

STANDARDS SETTING WORKPLAN 2020 - 2021

Gold Standard[®]

13 May 2020

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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.

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 supporting initiatives. The table below reflects the work planned for the year 2020-2021 as well as work completed in 2019. 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 2021, 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>I. Gold Standard for the Global Goals – Standard Documentation Updates</i>				
Gold Standard for the Global Goals (GS4GG) – Post-2020 carbon market policies and requirements	All	Proposal for new voluntary carbon market (VCM) requirements to optimise and align where required with Paris Agreement including but not limited to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rules and requirements for corresponding adjustments or domestic policy recognition 	Q2 2020 - public consultation on broad policy. Rules to be finalized by Q4 2020 based on outcomes of third-party negotiations (Paris) and consultations.	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition period before new rules will come into force • Limitations and process for CDM projects to transition to Gold Standard • Update of GWP values for GHGs as per IPCC-AR5 • Assess updates to baseline, additionality, MRV in line with Article 6 	Updates may defer to later in 2021, if required	
Rule updates to meet CORSIA¹ requirements	All	Develop the set of requirements for projects seeking approval to participate under CORSIA	Q2-Q4 2020	Gold Standard has been approved as an eligible standard to participate in the pilot phase of CORSIA that will run from 2021-2023. Several updates to GS4GG requirements will be published throughout Q2-Q4 2020 to comply with additional requirements set by ICAO Council.

¹ <https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/CORSIA/Pages/default.aspx>

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II. Gold Standard for the Global Goals – Standard Documentation Review & Simplification				
Standard streamlining	All	Review standard documents in collaboration with SustainCERT to streamline and bring clarity to standard documents + templates where required	Standard updates and updated templates will be released on an ongoing basis throughout the year	
Standard setting procedure (SSP)	Governance	This is a planned review of the SSP to identify procedures that need to be updated based on past experience	Q3 2020	
Validation and Verification Bodies requirements	Principles & Requirements	This is a planned review of the VVB requirements to identify procedures that need to be updated based on past experience	Q2 2020	
Micro scale requirements	Principle & Requirements	Review of micro scale requirements including micro-PoA requirements and make necessary changes where required	Q3-Q4 2020	
III. Innovation Programmes				
Labelling principles	All	Development of labelling principles for identified domestic and other schemes	Q4 2020	Gold Standard will develop high level principles to label credits generated

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				from other schemes. These principles will be used to develop customised labelling requirements for individual schemes
Scope expansion	Principles & Requirements	Scoping study to expand eligibility scope to include Blue Carbon and Integrated Forest Management activities (full details of specific scopes will be included in a policy brief for consultation)	Q2-3 2020 publication consultation Q4 2020 approval decision on scope expansions where required	
SDG Tool Programme	Principles & Requirements	Release SDG tools for piloting: i. Renewable energy, ii. Community services & iii. LUF activities	Q3-4 2020	Testing will be carried out in collaboration with SustainCERT on these three SDG tools this year before releasing them for wider use
IV. Gold Standard for the Global Goals – Methodologies				
TPDDEC methodology and simplified cookstove methodology	SDG Impact Quantification	Improvements to these methodologies will be made to further enhance the integrity of credits that are generated using	Q4 2020	Further guidelines will be developed for VVBs to use during audits of distributed technology projects to enhance the rigour

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		approaches defined in these methodologies		of their assessments by applying various cross-check mechanisms.
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Completed documents/projects (2019):

Document or project developed	Document Series (as per GS-SSP)	Objectives	Timeline	Remarks
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	Completed in October 2019	
Safeguarding Principles & Requirements	Principles & Requirements	Review of documents to restructure for ease of understanding and application	Completed in October 2019	

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Stakeholder Procedure, Requirements & Guidelines	Principles & Requirements	Review of documents to restructure for ease of understanding and application	Completed in October 2019	
Future proofing Voluntary Carbon Markets (VCM)	-	Developing solutions for double counting under the Paris Agreement and for new opportunities to link to corporate reporting.	This work will culminate with rule updates to be published in Q4 2020	
SDG impact assessment tools	SDG Impact Quantification	Create guidance for development of SDG tools. First tool to be developed	Completed in Q4 2019	This work will continue with piloting the three SDG tools on projects in 2020
Soil organic carbon	SDG Impact Quantification (for VERs)	Improve soil tillage methodology to make it framework methodology for soil carbon projects	Completed in February 2020	https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/soil-organic-carbon-framework-methodology/
Shared Value calculation approaches	-	Framework to calculate shared value of the SDG outcomes – pilot along with SDG Tools	Approach was developed in June 2019	It will be piloted along with SDG tools in 2020