

GOLD STANDARD FOR THE GLOBAL GOALS

COMMUNITY SERVICES ACTIVITY REQUIREMENTS

Version 1.2~~11~~

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~~Table of Contents~~

~~GOLD STANDARD FOUNDATION VISION &
MISSION~~

~~PREFACE~~

~~INTRODUCTION~~

~~1.0 GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA~~

~~2.0 GOLD STANDARD FOR THE GLOBAL GOALS~~

~~—APPLIED ELIGIBILITY PRINCIPLES~~

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

~~ANNEX B – POSITIVE LIST~~

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.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS ~~Gold Standard for the Global Goals – 11~~

Community Services Activity Requirements	11
GOLD STANDARD FOUNDATION VISION & MISSION	21
1. SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY.....	43
2. ELIGIBLE PROJECT TYPES.....	43
3. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.....	54
4. ELIGIBILITY PRINCIPLES AND REQUIREMENTS	75
PRINCIPLE 3 – STAKEHOLDER INCLUSIVITY.....	86
PRINCIPLE 4 – DEMONSTRATION OF REAL OUTCOMES	86
PRINCIPLE 5 – FINANCIAL ADDITIONALITY & ONGOING FINANCIAL NEED	96
ANNEX A – ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR SPECIFIC PROJECT TYPES	
108	
1. HYDROPOWER PROJECT ACTIVITY	118
2. PROJECT ACTIVITY USING BIOMASS RESOURCES	1310

3. PROJECT ACTIVITY USING BIOGAS (LANDFILL GAS AND BIOGAS FROM AGRO-PROCESSING, WASTEWATER AND OTHER RESIDUES).....	15	12
4. PROJECT ACTIVITY USING WASTER HEAT/GAS RECOVERY	16	12
5. FOSSIL CO-GENERATION	16	13
		—
7. WASTE HANDLING AND DISPOSAL.....	18	15
8. RELIGHTING	18	15
9. END-USE FOSSIL FUEL SWITCHING	19	15
ANNEX B - POSITIVE LIST	26	16

Table of Contents

~~GOLD STANDARD FOUNDATION VISION & MISSION~~

~~PREFACE~~

~~INTRODUCTION~~

~~1.0 GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA~~

~~2.0 GOLD STANDARD FOR THE GLOBAL GOALS — APPLIED ELIGIBILITY PRINICIPLES~~

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

~~ANNEX B — POSITIVE LIST~~

1. SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY

PREFACE

- 1.1.1 This Requirements document, hereafter "the CS-ActivityA Requirements", provides [necessary guidelines and requirements the pathway to certification, within the Gold Standard for the Global Goals, for Community Service project-aActivities to certify seeking certification of the project design and/or issue GS-Gold Standard Certified Impact Statements and Products.](#)
- 1.1.2 The CSA -Activity-Requirements document is designed to be read in conjunction with the ~~Gold Standard for the Global Goals~~ [Principles & Requirements](#) and associated documents. ~~Through conformity to these two documents, a CS Project may be issued with Gold Standard Certified Impact Statements or Products by following the relevant Gold Standard Approved Methodologies and Product Requirements. including Gold Standard Approved Methodologies and Product Requirements such as GHG Emissions Reductions & Sequestration Product Requirements, Renewable Energy Label Product Requirements.~~
- 1.1.3 In order 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.

~~—————The CS Activity Requirements is intended to provide Community Service Project Developers with the necessary guidelines and requirements for Gold Standard Certification.~~

INTRODUCTION

~~All Community Service Activities (CS — as defined in this document) for which Gold Standard certification is being sought shall fulfill the requirements as set out in this document and those referenced or associated.~~

~~—————In order 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.~~

~~1.0 GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA~~

2. ~~1.1~~ ELIGIBLE PROJECT TYPES & SCOPE

- 2.1.1 All Community Service Activities (CSA – as defined in this document) for which Gold Standard certification is being sought shall fulfil the requirements as set out in this document and those referenced or associated.
- 2.1.2 All ~~1.1.1~~ CSA Projects shall lead to climate change mitigation and/or adaptation by providing or improving access to services/resources at the household or community¹ or institution² level. Eligible services include electricity and energy, water and sanitation, waste management, housing, etc.
- 2.1.3 ~~1.1.2~~ In relation to the above, all Projects shall ~~therefore~~, therefore, conform to the Gold Standard for the Global Goals [Principles & Requirements](#) (and associated documents).

