

PROGRAM NAME: GS4GG
ORGANIZATION: Gold Standard Foundation
ASSESSMENT TYPE: CORSIA Approved - Program Level Assessment
DATE OF SUBMISSION: October 10, 2023
DOWNLOADED ON: February 01, 2024
STATUS: IN REVIEW

BACKGROUND

Must Read

Please acknowledge that you have reviewed the details provided in the "Background" section.

We have reviewed the Assessment Framework background materials.

Yes

CORSIA Eligibility

Please provide the following details in regards to your programme's CORSIA eligibility.

Our programme has been approved for CORSIA-eligibility.

Yes

https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/CORSIA/Documents/TAB/CORSIA%20Eligible%20Emissions%20Units_March2023.pdf

Refer to page 7 - 8 for the Corsia decision Refer to the below link for 2019 - First application submission can be accessed [here](#) You can access additional submissions organized by year under Section "Previous TAB Assessments" [here](#);

Methodologies for Exclusion

Please list any methodologies (name and URL) that your programme would like to have excluded from Category-level assessment by the ICVCM team.

Gold Standard request to exclude the following methodology from programme level assessment. METHODOLOGY FOR BIODIESEL FROM WASTE OIL/FAT FROM BIOGENIC ORIGIN FOR USE AS FUEL <https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/417-re-biofuel-biodiesel-from-waste-oil-fat-from-biogenic-origin-for-use-as-fuel/>

PROGRAMME, BASELINE AND MONITORING METHODOLOGY FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF AN ALTERNATIVE IGNITION TECHNIQUE AS MEASURE TO IMPROVE THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF DOMESTIC COAL FIRES <https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/409-ee-ics-alternative-ignition-technique-as-measure-to-improve-the-energy-efficiency-of-coalfires/>

GHG EMISSION REDUCTIONS FROM MANURE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS AND MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE <https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/421-wm-ghg-emission-reductions-from-manure-management-systems-and-municipal-solid-waste/>

INSTALLATION OF FLOW IMPROVEMENT EQUIPMENT ON SHIPS <https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/424-ee-shipping-ms-installation-of-flow-improvement-equipment-on-ships/>

ECOLOGICALLY SOUND FUEL SWITCH TO BIOMASS WITH REDUCED ENERGY REQUIREMENT
<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/415-fs-ecologically-sound-fuel-switch-to-biomass-with-reduced-energy-requirement/>

THERMAL ENERGY FROM PLANT OIL FOR THE USER OF COOKING STOVES
<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/410-fs-ics-thermal-energy-from-plant-oil-for-the-user-of-cooking-stoves/>

INDICATIVE PROGRAM, BASELINE AND MONITORING METHODOLOGY FOR THE LARGE SCALE SUPPLY & DISTRIBUTION OF EFFICIENT LIGHT BULBS, SHOWER HEADS AND OTHER WATER SAVING DEVICES TO HOUSEHOLDS <https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/413-ee-hh-scale-supply-distribution-of-efficient-light-bulbs-shower-heads-and-other-water-saving-devices-to-households/>

GOLD STANDARD METHODOLOGY FOR THERMAL PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENTS IN LOW-INCOME DWELLING STRUCTURES <https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/414-ee-hh-thermal-performance-improvements-in-low-income-dwelling-structures/>

FUEL SWITCH FROM FOSSIL FUELS TO BIOMASS RESIDUES IN BOILERS FOR HEAT GENERATION
<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/416-fs-fuel-switch-from-fossil-fuels-to-biomass-residues-in-boilers-for-heat-generation/>

SUPPRESSED DEMAND METHODOLOGY MICRO-SCALE ELECTRIFICATION AND ENERGIZATION
<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/418-re-suppressed-demand-methodology-micro-scale-electrification-and-energization/>

SUPPRESSED DEMAND SMALL-SCALE METHODOLOGY FOR ENERGY USE FOR THE PROCESSING OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS <https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/420-re-suppressed-demand-ssc-energy-use-for-the-processing-of-agricultural-product-2/>

SUPPRESSED DEMAND SMALL-SCALE METHODOLOGY FOR LOW GHG FOOD PRESERVATION
<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/419-re-suppressed-demand-ssc-low-ghg-food-preservation/>

GOLD STANDARD AGRICULTURE SMALLHOLDER DAIRY METHODOLOGY
<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/405-luf-agr-agriculture-smallholder-dairy-methodology/>

REDUCING METHANE EMISSIONS FROM ENTERIC FERMENTATION IN DAIRY COWS THROUGH APPLICATION OF FEED SUPPLEMENTS <https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/404-luf-agr-livestock-enteric-fermentation-in-dairy-cows-through-application-of-feed-supplements/>

A – GOVERNANCE

1.1 Effective Governance

a) In addition to CORSIA requirements related to governance framework, confirm that your organisation:

1) has a board comprised of independent board members who assume fiduciary responsibility for the organisation and operate according to robust bylaws.

Yes

<https://www.goldstandard.org/about-us/governance>

Gold Standard is a non-profit Swiss Foundation that was established to house a full-time secretariat for the standard and to develop solution to achieve its mission. The Gold Standard Secretariat is supported by the Foundation's Board of Directors and an independent Technical Governance Committee. The committees are made up of external experts in the relevant scopes applicable under Gold Standard for the Global Goals. NGO Supporters and approved third-party Auditors also play a role in supporting our work. For more information about our governance structure, please refer to <https://www.goldstandard.org/about-us/governance>.

2) publishes an annual report that contains the organisation's revenues, expenses, and net assets over the past year and provides an overview of the organisation's mission, major programs and activities, and governance.

Yes

<https://www.goldstandard.org/report-type/annual-reports>

Gold Standard publishes an annual report that provides information on the organization's revenues, expenses, and net assets from the previous year. It also includes an overview of the organization's mission, major programs and activities, and governance. You can refer to the annual reports published to date here.

3) Has processes in place to ensure corporate social and environmental responsibility.

Yes

N/A

Gold Standard is a small NGO, employing less than 70 people as of 2023 and holding only one permanent office space in Geneva, Switzerland. It's key social and environmental impacts are as follows, with mitigation processes described:

Social: GS' key social responsibility (excluding the social safeguarding already covered within its standards) is towards it's staff. In this regard GS' operates a range of HR and benefits processes captured in it's Employee Handbook.

Environmental: GS two key impacts are the operation of staff premises and it's travel.

Staff premises: the split between home and office working is approximately 50/50 as of 2023, with GS supporting homeworking staff to promote greater work/life balance and minimise emissions associated with commuting. Where permanent office space is required GS' selects based on both cost and environmental criteria. The only fixed space currently in operation is [International Environment House in Geneva](#), a well know and long established environmental leadership hub.

Travel: GS' travel approach is to select trips based on value-add (i.e to minimise unnecessary travel and to maximise use of travel that does go ahead). Due to the nature of our work this is a qualitative decision. GS' policy is to offset all travel with GS credits once per year, in summation (typically carried out in the first half of year following).

4) Has robust anti-money laundering processes in place.

Yes

N/A

The Gold Standard Foundation is a registered not-for-profit organization under Swiss Law and Regulations. We adhere to the Swiss code of conduct for foundations. To address anti-money laundering requirements, we have implemented a Conflict of Interest Declaration that applies to all Board members, members of TGC/TAC, employees, contractors, and service providers. In addition, we have processes for customer due diligence and monitoring of financial transactions to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations. These processes are designed to maintain a high level of compliance and transparency in our operations. We are currently in the process of formalizing robust anti-money laundering procedures, which will be available by Q1 of 2024.

The Swiss Foundation Code (<https://www.swissfoundations.ch/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/9783727206849.pdf>) establishes principles and recommendations for the establishment and management of grant-making foundations.

5) follow practices consistent with robust anti-bribery and anti-corruption guidance and regulation.

