STANDARDS SETTING WORKPLAN 2025

July 2025

INTRODUCTION

The need to understand that the climate is becoming even more urgent, with temperatures already registering 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, a 50% reduction in emissions globally is required by 2030, including a cut of methane emissions by a third. The next few years are therefore critical, and we need near-term milestones and actions to help us get on track for long-term targets.

To support this shift and urgent need, we have made some important revisions to our standard development priorities. This document provides details of these changes as well as our plans to continue maximising market opportunities, mitigating risk, ensuring integrity, and delivering a clearer, more streamlined, and simpler application of our standard.

Summary of key updates include:

I. MARKET DRIVEN STANDARD DEVELOPMENT

Alignment with key emerging market policies, schemes, and requirements to maximise market opportunities for projects as well as mitigate the risk of inadvertently undermining government efforts.

- Alignment with Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism (PACM).
- Alignment with Core Carbon Principles of ICVCM at program level and methodology level.
- Prioritise improving standard application and stakeholder outreach.
- Continued engagement with rating agencies.

II. GOLD STANDARD FOR THE GLOBAL GOALS - REVIEW + UPDATES

To conform with ISEAL Alliance's code of best practice for "Setting Social and Environmental Standards" and to support project development with clearer and more streamlined standard documents, tools, and templates.

- Explore opportunities to improve timelines for certification process.
- Enhanced governance to support a quicker approval and decision-making process.
- Dedicated support for VVBs
- Digitization of tools/workflows and MRV approaches along with expansion of scope of existing digital tools

- Expanding the scope of identified monitoring indicators available for reporting impact towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Enhance the transparency of the standard

III. METHODOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

Gold Standard continues to develop new methodologies and revised existing ones to better support the market and the users of our standard.

- Pre-approved technologies, measures and scopes
- Methodology development priorities
- Methodology requirements and alignment with Article 6

This document follows the ISEAL Alliance "Setting Social and Environmental Standards" Code of Best Practice. The next Gold Standard work plan will be published in April 2026, although please note that significant updates may be made during the intervening period.

STANDARD SETTINGS WORKPLAN 2025

Document or project being developed	Docume nt series	Objectives	Timeline	Remarks	
I. MARKET DRIVEN STANDARD DEVELOPMENT Alignment with key emerging market policies, schemes, and requirements to maximise market opportunities for projects as well as mitigate the risk of inadvertently undermining government efforts.					
Alignment with the Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism (PACM)-	All	Design and develop new requirements that support:	New requirements to be released later in 2025.	Revisions made to Annex A of the GHG Emissions Reductions	
Post-2020 carbon market policies and requirements		Authorizations and approvalsAdaptation finance	Article 6 updates and knowledge	& Sequestration Product Requirements in Nov 2024.	

		 Overall mitigation in global emissions Special circumstances and others Alignment with A6.4 rules, modalities, and procedures (RMPs). Continue sharing knowledge and building capacity through the Article 6 Early Movers Programme. Proactive stakeholder engagement for transitioning to the Paris Agreement 	resources shared throughout the year. Documents operationalising alignment of standards and methodologies with Article 6 requirements to be released throughout the year.	Article 6 Authorisation Checklist was revised in 2024. Capacity building: Article 6 Early Mover Programme Article 6 webinar series
ICAO CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units for the second phase (2027-2035 compliance period)	All	Seek full approval for second phase (2027-2035 compliance period)	Re-assessment of programmes eligible for the first phase to supply eligible units for the second compliance phase (from 2027-29) in Mar 2025 Develop & publish mechanism/guidance for	As of January 2025, GS4GG is fully approved for supplying credits for Phase I (2024-2026 compliance period)., with a few exceptions on the applied technologies. Guidelines – Eligibility of GS VERs for use under CORSIA phase I

			approving/using eligible insurance providers - Q3 2025.	published Dec 2024 Deed of undertaking regarding GS VERs eligible for CORSIA Phase I published Dec 2024 CORSIA resource hub published
Standard applications and stakeholder outreach	All	Proactive outreach to project developers and other stakeholders in the market is a priority for Gold Standard.	Multiple levels of engagement throughout the year to be conducted	Numerous sessions to be conducted in 2025 for project developers and Validation/ Verification Bodies (VVBs) – including face-to-face technical workshops and calibration sessions, roundtables, GS conference, and online webinars Various opportunities /channels to provide stakeholder input/ feedback throughout 2025 Specific support to be

				provided to the VVBs and GS4GG users following the launch of new assurance model
Rating agencies Helping to provide more confidence in markets.	All	To ensure ratings are as accurate as possible, Gold Standard will continue to work with rating agencies to deepen understanding and knowledge of the market, methodology and how impacts are quantified.	Ongoing	