3. ~~1.2~~ GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

~~1.2.1~~ The general eligibility criteria below further clarify the application of Gold Standard for the Global Goals [Principles & Requirements](#) to CS projects. The Project Developer shall apply Gold Standard for the Global Goals Requirements for other general eligibility criteria.

- 3.1.1 ~~1.2.2~~ **Types of project** – Pre-identified CSA project types are noted below. Project Developers may submit new project types to Gold Standard for approval following the [Gold Standard for the Global Goals Principles & Requirements](#). ~~Section 3.1.~~

(a) Renewable energy: Renewable energy types such as solar (photovoltaic and solar thermal electricity generation), tidal/wave, wind, hydropower, geothermal, waste to energy and renewable biomass that are connected to mini³-grid or off-grid solutions for targeted users and/or applications.

¹ Community refers to a group of people who live in the same area (such as a village, city, town, or neighbourhood) and share the services/resources. It shall be treated as guiding principle; the project proponent should refer to applicable rules, regulations, guidelines and official notifications of the host country in this regard.

Community may include variety of end-users for example households, commercial facilities such as shops, public services, residential and commercial buildings, small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs), etc. –Projects that do not include activities providing services or access to resources for identified user categories as listed here, for example industrial wastewater treatment projects, are not eligible for Gold Standard certification under CS Requirements.

² An establishment with a specific purpose that serves individuals or group of individuals within its premises such as a hospital, school, etc.

³ 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.

- Renewable projects supplying electricity to a national or a regional grid shall refer to Gold Standard [Renewable Energy Activity Requirements](#).
- Additional eligibility criteria for specific projects (e.g. Hydropower, biomass resources, etc.), are prescribed in Annex A of this document.

(b) End-user Energy efficiency: Project activities that reduce energy requirements as compared to baseline scenario without affecting the level and quality of services or products, where the end-user of the products and services are clearly identified and when the physical intervention is required at the user end. For example, efficient cooking, heating, lighting, etc.

(c) Waste management and handling: All waste management activities that deliver energy or a usable product with sustainable development benefits such as composting, biogas etc.

(d) Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH): WASH activities contributing to climate change mitigation and/or adaptation benefits.

3.1.2 1.2.3 Project Area, Boundary and Scale: Project Area and Boundary shall be defined in line with the applicable [Impact Quantification Methodologies](#) or [Product Requirements](#).

The definition of scale is the same for all Projects, except Microscale which is defined as:

- (a) **CSA (a)**—Project issuing emission reductions less than or equal to 10,000 tCO_{2eq}-per annum
- (b) **CSA (b)**—Project seeking any Gold Standard Certified Impact or Product other than emission reductions and meeting one of the following criteria:
 - Installed capacity less than equal to 2 MWe_{el} /6 MW_{th} that employs renewable energy as the primary technology
 - Energy savings at a scale of no more than 20 GWh per year where energy efficiency is the primary activity
 - Achieve GHG emissions reductions at a scale of no more than 20,000 kt-CO_{2eq} per year-annum where project activity type is not included in the above two criteria.
- (c) For the purpose of applying UNFCCC methodologies for quantification of GHG reductions, 'small scale' is defined as in CDM Modalities and Procedures for three projects types; Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Others. Please refer to the [GHG Emission Reductions and Sequestration Product Requirements](#) for more information on the definition of 'small scale'.

- 3.1.3 Certain Impact Quantification methodologies allow projects to account Suppressed Demand scenario when establishing a baseline. In such cases, the application of Suppressed Demand baseline is limited to Small Scale and Microscale Projects. Where a Suppressed Demand baseline is applied, it is not possible to 'stack' Gold Standard Certified Impact Statements or Products as the definition of the baseline may be contradictory.

