

GOLD STANDARD FOR THE GLOBAL GOALS

RENEWABLE ENERGY ACTIVITY REQUIREMENTS

Version ~~1.1~~ **2**

Published ~~March 2018~~ **October 2019**

GOLD STANDARD FOUNDATION VISION & MISSION

OUR VISION: Climate security and sustainable development for all.

OUR MISSION: To catalyse more ambitious climate action to achieve the Global Goals through robust standards and verified impacts.

Status of Document:	Version 1.1 2 – Effective 1st March 2018 24th October 2019
Language:	English
Contact Details:	help@goldstandard.org www.goldstandard.org
Next planned update:	02nd September 2019 24th April 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS ~~Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.~~ **GOLD STANDARD FOR THE GLOBAL GOALS** ~~11~~

ERROR! HYPERLINK REFERENCE NOT VALID. RENEWABLE ENERGY ACTIVITY REQUIREMENTS	11 11
ERROR! HYPERLINK REFERENCE NOT VALID. GOLD STANDARD FOUNDATION VISION & MISSION	11 11
1. SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY	43
ERROR! HYPERLINK REFERENCE NOT VALID.	43 43
2. ELIGIBLE PROJECT TYPES	43
3. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	95
4. ELIGIBILITY PRINCIPLES AND REQUIREMENTS	106
ERROR! HYPERLINK REFERENCE NOT VALID. PRINCIPLE 2 – SAFEGUARDING PRINCIPLES	127 127
ANNEX A – ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR SPECIFIC PROJECT TYPES	169
1. HYDROPOWER PROJECT ACTIVITY	169
2. PROJECT ACTIVITY USING BIOMASS RESOURCES	1911 1911
3. PROJECT ACTIVITY USING BIOGAS (LANDFILL GAS AND BIOGAS FROM AGRO-PROCESSING, WASTEWATER AND OTHER RESIDUES)	2113 2113
4. PROJECT ACTIVITY USING WASTER HEAT/GAS RECOVERY	2113 2113
5. FOSSIL CO-GENERATION	2214 2214
6. WASTE INCINERATION AND GASIFICATION	2214 2214
7. WASTE HANDLING AND DISPOSAL	2416 2416

PREFACE

INTRODUCTION

~~1.0 GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA~~

~~2.0 GOLD STANDARD FOR THE GLOBAL GOALS – APPLIED ELIGIBILITY PRINCIPLES~~

~~ANNEX A — ADDITIONAL CRITERIA for SPECIFIC RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT TYPES~~

1. SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY

1.

~~1.1.21.1.1~~ This Requirements document, hereafter "the RE Activity Requirements", provides ~~the pathway to certification within the Gold Standard for the Global Goals~~ necessary guidelines and requirements -for Renewable Energy activities ~~to seeking certification~~ certify of the project design and/or ~~to issue Gold Standard~~s Certified Impact Statements and Products.

~~1.1.3~~—The RE Activity Requirements document is designed to be read in conjunction with the [Principles & Requirements](#), -and associated documents ~~. Through conformity to these two documents and relevant~~ including Gold Standard Approved Methodologies and Product Requirements ~~such as~~ (for e.g. ~~Gold Standard for the Global Goals~~ [GHG Emissions Reductions & Sequestration Product Requirements](#), ~~Gold Standard for the Global Goals~~ [Renewable Energy Label Product Requirements](#) etc.). All Renewable Energy Projects for which Gold Standard certification is being sought shall fulfill the requirements as set out in this document and those referenced or associated.

~~1.1.4~~—, a Project may be issued with Gold Standard Renewable Energy Labels, Gold Standard VERs etc.

1.1.2

~~1.1.5~~—The Requirements is intended to provide Renewable Energy Project Developers with necessary guidelines and requirements for Gold Standard Certification.

~~1.1.6~~—A list of Renewable Energy technologies eligible for Gold standard certification is included in the Requirements.

~~1.1.71.1.3~~ In order ~~t~~To maintain the integrity of the standard, Gold Standard reserves the right to issue updates and changes, clarifications or corrections to its requirements. Typically, this will involve a notice period and guidance will be provided on how to apply the new rules and requirements. Likewise, the Gold Standard reserves the right to require additional information and evidence to be supplied by the Project Developer.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

2.1 ELIGIBLE PROJECT TYPES & SCOPE

2.

~~2.1.1~~ documents.

2.1.1 All Renewable Energy Projects for which Gold Standard certification is being sought shall fulfil the requirements as set out in this document and those referenced or associated documents.

2.1.2 ~~In order to be eligible for Gold standard certification~~All Renewable Energy Projects for which Gold Standard certification is being sought shall fulfill the requirements as set out in this document and those referenced or associated. ~~for certification, Gold Standard~~all Renewable Energy Projects ~~that meet the eligibility test as per 1.1.1 above,~~ shall meet the following Eligibility and Criteria~~a~~:

- (a) ~~Project~~Projects shall generate and deliver energy services (e.g. mechanical work/electricity/heat) from non-fossil and renewable energy sources
- (b) ~~Project~~Projects shall comprise of renewable energy generation units, such as photovoltaic, tidal/wave, wind, hydro, geothermal, waste to energy and renewable biomass, ~~that are~~:
 - Supplying energy to a national or a regional grid; OR
 - Supplying energy to an identified consumer facility via national/regional grid through a contractual agreement such as wheeling.
- (c) Any Project supplying electricity to a mini-grid¹~~[1]~~ shall refer to ~~Gold Standard~~Community Services Activity Requirements.
- (d) Projects generating on-site energy for captive consumption at an industrial facility shall refer to the requirements in this document.

