



TEMPLATE

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

06/10/2024

1.2 | Decision

The Deviation Request is Approved.

In light of the current conflict situation and other circumstances in DRC, extension has been granted until 30 November 2024 for the submission of design renewal request to Gold Standard. There would be no loss of credits during this delayed period.

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_792	
Date of decision	06/10/2024	
Precedent (YES/NO)	No	
Precedent details	NA	
Date of submission	22/08/2024	
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 request for the renewal of the crediting period	

Specify applicable rule/requirements/methodology, with exact paragraph reference and version number	GS4GG - PRINCIPLES & REQUIREMENTS version 1.2 - (e) DESIGN CERTIFICATION RENEWAL, paragraph 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 (for example, a delay of 1 year beyond the first cycle shall mean that no Certified Impact Statements shall be issued for the period of delay)."				
Specify the monitoring period for which the request is valid (if applicable)	<table> <tr> <td>Start date</td> <td>End date</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">N/A</td> </tr> </table>	Start date	End date	N/A	
Start date	End date				
N/A					
Submitted by	Contact person name: Jan Janssen				
	Email ID: j.janssen@southpole.com				
	Organisation: South Pole 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input 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 request concerns the design certification renewal period for project EcoMakala Virunga Energy project (GS5391).

In paragraph 5.1.45 of the Principles and Requirements v1.2 of the GS4GG, it is stated that "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. Note that review of the Design Certification Renewal may complete after the last date of current crediting period. In this case, the renewal date shall be the first day after the end date of the current certification cycle."

Paragraph 5.1.46 states that "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 (for example, a delay of 1 year beyond the first cycle shall mean that no Certified Impact Statements shall be issued for the period of delay)."

This deviation request concerns the abovementioned loss of credits when completion of re-validation is beyond the last date of current certification cycle. In this specific case, **the delay is due to security reasons**, that has resulted in a delay of the activities that have to be performed to prepare the re-validation. Moreover, a delayed submission of the documents does not affect the actual project activities and the continuation of the corresponding greenhouse gas reductions.

Since the local security situation is outside our control, we request some flexibility in the submission deadline for the renewable of the crediting period, without loss of credits. We ask **a delay of 3 months** to submit all necessary documents for the re-validation.

For the renewal of the crediting period, amongst others, the following activities had to be performed:

- Baseline surveys for Goma, Beni and Butembo

- Baseline Kitchen Performance Tests for Goma, Beni and Butembo
- Determination of the f_{nrB} (Fraction of Non Renewable Biomass) by external study
- Determination of the wood-to-charcoal conversion factor
- Etc.

Several of these activities require field research in Goma, Beni and Butembo regions. Due to insecurity reasons, the activities had to be delayed and are still being performed.

Since May 2021 North Kivu has been put in a state of siege. It has been slightly alleviated in October 2023, but thereafter prolonged several times. The most recent prolongation dates 16th of August for a period of 15 days starting 25th of August ([link](#), [link](#), [link](#)). Despite this state of siege, the violence continues. Especially during June and July this year there was intense violence due to ongoing conflicts involving various armed groups, including the M23 rebels and the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF). In June 2024, militant attacks, especially in the Beni and Lubero territories of North Kivu, resulted in the deaths of at least 150 civilians. This violence has led to significant displacement, with more than 150,000 people forced to flee their homes in just one week during July. The town of Kanyabayonga, strategically important in the region, was seized by the M23 rebels during this period, further exacerbating the humanitarian crisis. ([link](#), [link](#)). This complicated the work regarding baseline surveys and kitchen performance testing that had to be done especially in Butembo and Beni.

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):

The requested deviation is not negatively impacting the carbon reduction activities, nor emission reduction calculations. In the opposite, good field surveys and an updated study regarding f_{nrB} are needed to have the most accurate and conservative information and data available for the re-validation. This will allow more accurate and up to data crediting for the new crediting period. To be able to guarantee the best accuracy, completeness and conservativeness that comes with due diligence in the field work, the delay of 3 months is requested.

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):

As described here above, the requested delay in submission of re-validation documents has the objective to be able to guarantee the needed due diligence and safe working conditions. This will only positively affect data quality and emission reduction calculations while respecting physical integrity of the UGP (Unité de Gestion de Project Cabone) staff who is operationally managing the carbon project. The project design itself is not affected, nor the safeguarding principles, SDG assessment or emission reductions. The extended timeline will also positively affect security risk management.

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