Yes

N/A

The Gold Standard Foundation is a registered not-for-profit organization under Swiss Law and Regulations. It complies with the Swiss code of conduct for foundations. Robust approaches to anti-bribery and anti-corruption are in place, as outlined in the employee handbook that is agreed upon by employees. Additionally, we are currently in the process of establishing a procedure to formalize anti-bribery and anti-corruption guidance, which will be available by Q1 of 2024.

The Swiss Foundation Code (<https://www.swissfoundations.ch/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/9783727206849.pdf>) establishes principles and recommendations for the establishment and management of grant-making foundations.

6) Provide a summary description of your programme (300 – 500 words)

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/>

Gold Standard, founded in 2003 by WWF and other international NGOs, has been at the forefront of driving ambition in carbon mitigation projects. Its primary goal is to ensure the highest levels of environmental integrity and sustainable development outcomes for the UN's Sustainable Development Mechanism. Over the years, Gold Standard has become synonymous with quality in voluntary carbon markets, continuously raising standards and introducing innovative tools and methodologies.

The first version of the Gold Standard was introduced in May 2006, followed by the release of Gold Standard for the Global Goals in June 2017. Throughout this journey, Gold Standard has influenced other standards in compliance and voluntary markets, emphasizing the importance of safeguards, stakeholder inclusivity, and sustainable development.

Today, Gold Standard boasts a wide network of NGO supporters and has successfully implemented 3000+ projects across 100+ countries. These projects have generated billions of dollars in shared value from climate and development actions worldwide. Gold Standard's impact is evident in its ability to create positive change and inspire other organizations.

Gold Standard for the Global Goals (GS4GG) can be applied in various scopes within carbon markets, including Renewable Energy, End-use Energy Efficiency, Waste Handling & Disposal, Agriculture, and Land use & Forests. Project development and certification under the Gold Standard follow a well-defined cycle, details of which can be found at [this link](#).

As a nonprofit organization headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, Gold Standard operates under a professional and transparent governance structure. The Gold Standard Secretariat is supported by the Foundation's Board of Directors and an independent Technical Governance Committee comprising external experts in relevant scopes applicable under Gold Standard for the Global Goals. Additionally, NGO Supporters and approved Third-Party Auditors play a crucial role in extending Gold Standard's reach and impact.

For more information about Gold Standard's governance structure, please visit our [governance page](#).

Gold Standard organisation - <https://www.goldstandard.org/>

GS4GG - <https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/>

1.2 Public Engagement, Consultation and Grievances

a) In addition to CORSIA requirements related to public engagement, consultation and grievances, confirm your organisation:

1) has processes for robust and transparent local and global stakeholder consultation processes, which provide for public comment and issue resolution.

Yes

https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/standards/000.7_V2.0_Gov_Stakeholder_consultation_policy.pdf

Gold Standard has a [Stakeholder Consultation Policy](#) in place for public consultations to ensure transparency, informed decision-making, and consideration of different perspectives. Stakeholders are individuals or groups with an interest in Gold Standard's decisions or rules. Their comments provide valuable input for evidence-based and community-focused decision-making. Public stakeholder consultations cover scope expansion, major Standard revisions, and inclusion of new environmental assets for certification.

Gold Standard for the Global Goals complies with the ISEAL Alliance "[Setting Social and Environmental Standards](#)" Code of Best Practice. Gold Standard's [Standards Setting Procedure](#), hereafter referred to as "SSP," outlines the development and revision of standards, tools, guidelines, methodologies, and procedures. The term 'Standard' is used as an overarching term throughout the SSP and may refer to the following list and any associated procedures, guidelines, templates: – 000 Series – Technical Governance Principles & Requirements – 100 Series – Principles & Requirements – 200 Series – Activity Requirements – 300 Series – Contextual Requirements – 400 Series – Impact Quantification Methodologies – 500 Series – Product Requirements

Regarding stakeholder consultation processes related to standard development procedures, they can be found in the following:

- para 1.1.3 for comments and resolution process for SSP
- para 3.1.1, 3.1.2 & table 2 for decision making process and stakeholder consultation requirements for different standard category of SSP
- para 3.2.3.f, section 3.3, 3.5 - para 3.5.1 & 3.5.2 of SSP

2) has processes for addressing grievances. The process shall be clear and transparent, ensure impartiality and where appropriate confidentiality, in the filing and resolution of grievances. Any applicable fees shall not impede legitimate access to the grievance process by civil society organisations or IPs & LCs.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/000-8-gov-grievance-approval-procedure/>

Please refer to the Gold Standard Grievance Procedure, which outlines a stepwise procedure to be followed for effective and timely resolutions to grievances related to standard setting activities, procedures, and the Gold Standard itself. This procedure also applies to SustainCERT, Gold Standard Validation & Verification Bodies (VVBs), or the Oversight Body (if applicable).

Refer to para 1.1.3 for the scope of [Gold Standard Grievance procedure](#).

A public record of the grievances and resolutions is maintained on [Gold Standard website](#)

As mentioned in para 1.1.4 of the grievance procedure, project-related grievances listed below are managed by its certification body, SustainCERT. In these cases, stakeholders should first submit their concerns to the SustainCERT [grievance procedure](#).

In addition, Gold Standard requires every project to establish a continuous input and grievance mechanism. Refer to section 3.8 | Continuous input and grievance mechanism of [Stakeholder consultation and engagement requirements](#)

There is no fee applicable to the submission of a grievance.

1.3 Effective Registries (Retirement and Addressing Erroneous Issuance)

a) In addition to CORSIA requirements related to carbon credits in your carbon-crediting program registry, confirm that your organisation:

1) requires identification of the entity on whose behalf the carbon credit was retired

Yes

https://www.goldstandard.org/sites/default/files/documents/gold_standard_impact_registry_article_6_guidance.pdf

Only applicable to VERs AUTHORISED FOR USE UNDER ARTICLE 6 OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT.

According to the "Guidance on Functionality to Support Attribution and Management of VERs Authorized for Use under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement," when retiring authorized VERs, account holders must also provide information about the country or entity using the VERs. This information is necessary to comply with governments' reporting requirements under the UNFCCC. (page 6-9)

You can find more details in the document at the following link: [Guidance Document](#)

The screenshot displays the Gold Standard Impact Registry interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'CREDITS' and 'PROJECTS'. Below the tabs, the page title is 'Credits VER 30533 — 30535'. The main content area is divided into two sections: 'PROJECT INFORMATION' and 'RETIREMENT DETAILS'. The 'PROJECT INFORMATION' section includes fields for 'PROJECT ISSUED TO' (Charyshum Wind Farm Power Project (GS7550)), 'SERIAL NUMBER' (GS0-1-T4-GS7550-12-2020-2489-30533-30535), 'STATUS' (Retired), 'NUMBER OF CREDITS' (3), 'ISSUANCE DATE' (Jul 31, 2023), 'PRODUCT' (VER), 'MONITORING PERIOD' (Mar 02, 2020 — Feb 28, 2022), and 'VINTAGE' (2020). The 'RETIREMENT DETAILS' section includes 'RETIREMENT DATE' (Sep 07, 2023), 'RETIREMENT NOTES' (Gold Standard Marketplace Order GS020542 for GRSB), and 'ISSUING ENTITY' (Not Disclosed). Below the retirement details, there is a 'HISTORY' section showing a list of events: 'Issued 61653 VERs to Charyshum Wind Farm Power Project' and 'Split 61653 VERs into two blocks'.

PROJECT INFORMATION	
PROJECT ISSUED TO	Charyshum Wind Farm Power Project (GS7550)
SERIAL NUMBER	GS0-1-T4-GS7550-12-2020-2489-30533-30535
STATUS	Retired
NUMBER OF CREDITS	3
ISSUANCE DATE	Jul 31, 2023
PRODUCT	VER
MONITORING PERIOD	Mar 02, 2020 — Feb 28, 2022
VINTAGE	2020

RETIREMENT DETAILS	
RETIREMENT DATE	Sep 07, 2023
RETIREMENT NOTES	Gold Standard Marketplace Order GS020542 for GRSB
ISSUING ENTITY	Not Disclosed

HISTORY	
1 — 61653	Issued 61653 VERs to Charyshum Wind Farm Power Project
1 — 61653	Split 61653 VERs into two blocks

2) requires the identification of the purpose of retirement

Yes

https://www.goldstandard.org/sites/default/files/documents/gold_standard_impact_registry_article_6_guidance.pdf

Only applicable to VERs AUTHORISED FOR USE UNDER ARTICLE 6 OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT.