~~2.1.3 All grid connected² Renewable Energy projects located in a Least Developed Country (LDC), Small Island Developing State (SIDS) or a Land Locked Developing Country (LLDC) as of the date of submission to Preliminary Review, shall be exempt from any eligibility test.~~

~~2.1.4~~2.1.3 The All gGrid connected³ Renewable Energy projects ~~-, except those~~not including projects unless located in a Least Developed Country

¹ Mini-Grid: A mini-grid is defined as small-scale power system with a total capacity not exceeding 15 MW (i.e. the sum of installed capacities of all generators connected to the mini-grid is equal to or less than 15 MW) which is not connected to a national or a regional grid.

² Renewable Energy project supplying electricity to mini-grid are exempted from this eligibility requirements and shall follow Gold Standard Community Services Activity Requirements to issue GS-VER or GS-CERs. Mini-Grid: A mini-grid is defined as small-scale power system with a total capacity not exceeding 15 MW (i.e. the sum of installed capacities of all generators connected to the mini-grid is equal to or less than 15 MW) which is not connected to a national or a regional grid.

³ Renewable Energy project supplying electricity to mini-grid are exempted from this eligibility requirements and shall follow Gold Standard Community Services Activity Requirements to issue GS-VER or GS-CERs. Mini-Grid: A mini-grid is defined as small-scale power system with a total capacity not exceeding 15 MW (i.e. the sum of installed capacities of all generators connected to the mini-grid is equal to or less than 15 MW) which is not connected to a national or a regional grid.

(LDC), Small Island Developing State (SIDS) or a Land Locked Developing Country (LLDC) - shall be deemed ineligible⁴ for the issuance of Gold Standard Verified Emission Reductions (GS-VERs) or Gold Standard labels for Certified Emission Reductions (GS-CERs) apply both of the following eligibility tests:

~~Eligibility Test 1~~ If ~~a~~ any national or a regional grid connected Renewable Energy project is connected to national or a regional grid and located in an Upper Middle- and High-Income Country⁵ (as classified by the World Bank) shall be deemed ineligible for the issuance of GS-VERs or GS-CERs.

(a) OR

(b) ~~Eligibility Test 2~~ If the ~~A~~ project is located in a country where the penetration level of the proposed Renewable Energy Technology type that is being installed in the that will be implemented in the proposed project activity is greater than 5%⁶ of the total grid installed capacity, on the date of at the time of the first submission⁷ (preliminary review) to Gold Standard to Preliminary Review, shall be deemed ineligible for the issuance of GS-VERs or GS-CERs.

This eligibility clause e rule will come into effect after 3 months of the date of publication on the Gold Standard website from dd/mm/ Jan YYYY2020. The rule e p Projects that will be will be applicable to all projects that are submitted for preliminary review after this date shall demonstrate compliance with this eligibility requirement. ÷

2.1.5 Where exceptional circumstances exist, a project may seek an exception to paragraph 2.1.3 Eligibility Test 1 and 2. This include In such cases when a ÷

⁴ This outcome only affects the eligibility of projects issuing GS-VERs or GS-CERs, projects applying other pathways (for example Gold Standard Renewable Energy Labels) are not affected.

⁵ Refer to the latest country classification by income available at <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519>

⁶ The penetration rate is the ratio of installed capacity of proposed renewable technology to total installed capacity of the grid in the host country or region. The 5% threshold will be periodically reviewed and updated, potentially with specific tools and approaches for different technologies/regions in future. The default position, in the absence of such approaches, shall be 5%.

⁷ The time of first submission

2.1.4 ~~renewable energy project serves impoverished beneficiaries at preferential electricity rates, or the project is located in a conflict zone⁸, or penetration of proposed project technology type (e.g. technology or practice) is not a common practice⁹ in the relevant region of the host country—with carbon market projects included in the analysis¹⁰. Exceptional circumstances will be judged on a case by case basis and are entirely at the discretion of Gold Standard. —Exceptional circumstances will shall be judged on a case by case basis and are entirely at the discretion of Gold Standard. If exceptional circumstance exists;~~

- (a) A request for exception approval may be submitted before submitting the project for preliminary review.
- (b) The project developer shall submit a memo describing the exceptional circumstances that are relevant to the proposed activities, accompanied, at a minimum, with an Investment Analysis to demonstrate the financial additionality. The developer shall follow the latest version of CDM methodology tool "Methodological tool: Investment analysis" to demonstrate financial additionality as per the CDM Requirements. The review process may include independent expert analysis, paid for by the Project Developer but reimbursable against fees for first issuance (not reimbursable in the event of an unsuccessful application for exceptional circumstances). Penetration level significantly higher than the 5% benchmark, when proposed as an exception, are unlikely to be approved.

~~(a)—project serves impoverished beneficiaries at preferential electricity rates or project is located in a conflict zone, or penetration of proposed project technology 11 is not a common practice in the relevant region of the host country. 12. (a) Exceptional circumstances shall be judged on a case by case basis and are entirely at the discretion of Gold Standard. be judged on a case by case basis and are entirely at the discretion of Gold Standard. shall be judged on a case by case basis and are entirely at the discretion of Gold Standard.~~

¹⁰ ~~The latest version of CDM methodology tool "Common practice" with applicable adjustments to include carbon market projects shall be applied to demonstrate the special circumstances i.e., the project activity is not "common practice" in the relevant region of the host country.~~

¹¹ ~~It refers to the conflict zones—as no-go areas for investment purpose, which might affect the decision making considering the long-term risk to the investment.~~

¹² ~~The latest version of CDM methodology tool "Common practice" with applicable adjustments to include projects considered carbon revenue shall be applied to demonstrate the exceptional circumstances i.e., the project activity is not "common practice" in the relevant region of the host country.~~

These Eligibility Requirements define which Grid-Connected Renewable Electricity projects shall be deemed ineligible for the issuance of either of the following Gold Standard Emission Reduction certificate types:

- ~~Gold Standard Verified Emission Reductions (GS-VERs)~~
- ~~Gold Standard labels for Certified Emission Reductions (GS-CERs)~~

The eligibility check is conducted at the 'Preliminary Review' stage of the certification cycle. Projects that are found to be ineligible are not able to issue GS-VERs or GS-CER labels but may proceed under other certification pathways such as Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs).

