



Gold Standard[®]
for the Global Goals

DEVIATION REQUEST FORM

PUBLICATION DATE **11.04.2021**

Version **5.0**

A. To be completed by Gold Standard

1 | Decision

1.1 | Date – dd/mm/yyyy

16/09/2024

1.2 | Decision

The Deviation request is conditionally approved. The extension has been granted to complete the validation process until 31/12/2024. PD shall ensure that they complete the validation process within the extension provided.

The Deviation request, its implications, and GS' decision shall be documented in the appropriate section(s) of the GS PDD.

The validating VVB shall, through appropriate means at its disposal, evaluate the Project's compliance with the above stated requirements and the deviation decision and further provide its opinion in the Validation Report.

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_779	
Date of decision	16/09/2024	
Precedent (YES/NO)	No	
Precedent details	NA	
Date of submission	26 July 2024	
Project/PoA/VPA	<input type="checkbox"/> Project	ID – GS11573
	<input type="checkbox"/> PoA	ID – GSXXXX
	<input type="checkbox"/> VPA	ID – GSXXXX
Project/PoA/VPA title	Garo Hills Improved Cookstove Project India	
Date of listing	28 June 2022	
GS Standard version applicable	TPDDTEC Version 4.0	
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	India	
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	Garo Hills Improved Cookstove Project India	
Status of the project/PoA/VPA	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Listed <input type="checkbox"/> Certified design <input type="checkbox"/> Certified project	
Title/subject of deviation	Extension of Validation	
Specify applicable rule/requirements/methodology, with exact paragraph reference and version number	With reference to Principles & Requirements Version 1.2 , Chapter: Project Cycle 5.1.1, point b), "Projects may then seek Gold Standard Certified Design status by successfully completing Validation (within two years of the date of Listing) and a subsequent Design Review".	
Specify the monitoring period for which the request is valid (if applicable)	Start date	End date
Submitted by	n/a	
	Contact person name: Rex Romero	
	Email ID: rex.romero@myclimate.org	
	Organisation: Foundation myclimate	

	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:

**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):

For the project Garo Hills Improved Cookstove Project India, myclimate is requesting a deviation in the certification process to extend the validation procedure and postpone the submission of the Validation Report by one year, i.e. 26 July 2025. The deviation is necessary to allow the completion of the project development phase, which took longer than originally anticipated.

The project started regularly on 31 January 2022. It is located in the Garo Hills, the western part of Meghalaya state, India. This region is less developed; it is fairly isolated and vulnerable to unrest. The region has also very high rainfall for 4 months of the monsoon season, when travel is extremely difficult as roads become impassable. Given the difficulty in travelling to and within the project region, a combined Validation and Verification was organized, and the soonest available window for the VVB visit was November 2023. Validation is still being processed.

In the midst of closing the VVB’s site visit findings, there were following developments in the Standard:

- update of the Local Stakeholder Consultation Report template;
- publication of KPT Result Analyser;

- publication of SDG Impact Tool; and
- update of the ER Tool.

While helpful in providing guidance and improving transparency in projects, it slows down the process in having to e.g., seek guidance for identified bugs in the calculation tool (displaying results directly in "ERs" instead of the usual "BE, PE, and Leakage" therefore becoming inconsistent with the PDD template), and re-do project documents to apply the latest standards. It is noted that further updates to the ER calculation Tool and TPDDTEC Methodology are imminent, so there is concern the project's documentation going through additional reviews.

Meanwhile, the current market conditions critical of credits from stove projects was a serious limitation to quick validation. myclimate invested heavily in the stove project, even including additional community service activities (i.e. solar PV); a thorough evaluation was necessary to ensure robustness to the fNRB calculation and the resulting ER claims.

Project development has taken longer than originally anticipated, but myclimate is making the effort to conclude the Validation process while 1) ensuring the local implementers safety in gathering data during the feasible period in the project area 2) maintaining the standard. It is hoped that our request for extension of Validation be granted.

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):

The deviation does not alter the main project design or implementation. As confirmed in the listing process, the project therefore continues to comply with all relevant Gold Standard principles and requirements. The accuracy and completeness of the ER estimation is still certain as the deviation request does not affect these criteria; a conservative approach will be ensured through the GS certification process.

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):

The requested deviation of extending Validation will have the following impacts:

- Project design: Additional positive impact from inclusion of the electrification of community health centers and schools, as well as medical equipment and computers, to the standing ICS project with solar PV. The RE components themselves will not claim carbon credits, but leveraging expected carbon income from the ICS credits. The communities now avail of more stable, renewable energy to provide improved health services and educational opportunities to young people. This is described in the updated PDD.
- Safeguarding principles assessment: The project remains in line with GS4GG Safeguarding Principles and Requirements. This is described in the PDD.
- SDG assessment: The publication of the SDG Impact Tool provided the guidance for the project to add further impacts SDGs 8, 3, and 4. This is on top of positive impact to SDGs 13, 7, 15, and 5 described in the listed PDD.
- Emission reductions: GS certified products (i.e. VERs) remains conservative and will not be overestimated as a result of this deviation.

- Monitoring frequency and data quality remain in line with the methodology guidelines.
- There are no other potential risk or aspect impacted by the deviation.

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.)*

- GS11573 – Listing Date.pdf – From SustainCERT portal
- DVR_ICS_GaroHills.docx – VVB findings on project
- CONFIDENTIAL VVB site visit communication.pdf

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

