



Gold Standard[®]
for the Global Goals

Governance

PUBLIC STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION POLICY

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1| INTRODUCTION

~~1.1.1~~ **1.1** | The Gold Standard relies on public stakeholder consultations to **make ensure** its rule-making **is** transparent, informed, and conservative. A stakeholder is **classified as** any individual or group that has an interest in any decision or rule made by ~~The~~ Gold Standard¹. ~~(See iSeal Standard Setting Code version 6)~~. Comments from interested stakeholders allows ~~The~~ Gold Standard to make decisions that are based on evidence, experience, and the views of those local communities who will be most affected by the rules or decisions. Matters that require public stakeholder consultations include, but are not limited to, scope expansion, **major revision to the Standard**, and the inclusion of other environmental assets for certification.

2| SOLICITATION

~~2.1.1~~ **2.1** | Where a decision or rule requires a public stakeholder consultation process, ~~The~~ **the** Gold Standard will publish a call for stakeholder comments through its website, **announcements** and other reasonable communication channels, ~~such as climate and Ecosystem Marketplace~~. The call for comments will include any supporting documentation that must be considered for interested stakeholders to be fully informed. It will also clearly identify where stakeholder comments should be submitted. All public stakeholder consultations will be open for comment for a minimum of thirty (30) calendar days.

¹ Refer to ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Setting Social and Environmental Standards version 6.0, available here <https://www.isealalliance.org/get-involved/resources/iseal-standard-setting-code-good-practice-version-60>

~~2.1.2~~ **2.2** | It is critical to the success of ~~The the Gold Standard~~ consultation process that the relevant stakeholders are identified and queried. The Gold Standard will ensure the participation of a balanced and representative group of stakeholders that are likely to have an interest in the subject matter or who will be affected by its implementation. Appropriate and accessible mechanisms for participation will be provided. Where required, ~~The~~ Gold Standard may proactively survey selected individual stakeholders for a more in--depth analysis. ~~The~~ Gold Standard may perform ~~such one--on--one~~ consultations ~~when it ere~~ ~~The Gold Standard~~ feels it has not received engagement from a balanced and representative group of stakeholders.

3| DECISION-MAKING

3.1 | Following each public stakeholder consultation, the relevant Gold Standard Governance Body will make a decision on the rules, taking into account the stakeholder comments.

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~~3.1.1~~ | ~~Following each public stakeholder consultation, relevant Gold Standard Governance body~~ ~~The Gold Standard will make a decision on~~ rule taking into account the stakeholder comments, where it determines, in its sole discretion, that there is a consensus. A "consensus" is not defined as unanimity, but a general agreement among the majority of interested stakeholders.

4| PUBLICATION

~~4.1.1~~ | ~~Immediately f~~Following each public stakeholder consultation, ~~The~~ Gold Standard will publish the following documents on its website:

4.1 |

- The initial call for comments with any supporting documentation;
- ~~All~~ Summary of responses ~~comments~~ received by ~~The~~ Gold Standard in connection with the stakeholder consultation;
- Any responses by ~~The~~ Gold Standard to ~~a~~ stakeholders in connection with ~~that stakeholder's'~~ comments received; and
- The ultimate decision or rule made by ~~The~~ Gold Standard