According to the "Guidance on Functionality to Support Attribution and Management of VERs Authorized for Use under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement," when retiring authorized VERs, account holders must also provide information about the country or entity using the VERs. This information is necessary to comply with governments' reporting requirements under the UNFCCC. (page 6-9)

You can find more details in the document at the following link: [Guidance Document](#)

3) has procedures to address erroneous issuance of carbon credits that identify remedial measures (e.g., cancellation, compensation through replacement) and the entities responsible for implementing these.

Yes

https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/standards/101_V1.2_PAR_Principles-Requirements.pdf

The incorrect issuance (7.1.3 b) is considered a non-conformity, and it is the responsibility of the project developer to address this non-conformity. The non-conformity will be reviewed, and appropriate actions will be followed. More information can be found at: [101 PAR Principles & Requirements](#)

For example, in the case of a Program of Activities (PoA), as stated in para 3.5.8, the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Executive Board is required to address the non-conformity after receiving notification. They are also liable to compensate for the issued GSVERs by either retiring an equivalent number of Certified Impact Statements or Products from other projects in their portfolio, or by purchasing an equivalent number of Certified Impact Statements or Products from other Gold Standard projects. More details can be found at: [107 PAR Programme of Activity Requirements](#)

Similarly, for Forestry and AGR projects, the requirements are outlined in the Performance Shortfall Guidelines section 4.5. More information can be found at: [501G PR Performance Shortfall Guidelines](#)

3.1 Information

a) In addition to CORSIA requirements, confirm that your organisation ensures that in relation to each mitigation activity that requests registration or that is registered, all relevant documentation relating to the mitigation activity is made publicly available (subject to confidentiality and proprietary, privacy and data protection restrictions) including:

1) all necessary information, such as spreadsheets used for calculations, to enable third parties to assess the social and environmental impacts of the mitigation activity and to replicate the GHG emission reduction or removal calculations (including baseline quantification), and assessment of additionality.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/101-par-principles-requirements/>

As per paragraph 6.1.2 (b) of PRINCIPLES & REQUIREMENTS, "All Project Documentation, except confidential information, shall be made publicly available through the Impact Registry." [Link](#)

Each project's registry page has a section called "CERTIFICATION DOCUMENTS" which provides a link to the project documentation.

[Link](#)

Furthermore, a rule clarification titled "PUBLIC DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR PROJECT DOCUMENTATION" was issued regarding the above requirement on 16/08/21. Through this Rule Clarification, Gold Standard provides further guidance to SustainCERT, Validation/Verification Bodies (VVBs), project developers, and coordinating/managing entities (CMEs) on specific project information and documents (for each certification stage) that shall be made publicly and transparently available. It also prescribes the approach for treating confidential information in project documents that are required to be made public.

[Link](#)

2) a mitigation activity design document that includes:

- i. a non-technical summary.**
- ii. detailed information on the mitigation activity, including its location and proponents.**

- iii. a description of the technology or practices applied.
- iv. the environmental and social impacts.
- v. the methodology used.
- vi. information on how the methodology is and has been applied for the purpose of determining the baseline, demonstrating additionality and quantifying GHG emission reductions or removals.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/101-par-principles-requirements/>

As per paragraph 6.1.1 of PRINCIPLES & REQUIREMENTS, projects shall provide evidence of conformity to the requirements using approved Gold Standard Project templates, except for supporting evidence and documents. The applicable project design document templates capture the above-mentioned information.

Principles and requirements: [link](#)

Project design documents: [link](#)

PoA design document: [link](#)

VPA design document: [link](#)

3) For Categories listed in 9.1 b) 1, information relating to the monitoring and compensation period. URL:

N/A

Response to 3.1 Among the categories listed in 9.1 b) 1, following are eligible in GS4GG: ii. Agriculture soil carbon sequestration; iii. Forestry sequestration (improved forest management, afforestation/reforestation, agroforestry); iv. Wetland and marine ecosystem restoration/management (including seagrasses, saltmarshes, mangroves, peatlands). Projects under ii and iii above certified under all these categories apply. Dedicated activity requirements for iii are under development. Projects certified under these categories are subjected to buffer deduction as per GHG Emissions Reductions & Sequestration Product Requirements <https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/501-pr-ghg-emissions-reductions-sequestration/>.

The project developer is responsible to compensate any shortfall and reversal. For procedure and options available for project developer, refer to section 4.5 | Compensation/Retirement of lost emission reduction units, Performance Shortfall Guidelines <https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/501g-pr-performance-shortfall-guidelines/>. Estimation of reversal risk is covered by Land-use & Forests Risks & Capacities Guideline <https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/203g-ar-luf-risks-capacities-guideline/>. This guideline is used to assess performance risks related to the project's non-delivery or reversal of greenhouse gas benefits and other SDG Impacts. The Guidelines require project developers to revisit the CO2 fixation model used and adjust (downsized) it for the remaining time period of the crediting period. The Project developer compensates the lost GSVERs within 4 months (120 days) of the receipt of action plan from Gold standard Secretariat. Hence the monitoring and compensation period is equivalent to the crediting period + 4 months in this context. As per Land-use & Forests Activity Requirements, crediting period for agriculture soil projects is fixed 10 years while for forestry sequestration projects it is between 30-50 years <https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/203-ar-luf-activity-requirements/>.

Methodologies can specify a crediting period different from these general requirements. Currently there is no mechanism established in GS4GG to extend the monitoring and compensation period beyond the (last) crediting period.

b) Confirm that your organisation has processes to ensure that where requests are made in relation to information that is missing from your website and/or registry, that information is provided (subject to confidentiality and proprietary, privacy and data protection restrictions) and made public alongside other relevant public information.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/rc-2021-public-disclosure-requirements-for-project-documentation/>

As per paragraph 6.1.2 (b) of [PRINCIPLES & REQUIREMENTS](#), "All Project Documentation, except confidential information, shall be made publicly available through the Impact Registry."

A stakeholder may reach out to help@goldstandard.org to inform if any of the relevant documents/information is missing from the website, as clarified in Section 1.3 of the rule clarification titled "[PUBLIC DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR PROJECT DOCUMENTATION](#)", available at the [link](#).

4.1 **Robust Independent Third-Party Validation and Verification**

a) In addition to CORSIA requirements, in relation to validation of mitigation activities and verification of GHG emission reductions and removals, confirm your organisation:

1) requires VVBs to be accredited by a recognised international accreditation standard (e.g., according to the current edition of ISO 14065 and ISO 14066, or per rules relating to the UNFCCC Kyoto Protocol Clean Development Mechanism or Paris Agreement Article 6, paragraph 4 Supervisory Body).

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/109-par-validation-verification-body-requirements/>

Refer to paragraph 7.4.1.1 of the [Validation/Verification Body Requirements](#). The gold standard requires that to be eligible to become a GS VVB, a VVB must hold a valid accreditation recognized by the gold standard. The recognized accreditation programs are:

- ISO 14065 for Greenhouse Gas activities accreditation offered under the ANSI-GS Accreditation Program
- UNFCCC-CDM Accreditation (AIE or DOE status)
- ASI – FSC Certification Body status

Other accreditations may be recognized in the future. It is important to note that certain accreditations grant access to specific certification pathways, as outlined in Annexure A of VVB requirements.