3.1.4 ~~1.2.4~~ Legal ownership:

- (a) Projects involving the distribution of a large number of devices for services such as heating, cooking, lighting, electricity generation, water treatment technology such as water filter, etc. shall provide a clear description of the ownership of the Products that are generated under Gold Standard Certification all along the investment chain. In line with [the](#) FPIC requirement, the proofs that end-users are aware of and willing to give up their rights on Products shall be provided.

~~1.2.5~~ The transfer of Product ownership shall be discussed during local stakeholder consultations for ~~regular cycle~~ projects. For ~~retroactive~~ projects, the project participants shall collect stakeholder feedback through live consultations, telephone discussions, electronic mode, etc. as deemed necessary to reach out to the relevant stakeholders.

(b)

~~1.2.6~~ For the purpose of applying UNFCCC methodologies for quantification of GHG reductions, 'small scale' is defined as in CDM Modalities and Procedures for three projects types; Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Others. Please refer to the Section 6 of the [GHG Emission Reductions and Sequestration Product Requirements](#) for more information on the definition of 'small scale'.

~~1.2.7~~ Where Gold Standard methodologies allow for a Suppressed Demand baseline scenario, this shall be limited to Small and Microscale Projects. Where a Suppressed Demand baseline is applied, it is not possible to 'stack' Gold Standard Certified Impact Statements or Products as the definition of baseline may be contradictory.

4. ~~2.0 GOLD STANDARD FOR THE GLOBAL GOALS~~ ~~APPLIED~~ **ELIGIBILITY PRINCIPLES** **AND REQUIREMENTS**

~~This section describes the additional requirements and/or deviations from the~~

- 4.1.1 ~~Gold Standard for the Global Goals~~ [Principles & Requirements](#). These additional requirements shall be met for the CSA project to achieve ~~seeking~~ Gold Standard certification [shall meet these additional requirements](#).

~~4.1.2~~ The Certification cycle for CSA Projects is as detailed in ~~Gold Standard for the Global Goals~~ [Principles & Requirements](#). Projects successfully completing Performance Certification shall be issued with [Certified Impact](#) ~~project-level statement~~ [Statement and/ or Product](#) as per the Gold Standard [Claims Guidelines](#), ~~along with a number of Certified Impact Statements corresponding to the applicable Product Requirements.~~

~~4.1.3~~ Impact Statements can be stacked for a single CSA project, however, there can additional requirements based on Product Requirements and such requirements should be applied and will supersede the generic requirements stated in this document.

~~2.1 Principle 1 – Contribution to Climate Security & Sustainable Development~~

~~No specific changes, deviations or additional requirements are applicable~~

~~2.2 Principle 2 – Safeguarding Principles~~

~~No specific changes, deviations or additional requirements are applicable~~

~~2.3 Principle 3 – Stakeholder Inclusivity~~

~~4.1.4~~ ~~Community Service~~ CSA projects shall have specific stakeholder consultation requirements for certain project types (including, but not limited to, hydropower and ~~biomass resource based~~ [biomass resource](#) ~~are as~~ given in Annex A of this document).

~~2.4 Principle 4 – Demonstration of Real Outcomes~~

~~1.1.1~~ ~~2.4.1~~ [New](#) Projects may seek Certification and receive Issuance of Gold Standard Certified Impact Statements or Products for a maximum of two Design Certification Renewal Cycles i.e., a total of 15 years issuance. ~~Projects already certified for design under an older version of the Gold Standard (i.e. GS v2.2 or earlier), shall apply following~~

~~4.1.5~~

~~A 10 year fixed crediting period project shall retain the balance of its 10 year period post transition to GS4GG~~

~~A 7 year renewable project shall maintain the balance of its existing crediting period upon renewal. Its future renewals shall take place as per a 7 year cycle instead of 5 as envisaged under GS4GG, up to the maximum 21 years.~~

~~4.1.6~~ Product Requirements with specific requirements for total issuance period shall supersede information in this document.