A request for exception approval may be submitted prior to formally submitting the project for preliminary review. ~~severely impoverished beneficiaries at preferential el or as per the CDM Requirements project is located in a conflict zone, or penetration of proposed project technology (not reimbursable type an unsuccessful application is not a common practice for [redacted] in the relevant region of the host country). Penetration rates~~ Exceptional circumstances shall be judged on a case by case basis and are entirely at the discretion of Gold Standard.

(b) ~~severely impoverished beneficiaries at preferential el [redacted] or project is located in a conflict zone [redacted], or penetration of proposed project technology type is not a common practice [redacted] in the relevant region of the host country. Penetration rates~~ Exceptional circumstances shall be judged on a case by case basis and are entirely at the discretion of Gold Standard.

~~— A request for exception approval may be submitted prior to serves impoverished beneficiaries at preferential el or project is located in a conflict zone [redacted], or penetration of proposed project technology type is not a common practice [redacted] in the relevant region of the host country. Penetration rates significantly higher than the 5% benchmark, when proposed as an exception, are unlikely to be an Exceptional circumstances shall be judged on a case by case basis and are entirely at the discretion of Gold Standard.~~

(-) ~~— A request for exception approval may be submitted before serves impoverished beneficiaries at preferential el or project is located in a conflict zone [redacted], or penetration of proposed project technology type is not a common practice [redacted] in the relevant region of the host country. Penetration rates significantly higher than the 5% benchmark, when proposed as an exception, are unlikely to be an Exceptional circumstances shall be judged on a case by case basis and are entirely at the discretion of Gold Standard.~~

~~— The se Requirements are applied prior to an additionality assessment (i.e. all pProjects must still demonstrate additionality at the time of design certification unless otherwise stated elsewhere in Gold Standard requirements).~~

(c)

2.1.1 The rule will come in effect after 3 months of the date of publication on the Gold Standard website. The rule will be applicable to all projects that are submitted for preliminary review after this date.

2.1.1 These Requirements are applied prior to an additionality assessment (i.e. all projects must still demonstrate additionality unless otherwise stated elsewhere in Gold Standard requirements).

~~2.1.7~~ 2.1.5 Additional eligibility criteria are prescribed in Annex A fFor specific Renewable Energy project types like Hydropower, projects using biomass resources-, biogas, waste heat/gas recovery, fossil co-generation, waste incineration and gas, and waste handling and disposal. etc., ~~additional eligibility criteria are prescribed in Annex A (Additional criteria for specific renewable energy project types) of this document~~

~~2.1.8~~ ~~For~~ In relation to the above all Projects must therefore conform to the following documents:

~~(b)~~ ~~Gold Standard for the Global Goals Principles & Requirements (and associated documents) AND~~

~~(b)~~ ~~Gold Standard Renewable Energy Activity Requirements~~

~~2.1.14~~ 2.1.6 In addition, for thoseThe Projects seeking to to be able to issue issue of both Renewable Energy Labels and Gold Standard VERs the requirements in following listed documents shall also be met:

(a) Applicable Gold Standard Approved Impact Quantification Methodologies for Emissions Reductions

(b) ~~Gold Standard for the Global Goals~~ GHG Emissions Reductions & Sequestration Product Requirements

(c) ~~Gold Standard for the Global Goals~~ Renewable Energy Label Product Requirements

~~2.23.~~ GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

~~2.2.13~~ 2.1.1 **Types of project:** Eligible projects shall include physical action/implementation on the ground. Pre-identified eligible project types are mentioned in the Eligibility Criteria Section above.

~~2.2.23~~ 2.1.2 **Location of project:** Eligible projects may be located in any part of the world. Hydropower projects ~~may~~ shall not be located in HCVs¹³ areas. Please refer to ~~annex~~ Annex A for further information on hydropower projects.

~~2.2.33~~ 2.1.3 **Project aArea, bBoundary and sScale:** Project Area and Boundary shall be defined in line with the applicable Methodologies ~~or~~

¹³ Refer to High Conservation Value Resource Network for definition of High Conservation Value Area. Available at <https://hcvnetwork.org/>

and Product Requirements. The following scale categories are allowed applied to RE activities:

(-) — Microscale —
(a)

i. — RE project issuing emission reductions less than or equal to 10,000 tCO₂eq

i.

(a)ii. RE project seeking any product other than emission reductions with an installed capacity less than equal to 2 MW_{el} / 6 MW_{th}

(a) — Projects above microscale threshold are considered as Non microscale project. —

(b)

(b) — RE project issuing emission reductions greater than 10,000 tCO₂eq

(b) — RE project seeking any product other than emission reductions with installed capacity greater than 2 MW_{el} / 6 MW_{th}

2.2.10(c) For the purpose of applying UNFCCC methodologies for quantification of GHG reductions, 'small scale' is defined as mentioned in the [GHG Emissions Reductions & Sequestration Product Requirements](#) Renewable Energy Project with installed capacity less than equal to 15 MW_{el} or 45 MW_{th}.

