

TEMPLATE

DEVIATION REQUEST FORM

PUBLICATION DATE **11.04.2021**

Version **5.0**

A. To be completed by Gold Standard

1 | Decision

1.1 | Date – 07/06/2022

1.2 | Decision

The applied deviation request is partially approved. The project can undergo design certification renewal, with the crediting period starting immediately after the end date of the previous CP. However, GS VERs can be claimed from 06/04/2020 (6th April 2020) or three years (retroactive) from the date of remote/physical site visit by a VVB, whichever occurs later. For example, if the site visit is conducted on 15/10/2022, the GSVERs can only be claimed from 06/04/2020 (inclusive). No credits (and SDG Impacts) can be claimed for the period of delay before 06/04/2020.

The applied deviation request is partially approved. The PD shall:

1. Ensure that continuity in the Project's monitoring activities is maintained and that PD can justify that no monitoring gaps exist (especially for SDG parameters) within the Monitoring Period(s). However, if gap(s) exist, the

project shall justify that conservative approach(es) have been applied in line with section 3 of the [Deviation Approval Requirements and Procedures](#) and overarching GS principles (as applicable).

2. Document the deviation request, its implications, and GS' decision in the appropriate section of the PDD/Monitoring Report (for the relevant MP).

The verifying VVB shall, through appropriate means at its disposal, evaluate the Project's compliance with the above-mentioned conditions and provide its opinion in the Validation/Verification 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_256	
Date of decision	07/06/2022	
Precedent (YES/NO)	No	
Precedent details	N/A	
Date of submission	19/05/2022	
Project/PoA/VPA	Project	N/A
	☒ PoA	ID – GS 1377
	☒ VPA	VPA2 ID – GS 2439 VPA3 ID – GS 2440 VPA4 ID – GS 2441
Project/PoA/VPA title	UTSIL NAJ - CASA SALUDABLE PARA TODOS VPA2 UTSIL NAJ - CASA SALUDABLE PARA TODOS VPA3 UTSIL NAJ - CASA SALUDABLE PARA TODOS VPA4	
Date of listing	24/01/2013	
GS Standard version applicable	Gold Standard for the Global Goals	
Date of transition to GS4GG (if applicable)	29/06/2018	
Date of transition to Gold Standard from another standard (e.g. CDM) (if applicable)	N/A	
Date of design certification/inclusion (if applicable)	26/12/2013	
Location of project/PoA/VPA	Guatemala Honduras Mexico	
Scale of the project/PoA/VPA	☐ Microscale ☐ Small scale ☒ Large scale	
Gold Standard Impact Registry link of the project/PoA/VPA	VPA2 (GS 2439) https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/352 VPA3 (GS 2440) https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/353 VPA4 (GS 2441) https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/354	
Status of the project/PoA/VPA	☐ New ☐ Listed ☐ Certified design ☒ Certified project	
Title/subject of deviation	Deviation from GS4GG principles and requirements, section 5.1.46.	
Specify applicable rule/requirements/methodology, with exact paragraph reference and version number	"Principles & requirements" v1.2 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.	

Specify the monitoring period for which the request is valid (if applicable)	Start date 01/01/2015 End date 19/05/2022
Submitted by	Contact person name: Susan Bazalar
	Email ID: sbazalar@microsol-int.com
	Organisation: Microsol
	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: VVB Staff name(s):
Any previous deviations approved for the same project activity/PoA/VPA(s)?	Yes ☐ No ☒

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):

As per GS4GG “Principles & Requirements” v1.2, dated 24th October 2019, 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 (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).”*

Microsol is requesting a deviation for PoA GS 1377 and its VPAs (GS 2439, GS 2440 and GS 2441) “Utsil Naj – Casa saludable para todos”. This project provides improved cookstoves to those remote rural communities of Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico that 1) have no access to any other clean and efficient cooking technology and 2) that already suffer strongly from climate change, being fully dependent on seasonal weather patterns to harvest their crops, which is a source of income and subsistence. The project has so far been able to benefit more than 110,000 beneficiaries, ensuring them to continue enjoying their traditional way of cooking in a healthy and sustainable manner. The project has also contributed to a number of social and economic side-impacts which are key for the well-being of these communities.

Microsol is requesting a deviation to allow the continuity of the project which is at stake.

The request is that the project be allowed to perform the verification audit for retroactive issuances from 2015 to 2022.

The deviation request is related to the fact that the project was unable to complete the verification for the remaining part of the first crediting period and renew the second crediting period on time, due to the following reasons:

1. After the first verification was completed (31/12/2014), the project revenues strongly diminished due to the fall of carbon prices and poor international carbon market conditions. As a consequence, it was increasingly difficult for the LPPs of

Microsol to continue with the carbon certification process (monitoring and sustainability activities) and start the verification and renewal processes.

2. At the beginning of 2019, the improved international carbon market conditions allowed Microsol to sell part of the carbon credits of the project to finance the start of the field activities required for the verification and renewal processes (new baseline surveys/field tests and validation of the project documentation by a GS VVB).
3. The remaining activities associated with the verification and renewal processes could not be finalized in 2019 as Microsol would have liked, due to lack of revenues. The plan was to finish the processes in 2020.
4. However, in 2020 the Covid-19 pandemic severely affected the mentioned countries and no follow-up activities could be carried out. As a result, monitoring campaigns (baseline and project scenarios) could not start until 2021 and got finalized in 2022. The project is now ready to start the verification and renewal process.

The potential rejection of the deviation request would impact the project strongly and put all of the strong environmental, social and economic benefits generated to-date at stake. Indeed, in case of rejection, the PoA GS 1377 would struggle to perform the monitoring and maintenance activities required to guarantee the sustainability of the already installed improved cookstoves, with the risk that end-users end up switching back to traditional cookstoves. Also, a potential rejection would prevent the expansion of the project to new families.

The primary goal of Microsol is to ensure sustainability of our projects and make sure more and more families enjoy from the improved cookstove solution given the powerful environmental, social and economic impacts the solution generates.

For all of the reasons aforementioned, Microsol is presenting this deviation request to the Gold Standards with the hope that due consideration is made to it.

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

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):

As stated above, the present request is to deviate from requirement 5.1.46.

In particular, the data used to determine the number of carbon credits issued during the delayed period will be based on a monitoring and usage survey which was carried out in July 2021 – February 2022. This survey gives an accurate and conservative picture of current users and usage patterns of improved cookstoves.

The surveys provided the following information:

- **Continuous use of improved cookstoves over the years.**
- **The project's continuous contribution to SDGs.**

As per the deviation request, this data would be used to account for emission reductions that occurred during the following periods:

	Verification of the remaining of CP1	Verification of part of CP2
VPA2	01/01/2015 - 31/03/2019	01/04/2019 - 19/05/2022
VPA3	01/01/2015 - 26/12/2018	27/12/2018 - 19/05/2022
VPA4	01/09/2018 - 26/12/2018	27/12/2018 - 19/05/2022

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 only impact that this deviation would have is on the total number of credits issued in the 1st and 2nd crediting period and therefore on the revenues available for the projects to carry out and ensure continuity its activities and positive impacts on the environment and well-being of the communities. The deviation request would have no other impact.

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.)*

We are sharing an excel sheet with the following information:

- Quantity of issuance generated by vintages
- Quantity of issuance sold per year
- Price per year
- Amount of money received by the LPP per year

It is requested to keep confidential all of the documents and information submitted in relation to this deviation request.

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