For more information, please visit: <https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/109-par-validation-verification-body-requirements/>

2) has a process for managing VVB performance, including systematic review of validation and verification activities, reports and remedial measures to address performance issues including measures to ensure that poor VVB performance is reported to the relevant accreditation body, and provisions to suspend or revoke the participation of a VVB in the program.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/109-par-validation-verification-body-requirements/>

Gold Standard follows a Performance Management approach to accelerate the development of VVB (validation/verification) capabilities and improve the quality and efficiency of certification services under the Gold Standard for Global Goals. This approach includes a systematic review of VVB reports, detailed monitoring, provision of immediate feedback, and an annual review. For further details, refer to section 7.8 "Monitoring of performance and ensuring competence."

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has its own independent accreditation process and does not have a working arrangement with Gold Standard regarding the use of UNFCCC accreditation. Therefore, the UNFCCC is not informed of any poor performance by VVB. However, as stated in paragraphs 7.8.1.2 and 7.8.1.5, the GS Secretariat may independently recommend the suspension

or withdrawal of VVB status to its Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) if there are persistent and/or serious problems with the performance of a GS VVB or individual expert.

Gold Standard also signs Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with other accreditation bodies to establish roles and responsibilities, including oversight and performance monitoring of VVB.

For more information, visit: [Gold Standard - Validation/Verification Body Requirements](#)

B – EMISSIONS IMPACT

5.1 Methodology Approval

a) In addition to CORSIA requirements related to Clear Methodologies and Protocols and their Development Process, please confirm that your organisation has a process for developing and adopting updates to existing quantification methodologies.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/401-sdgiq-methodology-approval-procedure/>

Refer to the "[Procedure for Methodology Development, Revision, and Clarification Requirements](#)" for guidelines on reviewing and approving new methodologies and methodology tools, making revisions and updates to approved methodologies and methodology tools, and addressing clarifications on approved methodologies and tools. This procedure is followed under the GS4GG (Gold Standard for the Global Goals) initiative.

The detailed procedure is available at the following link below:

[Procedure for Methodology Approval](#)

b) Confirm your organisation's approved methodologies or general carbon-crediting program provisions address the following essential components:

- 1. applicability or eligibility criteria.**
- 2. determination of the accounting boundary.**
- 3. determination of additionality (to the extent this is not covered in other general carbon crediting program provisions).**
- 4. establishing the baseline scenario.**
- 5. quantification of GHG emission reductions or removals.**
- 6. monitoring practices.**

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/401-sdgiq-methodology-approval-procedure/>

Please refer to Section 3.2.1 of the Procedure for Methodology Development, Revision, and Clarification for the requirement for methodology components.

[Link to Procedure](#)

c) Confirm that your organisation requires that, prior to approval, new methodologies and major revisions of existing methodologies undergo review by a group of independent experts and a public stakeholder consultation.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/401-sdgiq-methodology-approval-procedure/>

During the review process, new methodologies and major revisions to existing methodologies undergo a completeness check by the Secretariat, an in-depth review by the Methodology Working Group members and independent experts, and a 30-day public stakeholder consultation hosted by the Gold Standard. They are then submitted, along with recommendations from the Methodology Working Group members, for final approval by the TAC.

For new methodologies, please refer to sections 4.1(d) & (e) and 4.2(c) & (d) of the Procedure for Methodology Development, Revision, and Clarification. For major revisions, please refer to sections 5.1(d) & (e) and 5.2(c) & (d).

Link to Methodology Approval Procedure

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/401-sdgiq-methodology-approval-procedure/>

d) Confirm that your organisation has procedures to review, suspend and/or withdraw the use of methodologies where the carbon-crediting program has determined, based on evidence, that GHG emission reductions or removals are being overestimated or that additionality might not be ensured.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/401-sdgiq-methodology-approval-procedure/>

Refer to paragraph 5.2.1 for the periodic (every three years or five years) and ad hoc review procedure and requirements.

- The Secretariat is required to conduct periodic revisions of the methodology, at least once every three years, or within five years if there are not enough certified projects. They may also conduct ad hoc reviews at any time, prioritizing revisions based on various factors such as relevance to certain countries, climate action potential, and participation of small businesses.

Refer to paragraph 5.2.2 for provisions on the suspension and withdrawal of methodology.

- In consultation with TAC and/or the Methodology Working Group, the Secretariat can initiate an ad hoc review of an approved methodology or methodological tool. TAC can decide to suspend the methodology immediately or with a grace period, maintain the current version until its validity expires, or establish an interim provision to address identified issues.

Link to Methodology Approval Procedure

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/401-sdgiq-methodology-approval-procedure/>

5.2 Requirements for Quantifying GHG Emission Reductions or Removals

a) In addition to CORSIA requirements, confirm that your organisation does:

1) clearly define a carbon credit as one metric tonne of CO2 equivalent of GHG emission reductions or removals.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/faqs-glossary/>

A Gold Standard-issued Verified Emissions Reduction is defined as a single unit (one tonne) of CO2 equivalent reduction captured as a carbon credit for use as a commodity within the voluntary carbon market. Please refer to the Glossary for the definition of "Gold Standard Verified Emissions Reduction".

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/faqs-glossary/>

2) disclose the global warming potential (GWP) values used to calculate the CO2 equivalence.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/ru-2020-applicability-of-global-warming-potential-for-gold-standard-for-the-global-goals-projects/>

Only Carbon Dioxide (CO2), Methane (CH4), and Nitrous Oxide (N2O) are eligible for GSVERs or GSCERs. The Global Warming Potential (GWP) values for these eligible greenhouse gases, used to calculate the carbon dioxide equivalence of anthropogenic emissions and removals, shall be based on the IPCC AR5. A rule update, approved by the Gold Standard Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) and published on 03/06/2021, specifies the applicability of Global Warming Potential for Gold Standard For The Global Goals Projects.

Refer to the rule update for more information: [Applicability of Global Warming Potential for Gold Standard For The Global Goals Projects](#)

3) define the length of crediting periods, including the total length of combined crediting periods

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/101-par-principles-requirements/>

GS4GG Activity Requirements and/or Product Requirements govern the maximum number of Design Certification Renewals, i.e., the crediting period allowed for specific project types. In the absence of any such stated requirement, a Project is limited to one Renewal (i.e., maximum 10 years certification). Refer to para 5.1.1.f. Principles and Requirements [here](#).

This requirement is reiterated for GSVERs in para 10.1.1 GHG Emissions Reductions & Sequestration Product Requirements [here](#).

For different project types, the maximum allowable crediting period length is defined in GS4GG activity requirements as below:

- Community Service projects (defined in para 3.1.1) are eligible for a maximum of 15 years issuances (defined in para 4.1.5) [here](#).
- Renewable energy projects (defined in section 2) are eligible for a maximum of 15 years issuances (defined in para 4.4.2) [here](#).
- Land Use and forestry projects (defined in section 2) - A/R projects are eligible for a minimum of 30 years and a maximum of 50 years (defined in para 3.1.9) and AGR maximum 10 years unless otherwise defined in the methodology (defined in para 3.1.10) [here](#).

PoA crediting duration for different types of projects is defined in para 4.6.3 of the Programme of Activity requirements and procedures [here](#).

Also note that GS4GG requires every project to go through a five-year renewable certification cycle (para 5.1.1. (c) Principles and Requirements).

4) provide guidance on steps and requirements for renewal of the crediting periods. Any renewal of the crediting period shall include a reassessment of the baseline scenario, including whether the conditions and barriers at the start of the mitigation activity still prevail, and an update of relevant parameters used to calculate emissions reductions and removals.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/101-par-principles-requirements/>

To maintain Gold Standard Certified Project status beyond five years, a Project shall undergo Design Certification Renewal. This process shall begin no later than the last date of the current certification cycle, as defined by the submission of a Renewal opinion by a VVB (Validation and Verification Body) for Design Review to Gold Standard (as stated in para 5.1.45, Principles and Requirements).

All projects are required to undergo Design Certification Renewal by updating information and the baseline unless otherwise specified in the relevant Activity or Product requirements (as stated in para 5.1.1.d, Principles and Requirements).