3.1.4 Certain In certain cases Gold Standard Impact Quantification methodologies methodologies allow projects to for a account for a Suppressed Demand baseline scenario when establishing a baseline to be assumed. In such cases, the application of the Suppressed Demand baseline is limited to sSmall sScale and mMicro-scale pProjects. Where a Suppressed Demand baseline is applied, it is not possible to 'stack' Gold Standard Certified SDG Impact Statements or Products as the definition of the baseline may be contradictory.

3.0.0 —

~~5. GOLD STANDARD FOR THE GLOBAL GOALS — APPLIED~~

4. ELIGIBILITY PRINCIPLES AND REQUIREMENTS

This section describes the additional requirements and/or deviations from the [Principles & Requirements](#). Renewable Energy projects seeking Gold Standard certification shall meet these additional requirements.

~~Gold Standard for the Global Goals Eligibility Principles and Requirements. These Additional Requirements shall be met for the The Renewable Energy project to seeking achieve Gold Standard certification shall meet these additional requirements.~~

3.1.1

~~6.1.2 from Gold Standard for the Global Goals Principles & Requirements. Renewable Energy project successfully completing Performance Certification seeking a project level Gold Standard Certified Project level statement as per the Gold Standard Claims Guidelines, along with a number of Gold Standard certificationSDG shall meet these additional requirements. s corresponding to the eligible Renewable Energy Products successfully~~

~~6.1.3 The Certification cycle for Renewable Energy projects is as detailed in the [Principles & Requirements](#). certified.~~

~~4.1.1 [Principles & Requirements](#). Upon successful completion of performance certification, the Renewable Energy Projects shall be issued with Certified Impact statements and/or Products, as applicable per the Gold Standard [Claims Guidelines](#).~~

~~3.1.3 Certified SDG Impacts can be stacked for a. Upon successful ,shall be issued withhoweverImpactthere can be additional requirements based on and/ and such requirements should be applied and will Products. For instance, GSVÉR/CER and REC labels cannot be stacked for the same MWh, however, other product stacking maybe permitted based on the relevant product Requirements.~~

~~4.1.2 A single Renewable Energy project may potentially pursue any number and combination of Certified Impact Statements or Products. However, certain Product Requirements, which supersede the generic requirements stated in this document can set restrictions on co-issuance of Certified Impact statements or Products. For instance, GS —VER or GS CER with REC labels cannot be stacked for the same MWh.~~

Principle 1 – Contribution to Climate Security & Sustainable Development

A

~~6.1.6 Projects shall make positive contributions to a minimum of 3 Sustainable Development Goals~~

~~6.1.8 One of the positive contributions shall concern SDG 13 (Climate Action) while the other two contributions can be proposed by the Project Developer. It is recommended to include contribution to SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) as one of the other 2 contributions.~~

~~4.1.3 PProject shall mandatorily contribute to SDG 13 (Climate Action) and two other SDGs. It is recommended to include a contribution to SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) as one of the other 2 SDGs.~~

Project shall

Principle 2 – Safeguarding Principles

~~3.1.4 Gold Standard Safeguarding Principles & Requirements.~~

4.1.4 Project developers shall conduct a Safeguarding Principles Assessment and conform to the Safeguarding Principles & Requirements.

Principle 3 – Stakeholder Inclusivity Project developers shall conduct a Safeguarding Principles Assessment and conform to Gold Standard for the

~~6.1.9 Renewable Energy p projects/renewable biomass/MSW incineration based projects are given in Annex A of this document.~~

4.1.5 Projects shall identify and engage relevant stakeholders and seek expert stakeholder input where necessary in the design, planning and implementation. Specific stakeholder consultation requirements for hydropower, renewable biomass, MSW incineration projects are outlined in Annex A of this document.

Principle 4 – Demonstration of Real Outcomes

~~6.1.12 Gold Standard for Global Goals Principles & Requirements, including for Retroactive Project Design Certification (under which a Project must achieve this status within two years of its start date).~~

4.1.6 The definition of start date is as per Principles & Requirements, including for Retroactive Project Design Certification (under which a Project must achieve this status within two years of its start date).

~~3.1.6 The definition of start date is as per , including for Retroactive Project Design Certification (under which a Project must achieve this status within two years of its start date).a total of 15 years Issuance. Product Requirements with specific requirements for total issuance period shall supersede information in this document.~~

4.1.7 Projects may receive Issuance of Certified Impact Statements or Products for a maximum of three Certification Renewal Cycles i.e., a total of 15 years, unless mentioned otherwise in the Product Requirements.

~~3.1.7 Certification Renewal in the case of RE pCertified Impact Statements or Productsis Certification Cycles every total of 15 years ad per, unless the Gold Standard for the Global Goals otherwise~~

~~3.1.7 An eligible, GS Approved VVB shall validate or verify Gold Standard Renewable Energy Projects as per Gold Standard Validation & Verification Body Requirements.~~

4.1.8 Projects shall mandatorily undergo Design Certification Renewal every 5 years as per Principles & Requirements.

p

Principle 5 – Financial Additionality & Ongoing Financial Need

~~6.1.14~~ issuance of Impact Statements or Products (for example GSVERs) shall demonstrate financial additionality and Ongoing Financial Need in accordance with the Gold Standard for the Global Goals Principles & Requirements and following product specific requirements.

~~6.1.16~~ Unless mentioned otherwise in Product Requirements, the projects shall follow the additionality requirements specified under section 3.5.1 of the Gold Standard for the Global Goals Principles & Requirements document.

4.1.9 Projects seeking the issuance of Certified Impact Statements or Products (for example GS - VERs) shall demonstrate financial additionality and Ongoing Financial Need in accordance with Principles & Requirements^(CDM) ~~Principles & Requirements~~^(CDM), unless mentioned otherwise in the Product Requirements.