II. GOLD STANDARD FOR THE GLOBAL GOALS – STANDARD REVIEW + UPDATES Review standard requirements to streamline and bring clarity to standard documents, tools, and templates.				
Principles + Requirements	Principles & requirements	Throughout 2024-25 we will review, update, simplify the following core documents: CORE DOCUMENTS: - Principles and Requirements - Safeguarding Principles and Requirements - Gender equality requirements + guidelines - SDG assessment	to the standard structure to make it easier for users of GS4GG to navigate and locate relevant standard	Consultations will be held where required. Standard updates released: Principles and Requirements updated in Nov 2024. PoA requirements revised in Nov 2024.

requirements

		 Stakeholder consultation and engagement requirements Site visit and remote audit requirements and procedures OPTIONAL REQUIREMENTS Microscale requirements Programme of Activity requirements Design change requirements 	Design Change requirements revised in Nov 2024.
Activity Requirements	Activity requirements	We will release the following activity requirements: - Forestry (New) - Agriculture (New) - Engineered Carbon Dioxide Removals (New) - Grasslands (New) Current LUF Activity requirements are planned to be repealed.	Consultations will be held where required. Already published: Blue Carbon and Freshwater Wetlands (Aug 2024) Public Consultation: Engineered Carbon Dioxide Removals Activity Requirements (Sep-Oct 2024) Agriculture Activity Requirements (2023)

Standard Tools	Standard tools	Expansion of scope of the digital SDG Tool along with addition of other SDG monitoring indicators	More SDG monitoring indicators shall be added to the digital SDG Impact Tool along with inclusion of other technologies by Q3 2025	SDG Impact Tools Trainings on the digitised version of the SDG Impact Tool were conducted in 2024 for each.
Methodology Tools	Methodology tools	 Following tools will be published in 2025: Project or Leakage Emissions from Fossil Fuel Combustion Project And Leakage Emissions from Transportation 	2025 Q2 2025 Q2	Project or Leakage Emissions from Fossil Fuel Combustion (June-July 2024) Project and Leakage
		 Project Emissions Calculations and Monitoring Requirements For Geological Storage Complexes Reversal Risk Calculations for Geological Storage 		Emissions from Transportation (June-July 2024) Projects Emissions Calculations & Requirements for Geological Storage
		 Risks and Capacities Guidelines for Blue Carbon and Freshwater Wetlands Activities Risks & Capacities for Agriculture & Forestry Activities 	2025 Q2 2025 Q2	(June-July 2024) Tool 04: Reversal Risk Calculations for Geological Storage (Sep-Oct 2024)

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				Risks and Capacities Guidelines for Blue Carbon and Freshwater Wetlands Activities (Nov-Dec 2024) Risks & Capacities for Agriculture & Forestry Activities (Nov-Dec 2024) GHGs Accounting Method for Waste Treatment Technologies (Nov-Dec 2024)
Templates	Supporting documents	The templates shall be revisited based on the changes due to new assurance model and PACM alignment in 2025.	Template updates will be released quarterly throughout the year.	New/updated templates released in November 2024: Forms: Deviation Request Submission Ver, 6.0 VVB Application form Ver, 3.0

				Auditor Competence &
				Technical Knowledge, Ver 1.0
				VVB checklist, Ver 1.0
				Preliminary Review Submission, Ver 3.0
				Annual Report Submission, Ver 3.0
				Clarification Request Submission, Ver 2.0
				Project Transition Request Submission, Ver 2.0
				PoA Transition Request Submission, Ver 2.0
				CPA Transition Request Submission, Ver 2.0
Governance	Governance	To reduce timelines, improve governance and better manage expectations, Gold		TAC TORs revised in Nov 2024.
		Standard will: - Establish working group(s) for	Initiate Methodology Expert Groups (MEGs) for Forestry, Blue Carbon and	Meth Working group TORs published in Apr 2024.
		methodology review in Forestry, Blue Carbon and Agriculture.	Agriculture (2025 Q1).	Meth Expert Groups Constituted for Energy and dMRV in 2024.

