

Gold Standard[®]

STANDARDS SETTING WORKPLAN 2022 – 2023

04 May 2022

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Following the ISEAL Alliance “Setting Social and Environmental Standards” Code of Best Practice, we are sharing our work plan to update Gold Standard for the Global Goals and launch any supporting initiatives. The table below reflects the work planned for the year 2022-2023 as well as work completed in 2021. It’s split into four areas and includes any requirements, methodologies, frameworks, tools or supporting programmes to help accelerate progress toward climate security and sustainable development.

The next Gold Standard work plan will be published in April 2023, although please note that significant updates may be made during the intervening period.

Document or project being developed	Document series (as per GS-SSP)	Objectives	Timeline	Remarks
I. Gold Standard for the Global Goals – Market driven standard updates <i>Ensure that our standard requirements are in line with and support the latest market policies, schemes, and requirements</i>				
Alignment with the Paris Agreement – Post-2020 carbon market policies and requirements	All	Updates to align with the Paris Agreement Article 6.4, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rules and requirements for corresponding adjustments or domestic policy recognition Updates to baseline, ongoing financial need (OFN), additionality, MRV in line with Article 6 Assess suppressed demand approaches for post-2020 scenarios 	New Article 6 authorisation procedures to be released Q1 2022. Thought leadership reports to be published in Q1 2022. Technical support for pre-selected Article 6 pilot activities to be provided Q2-Q3 2022.	Practitioners’ guidebook for aligning VCM to Paris Agreement launched in 2021: https://www.goldstandard.org/our-story/vcm-transition-framework Article 6 expert working group + consultation group established in 2021:

		<p>Publish thought leadership to align with the Paris Agreement Article 6.2, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 6 through a SD lens • Promoting SD through Article 6 – the role of bilateral agreements • An assessment of sustainable development provisions in Article 6 pilot activities • Additionality under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement • Good practice principles + guidance for activities within cooperative approaches under Article 6.2 <p>Technical support for Article 6 pilot activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-4 project developers selected for support with engaging national governments towards Article 6 authorisations • Key findings + recommendations published 	<p>Key findings + recommendations to inform Article 6 preparations published Q3 2022.</p> <p>Other updates to be released later in 2022, as/when required</p>	<p>Capacity building: Article 6 Early Mover Programme</p> <p>Article 6 webinar series</p> <p>Consultations: NOV 2021: Operationalizing Article 6 and enabling responsible claims</p> <p>APR 2021: Integrity for scale: Aligning GS projects with Paris Agreement</p> <p>AUG 2020: Operationalizing and scaling post-2020 VCM</p> <p>JUL 2019: Envisioning VCM post-2020</p> <p>MAY 2018: Future proofing the VCM</p>
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<p>Claims guidelines</p>	<p>Principles & Requirements</p>	<p>Develop additional guidance for 'financing' claims, to be used by companies wishing to purchase carbon credits.</p>	<p>Q2 2022</p>	<p>Consultation held in Q4 2021: Operationalizing Article 6 and enabling responsible claims</p>
<p>Rule updates to meet CORSA requirements</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>If/where necessary continue to develop rule updates to ensure requirements are user friendly & align with CORSA.</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>Gold Standard has been approved as an eligible standard to participate in the pilot phase of CORSA that will run from 2021-2023.</p> <p>Updates to GS4GG requirements were published in 2021 to comply with additional requirements set by ICAO Council. https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/corsia-updates/</p> <p>GS Impact Registry updated in 2021 to ensure its equipped to flag adjusted units + cancellation remarks.</p>

II. Gold Standard for the Global Goals – Standard review + streamlining

Review standard documents in collaboration with our certification bodies providers to streamline and bring clarity to standard documents, tools, and templates.

<p>Principles + Requirements</p>	<p>Principles & requirements</p>	<p>Throughout 2022 we will review, update, and simplify the following core documents:</p> <p>CORE DOCUMENTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stakeholder consultation and engagement requirements + guidelines - Gender equality requirements + guidelines - Design change requirements <p>OPTIONAL REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Microscale requirements - Programme of Activity requirements 	<p>Standard updates will be released quarterly throughout the year.</p>	<p>Consultations will be held where required</p> <p>Completed consultations:</p> <p>DEC 2021: Stakeholder consultation and engagement requirements</p> <p>DEC 2021: Programme of Activity requirements</p>
<p>Activity Requirements</p>	<p>Activity requirements</p>	<p>We will review the following activity requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Renewable Energy - Community Services - Land-use & Forests - Agriculture - Carbon Dioxide Removal 	<p>Requirement updates will be released quarterly throughout the year.</p>	<p>Consultations will be held where required</p>