The Design Certification Renewal process follows the same steps as Validation and Design Review (Design Certification). The assessment scope during the certification renewal is defined in para 5.1.47, Principles and Requirements, and clearly includes, among others:

- (c) Re-definition of Baseline Scenario and any impact of change on the Eligibility Principles, Criteria, and Requirements
- (e) Demonstration of Ongoing Financial Need, where relevant

A five-year Design Certification Renewal cycle applies to all projects. Please refer to P-4 demonstration of real outcomes in activity requirements for different project types.

For more information, please refer to: [101 PAR Principles & Requirements](#)

The Validation and Verification Standard V1.0 provides further guidelines and requirements to VVB for validation during design certification renewal. Please refer to section 10 of VVS [here](#)

The VVB (Validation and Verification Body) is responsible for assessing the validity of the original baseline or its update. This assessment includes carefully considering the impact of new policies and circumstances, ensuring the accurate application of approved methodologies, and updating data and parameters (para 10.1.4).

To assess the validity of the original/current baseline and update it at the renewal of the crediting period, the Project Developer may use the CDM Methodological tool: Assessment of the validity of the original/current baseline and update of the baseline at the renewal of the crediting period. The GS is currently in the process of preparing comprehensive guidelines in this regard and plans to release these for public consultation by the end of Q4 2023.

5) assess the overall uncertainty of emission reductions or removals associated with an activity type and/or require that the mitigation activity proponent assess the overall uncertainty in accordance with an approved methodology. In estimating overall uncertainty all causes of uncertainty shall be considered, including assumptions (e.g., baseline scenario), estimation equations or models, parameters (e.g., representativeness of default values), and measurements (e.g., the accuracy of measurement methods). The overall uncertainty shall be assessed as the combined uncertainty from individual causes.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/401-sdgiq-methodology-approval-procedure/>

The requirements for uncertainty analysis are specified as part of the applicable methodology. Therefore, projects must demonstrate compliance with these requirements. To understand the specific requirements, including the scope of uncertainty assessment, please refer to the General requirements for methodology (para 3.2.1(g)) at <https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/401-sdgiq-methodology-approval-procedure/>.

For Land Use and Forest (LUF) projects, the accounting for uncertainty is outlined in Annex A of the Land Use activity requirements. You can find these requirements at <https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/203-ar-luf-activity-requirements/>

Gold Standard (GS) is also developing comprehensive guidelines for uncertainty analysis assessment, which are expected to be published in Q1 2024.

6) have a systematic approach to ensuring the conservativeness of quantification methodologies it approves for use.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/401-sdgiq-methodology-approval-procedure/>

The General requirements for methodology (para 3.2.1 (f)) outline the need to use conservative assumptions, values, and procedures to avoid overestimating greenhouse gas emission reductions or removal enhancements.

It is important to note that GS4GG requires methodology developers to consider the 'Rules, Modalities, and Procedures for the Mechanism Established by Article 6, Paragraph 4 of the Paris Agreement'. These rules outline the principles, key requirements, and processes of the Article 6.4 mechanism. When preparing a new methodology, the developer must take into account the requirements outlined in Chapter V B - Methodologies, Paragraphs 33-39 of the Annex.

The Gold Standard intends to issue additional guidelines to ensure compliance with the methodology requirements of Chapter V B (Methodologies) of the Rules, Modalities, and Procedures (para 3.2.2). More information can be found at: <https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/401-sdgiq-methodology-approval-procedure/>

7) require in its program documents that existing government policies and legal requirements that lower GHG emissions (e.g., feed-in tariffs for renewable energy, minimum product efficiency standards, air quality requirements, or carbon taxes) be included when determining the baseline emissions. Your organisation may have provisions to consider the level of enforcement of such policies and legal requirements as well as any associated grace periods.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/101-par-principles-requirements/>

The baseline scenario is required to consider the existing government policies and legal requirements as stated in paragraph 4.1.8.a of the GS4GG [Principles and Requirements](#):

"The Baseline Scenario is defined as the reasonable, conservative scenario that would exist in the absence of the project. When setting the Baseline Scenario, the Project Developer should consider the relevant applicable legislation and how effectively these are enforced."

GHG quantification methodologies under GS4GG have safeguards in place to ensure that the national, regional, and local regulatory requirements are determined and maintained while assessing the baseline and quantifying the emission reduction. A few examples are as follows:

Paragraph 2.3.1 of [Methodology for Emission Reductions from Safe Drinking Water Supply](#)

Paragraph 2.3.1 of [Methodology For Animal Manure Management and Biogas Use For Thermal Energy Generation](#)

Paragraph 2.3.1 of [Reduced Emissions from Cooking And Heating: Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralized Thermal Energy Consumption \(TPDDTEC\)](#)

Furthermore, a VVB is required to assess compliance with these requirements as outlined in paragraphs 7.3.2, 7.13.5, 7.13.7, 9.2.6 e, 11.2.5, and 15.4.12. Please refer to the document [here](#).

5.3 **Ex-Post Determination of Emission Reductions or Removals**

a) Carbon credits that are issued ex-ante are not CCP eligible. If your organisation supports both ex-ante and ex-post issuance, confirm it has procedures in place to transparently identify units that are issued ex-post and are thus eligible under the ICVCM.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/501-pr-ghg-emissions-reductions-sequestration/>

GS VERs (Verified Emission Reductions) are only issued for ex-post emission reductions.

It is important to note that LUF (Land Use and Forestry) project activities may be issued ex-ante units, which are defined as Planned Emission Reductions. These units represent the expected future sequestration of 1 tonne of CO₂e but do not represent actual sequestration. Therefore, they cannot be used for carbon neutral claims until they are converted to Verified Emission Reductions (GS VERs). More information can be found at the following link: [FAQs & Glossary](#).

Gold Standard maintains transparency and limits the use of GS PERs (Planned Emission Reductions) compared to GS VERs, as outlined in various standard documents. Please refer to section 11.2.3 of the [GHG Emissions Reduction & Sequestration Product Requirements](#) and section 5.3 of the [Claims Guidelines](#).

6.1 **No Double Issuance (Double Registration)**

a) Confirm your organisation has provisions in place to:

1) prevent the registration of any mitigation activity that has been registered under another carbon-crediting program and is still active under that program; and

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/101-par-principles-requirements/>

Para 3.1.1(c), [Principles and Requirements](#) explicitly requires that project shall not be included in any other voluntary or compliance standards programme unless approved by Gold Standard (for example through dual certification).

Dual certification, when allowed, includes additional measures to ensure that even if the project is dual registered, it will not receive Verified Emission Reductions (VERs) for the same vintage, as explained in the following question.

2) ensure that it does not issue carbon credits for GHG emission reductions or removals where another program has issued credits to the same mitigation activity and/or for the same GHG emission reductions or removals and has not cancelled those credits for the purpose of avoiding double issuance.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/501-pr-ghg-emissions-reductions-sequestration/>

Para 14.1.2, GHG Emissions Reduction & Sequestration Product Requirements requires that where dual certification is allowed, the project shall claim emission reductions or removal units of a given vintage only once and under one standard only following applicable requirements. <https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/501-pr-ghg-emissions-reductions-sequestration/>

Further requirements are outlined in Annex B GHG Emissions Reduction & Sequestration Product Requirements as follows:

- When a CDM project, PoA/CPAs -- including those that are already registered with GS4GG for CER labeling -- seeks to transition to GS4GG to issue GSVERs, it is not required to deregister from CDM (para 2.2.1). However, the project developer is required to provide a declaration, in writing, in the monitoring report stating that the project developer has not or will not issue both a CER and a GSVER for the same vintage from a project that is registered under GS4GG (para 2.1.3).
- Eligible CDM A/R projects are required to deregister from CDM to transition to GS4GG and issue GSVERs (para 2.2.2).
- When projects PoA/CPAs that are registered with a standard other than CDM need to deregister the project and provide evidence to confirm deregistration to VVB before project submission for design (para 2.2.3).