~~6.1.17~~ issuance of s Impact Statements or Products (for example GSdefined (and meet the eligibility requirements) VERs) shall

4.1.10 An eligible Microscale project that meets any one of the criteria below shall be deemed additional:

~~(a)~~ An eligible⁽²⁾

~~(b)~~ The project is located in a Least Developed Country (LDC), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) or Land Locked Developing Country (LLDC)¹⁴.

(a) The project is located in a special underdeveloped zone of the host country identified by the Host Country Government¹⁵. Project developers shall refer to the list published on UNFCCC website (<http://cdm.unfccc.int/DNA/submissions/index.html>)

~~(c)~~ The project is located in a Least Developed Country (LDC), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) or Land Locked Developing Country (LLDC)¹⁶. The project is located in a special underdeveloped zone of the identified by the Host Country Government¹⁷.

~~(d)~~ The project is located in a

(b) ny host country or part of the host country different from those defined above, but PDS-Project Developer can demonstrate that project implementation will essentially benefit poor

¹⁶ List as per UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (Annex 1, 2 and 3)

¹⁷ Refer to the list published on UNFCCC website for special underdeveloped zone at the link below or shall consult with Gold Standard for definition of SUZ.
https://cdm.unfccc.int/DNA/suz_submissions/index.html

communities¹⁸. No specific definition of 'poor communities' is pre-established. The international or national definitions to define populations below poverty line can serve as the basis to assess the eligibility of the targeted communities. ~~The PDs-Project Developer shall seek approval from The Gold Standard on the basis of a formal request providing a detailed arguments description as to how the activity will benefit poor communities.~~

(a) —

—¹⁹The Project Developer shall seek approval from Gold Standard providing detailed description as to how the activity will benefit poor communities.

(a) — ~~The project feeds electricity into the regional or national high voltage grid if convincing evidence can be provided to demonstrate that the implementation of the project will significantly improve electricity access for the local communities, households or SMEs.~~

(c) The project is supplying electricity to grid; however, convincing evidence can be provided to demonstrate that project implementation will significantly improve access to electricity for the local communities, households or SMEs.

(d) The project ~~employs~~ involves the installation of solar-Solar technologies (Photovoltaic and solar-Solar thermal-Thermal electricity generation), off-shore wind, marine technology, household rooftop wind turbine of size up to 100 kW or biomass integrated gasification combined cycle.

(e) Other ~~specific~~ renewable energy technologies or measures for which recommended by the host country DNA and approved by the CDM EB has adopted the host country recommendation²⁰. The end date of the validity shall be before the ~~date~~time of first submission to Gold Standard (—) OR approved by The Gold Standard Foundation as part of positive list.

²¹

— ~~renewal of Renewal, the ongoing Ongoing Financial needs Needs assessment is deemed to be met. The baseline shall be reassessed at the time of crediting Crediting Pperiod renewalRenewal. 6.1.18. —~~

¹⁹ No specific definition of 'poor communities' is pre-established. The international or national definitions such as to define populations below poverty line can serve as the basis to assess the eligibility of the targeted communities.

²¹ Refer to the link for the Submissions by DNAs for recommendation of microscale renewable energy technologies for automatic additionality <http://cdm.unfccc.int/DNA/submissions/index.html>

~~6.1.19.4.1.11~~ In case the deemed additionality criteria are also valid at the time of Crediting Period Renewal, the Ongoing Financial Needs assessment is deemed to be met. The baseline shall be reassessed at the time of Crediting Period Renewal.

~~**IN CASE THE DEEMED ADDITIONALITY CRITERIA ARE ALSO VALID AT THE TIME OF RSPECIFIC RENEWAL**~~

1.1 ANNEX A – ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY-SPECIFIC PROJECT TYPES

The following sections Annex A outlines the additional eligibility criteria for specific project types.

1 Hydropower project activity

- 1.1.1 1.—Hydropower project activities located in High Conservation Values (HCVs)²² areas shall NOT be eligible under The for certification under Gold Standard for the Global Goals (GS4GG) Gold Standard. The Project Developers must assess whether their if the project activity is takes place in such a High Conservation Value HCVs area. For such assessment, the Project Developer shall, based on both consultations with the local authorities (e.g. protected areas such as national parks) AND refer to existing international sources of information such as the [World Database on protected planets, \(IUCN, UNEP\)](#)^{f41}, the [Ramsar list of wetlands](#)^{f51}, and the [United Nations list of protected areas](#)^{f61}. The outcome of the assessment shall be provided with the project in the documentation submitted for preliminary review.
- 1.1.2 2.—Unless already addressed satisfactorily as part of an existing Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), the opinion of an independent, relevant expert(s) shall be provided at a minimum on all of the following issues (the opinion may be that an issue is not relevant for the considered project, but evidence must be provided in support of this):

	Issue	Requirements
(a)	<p>Are there any competing uses of water resources at the project location, of what nature and how severe are they?</p> <p>Convincing evidence must be provided that the hydropower project does not divert water from other current users or if it does, that these users are in agreement with the shift of use.</p>	<p>The expert opinion must be provided in time for validation and be reflected in the Monitoring Plan for verification along the crediting period.</p>
(b)	<p>What is the minimum ecological flow that shall be complied with at any point in time, accounting for the specificities of local ecosystems and for seasonality?</p>	<p>The expert opinion shall be provided in time for validation.</p>

²² Refer to High Conservation Value Resource Network for definition of High Conservation Value Area. Available at <https://hcvnetwork.org/>

	What quality assurance and control procedures shall be put in place for an appropriate continuous monitoring over the crediting period?	
(c)	Is the groundwater level seriously affected by the hydropower project? What quality assurance and control procedures shall be put in place for an appropriate continuous monitoring over the crediting period?	The expert opinion shall be provided in time for validation.
(d)	Is the design of the fish passages and screens (water intake structure) installed in line with internationally recognised guidance? Are these measures indeed effective over the crediting period, and if not, what shall be done to improve the situation?	The expert opinion shall be provided in time for validation. The expert opinion shall be provided in time for verification.
(e)	What sediment management plan shall be considered? Is it indeed effective over the crediting period, and if not, how shall it be improved?	The expert opinion shall be provided in time for validation. The expert opinion shall be provided in time for verification.
(f)	What mitigation measures shall be put in place to prevent soil erosion? Are they effective and if not, what complementary action shall be taken?	The expert opinion shall be provided in time for validation. The expert opinion shall be provided in time for verification.