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<p>Tools</p>	<p>Methodology tools</p>	<p>SDG Impact Tools and any supporting guidance will be reviewed.</p> <p>Research into how the SDG Impact Tools can be further digitalised.</p>	<p>Q1 2022</p> <p>Q2 2022</p>	<p>SDG Impact Tools was published in Dec 2021 and comes into force 14 March 2022</p> <p>https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/sdg-impact-tools/</p> <p>60-day piloting period was initiated between Feb-Apr 2021</p>
<p>Templates</p>	<p>Supporting documents</p>	<p>Throughout 2022 we will review, update, and simplify the following templates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preliminary review form - Design consultation report - Project design document - PoA design document - VPA design document - Monitoring report - Microscale appraisal reports - Cover letter - Transition template 	<p>Template updates will be released quarterly throughout the year.</p>	
<p>ISEAL alignment + reporting</p>	<p>Governance</p>	<p>In 2021, Gold Standard achieved ISEAL Code Compliant Status, to ensure we retain this status we regularly review our code for standard setting, assurance and impacts.</p>	<p>Governance updates will be released quarterly on an ongoing basis throughout the year.</p>	

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Validation & Verification Bodies (VVBs)	VVBs	To better support our VVB community, Gold Standard will review VVB requirements, develop a new VVB manual, and create training materials	On-going	Consultations will be held where required
Deviations	Deviations	Gold Standard will review deviation approval procedures to ensure consistency.	Q2 2022	

III. Innovation / Programmes

Develop rules and requirements for new products, scopes, technologies and/or activities to better support the market and the users of our standard

<p>Potential scope expansions</p>	<p>Principles & Requirements</p> <p>SDG Impact Quantification</p>	<p>Inclusion of technology-based removal activities.</p> <p>Scoping studies to expand eligibility to include Blue Carbon and Integrated Forest Management activities.</p> <p>We will also review PERs, and potentially shipping sector requirements and renewable energy options.</p>	<p>Q4 2021</p>	<p>Consultations will be held where required</p>
<p>Fund requirements for certification to Gold Standard for the Global Goals (GS4GG)</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>Expanding our focus to catalyse sustainable finance for impact at scale, Gold Standard is developing new process-centric requirements to enable impact investors to credibly manage, measure and maximise impacts towards the SDGs.</p>	<p>Q1 2022 – initial consultation</p> <p>Q3 2022 – public release</p>	<p>Consultation on fund requirements for certification to GS4GG</p>

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Digital innovation	All	<p>Alternative-MRV</p> <p>Research innovative approaches to digitalise Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) for Nature Based Solutions activities.</p> <p>Digitalising the Standard</p> <p>Research into how Gold Standard can digitalise its standard documentation</p>	<p>Q3 2022</p> <p>H2 2022</p>	Consultations and stakeholder engagement will be held where required
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IV. Gold Standard for the Global Goals – Methodology review and development

This section gives an indication of what current methodologies are in review and what new methodologies Gold Standard is considering to add to the pipeline

METHODOLOGY REVIEW				
Methodology approval process	SDG Impact Quantification	Review the approval procedure for impact quantification methodologies to speed up the process.		Consultations will be held where required
UNFCCC CDM Methodologies	SDG Impact Quantification	Update to include all those methodologies eligible for Gold Standard	Q1 2022	

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TPDDEC methodology	SDG Impact Quantification	Improvements to further enhance the integrity of credits generated using approaches defined in the biogas methodology Including development of new emission reduction calculation tools and templates.	Q2-Q3 2022	Further guidelines to be developed for VVBs to use during audits to enhance rigour through various cross-check mechanisms.
The Gold Standard Simplified Methodology for Efficient Cookstoves	SDG Impact Quantification	Methodology review – including development of new emission reduction calculation tool.	Q1-Q2 2022	Consultations will be held where required
Soil Organic Framework	SDG Impact Quantification	Review on the following Soil Organic Carbon methodologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOC Framework Methodology • SOC Activity Modules Approval Procedure 	H2 2022	
Requirements to apply CDM Methodology “AMS – III AU” for Gold Standard Certification	Quantification	Methodology review	H1 2022	
Afforestation/ Reforestation GHG Emissions Reduction & Sequestration Methodology	SDG Impact Quantification	Methodology review	Q4 2021	