~~4.1.7~~ ~~2.4.2~~ Design Certification Renewal in the case of CSA projects is mandatory every 5 years as per the ~~Gold Standard for the Global Goals~~

[Principles & Requirements](#). For the first renewal, CSA Projects are not required to reassess the Baseline Scenario.

~~2.4.3 An eligible, GS Approved VVB shall validate or verify Gold Standard Community Service Projects as per Gold Standard Validation & Verification Body Requirements.~~

~~2.5~~ Principle 5 – Financial Additionality & Ongoing Financial Need

~~4.1.8~~ ~~2.5.1~~ All projects seeking the issuance of [Certified](#) Impact Statements and/or Products shall demonstrate Financial Additionality in accordance with the ~~Gold Standard for the Global Goals~~ [Principles & Requirements](#) and the following ~~applicable product~~ [Product](#) specific requirements.

~~4.1.9~~ ~~2.5.2~~ Projects that meet any of the following criteria are considered as deemed additional and therefore are not required to prove Financial Additionality at the time of Design Certification:

- (a) Positive list (Annex B [of this document](#))
- (b) Projects located in LDC, SIDS, LLDC⁴
- (c) Microscale projects

~~2.5.3 For stacked Gold Standard Certified Impacts the project developer shall demonstrate the impact of the additional revenue streams qualitatively (i.e. provide a definition of what further benefit the finance will bring)~~

~~4.1.10~~ ~~2.5.4~~ All [CSA](#) project types shall demonstrate Ongoing Financial Need as per ~~the Gold Standard for the Global Goals~~ [Principles & Requirements](#).

~~1.1.2~~ For stacked Gold Standard Certified Impacts the project developer shall demonstrate the impact of the additional revenue streams qualitatively (i.e. provide a definition of what further benefit the finance will bring).

~~4.1.11~~

⁴ 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).

ANNEX A – ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR SPECIFIC PROJECT TYPES

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

~~1. Hydropower project activity~~

~~1.1 Hydropower project activities located in High Conservation Values (HCVs)⁵ areas shall NOT be eligible for certification under GS4GG. The Project Developers must assess if the project activity is in HCVs area. For such assessment, the project developer shall consult 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, the Ramsar list of wetlands, and the United Nations list of protected areas. The outcome of the assessment shall be provided with the project documentation submitted for preliminary review.~~

~~1.2 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 it) :~~

Issue	Requirements
<p>(a) 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 that these are in agreement with the shift of use.</p>	<p>The expert opinion must be provided on time for validation and be reflected in the Monitoring Plan for verification along the crediting period.</p>
<p>(b) What is the minimum ecological flow that shall be complied with at any point in time, accounting for the specificities of local ecosystems and seasonality?</p> <p>What quality assurance and control procedures shall be put in place for appropriate continuous monitoring over the crediting period?</p>	<p>The expert opinion shall be provided in time for validation.</p>
<p>(c) Is the groundwater level seriously affected by the hydropower project?</p>	<p>The expert opinion shall be provided in time for validation.</p>

⁵ 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 appropriate continuous monitoring over the crediting period?	
(a) 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.
(b) 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.
(c) 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.

1. Hydropower project activity

1.1.1 Hydropower project activities located in High Conservation Values (HCVs)⁶ areas shall NOT be eligible for certification under Gold Standard for the Global Goals (GS4GG). The Project Developers must assess if the project activity is in HCVs area. For such assessment, the Project Developer shall consult 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](#), the [Ramsar list of wetlands](#), and the [United Nations list of protected areas](#). The outcome of the assessment shall be provided with the project documentation submitted for preliminary review.

