or any other relevant aspect of the project.

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.*

N/A

### 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.)*

N/A

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