For projects seeking Renewable Energy Certificates in parallel to GVERs, as per 2.1.4 of the RENEWABLE ENERGY LABEL PRODUCT REQUIREMENTS, it is stated that the projects have the flexibility to choose between Renewable Energy Certificates and Verified Emission Reductions (VERs) at issuance. However, they shall not issue two Gold Standard Products for the same MWh.

The VVB is also responsible for assessing the potential risk of double counting with programs and providing its opinion. Please refer to paragraphs 7.2.5 and 7.13.5 of the [VVS](#) for more information.

6.2 **No Double Use**

a) Confirm your organisation has registry provisions that prevent the further transfer, retirement or cancellation of a carbon credit once it has been cancelled or retired.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/t-preview-registry-app-terms-of-use/>

Gold Standard has a "Terms of Use" agreement serves as a binding contract between The Gold Standard and the

Account Holder for registry use. Please refer to section 9 of the Terms of Use, which explicitly prohibits further use of retired units.

C – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

7.1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks

a) In addition to CORSIA requirements relating to Safeguards System and Sustainable Development Criteria, confirm your organisation requires mitigation activity proponents to:

1) abide by national and local laws, objectives, programs and regulations and where relevant, international conventions and agreements.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/>

As per paragraph 3.1.1 (d) Principles and Requirements, all projects are required to comply with the applicable host country's legal, environmental, ecological, and social regulations.

[Link to Principles and Requirements](#)

Paragraph 4.1.2 of the Safeguarding Principles & Requirements states that projects must comply with the applicable national law, including laws that implement the host country's obligations under international law. If the host country's requirements differ from the requirements presented in this document, projects must comply with the more stringent requirements.

[Link to Safeguarding Principles and Requirements](#)

2) assess associated risks of negative environmental and social impacts with regard to the safeguards contained in criteria 7.2 to 7.8 (inclusive), taking into account the scope and scale of the mitigation activity.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/>

Refer to paragraph 4.1.1 of Safeguarding principles requirements.

All GS4GG project activities/PoAs/VPAs shall undergo an upfront assessment against the Safeguarding Principles & Requirements. The Safeguarding Principles include 9 principles that encompass social, economic, and environmental & ecological matters. The requirements outlined in this document guide a project developer and its representatives: a. to identify and evaluate the risks and adverse outcomes of the proposed activities, and b. to adopt a mitigation strategy to avoid, or where avoidance is not possible, minimize identified risks, to achieve the stated requirements. [Link to source](#)

3) ensures FPIC processes for IPs and LCs, where applicable; and conduct stakeholder consultations, including local stakeholders as part of project design and implementation in a manner that is inclusive, culturally appropriate, and respectful of local knowledge, take these consultations into account and respond to local stakeholders' views.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/>

The safeguarding principles and requirements require that Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) processes are followed where applicable. For example, refer to P4.4, page 18 Indigenous peoples and associated requirements applicable to projects involving Indigenous peoples (IPs) and Local Communities (LCs).

For more information, please visit: [Safeguarding Principles and Requirements](#)

b) Where, pursuant to 7.1 a) 2), the mitigation activity proponents have assessed that the mitigation activity poses risks of negative environmental and/or social impacts with regard to any of criteria 7.2 - 7.8 (inclusive) confirm your organisation requires the mitigation activity proponents to:

1) include measures, commensurate with the identified risks, to minimise and address such negative environmental and/or social impacts, in validated design documents prior to registration.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/>

Refer to Para 4.1.1 (c) & (d) of Safeguarding Principles & Requirements.

All project activities are required to include measures, corresponding to the identified risks and adverse outcomes, to minimize and address negative impacts. These measures should be included in validated design documents before design certification. Additionally, information on the implemented measures to address the identified risks and the status of risk should be provided in the monitoring report during each verification.

2) include information on the measures implemented pursuant to 1), commensurate with the identified risks in the monitoring report.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/>

Refer to Para 4.1.1 (d) of Safeguarding Principles & Requirements.

All project activities are required to include measures, corresponding to the identified risks and adverse outcomes, to minimize and address negative impacts. These measures should be included in validated design documents before design certification. Additionally, information on the implemented measures to address the identified risks and the status of risk should be provided in the monitoring report during each verification.

7.2 Labour Rights and Working Conditions

a) Confirm your organisation requires mitigation activity proponents to ensure that the mitigation activity:

1) provides safe and healthy working conditions for employees.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/>

Refer to P6.1 Labour Rights and Working Conditions (page 21) and the associated requirements of the Safeguarding principle and requirements.

[Link to Safeguarding Principles and Requirements](#)

2) provides fair treatment of all employees, avoiding discrimination and ensuring equal opportunities.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/>

Refer to P 6.1.2 Labour Rights and Working Conditions (page 23) and the associated requirements of the Safeguarding principle and requirements.

[Link to Safeguarding Principles and Requirements](#)

3) prohibits the use of forced labour, child labour, or trafficked persons, and protects contracted workers employed by third parties.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/>

Refer to page 6.1 "Labour Rights and Working Conditions" (page 21) and the associated requirements of the Safeguarding principle and requirements.

Child labour - paragraph 6.1.4 and associated requirements.

Trafficked person and migrant workers - paragraph 6.1.1 and associated requirements.

[Link to Safeguarding Principles and Requirements](#)

b) Confirm your organisation requires that mitigation activity proponents confirm in validated design documents that the mitigation activity adheres to the above safeguards or that it has put in place the measures referred to in 7.1 b) 1).

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/>

Refer to paragraph 4.1.1, paragraph 4.1.5, and Table 2 - Safeguarding Assessment Information for the level of information required for each GS4GG certification stage, based on the project's status. During the design review stage (review before project registration), it is necessary to have a completed Safeguarding Principles Assessment that has been validated by a Gold Standard Validation and Verification Body (GS-VVB) to ensure compliance with the necessary requirements.

[Link to Safeguarding Principles Requirements](#)

7.3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention

a) Your organisation requires mitigation activity proponents to ensure that the mitigation activity minimises:

1. pollutant emissions to air
2. pollutant discharges to water, noise and vibration
3. generation of waste and release of hazardous materials, chemical pesticides and fertilisers

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/>

Refer to P9.4 Release of pollutants (page 29), P9.5 Hazardous and non-hazardous waste (page 30), P9.6 Pesticides & Fertilizers (page 31), and associated requirements.

[Link to Safeguarding Principles Requirements](#)

b) Confirm your organisation requires that mitigation activity proponents confirm in validated design documents:

1. whether the mitigation activity results in pollutant emissions to air, pollutant discharges to water, noise and vibration, the generation of waste, the release of hazardous materials, chemical pesticides and fertilisers.
2. where the mitigation activity results in any of the impacts listed in 1) above, that it has put in place the measures referred to in 7.1 b) 1).

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/>

Refer to paragraph 4.1.1, paragraph 4.1.5, and Table 2 - Safeguarding Assessment Information for the level of information required for each GS4GG certification stage, based on the project's status. During the design review stage (review before project registration), it is necessary to have a completed Safeguarding Principles Assessment that has been validated by a Gold Standard Validation and Verification Body (GS-VVB) to ensure compliance with the necessary requirements.

[Link to Safeguarding Principles Requirements](#)

7.4 Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement

a) Confirm your organisation requires mitigation activity proponents to ensure that the mitigation activity avoids, or where this is not feasible, minimises forced physical and/or economic displacement.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/>

Refer to P4.2 Forced eviction and displacement (page 17) and associated requirements.