~~(a) Are there any competing uses of water resources at the project location, of what nature and how severe are they? Convincing evidence must be provided that the hydropower project does not divert water from other current users or that these are in agreement with the shift of use. The expert opinion must be provided on time for validation, and be reflected in the Monitoring Plan for verification along the crediting period.~~

~~(b) What minimal ecological flow shall be complied with at any point in time, accounting for the specificities of local ecosystems and for seasonality? What quality assurance and control procedures shall be put in place for an appropriate continuous monitoring over the crediting period? The expert opinion shall be provided in time for validation.~~

~~(c) Is the groundwater level seriously affected by the hydropower project? What quality assurance and control procedures shall be put in place for an appropriate continuous monitoring over the crediting period? The expert opinion shall be provided in time for validation.~~

~~(d) Is the design of the fish passages and screens (water intake structure) installed in line with internationally recognised guidance? The expert opinion shall be provided in time for validation. Are these measures indeed effective over the crediting period, and if not what shall be done to improve the situation? The expert opinion shall be provided in time for verification.~~

~~(e) What sediment management plan shall be considered? The expert opinion shall be provided in time for validation. Is it indeed effective over the crediting period, and if not how shall it be improved? The expert opinion shall be provided in time for verification.~~

~~(f) What mitigation measures shall be put in place to prevent soil erosion? The expert opinion shall be provided in time for validation. Are they effective and if not, what complementary action shall be taken? The expert opinion shall be provided in time for verification.~~

~~3. B~~

- 1.1.3 Besides the issues listed above, the expert(s) is free to include any other issue that they identify as being relevant for the project. ~~The Project developers~~ **Developers** have the opportunity to provide their views on the identified issues and their relevance as part of the report to be delivered by the expert in the context of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between The Gold Standard, the Project Representatives and the independent expert. For regular cycle projects, the independent expert(s) shall be invited to the Stakeholder Consultation and will identify the list of issues for which an independent expert opinion will be needed on time for validation and/or verification.
- 1.1.4 ~~4.~~ This list is approved by ~~the~~ **The** Gold Standard as part of the review of the stakeholder consultation report. For retroactive projects, a Detailed Preliminary Review ([Pathway 2 as per Principles and Requirements](#)) shall be conducted. ~~and the~~ **the** independent expert(s) shall be contracted on time to deliver as part of the documentation submitted for preliminary review the list of issues for which an independent expert opinion will be needed on time for validation and/or verification. This list is reviewed and potentially approved by ~~The~~ **The** Gold Standard as part of the preliminary review.
- 1.1.5 ~~5.~~ Project Developer shall plan for ~~and~~ **and** conduct a one-day training for the hydropower plant staff on the different issues identified by the independent expert. This training shall be included in the Monitoring & Reporting Plan.

- 1.1.6 ~~6.~~—The Gold Standard ~~Foundation~~ will evaluate ~~on a case-by-case basis~~ the eligibility of hydropower activities with an installed capacity greater than 20 MW_{et} ~~on a case-by-case basis~~ at the time of preliminary review. This 20 MW_{et} capacity threshold shall apply to each one of the project activities as part of a bundle, and not to the overall bundle, and to each ~~one of the~~ CPA/VPA as part of a PoA. The ~~P~~project ~~D~~developer shall provide the following additional information as part of the documentation to be reviewed:
- (a) ~~7.~~—A Stakeholder Consultation Report, in accordance with the relevant ~~guidelines for a Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements~~. For project activities involving existing dams (such as dams built for irrigation purposes), the stakeholder consultation shall include a site-visit by local stakeholders taking part in the consultation.
 - (b) ~~8.~~—A ~~report~~ (‘Compliance Report’) showing that the project is in compliance with the latest WCD guidelines²³~~21~~, validated by a ~~GS-VVB~~.

2 Project activity using biomass resources

- 2.1.1 ~~1.~~—Project activities making use of non-renewable biomass resources shall NOT be eligible for Gold Standard registration. Project developers shall ~~therefore, therefore,~~ provide convincing evidence that the project activities make use of renewable biomass resources²⁴~~18~~. The ~~renewability of the biomass se criteria~~ shall be monitored along the crediting period ~~and therefore and~~ be included in the ~~Sustainability Monitoring Plan, where required by the applied Impact quantification methodology~~.