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		 Publicly share high-level TAC minutes to provide additional transparency. Recruitment of additional TAC members Continue to build-out the Roster of Experts to support ongoing standard review activities. 	available from Jan 2025. Clarified decision	Roster of Experts expanded in 2024/2025 to 25+ to support Assurance update and review management process.
Validation & Verification Bodies (VVBs)	VVBs	To better support our VVBs and project developer community, we will: - Expand VVB eligibility to include ISO 14065* accreditation with national agencies. - Provide dedicated VVB capacity building and training, including new templates, guidelines, checklists, and training materials.	Increase accreditation options for VVBs VVB capacity building – ongoing	Validation and Verification Standard Version 2.0 published in Nov 2024 with updated assurance process included. VVB requirements revised in Nov 2024. Public consultation: Remote Audit Requirements for Land-use and Forestry Activities (Nov-Dec 2024)

Certification cycles		Global stakeholder consultation introduced to further enhance transparency and inclusive engagement as part of the certification reviews. To better manage capacity and to establish more certainty in terms of review timelines, we will continue to strengthen new assurance model and processes.	Q4 2025	The new assurance model was introduced in November 2024. Various standard documents were revised as outlined in this document.
Deviations	Deviations	Gold Standard will review deviation approval procedures to ensure consistency.	Throughout 2025	Deviations and precedents Revised Deviations Approval Requirements and Procedures published in Nov 2024.
Formal Clarifications	Clarifications	Clarifications submissions will be published on the GS4GG website	Implement internal processes to support timely response to formal clarifications – Q2 2025	The new clarifications page is available and new internal workflows established to support formal clarification requests. Clarifications shall be uploaded consistently starting Q2 2025.

Digital innovation	All	Guidelines to design and develop digital methodologies. Continued support for DMRV Pilot Progamme until Dec 2026. Exploration of how best to ensure interoperability of Gold Standard Registry with other host countries/global registries. Explore how GS4GG can be further digitised to increase efficiencies, usability and to drive more scale. Release of a digital platform to support VVB	Guidelines for digital meths for adoption /piloting planned Q3/Q4 2025 DMRV pilot support, engagement and promotion throughout 2025/26 Exploration of digital opportunities H2 2025.	Assurance Platform DMRV Pilot Programme
CCP labelling procedure	AII	Procedure for Core Carbon Principles (CCP) labelling of Gold Standard Verified Emission Reductions (GSVERs) within the Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market (ICVCM) framework.	Q2 2025	Published Procedure for Core Carbon Principles Labelling of Gold Standard Verified Emission Reductions – Apr 2025 Webinar on CCP labelling available.
Dual Certification	Product Requirements	Requirements and Procedures for Dual Certification - Premium T-VER	Q3 2025	Public consultation:

				Requirements and Procedures for Dual Certification - GS4GG and Premium T-Ver (Mar-Apr 2025)
Policy Requirements & Procedures	Policy Requirements	To enable certification and crediting of mitigation outcomes achieved as a direct result of the introduction of new policies or regulations	Ongoing	Pilot for new policy requirements and procedures launched June 2024
Transition guidelines for A/R projects	Product Requirements	Transition Requirements for Afforestation and Reforestation projects to GS4GG	Q3 2025	
Restructuring of the standard documents	All	Restructure and reclassify the information between various standard documents to make it easier to understand and more intuitive for users to navigate.	Q4 2025	-

III. METHODOLOGY DEVELOPMENT AND MITIGATION OPTIONS

Gold Standard has in principle approval for the following new products, scopes, technologies and/or activities to better support the market and the users of our standard.

Project eligibility under GS4GG	SDG Impact Quantification	 Principle level change: Eligibility: Technology/intervention shall not lock in long term emissions Applicability: Requirements are developed at appropriate level of application Implementation and alignment: Article 6 alignment and relevant changes will be implemented in 2025 to maximise opportunities and access to markets for stakeholders. We will make changes, clarifications and simplifications to the energy, forestry and agriculture scopes to enable expansion as outlined below. 	
Pre-approved technologies, measures, and scopes	SDG Impact Quantification	 End use energy efficiency - approved 	More information located in Mitigation Options methodology tool

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	 New technologies, such as green hydrogen, green ammonia, energy storage etc Energy management, including smart technology, internet of things (IoT), advanced analytics, digitization, and modelling based actions that offer opportunities to accelerate energy efficiency and offer the potential for considerable energy efficiency improvements across the sectors – buildings, industries, transportation including small- and mediumsized enterprises (SMEs). Lifestyle behavioural change, in principle approval to investigate demand side mitigation solutions/measures that support improved well-being while decreasing energy input and GHGs. In principal approval for new technologies/measures in Carbon Dioxide Removals (CDRs) scope.
Methodology development priorities	Priorities for 2025 include: Methodology development tracker Methodology clarity & consistency: Pre-filled methodology template Methodology Tools/ Modules Fossil fuel combustion Transport Sustainable sourcing of biomass Just & Sustainable Transition Revised Methodology Revised Methodologies: A/R methodology A/R methodology A/R methodology Revised and published (May 2024)