1.1.2 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
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⁶ Refer to High Conservation Value Resource Network for definition of High Conservation Value Area. Available at <https://hcvnetwork.org/>

(a)	<p>Are there any competing uses of water resources at the project location, of what nature and how severe are they?</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>
	<p>Convincing evidence must be provided that the hydropower project does not divert water from other current users or if it does, these users are in agreement with the shift of use.</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 seasonality?</p>	<p>The expert opinion shall be provided in time for validation.</p>
	<p>What quality assurance and control procedures shall be put in place for appropriate continuous monitoring over the crediting period?</p>	
(c)	<p>Is the groundwater level seriously affected by the hydropower project?</p>	<p>The expert opinion shall be provided in time for validation.</p>
	<p>What quality assurance and control procedures shall be put in place for appropriate continuous monitoring over the crediting period?</p>	
(a)	<p>Is the design of the fish passages and screens (water intake structure) installed in line with internationally recognised guidance?</p>	<p>The expert opinion shall be provided in time for validation.</p>
	<p>Are these measures indeed effective over the crediting period, and if not, what shall be done to improve the situation?</p>	<p>The expert opinion shall be provided in time for verification.</p>
(b)	<p>What sediment management plan shall be considered?</p>	<p>The expert opinion shall be provided in time for validation.</p>
	<p>Is it indeed effective over the crediting period, and if not, how shall it be improved?</p>	<p>The expert opinion shall be provided in time for verification.</p>
(c)	<p>What mitigation measures shall be put in place to prevent soil erosion?</p>	<p>The expert opinion shall be provided in time for validation.</p>
	<p>Are they effective and if not, what complementary action shall be taken?</p>	<p>The expert opinion shall be provided in time for verification.</p>

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 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 This list is approved by 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. 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 Gold Standard as part of the preliminary review.
- 1.1.5 Project Developer shall plan for 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 The Gold Standard will evaluate the eligibility of hydropower activities with an installed capacity greater than 20 MW on a case-by-case basis at the time of preliminary review. This 20 MW capacity threshold shall apply to each one of the project activities as part of a bundle⁷, and not to the overall bundle, and to each CPA/VPA as part of a PoA. The Project Developer shall provide the following additional information as part of the documentation to be reviewed:
- (a) A Stakeholder Consultation Report, in accordance with the relevant 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) A Compliance Report showing that the project is in compliance with the latest WCD guidelines⁸, validated by a GS-VVB.

2. Project activity using biomass resources

- 2.1.1 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 resources⁹. The renewability of the biomass shall be monitored along the crediting period and be included in the

⁷ Several project activities which form a single project activity or portfolio without the loss of distinctive characteristics of each component.

⁸ www.dams.org

Monitoring Plan, where required by the applied Impact quantification methodology.

- 2.1.2 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 to demonstrate that the current users agree 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 biomass resources used.¹⁰ They must do so once, ex-ante on time for validation for small-scale project activities (installed capacity upto 15 MW or 45 MW_{th}), and in time for validation and for each one of the verifications (inclusion in the Monitoring Plan) for project activities greater than 15 MW_{el} or 45 MW_{th}.
- 2.1.3 Project Developers shall demonstrate that their project will only make use of degraded land¹¹ 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 evidence is provided showing that the envisioned energy crop is part of a traditional rotational cropping, OR
 - (b) 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 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 Monitoring Plan.

- 2.1.4 Activities making use of GMOs shall also comply with the requirements prescribed in Safeguarding Principles & Requirements for Genetic Resources.
- 2.1.5 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 The use of non-renewable fuel in biomass heat and/or electricity generation plants is authorised as long as the renewable fuel share

¹⁰ 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

¹¹ <http://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/ARmethodologies/tools/ar-am-tool-13-v1.pdf>

reaches 50%¹² after the first 3 years¹³ of operation for retrofit projects, and represents 80% from the outset for Greenfield projects.

2.1.7 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 Gold Standard, at the time of preliminary review. The Project Developers shall provide the following on top of the usual project documentation:

- (a) A Stakeholder Consultation Report, in accordance with Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements, and provided as part of the documentation to be reviewed at the time of the preliminary review.
- (b) A 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 Production¹⁴ (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 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 Methane recovery project activities at wastewater treatment plants related to Palm Oil production shall comply with all the Palm Oil related rules mentioned above (paragraph 2.1.7).

