

**GOLD STANDARD: STANDARDS SETTING
WORKPLAN 2019**

Gold Standard[®]

Gold Standard's vision is 'climate security and sustainable development for all.' We believe that this is only possible if impact quantification and certification become mainstream. To help drive this transformation, Gold Standard is seeking full membership in ISEAL, the global association for credible sustainability standards, to strengthen our credentials as the trusted provider for quantifying, certifying and maximising impact toward the SDGs, and to be able to scale to certify the broad range of activities and impacts that are possible under Gold Standard for the Global Goals.

Following the ISEAL Alliance "Setting Social and Environmental Standards" Code of Best Practice, we are sharing with our stakeholders our work plan to update Gold Standard for the Global Goals and launch supporting initiatives. This includes any requirements, methodologies, frameworks, tools or supporting programmes to help accelerate progress toward climate security and sustainable development.

This document reflects work planned for the year 2019-2020 as well as work published in 2018. The next Gold Standard work plan will be published in March 2020, though 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
Gold Standard for the Global Goals – Standard Documentation Updates				
Gold Standard for the Global Goals (GS4GG) Scheduled updates	All	Planned revision and update of GS4GG documents based on feedback received since last update launch in March 2018	Q2 2019 Public consultation Q3 2019 Standard update release planned	Rule updates available here will be incorporated into revised version of GS4GG
Fund Level Certification requirements & Guidelines	Contextual Requirements	Guidelines to report and certify SDG outcomes for impact investment funds	2019-2020	Initially funds will be subject to pilot approach under the GS Sustainable Urban Development Requirements with any enhancements or additions to be formalised post-piloting. Pilot TORs released.
Gold Standard for the Global Goals – Standard Documentation & Simplification				

Safeguarding Principles & Requirements	Principles & Requirements	Review of documents to restructure for ease of understanding and application	Q3 2019	
Stakeholder Procedure, Requirements & Guidelines	Principles & Requirements	Review of documents to restructure for ease of understanding and application	Q3 2019	
<i>Innovation Programmes</i>				
Landscape and deforestation free guidelines		Develop concept note and TORs for future guidelines	2019-2020	
Next generation MRV		Develop technology-led MRV approaches to various project-types. This will be a GS-platform programme with open calls to engage.	2019-2020	
Future proofing Voluntary Carbon Markets (VCM)		Developing solutions for double counting under the Paris Agreement and for new opportunities to link to corporate reporting.	Q4 2019 (updates presented at Innovate4climate in June 2019)	
<i>Gold Standard for the Global Goals – Methodologies</i>				
Shared Value Calculation Approaches		Framework to calculate shared value	Q4 2019	

		of the SDG outcomes – pilot along with SDG Tools		
SDG impact assessment tools	SDG Impact Quantification	Create guidance for development of SDG tools. First tool to be developed	Q4 2019	
Soil organic carbon	SDG Impact Quantification (for VERs)	Improve soil tillage methodology to make it frame work methodology for soil carbon projects	Work throughout 2019	
Value Chain (Scope 3) Interventions – Guidance for soil organic carbon		Support value chain intervention guidance	Consultation has been completed. Guidance will be piloted in 2019-2020.	This is different from improvements being planned to soil tillage methodology. It will be used in context of value chain interventions only. It is understood that the GHG-Protocol will update rules on sequestration in 2019/20 and hence this guidance will be updated in line with outputs of that work.

Completed documents/projects (2018):

Document or project developed	Document Series (as per GS-SSP)	Objectives	Timeline	Remarks
Value Chain Interventions - GHG Accounting &	(not a GS4GG document)	Part of "Corporate Climate + SDG Reporting":	Completed September 2018	Document released for piloting

<p>Reporting Guidance</p>		<p>Framework for accounting and reporting value chain interventions towards GHG Corporate Scope 3 inventory performance targets</p>		
<p>Emissions Reductions – Double Counting Tool and Guidelines</p>	<p>Product Requirements</p>	<p>Part of “Environmental Markets”: Risk assessment tool to help understand whether impacts (greenhouse gas emissions reductions, renewable energy generated, forests saved) from Voluntary Carbon Credit (VER) projects could be double counted against NDC Reporting under the Paris Agreement, to help future-proof the voluntary carbon market</p>	<p>Completed in November 2019</p>	<p>Will not immediately be incorporated into the standard but is designed to inform further development on potential solutions</p>