[Link to Safeguarding Principles Requirements](#)

b) Confirm your organisation requires that mitigation activity proponents confirm in validated design documents:

1. whether the mitigation activity results in forced physical and/or economic displacement;
2. where the mitigation activity results in the impacts listed in 1) above, that it has put in place the measures referred to in 7.1 b) 1)

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/>

Refer to paragraph 4.1.1, paragraph 4.1.5, and Table 2 - Safeguarding Assessment Information for the level of information required for each GS4GG certification stage, based on the project's status. During the design review stage (review before project registration), it is necessary to have a completed Safeguarding Principles Assessment that has been validated by a Gold Standard Validation and Verification Body (GS-VVB) to ensure compliance with the necessary requirements.

[Link to Safeguarding Principles Requirements](#)

7.5 Biodiversity Conservation

a) Confirm your organisation requires mitigation activity proponents to ensure that the mitigation activity:

1) avoids, or where this is not feasible, minimises negative impacts on terrestrial and marine biodiversity and ecosystems.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/>

Refer to P.9 | ENVIRONMENT, ECOLOGY AND LAND USE, P9.11 Endangered species, P9.12 Invasive alien species, P9.7 Harvesting of forests, P9.10 High conservation value (HCV) areas and critical habitats, P9.9 Animal welfare, P9.1 Landscape modification and soil, P.8 | WATER and associated requirements.

[Link to Safeguarding Principles Requirements](https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/)

2) protects the habitats of rare, threatened, and endangered species, including areas needed for habitat connectivity.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/>

Refer to P.9 | ENVIRONMENT, ECOLOGY AND LAND USE, P9.11 Endangered species, P9.12 Invasive alien species, P9.7 Harvesting of forests, P9.10 High conservation value (HCV) areas and critical habitats, P9.9 Animal welfare, P9.1 Landscape modification and soil, P.8 | WATER and associated requirements.

[Link to Safeguarding Principles Requirements](https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/)

3) does not convert natural forests, grasslands, wetlands, or high conservation value habitats.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/>

Refer to P.9 | ENVIRONMENT, ECOLOGY AND LAND USE, P9.7 Harvesting of forests, P9.10 High conservation value (HCV) areas and critical habitats, P9.1 Landscape modification and soil, P.8 | WATER and associated requirements.

[Link to Safeguarding Principles Requirements](https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/)

4) minimises soil degradation and soil erosion.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/>

Refer to P.9 | ENVIRONMENT, ECOLOGY AND LAND USE, P9.1 Landscape modification and soil, P.8 | WATER and associated requirements.

[Link to Safeguarding Principles Requirements](https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/)

5) minimises water consumption and stress in the mitigation activity.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/>

Refer to P.8 | WATER and associated requirements.

[Link to Safeguarding Principles Requirements](https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/)

b) Confirm your organisation requires that mitigation activity proponents confirm in validated design documents:

- 1. whether the mitigation activity has negative impacts on terrestrial and marine biodiversity and ecosystems, on habitats of rare, threatened, and endangered species, on soil degradation and soil erosion, and on water consumption and water stress.**
- 2. where the mitigation activity results in any of the impacts listed in 1) above, that it has put in place the measures referred to in 7.1 b) 1).**

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/>

Refer to paragraph 4.1.1, paragraph 4.1.5, and Table 2 - Safeguarding Assessment Information for the level of information required for each GS4GG certification stage, based on the project's status. During the design review stage (review before project registration), it is necessary to have a completed Safeguarding Principles Assessment that has been validated by a Gold Standard Validation and Verification Body (GS-VVB) to ensure compliance with the necessary requirements.

[Link to Safeguarding Principles Requirements](#)

7.6 Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities and Cultural Heritage

Please respond to each question below.

a) Where the mitigation activity directly or indirectly impacts IPs & LCs, including livelihoods, ancestral knowledge and cultural heritage, confirm your organisation requires mitigation activity proponents to ensure that the mitigation activity:

1) recognises, respects and promotes the protection of the rights of IPs & LCs in line with applicable international human rights law, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/>

Refer to P.1 HUMAN RIGHTS & P.4 | CULTURAL HERITAGE, INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, DISPLACEMENT AND RESETTLEMENT and associated requirements

[Link to Safeguarding Principles Requirements](#)

2) identifies the rights-holders possibly affected by the mitigation activity (including customary rights of local rights holders).

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/>

Refer to P.1 HUMAN RIGHTS & P.4 | CULTURAL HERITAGE, INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, DISPLACEMENT AND RESETTLEMENT, P4.3 Land tenure and other rights, and associated requirements

[Link to Safeguarding Principles Requirements](#)

3) when relevant to circumstances, has applied the FPIC process.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/>

Refer to P.4 | CULTURAL HERITAGE, INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, DISPLACEMENT AND RESETTLEMENT, P4.1 Sites of cultural and historical heritage, P4.2 Forced eviction and displacement, P 4.3 Land tenure and other rights, P4.4 Indigenous peoples and associated requirements

[Link to Safeguarding Principles Requirements](#)

4) does not force eviction or any physical or economic displacement of IPs & LCs, including through access restrictions to lands, territories, or resources, unless agreed upon with IPs & LCs during the FPIC process.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/>

Refer to P.4 |CULTURAL HERITAGE, INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, DISPLACEMENT AND RESETTLEMENT, P4.2 Forced eviction and displacement, P 4.3 Land tenure and other rights, P4.4 Indigenous peoples and associated requirements

[Link to Safeguarding Principles Requirements](#)

5) preserves and protects cultural heritage consistent with IPs & LCs protocols/rules/plans on the management of cultural heritage or UNESCO Cultural Heritage conventions.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/>

Refer to P.4 |CULTURAL HERITAGE, INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, DISPLACEMENT AND RESETTLEMENT, P4.2 Forced eviction and displacement, P 4.3 Land tenure and other rights, P4.4 Indigenous peoples and associated requirements

[Link to Safeguarding Principles Requirements](#)

b) Where the mitigation activity directly or indirectly impacts IPs & LCs, including livelihoods, ancestral knowledge and cultural heritage, confirm your organisation requires that mitigation activity proponents confirm in validated design documents that the mitigation activity adheres to the above safeguards or that it has put in place the measures referred to in 7.1 b) 1).

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/>

Refer to paragraph 4.1.1, paragraph 4.1.5, and Table 2 - Safeguarding Assessment Information for the level of information required for each GS4GG certification stage, based on the project's status. During the design review stage (review before project registration), it is necessary to have a completed Safeguarding Principles Assessment that has been validated by a Gold Standard Validation and Verification Body (GS-VVB) to ensure compliance with the necessary requirements.

[Link to Safeguarding Principles Requirements](#)

7.7 Respect for Human Rights, Stakeholder Engagement

a) Confirm your organisation requires mitigation activity proponents to ensure that the mitigation activity:

1) avoids discrimination and respects human rights.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/>

Refer to P.1 |Human Rights and associated requirements.

[Link to Safeguarding Principles Requirements](#)

2) abides by the International Bill of Human Rights and universal instruments ratified by the host country.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/>

Refer to P.1 | Human Rights and associated requirements.

[Link to Safeguarding Principles Requirements](#)

3) takes into account and responds to local stakeholders' views.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/>

Refer to para 4.1.5, table 2, Safeguarding Assessment Information (row one) – Draft Safeguarding Principles Assessment, which includes a summary of the environmental, social, and economic impacts of projects. This assessment should be made available to stakeholders to gather feedback during stakeholder consultation rounds. [Link to Safeguarding Principles Requirements](#)

For more detailed information on Gold Standard Stakeholder consultation requirements, please refer to its Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements at: [link](#)

[Link to Safeguarding Principles Requirements](#)

b) Confirm your organisation requires that mitigation activity proponents confirm in validated design documents that the mitigation activity adheres to the above safeguards, or that it has put in place the measures referred to in 7.1 b) 1) above.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/>

Refer to paragraph 4.1.1, paragraph 4.1.5, and Table 2 - Safeguarding Assessment Information for the level of information required for each GS4GG certification stage, based on the project's status. During the design review stage (review before project registration), it is necessary to have a completed Safeguarding Principles Assessment that has been validated by a Gold Standard Validation and Verification Body (GS-VVB) to ensure compliance with the necessary requirements.