~~Project activities making use of non-renewable biomass resources shall NOT be eligible for Gold Standard registration. Project developers shall, therefore, provide convincing evidence that the project activities make use of renewable biomass resources²⁵. The renewability of the biomass shall be monitored along the crediting period and be included in the Monitoring Plan.~~

- 2.1.2 ~~2.~~—Project activities expected to make use of biomass resources already in use shall NOT be eligible for Gold Standard registration unless convincing evidence is provided ~~showing to demonstrate~~ that the current users ~~are in agreement~~~~gree~~ with the envisioned shift of use (potential leakage associated to such a shift must be taken into account). In the absence of such an agreement, Project Developers shall demonstrate that their project activity makes use of surplus biomass for each type of

²³ www.dams.org

²⁵ ~~Refer to EB-23, Annex 18 “Definition of Renewable Biomass or its update: http://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/023/eb23_repan18.pdf~~

biomass resources used¹⁹¹.²⁶ They must do so once, ex-ante on time for validation for small-scale project activities (installed capacity upto 15 MW_{el} or 45 MW_{th}), and in time for validation and for each one of the verifications (inclusion in the ~~Sustainability~~-Monitoring Plan) for project activities ~~greater~~ **greater** than 15 MW_{el} or 45 MW_{th}.

2.1.3 ~~3.~~—Project Developers shall demonstrate that their project will only make use of degraded land²⁷~~191~~ and shall include this criterion in the Sustainability Monitoring Plan to ensure there is no diversion of land from other essential purposes like food production. Two exceptions may be considered:

- (a) ~~convincing~~ **Convincing** evidence is provided showing that the envisioned energy crop is part of a traditional rotational cropping, OR
- (b) ~~an~~ **An** increase of the productivity is obtained, locally and to the benefit of the current users, through measures implemented in the context of the activity so as to at ~~a~~ minimum compensate for the part of the land newly allocated to growing the energy crop.

—Compliance with these criteria above must be monitored over the crediting period and thus be part of the ~~Sustainability~~-Monitoring Plan.

2.1.4 ~~4.~~—Activities making use of GMOs shall **also declare so in a transparent way**. ~~Local stakeholder's opinion on GMOs shall prevail and appropriate mitigation measures shall be put in place to address their concerns, if any, in a satisfactory way~~ **comply with the requirements prescribed in of [Safeguarding Principles & Requirements for Genetic Resources](#) for Genetic Resources**.

2.1.5 ~~5.~~—Avoidance of methane from biomass decay shall be eligible as long as biomass is used as a substitution for non-renewable fuels in project activities delivering energy services or for the production of **a** usable product with sustainable development benefits (e.g. composting).

2.1.6 ~~6.~~—The use of non-renewable fuel in biomass heat and/or electricity generation plants is authorised as long as the renewable fuel share reaches 50%~~111~~²⁸ after the first 3 years²⁹~~111~~ of operation for retrofit projects, and represents 80%~~4~~ from the outset for Greenfield projects.

²⁶ In accordance with the approach proposed in paragraph 18 of the Attachment C to Appendix B: General Guidance on Leakage in biomass projects (Attachment C to Appendix B of 4/CMP.1 Annex II)

http://cdm.unfccc.int/Reference/Guidclarif/ssc/index_guid.html

²⁷ <http://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/ARmethodologies/tools/ar-am-tool-13-v1.pdf>

²⁸ Refers to the percentage of the total fuel consumed on an annual energy basis.

²⁹ The reference date for the 3-year period is the start date of crediting period.

- 2.1.7 ~~7.~~—The eligibility of project activities making use of Palm oil and/or palm oil mill by-products or residues for electricity and/or heat generation, and/or for biofuel production shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by ~~The Gold Standard Foundation~~, at the time of preliminary review. The ~~project Project developers~~ **Developers** shall provide the following on top of the usual project documentation:
- (a) ~~8.~~—A Stakeholder Consultation Report, in accordance with [Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements](#)~~the guidelines for conducting a Local Stakeholder Consultation~~, and provided as part of the documentation to be reviewed at the time of the preliminary review.
- ~~(a)~~—
- (b) ~~9.~~—A ~~report~~ (‘Compliance Report’) showing that the project is in compliance with the latest version of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil guidance document on Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Palm Oil Production^{30/131} (including the national interpretations), validated by a [GS-VVB](#), and provided as part of the documentation to be reviewed at the time of the registration review. Project Developers must demonstrate that they have started the process for RSPO compliance at the time of preliminary review. If the project is located in a country where a national interpretation of the RSPO principles has not been established and approved by the RSPO, compliance shall be established against the international RSPO Criteria. In such a case, the certification body must develop local indicators through a consultative process, available in the local language.

3 Project activity using Biogas (landfill gas and biogas from agro-processing, wastewater and other residues)

- 3.1.1 ~~1.~~—Methane recovery project activities shall be eligible for emission reductions from both methane avoidance (including from the flared biogas fraction) and non-renewable fuel substitution as long as evidence is provided on time for validation to demonstrate that the system was designed in a way to at least make use of some of the biogas recovered for the delivery of energy services (e.g. electricity, heat).
- 3.1.2 ~~2.~~—Methane recovery project activities at wastewater treatment plants related to Palm Oil production shall comply with all [the Palm Oil related rules provided for mentioned above \(paragraph 2.7\)](#)~~above for palm Palm oil Oil related activities provided in this document.~~

4 Project activity using Waster Heat/Gas recovery

³⁰ RSPO Website <<http://www.rspo.org>>

- 4.1.1 ~~1.~~—Project activities involving waste heat recovery in industrial processes shall be eligible for emission reductions related to on-site energy consumption. Emission reductions related to the export of heat or electricity generated from ~~the~~ waste heat shall NOT be eligible unless it can be shown that the primary and unique source of energy for the industrial process is renewable energy. This requirement applies on an annual basis and the electricity generation profile does not have to necessarily match the on-site demand profile on an instantaneous basis.
- 4.1.2 ~~2.~~—Project activities involving the ~~use of~~ waste gases recovery **and use** in industrial processes shall be eligible for emission reductions related to on-site energy consumption. Emission reductions related to the export of heat or electricity generated from the waste gases recovered shall NOT be eligible unless it can be shown that the primary and unique source of energy for the industrial process is renewable energy. This requirement applies on an annual basis and the electricity generation profile does not have to necessarily match the on-site demand profile on an instantaneous basis. Emissions from the combustion of the recovered gases shall ~~of course, of course,~~ be taken into account in the calculation of project emissions.