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	 A6.4 alignment checklist 	New Methodologies published:
	New methodologies in key sectors: Fossil fuel phase out Shipping/Aviation sector - fuel switch Improved use of wood products (building materials etc) Engineered CDR including DACs, enhanced weathering, BECCs) Biochar Forestry related activities, including A/R ar revegetation Coastal wetland restoration Rice cultivation Nutrient management and precision agriculture Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) methodologies module Cropland/grassland management Agroforestry Macro and micro algae Ocean alkalinity enhancement Other SDGs: Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs) including contrail reduction Living Income Gender Impact Quantification	2024) - Cover Crop (Oct 2024)

Methodology for Biomass
Fermentation with Carbon
Capture and Geologic storage
(Apr 2025)

Energy-Saving Through Elevator Regenerative Power System Implementation (April 2025)

Methodologies for public consultation:

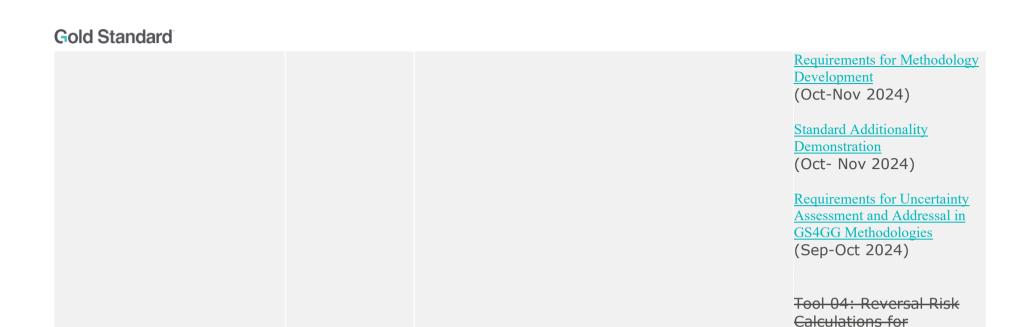
Facilitating a Just Transition
Through The Early Phase-out of
Coal Fired Power Plants (NovDec 2024)

Appendix to investment analysis
Tool 27: default values for the
cost of equity for projects
located in Turkey
(Oct-Nov 2024)

Expanding LPG Stove
Applicability for Gold Standard
Projects
(Oct-Nov 2024)

Consolidated Methodology for Recovery and Recycling of

Pro Am 202 Em thr of a infi	oduction of Green nmonia (Aug-Sep 24) nission reductions rough the deployment electric vehicle irastructure (May- June 24)
	Id Standard eligible Impact antification methodologies odated Apr 2025.
Gold Standard methodologies are aligned with Article 6 of the Paris Agreement: Requirements for Methodology Development Methodology Standard for Additionality Demonstration Methodology Standard for Baseline Determination Requirements for Uncertainty Assessment and Addressal in GS4GG Methodologies Research	equirements for ethodology evelopment pril 2025) andard Additionality emonstration pril 2025) ablic Consultation:
Pu	blic Consultation:
	List of Gold Standard eligible Impact Quantification Gold methodologies will be revisited and updated quarterly Final publication planned for following to ensure Gold Standard methodologies are aligned with Article 6 of the Paris Agreement: Requirements for Methodology Development Deeemonstration Requirements for Methodology Development Deemonstration Methodology Standard for Additionality (All Demonstration) Methodology Standard for Baseline Determination Requirements for Uncertainty Assessment and Addressal in GS4GG Methodologies



Completed documents/projects (2023/2024):

Document or project being developed	Document series (as per GS-SSP)	Objectives	Timeline + outputs	Remarks
I. Gold Standard for the Global Goals – Standard Documentation Updates				

Geological Storage (Sep-Oct 2024)

Alignment with the Paris All Agreement – Post-2020 carbon market policies and requirements	AII	new requirements that support: - Authorizations and approvals	GHG Emissions Reductions & Sequestration Product Requirements revised in November 2024. Article 6 Authorisation Checklist was revised in 2024. Capacity building: Article 6 Early Mover Programme Article 6 webinar series
		Proactive stakeholder engagement for transitioning to the Paris Agreement	

Rule updates to meet CORSIA requirements	AII	Seek full approval for first phase (2024-2026 compliance period)	Deed of Undertaking Regarding GS VERs eligible for the first phase of CORSIA published in Dec 2024 Guidelines – Eligibility of GS VERs for use under CORSIA phase I published Dec 2024
			As of January 2025, GS4GG is fully approved for supplying credits for Phase I, with a few exceptions on the applied technologies