[Link to Safeguarding Principles Requirements](#)

7.8 Gender Equality

a) Confirm your organisation requires mitigation activity proponents to ensure that the mitigation activity: 1. provides for equal opportunities in the context of gender 2. protects against and appropriately responds to violence against women and girls 3. provides equal pay for equal work

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/>

Refer to P.2 | GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT, para P.2.1.2 | and the associated requirements.

[Link to Safeguarding Principles Requirements](#)

Also refer to [Gender Equality Requirements & Guidelines](#).

b) Confirm your organisation requires that mitigation activity proponents confirm in validated design documents that the mitigation activity adheres to the above safeguards or that it has put

in place the measures referred to in 7.1 b) 1).

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/>

Refer to P.2 | GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT, para P.2.1.2 | and the associated requirements.

[Link to Safeguarding Principles Requirements](#)

Refer to paragraph 4.1.1, paragraph 4.1.5, and Table 2 - Safeguarding Assessment Information for the level of information required for each GS4GG certification stage, based on the project's status. During the design review stage (review before project registration), it is necessary to have a completed Safeguarding Principles Assessment that has been validated by a Gold Standard Validation and Verification Body (GS-VVB) to ensure compliance with the necessary requirements.

[Link to Safeguarding Principles Requirements](#)

7.9 Robust Benefit-Sharing

a) If your organisation requires arrangements for benefit-sharing with IPs & LCs, confirm that you require that mitigation activity proponents:

1) include in validated design documents information on how benefit-sharing arrangements that are appropriate to the context and consistent with applicable national rules and regulations will be designed and implemented through a benefit-sharing plan.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/>

Refer to paragraphs P.4.1.3 and P.4.4.6 for equitable sharing of benefits with IPs and LCs.

[Link to Safeguarding Principles Requirements](#)

2) confirm in validated design documents that the draft and final benefit-sharing plan have been shared with the affected IPs & LCs in a form, manner, and language understandable to them.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/>

Refer to section 3.5.1 and 3.5.2 of the stakeholder consultation requirements, which outline the information sharing requirements with stakeholders, including any potential negative and positive impacts of the project and referring to IPs. [Link](#)

Refer to paragraph 4.1.1, paragraph 4.1.5, and Table 2 - Safeguarding Assessment Information for the level of information required for each GS4GG certification stage, based on the project's status. During the design review stage (review before project registration), it is necessary to have a completed Safeguarding Principles Assessment that has been validated by a Gold Standard Validation and Verification Body (GS-VVB) to ensure compliance with the necessary requirements.

[Link to Safeguarding Principles Requirements](#)

3) make benefit-sharing outcomes that result from the benefit-sharing plan publicly available, subject to applicable legal restrictions.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/103-par-safeguarding-principles-requirements/>

As per para 4.3.3 The supporting documents and evidence shall be made publicly available on the Impact Registry except the confidential information or documents in line with the Public Disclosure Requirements for Project Documentation.

[Link to Safeguarding Principles Requirements](#)

7.10 Cancun Safeguards

a) Confirm your organisation requires for all REDD+ mitigation activities that the mitigation activity is consistent with all relevant Cancun Safeguards as set out in paragraph 71 of decision 1/CP.16 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

No

N/A

The Gold Standard does not certify REDD+ mitigation activities, making it not applicable to the Gold Standard.

7.11 Ensuring Positive SDG Impacts

a) Confirm your organisation requires that mitigation activity proponents, in validated design documents:

1) provide information on how the mitigation activity is consistent with the SDG objectives of the host country, where the SDG objectives are relevant, and such is feasible.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/101-par-principles-requirements/>

Refer to para 4.1.12, Principle and requirements

All projects shall demonstrate a clear, direct contribution to sustainable development, defined as making demonstrable, positive impacts on at least three Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), one of which must be SDG 13 (defined herein as Emissions Reductions or Removals and/or Adaptation to climate change). These are referred to as SDG impacts. The procedure and requirements to conduct the SDG impact assessment are outlined in the subsequent paragraphs of this section. [Link](#)

Refer to para 4.1.16 (option 1) – which outlines how project developers may select relevant National SDG indicators and provide justification and information that, when combined, demonstrate how the project positively impacts the chosen SDGs and corresponding targets that are relevant to the host country, where defined.

A rule update titled "The SDG Impact Tool" was issued to streamline the process of SDG impact assertion and assurance on 14.12.2021. This rule update is meant to communicate the official launch and integration of the SDG Impact Tool in GS4GG standard framework and provide information on its scope, applicability, and entry into force. The SDG Impact Tool application is mandatory for all new projects submitted for Preliminary Review1 after 14.03.2022 and projects (including new PoAs and their VPAs) submitted for design certification review and renewal after 14.03.2022. The SDG Impact Tool is an Excel-based standardized template to easily, clearly, and transparently assess and monitor SDG impact.

A SDG Impact Manual provides step-by-step guidance and additional information and resources to support the application of this tool.

SDG Impact Tool

SDG Impact Manual (page 10 for confirmation aligned with the Host Country's SDG Objectives)

Gold Standard is currently developing an online version of the SDG tool that offers a uniform approach combining option 1 and option 2. This tool includes procedures to confirm that selected SDGs align with host country objectives. The confirmation procedure offers two options:

1. Host country representative confirmation: The host country representative confirms the priority SDGs. This allows the project developer to demonstrate alignment with host country objectives.
2. Project developer confirmation: If Option 1 is not implemented, the project developer can provide publicly available evidence, such as a publication by the host country, to confirm alignment with host country objectives.

The tool is currently undergoing user testing and is expected to be adopted by November 2023. <https://sdg-tool.goldstandard.org/>

2) demonstrate, if applicable, through qualitative assessment how the mitigation activity delivers positive SDG impacts for certain SDGs (excluding SDG 13), if any.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/101-par-principles-requirements/>

Please refer to principles and requirements for assessing the impacts of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) outlined in paragraphs 4.1.12 to 4.1.18. As mentioned earlier, all projects must demonstrate a clear and direct contribution to sustainable development by making measurable and positive impacts on at least three SDGs. One of these SDGs must be SDG 13, which focuses on emissions reductions or removals and/or adaptation to climate change.

You can find more information on the principles and requirements at the following link: [Principles and Requirements](#)

A recent rule update called "The SDG Impact Tool" has been issued on 14.12.2021 to streamline the process of assessing and ensuring SDG impacts. This tool requires projects to demonstrate quantified impacts by selecting relevant indicators for each SDG, which are mapped with SDG targets. The tool provides predefined indicators for eligible project types and offers monitoring guidance for project developers.

You can access the SDG Impact Tool here: [SDG Impact Tool](#)

For further guidance, you can refer to the SDG Impact Manual: [SDG Impact Manual](#)

Below are some case studies for different project types:

- Safe water supply: [Case Study 1](#) and [Case Study 2](#)
- Cookstove: [Case Study](#)
- Wind: [Case Study](#)
- Waste management: [Case Study](#)

3) provide information on any standardised tools and methods that were used to assess the SDG impacts.

Yes

<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/430-iq-sdg-impact-tool/>

Gold Standard has its standardised tool - "The SDG Impact Tool" that streamline the process of assessing and ensuring SDG impacts. This tool requires projects to demonstrate quantified impacts by selecting relevant indicators for each SDG, which are mapped with SDG targets. The tool provides predefined indicators for eligible project types and offers monitoring guidance for project developers.

You can access the SDG Impact Tool here: [SDG Impact Tool](#)

For further guidance, you can refer to the SDG Impact Manual: [SDG Impact Manual](#)

Below are some case studies for different project types:

- Safe water supply: [Case Study 1](#) and [Case Study 2](#)
- Cookstove: [Case Study](#)
- Wind: [Case Study](#)
- Waste management: [Case Study](#)
- A digital version of the tool is available here <https://sdg-tool.goldstandard.org/>

End of Application