

TEMPLATE

DEVIATION REQUEST FORM

PUBLICATION DATE **11.04.2021**

Version **5.0**

A. To be completed by Gold Standard

1 | Decision

1.1 | Date – 21/09/2022

1.2 | Decision

The deviation has been APPROVED considering that continuous activities have been performed since start of the project.

The PD shall note that this is not a permanent approval. The PD must make sure to submit the Annual Reports latest by end of the following year as stipulated in PRINCIPLES & REQUIREMENTS - Version 1.2 § 5.1.39 to 5.1.44. in future

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

2| Background information

Since February 2019, violent political protests are happening in Haiti, particularly in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince, which is precisely the whole area of the GS2564 project. Regarding this situation, the project and even the entire structure (which has other activities) faced a slowdown of its operations that put the whole NGO's sustainability at risk.

Our team on the field takes risks everyday doing the activities to keep the project in place. Having this context in mind, we put all of our efforts on the carbon finance side by doing the usage and monitoring survey and the KPT in order to start the 5th verification as soon as possible. Since the project was under design change until April 2021, we were waiting for this change to be approved to submit the Monitoring Report to the VVB. The MR5 was sent to the VVB in October 2021 and the verification is still in process since then. In our mind, if the verification had started, we did not need to submit the annual report, but it appears that it was a misunderstanding.

Despite the COVID situation and the political and security situation in Port-au-Prince, the activities were still ongoing, which can be shown by the sales that were made in 2020 and 2021 and the surveys that have been done during this time. In addition, during this period other administrative processes have been carried out such as the change of design from micro to small scale where the first version of the new design was presented to the GS which after a series of rounds of findings was approved. This demonstrates the ongoing process with the project.

Deviation Reference Number	COVID_DEV 307	
Date of decision	21/09/2022	
Precedent (YES/NO)	NO	
Precedent details	N/A	
Date of submission	09/08/2022	
Project/PoA/VPA	Project	ID – GS2564
	☐ PoA	
	☐ VPA	
Project/PoA/VPA title	EXPANDING ACCESS TO LPG IN HAITI THROUGH MICROFINANCE SERVICES	
Date of listing	26/11/2013 (Design certification)	
GS Standard version applicable	GS4GG	
Date of transition to GS4GG (if applicable)	29/06/2020	
Date of transition to Gold Standard from another standard (e.g. CDM) (if applicable)	NA	
Date of design certification/inclusion (if applicable)	26/11/2013 (Design certification) 29/03/2021 (Design change)	
Location of project/PoA/VPA	Haiti	
Scale of the project/PoA/VPA	☐ Microscale ☒ Small scale ☐ Large scale	
Gold Standard Impact Registry link of the project/PoA/VPA	https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/420	
Status of the project/PoA/VPA	☐ New ☐ Listed ☐ Certified design ☒ Certified project	
Title/subject of deviation	Annual report 2020	

Specify applicable rule/requirements/methodology, with exact paragraph reference and version number	GS4GG Principles and requirements paragraph 5.1.39 Transparent, annual update reports need to be provided for Projects that have achieved the Project Design Certification stage or have successfully transitioned to Gold Standard for the Global Goals. An annual report shall be submitted for each monitoring year by end of next calendar year for which verification is not completed. If a verification is in progress but not completed, then an Annual Report is still required by the end of calendar year.
Specify the monitoring period for which the request is valid (if applicable)	Start date 01/04/2019 End date 31/03/2021
Submitted by	Contact person name: Barbara Adolehoume Email ID: barbara.adolehoume@entrepreneursdumonde.org Organisation: Entrepreneurs du Monde Project participant: Yes ☒ No ☐
Validation and Verification body (VVB opinion shall be included, where required by the applicable rules/requirements or request is submitted by the VVB).	Yes ☒ No ☐ If yes; VVB name: LGAI TECHNOLOGICAL CENTER, S.A. VVB Staff name(s): Pankaj Kumar
Any previous deviations approved for the same project activity/PoA/VPA(s)?	Yes ☐ No ☒

3 | Deviation detail

3.1 | Description of the deviation:

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

The paragraph 5.1.39 of the principles and requirements states that "Transparent, annual update reports need to be provided for Projects that have achieved the Project Design Certification stage or have successfully transitioned to Gold Standard for the Global Goals. An annual report shall be submitted for each monitoring year by end of next calendar year for which verification is not completed. If a verification is in progress but not completed, then an Annual Report is still required by the end of calendar year.", however, due to a misunderstanding the 2020 annual report was not submitted within the following calendar year because design change processes had

been initiated in 2020 and concluded in 2021 along with the start of the fifth verification in 2021, a process that is still ongoing. Monitoring and usage surveys were carried out every year, which shows that the project was still active. Therefore, the Project developer requests approval to submit the 2020 annual report in the current verification process as this deviation does not compromise the environmental integrity, Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the project, remains in compliance with the Safeguarding principles and requirements and the host country regulations.

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

VVB is completely aware of the guidelines and VVB is of the opinion that project verification is ongoing and no issues at all regarding integrity of the project. GS guidelines are dynamic and sometime PD loose the track and, in this case, they could not interpret the guidelines correctly and fail to submit annual report on time, which is just a procedural lapse and nothing to do with the project's authenticity and implementation. VVB Opined project must not suffer due to just one oversight of procedural requirements.

3.2 | Assessment of the deviation:

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

The deviation has no impact whatsoever on project design, assessment of safeguard principles, assessment of SDGs, emission reductions, frequency of monitoring, data quality. Since the 2020 annual report was not submitted on time due to a misinterpretation of the principles and requirements. The deviation is requested in order to comply with all GS4GG principles and requirements.

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

VVB here confirmed that non submission of annual report on time does not have any repercussion on project design, compliance of safeguarding principles, assessments of SDGs, emission reduction calculations. Project is in compliance with monitoring requirements and data quality in line with approved PDD and request GS Board to approve this deviation considering the project's location and its importance for country like Haiti.

3.3 | Impact of the deviation:

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

The deviation has no impact whatsoever on project design, assessment of safeguard principles, assessment of SDGs, emission reductions, frequency of monitoring, data quality, as the annual report is intended as an opportunity to share progress and track key updates and confirms to the Gold Standard that the project remains active.

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

Haiti is among one of the poorest and politically unstable country in the world and lying at lowest position in human development index in Americas. Haiti has a long history of political and ethnic violence and battered by natural catastrophes. To develop and implement any climate project in Haiti is itself a challenge and VVB completely understand the difficulties faced by project developers to conduct the monitoring surveys and KPT.

Considering the circumstances in Haiti, VVB strongly suggests that project must not fall victim to complexity of programme guidelines because such projects are extremely important to countries like Haiti. VVB recommends that GS must approve this request and allow the verification to be completed which is also in line with the basic tenets of GS4GG. Project must not be discarded due to any procedural lapses which does not have any impact on the project's credibility.

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: - 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