¹² Refers to the percentage of the total fuel consumed on an annual energy basis.

¹³ The reference date for the 3-year period is the start date of crediting period.

¹⁴ RSPO Website <<http://www.rspo.org>>

4. Project activity using Waste Heat/Gas recovery

- 4.1.1 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 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 Project activities involving the 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, be taken into account in the calculation of project emissions.

5. Fossil co-generation

- 5.1.1 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.

7. Waste handling and disposal

- 7.1.1 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 materials¹⁵ 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 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 projects greater than 15 MW_{el} or 45 MW_{th}.

8. Relighting

- 8.1.1 Relighting activities involving the substitution of incandescent light bulbs by CFLs shall provide a detailed description of the future collection and disposal or recycling plan of the CFLs, with particular attention to mercury. The effectiveness of the plan shall be part of the Sustainability Monitoring Plan. Recycling is not mandatory in the absence of existing recycling infrastructure but disposal shall be addressed satisfactorily.

¹⁵ 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

9. End-use fossil fuel switching

9.1.1 Activities involving fossil fuel switching shall be eligible under Gold Standard. However, these activities can only claim emission reductions related to end-use energy efficiency improvements (e.g. energy recovery through condensation of water in the fumes of natural gas-fired boilers). The emission reductions related to the difference in carbon content between a non-renewable fuel and a less carbon-intensive non-renewable fuel used for substitution shall NOT be eligible.

~~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. Project 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.~~

~~1.4 — This list is approved by 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. 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 Gold Standard as part of the preliminary review.~~

~~1.5 — Project Developer shall plan for 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.~~

~~1.6 — The Gold Standard will evaluate the eligibility of hydropower activities with an installed capacity greater than 20 MW on a case-by-case basis at the time of preliminary review. This 20 MW 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 CPA/VPA as part of a PoA. The project developer shall provide the following additional information as part of the documentation to be reviewed:~~

~~(a) — A Stakeholder Consultation Report, in accordance with the relevant 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) A report ('Compliance Report') showing that the project is in compliance with the latest WCD guidelines¹⁶, validated by a GS-VVB.

~~2. Project activity using biomass resources~~

~~2.1 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 resources¹⁷. The renewability of the biomass shall be monitored along the crediting period and be included in the Monitoring Plan. [VT1][AG2]~~

~~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 to demonstrate that the current users agree 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 biomass resources used.¹⁸ They must do so once, ex-ante on time for validation for small-scale project activities (installed capacity upto 15 MW or 45 MW_{th}), and in time for validation and for each one of the verifications (inclusion in the Monitoring Plan) for project activities greater than 15 MW_{el} or 45 MW_{th}.~~

~~2.3 Project Developers shall demonstrate that their project will only make use of degraded land¹⁹ 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: convincing evidence is provided showing that the envisioned energy crop is part of a traditional rotational cropping, OR 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 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.~~

¹⁶ www.dams.org

¹⁷ Refer to EB-23, Annex 18 "Definition of Renewable Biomass or its update": http://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/023/eb23_repan18.pdf

¹⁸ 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

¹⁹ <http://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/ARmethodologies/tools/ar-am-tool-13-v1.pdf>

- ~~2.4~~ — Activities making use of GMOs shall also comply with the requirements of Safeguarding Principles & Requirements for Genetic Resources.
- ~~2.5~~ — 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).
- ~~2.6~~ — 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%²⁰ after the first 3 years²¹ of operation for retrofit projects, and represents 80% from the outset for Greenfield projects.
- ~~2.7~~ — 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, at the time of preliminary review. The project developers shall provide the following on top of the usual project documentation:
- ~~(a)~~ — A Stakeholder Consultation Report, in accordance with Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements, and provided as part of the documentation to be reviewed at the time of the preliminary review.
 - ~~(b)~~ — 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 Production²² (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~~ — 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

²⁰ Refers to the percentage of the total fuel consumed on an annual energy basis.

