



# 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**

21/07/2024

#### **1.2 | Decision**

The Deviation Request is Conditionally Approved.

Exemption shall be given for GS 6518-23 until 31/12/2024 for completion of re-validation, due to the ongoing discussions on the Zimbabwe Carbon Credit Framework 2023 with the DNA. Any further delay would incur loss of credits in line with p.5.1.46 of GS4GG P&R. The decision shall not be taken as precedent for other project activities.

The project developer shall note that the decision is based on the information provided in the deviation request form and only against the applicable standard requirement quoted in the form below by the developer. The project developer shall comply with all other applicable standard requirements until unless specifically mentioned in the deviation decision.

#### **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_743	
Date of decision	21/07/2024	
Precedent (YES/NO)	No	
Precedent details	NA	
Date of submission	14/06/2024	
Project/PoA/VPA	Project	ID – GS6518-23
	<input type="checkbox"/> PoA	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VPA	ID – GS6518-23
Project/PoA/VPA title	Manicaland Safe Water	
Date of listing	20/03/2018	
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)	23/05/2019	
Location of project/PoA/VPA	Zimbabwe	
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://platform.sustain-cert.com/certification/projects/1227/reviews">https://platform.sustain-cert.com/certification/projects/1227/reviews</a> <a href="https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/1129">https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/1129</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	Revalidation Delay due to National Carbon Credit Framework	

Specify applicable rule/requirements/methodology, with exact paragraph reference and version number	GS Principles & Requirements v1.2 section 5.1.45 <i>"To maintain Gold Standard Certified Project status beyond five years, a Project must undergo Design Certification Renewal. This process shall begin (defined by the submission of a Renewal opinion by a VVB for Design Review to Gold Standard) no later than the last date of current certification cycle"</i> and section 5.1.46 <i>"Delay in the completion of re-validation beyond the last date of current certification cycle shall result in a reduction of any issuance of Certified Products and/or Impact Statements available during following certification cycle"</i> .
Specify the monitoring period for which the request is valid (if applicable)	Start date N/A      End date N/A
Submitted by	Contact person name: Megan Jones Email ID: megan.jones@co2balance.com Organisation: CO2balance UK Ltd 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: 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:

##### 3.1.1 | Deviation detail (to be completed by Project developer):

When Zimbabwe released it's National Carbon Credit Framework in 2023, all existing Carbon Projects in the country were made void and were required to undergo registration under the National Carbon Credit Registry. As a result of this announcement, Revalidation Review No.1 was paused whilst approval was sought from the Zimbabwe Government. MP4 Performance Review has been completed,

however, these credits cannot be issued until the project has been approved. Funding generated through carbon credits are fundamental to the operation of the project, therefore, the delay is causing a risk to longevity of the project.

CO2balance are currently in the final stages of the approval process with the Government and are arranging a project site visit with the Zimbabwean Designated National Authority and other relevant officials to take place within the next month.

In light of these factors, CO2balance are requesting that the project can retroactively re-validate after the end of Crediting Period 1, after approval from the government has been received, without forgoing the credits between the end date of CP1 (June 2023) and submission of VVB Validation Report to Gold Standard.

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

N/A

### **3.2 | Assessment of the deviation:**

3.2.1 | Deviation assessment (to be completed by Project developer):

Since the end of CP1 in June 2023, this project has followed the requirements of *Methodology for Emission Reductions from Safe Drinking Water Supply v.1*, rather than *TPDDTEC v.3.1* which was followed during CP1, as this update will be required to be implemented during the revalidation review. The project has also complied with the latest version of the relevant PoA-DD (GS1247) throughout this period. Therefore, this deviation will have no impact on data collection, accuracy or completeness, and conservativeness will be maintained. The deviation request is focused on the administrative elements of transitioning from one crediting period to the next and the requirements surrounding revalidation timelines.

The rules which are being deviated from are GS Principles & Requirements v1.2 section 5.1.45 "To maintain Gold Standard Certified Project status beyond five years, a Project must undergo Design Certification Renewal. This process shall begin (defined by the submission of a Renewal opinion by a VVB for Design Review to Gold Standard)

no later than the last date of current certification cycle” and section 5.1.46 “Delay in the completion of re-validation beyond the last date of current certification cycle shall result in a reduction of any issuance of Certified Products and/or Impact Statements available during following certification cycle”.

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

N/A

### **3.3 | Impact of the deviation:**

3.3.1 | Impact assessment (to be completed by Project developer):

This deviation is not expected to have a considerable impact on elements of safeguarding, SDG assessment, emissions reductions, monitoring frequency, and data quality as project monitoring and activities have continued as the National Registration process is ongoing. The project design will be updated during the revalidation review, but this would occur regardless of this deviation.

However, if the project is unable to register under the National Registry, GS VERs will not be generated and verified. This would result in the funding source ceasing to exist and the project and its significant co-benefits would end.

In the case that registration is successful, the project will continue as usual and the revalidation review process will begin immediately. Although this would be under a delayed timeline, this would not impact the effectiveness of the project on the ground and would allow the project to continue for CP2 and beyond.

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

N/A

**3.4 | Documents:**

- Zimbabwe Carbon Credit Framework (Confidential)

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