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NEW METHODOLOGY DEVELOPMENT				
Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) – Activity modules	SDG Impact Quantification	New activity modules for release <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Pulp and paper module- Cover cropping- Zero tillage	Q1-Q2 2022	
Accelerated carbonation of concrete aggregate	SDG Impact Quantification	New methodology release	Q1 2022	

Completed documents/projects (2021):

Document or project being developed	Document series (as per GS-SSP)	Objectives	Timeline	Remarks
I. Gold Standard for the Global Goals – Standard Documentation Updates				
Gold Standard for the Global Goals (GS4GG) – Post-2020 carbon market policies and requirements	All	Updates to align with the Paris Agreement Article 6.4, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rules and requirements for corresponding adjustments or domestic policy recognition Updates to baseline, ongoing financial need (OFN), additionality, MRV in line with Article 6 Develop a Practitioners guidebook Assess suppressed demand approaches for post-2020 scenarios 	Rules and requirements for corresponding adjustments completed + published Q1 2022. Practitioners' guidebook published 2021 Other updates to be reviewed in line with market developments over 2022 + beyond.	<p>Practitioners' guidebook for aligning VCM to Paris Agreement</p> <p>Article 6 expert working group + consultation group</p> <p>Capacity building: Article 6 Early Mover Programme</p> <p>Consultations: NOV 2021: Operationalizing Article 6 and enabling responsible claims APR 2021: Integrity for scale: Aligning GS projects with Paris Agreement</p>

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Claims guidelines	Principles & Requirements	Develop additional guidance for 'financing' claims, to be used by companies wishing to purchase carbon credits.	Ongoing into 2022	Last consultation was held in Nov 2021 Operationalizing Article 6 and enabling responsible claims
Rule updates to meet CORSIA requirements	All	Develop rule updates to ensure requirements are user friendly & align with CORSIA.	Ongoing into 2022	Updates to GS4GG requirements were published in 2021 https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/corsia-updates/ GS Impact Registry updated in 2021 to ensure its equipped to flag adjusted units + cancellation remarks.

II. Gold Standard for the Global Goals – Standard Documentation Review & Simplification				
Standard streamlining	All	Review to bring clarity to standard documents + templates where required	Rule updates and clarifications were provided throughout the year	
COVID-19 interim measures	All	Guidance on measures that can be adopted by projects to ensure they are not adversely impacted during the duration of the COVID-19 crisis.	Updated throughout 2021	Link to COVID-19 measures
Streamlining transition process for high quality CDM projects	All	Annex B of the GHG Emission Reduction + Sequestration Product Requirements was streamlined to enable a smoother transition for eligible climate projects/PoAs seeking to move from other certification standards	Completed in Q2 2021	Link to CDM transition requirements

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Site visit + remote audit requirements	All + VVB	New requirements to streamline audit process and provide additional flexibility whilst safeguarding integrity of assurance process.	Completed in Q4 2021	Link to remote audit requirements
Preliminary review form	Template	New template to guide project developer in evaluating the eligibility of a project and compiling the right information for a fast and successful preliminary review process	Completed in Q4 2021	Link to Preliminary review form
III. Innovations / Programmes				
SDG Impact Tools	Principles & Requirements	SDG Impact Tools Piloting phase – 60 days from Feb-April 2021 SDG Impact tools revised post pilot phase + released for public use in Q4 2021	Completed 2021	Link to SDG Impact Tools

IV. Gold Standard for the Global Goals – Methodologies				
Safe Water Supply Methodology	SDG Impact Quantification	Methodology to quantify the emission reductions displaced through decentralized thermal energy technologies	Completed May 2021	Methodology available on GS4GG website
Reduced emissions from cooking and heating V4.0 – TPDDTEC methodology	SDG Impact Quantification	Revised methodology to quantify emission reductions from cooking and heating project activities	Completed Oct 2021	Methodology available on GS4GG website
Methodology for metered & measured energy cooking devices	SDG Impact Quantification	New approach to quantify GHG impact from metered cooking devices through direct measurement of energy or fuel	Completed Oct 2021	Methodology available on GS4GG website
Retrofit energy efficiency measures in shipping	SDG Impact Quantification	New annex provides an alternative and less time-consuming method to monitor and calculate project fuels consumption and savings	Completed Dec 2021	Methodology available on GS4GG website
Gold Standard eligible impact quantification methodologies	SDG Impact Quantification	Downloadable excel files for all methodologies eligible for certification under GS4GG.	Completed Oct 2021	Access methodology tool