5 Fossil co-generation

- 5.1.1 ~~1.~~—Fossil-fired co-generation project activities shall be eligible for emission reductions from end-use energy efficiency improvements, i.e. related to on-site energy consumption. Emission reductions related to the export of heat or electricity generated from the waste heat recovered shall NOT be eligible. This requirement applies on an annual basis and the electricity generation profile does not have to necessarily match the on-site demand profile on an instantaneous basis.

6 Waste incineration and gasification

- 6.1.1 Eligible Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) incineration activities seeking Gold Standard certification shall also meet the following requirements:

(a) Stakeholder consultation

- 6.1.2 The Project Developer shall ensure meaningful, effective and informed participation from stakeholder groups such as local communities who are living in nearby area and may be impacted adversely or positively from the project. The Project Developer shall carryout the stakeholder consultation(s) following the ~~GOLD STANDARD FOR THE GLOBAL GOALS Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements~~ STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION & ENGAGEMENT PROCEDURE, REQUIREMENTS & GUIDELINES.

(b) Project Eligibility

- 6.1.3 The project shall involve energy generation (electricity and/or heat) from MSW incineration. The MSW incineration shall be considered as recovery operations ~~with respect to~~ concerning the waste hierarchy as

long as the project activity recovers energy from municipal waste incineration in an efficient way.

- 6.1.4 Project activities planning to make use of waste materials that are already in use in the pre-project situation shall NOT be eligible unless convincing evidence is provided to show that the current users ~~are in agreement~~ agree with the shift of use resulting from the project. In the absence of such an agreement, the Project Developers shall demonstrate that the project activity makes use of surplus waste materials and shall include this analysis in the Monitoring Plan. They must be done as follows for projects with installed energy generation capacities of:
- i. **less than or equal to 15 MW or 45 MW_{th}** – once, ex- ante, in time for validation
 - ii. **greater than 15 MW or 45 MW_{th}** – once, ex -ante in time for validation and ~~for each one of the verifications~~
- 6.1.5 The project shall develop and implement a waste management awareness programme to encourage ~~the~~ stakeholders to adopt best practices for waste reduction, reuse and recycling and avoid any negative impact on prevailing waste management practices in the project boundary. Such a programme may include a variety of activities, ~~including but not limited to~~ such as– community outreach and education campaigns, educational campaigns via local schools and other institutes, educational displays, television/radio campaigns, etc.
- 6.1.6 The programme performance shall be evaluated frequently, at minimum biennially following the date of design certification, to assess its effectiveness and it shall be amended when required.
- (c) Emissions and operational requirements**
- 6.1.7 To avoid any potential negative impact, the project seeking certification under Gold Standard for the Global Goals shall meet the most stringent regulatory requirements available for emissions and operation of MSW incineration plant. In this regard, the pProject dDeveloper shall compare the host country regulatory requirements with the most recent version of European Union Regulations for Waste Incineration Plants & Waste Co-incineration Plants and shall submit the comparison table for Gold Standard review at the time of preliminary review. If due to the type of technology or otherwise it is not feasible to meet the most stringent regulatory requirements, the Project Developer shall submit the rationale and proposed mitigation measures at the time of preliminary review. In such cases, Gold Standard will make a decision in consultation with the experts (if required) on a case-by-case basis.
- 6.1.8 The Project Developer shall ~~ensure that~~ put measures ~~are put~~ in place to ensure that applicable host country or other applicable regulations are complied with.

- 6.1.9 Where the Project Developer becomes aware that a requirement of the applicable regulations has been breached or is being breached, the Project Developer shall
- i. Inform the Gold Standard immediately
 - ii. Immediately take the measures necessary to ensure compliance is restored within the shortest possible time
- 6.1.10 Where a breach of the applicable regulations ~~that poses~~ an immediate danger to human health or threatens to cause an immediate significant adverse effect upon the environment, the project shall be withdrawn from Gold Standard until compliance is restored to the satisfaction of Gold Standard.
- (d) Ongoing monitoring requirements**
- 6.1.11 The Project Developer shall report on compliance status with regards to regulatory requirements within six months of the operational start date, where applicable, and annually after the first ~~six months~~ reporting.
- 6.1.12 The Project Developer shall include the relevant information in the Annual Report, as required under Gold Standard for the Global Goals.
- ~~1. Co-firing of non-renewable and renewable waste within incineration or gasification facilities shall NOT be eligible under Gold Standard.~~

7 Waste handling and disposal

- 7.1.1 ~~1.~~ Project activities planning to make use of waste materials that are already in use in the pre-project situation shall NOT be eligible unless convincing evidence is provided to show that the current users are in agreement with the shift of use resulting from the project. In the absence of such an agreement, the Project Developers shall demonstrate that the project activity makes use of surplus waste materials³¹~~[14]~~ and shall include this analysis in the Sustainability Monitoring Plan. They must do so once, ex-ante on time for validation for small-scale projects (installed capacity upto 15 MWel or 45 MWth), and in time for validation and for each one of the verifications (inclusion in the Sustainability Monitoring Plan) for projects greater than 15 MWel or 45 MWth.

³¹ In accordance with the approach proposed in paragraph 18 of the Attachment C to Appendix B: General Guidance on Leakage in biomass projects (Attachment C to Appendix B of 4/CMP.1 Annex II)
http://cdm.unfccc.int/Reference/Guidclarif/ssc/index_guid.html