II. Gold Standard i	for the Global Goals – St	andard Documentation I	Review & Simplification
Principles + Requirements	Principles & requirements	2	Revised version of following document published in 2024: Principles & Requirements Validation and Verification standard Programme of Activity Requirements Deviations Approval Requirements and Procedures Design change requirements Validation & Verification Body Requirements GHG Emissions Reductions & Sequestration Product Requirements

Activity Requirements	Activity requirements	We will review the following activity requirements: - Forestry (New) - Agriculture (New) - Engineered Carbon Dioxide Removals (New) - Blue Carbon and Freshwater Wetlands (New) Policy Requirements and Procedures (New)	Following activity requirements were published: Blue Carbon and Freshwater Wetlands Activity Requirements
Tools	Methodology tools		The following documents were published in 2024: Public Consultation: Risks and Capacities Guidelines for Blue Carbon and Freshwater Wetlands Activities (Nov-Dec 2024) Risks & Capacities for Agriculture & Forestry Activities (Nov-Dec 2024) GHGs Accounting Method for Waste Treatment Technologies (Nov-Dec 2024) Project and Leakage Emissions from Transportation (June-July 2024)

Templates	Supporting documents	New templates released in November 2024:
		Forms
		Deviation Request Submission Ver, 6.0
		VVB Application form Ver, 3.0
		Auditor Competence & Technical Knowledge, Ver 1.0
		VVB checklist, Ver 1.0
		Preliminary Review Submission, Ver 3.0
		Annual Report Submission, Ver 3.0
		Clarification Request Submission, Ver 2.0
		Project Transition Request Submission, Ver 2.0
		PoA Transition Request Submission, Ver 2.0
		CPA Transition Request Submission, Ver 2.0
Validation & Verification Bodies (VVBs)	VVBs	Following documents were published in 2024:
,		Application Form for the approval of Validation/Verification Bodies (VVBs)
		GSIQ Platform Terms of Use
		VVB Quality Management System in-depth Review Checklist

Gold Standard			
			Auditor Competence & Technical Knowledge Validation and Verification Standard Version 2.0 Public consultation: Remote Audit Requirements for Land-use and Forestry Activities (Nov-Dec 2024)
Deviations	Deviations	Deviation request process was revised in Nov 2024. The requests shall be handled as per the process.	The following documents were revised and published: Deviations Approval Requirements and Procedures Form - Deviation Request Submission Ver, 6.0
III. Innovations / F	Programmes		
Potential scope expansions	Principles & Requirements SDG Impact Quantification	Inclusion of technology-ba removal activities. Scoping studies to expand eligibility to include Blue Carbon and Integrated For Management activities. We will also review PERs, a potentially shipping sector requirements and renewab energy options.	est

Digital innovation	All		New digital SDG Impact Tool Assurance platform	
	or the Global Goals – M	lethodologies 		
METHODOLOGY REVIEW				
Methodology approval process	SDG Impact Quantification	Review the approval procedure for impact quantification methodologies to speed up the process.	Procedure for development, revision, and clarification of methodologies and methodological tools Published in October 2023.	
UNFCCC CDM Methodologies	SDG Impact Quantification	Update to include all those methodologies eligible for Gold Standard	New <u>eliqibility</u> tool published in 2022.	Access methodology tool
The Gold Standard Simplified Methodology for Efficient Cookstoves	SDG Impact Quantification	Methodology review – including development of new emission reduction calculation tool.	Completed July 2022	Methodology available on GS4GG website Sample survey questionnaire

Soil Organic Framework	SDG Impact Quantification	Review on the following Soil Organic Carbon methodologies: - SOC Framework Methodology - SOC Activity Modules Approval Procedure		
Requirements to apply CDM Methodology		Methodology review		
NEW METHODOLOGY DEVELOPMENT				
Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) – Activity modules		New activity modules for release - Biostimulants - Cover cropping - Zero tillage	AM on Biostimulants published Oct 2023.	Methodology available on GS4GG website
Emission reduction by shore-side or off-shore electricity supply system		New methodology	Public Consultation Oct- Nov 2023.	
GHG emission calculation for marine fuels and bio bunkers		New methodology	Public Consultation Sep- Oct 2023.	
GS Rice methodology		New methodology surpassing AMS-III.AU	Published in July 2023	
Methane emissions reduction from enteric fermentation in beef cattle through		New Methodology	Published in July 2023	

application of feed supplements			
Methodology for animal manure management and biogas use for thermal energy generation	New Methodology	Published in January 2023	
Two and three wheeled personal transportation	New Methodology	Published in January 2023	
Methodology for collection of macroalgae to avoid emissions from decomposition	New Methodology	Published in May 2023	