²¹ The reference date for the 3-year period is the start date of crediting period.

²² RSPO Website <<http://www.rspo.org>>

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).

~~3.2~~ — Methane recovery project activities at wastewater treatment plants related to Palm Oil production shall comply with all rules mentioned above for Palm Oil activities provided in this document.

~~4.~~ — Project activity using Waster Heat/Gas recovery

~~4.1~~ — 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.

~~4.2~~ — Project activities involving the use of waste gases 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 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, be taken into account in the calculation of project emissions.

~~5.~~ — Fossil co-generation

~~5.1~~ — 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~~ — Eligible Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) incineration activities seeking Gold Standard certification shall also meet the following requirements:

~~(a)~~ — Stakeholder consultation

~~6.2~~ — 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 carry out the stakeholder consultation(s) following the Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements.~~

~~**(b) Project Eligibility**~~

- ~~6.3 The project shall involve energy generation (electricity and/or heat) from MSW incineration. The MSW incineration shall be considered as recovery operations concerning the waste hierarchy as long as the project activity recovers energy from municipal waste incineration in an efficient way.~~
- ~~6.4 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 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 each verification~~
- ~~6.5 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 community outreach and education campaigns, educational campaigns via local schools and other institutes, educational displays, television/radio campaigns, etc.~~
- ~~6.6 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**~~

- ~~6.7 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 project developer 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.~~

~~6.8 The Project Developer shall ensure that measures are put in place to ensure that applicable host country or other applicable regulations are complied with.~~

~~6.9 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~~

~~6.10 Where a breach of the applicable regulations that pose 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~~

~~6.11 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 reporting.~~

~~6.12 The Project Developer shall include the relevant information in the Annual Report, as required under Gold Standard for the Global Goals.~~

~~7. Waste handling and disposal~~

~~7.1 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 materials²³ 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 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 projects greater than 15 MW_{el} or 45 MW_{th}.~~

~~Relighting~~

²³ 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

1. Relighting activities involving the substitution of incandescent light bulbs by CFLs shall provide a detailed description of the future collection and disposal or recycling plan of the CFLs, with a particular attention to mercury. The effectiveness of the plan shall be part of the Sustainability Monitoring Plan. Recycling is not mandatory in the absence of existing recycling infrastructure but disposal shall be addressed satisfactorily.

End use fossil fuel switching

1. Activities involving fossil fuel switching shall be eligible under Gold Standard. However, these activities can only claim emission reductions related to end use energy efficiency improvements (e.g. energy recovery through condensation of water in the fumes of natural gas fired boilers). The emission reductions related to the difference in carbon content between a non-renewable fuel and a less carbon intensive non-renewable fuel used for substitution shall NOT be eligible.

ANNEX B - POSITIVE LIST

The positive list for Community Services of CS projects consists of the following project types:

1.1.1 ~~1.~~—The following mini-grid connected or off-grid renewable electricity generation technologies:

- ~~—~~Solar technologies (photovoltaic and solar thermal electricity generation);
-
- ~~—~~Off-shore wind technologies;
-
- ~~—~~Marine technologies (wave, tidal)
-
- Building-integrated wind turbines or household rooftop wind turbines of a size up to 100 kW;

1.1.2 ~~2.~~—The following mini-grid connected or off-grid electricity generation technologies where the individual units do not exceed the thresholds indicated in parentheses with the aggregate project installed capacity not exceeding the 15 MW threshold:

- ~~—~~Micro/pico-hydro (with power plant size up to 100 kW);
-
- ~~—~~Micro/pico-wind turbine (up to 100 kW);
-
- ~~—~~PV-wind hybrid (up to 100 kW);
-
- ~~—~~Geothermal (up to 200 kW);
-
- Biomass gasification/biogas (up to 100 kW);

1.1.3 ~~3.~~—Project activities solely composed of isolated units where the users of the technology/measure are households or communities or institutions and where each unit results in ≤ 600 MWh of energy savings per year or ≤ 600 tonnes of emission reductions per year.

1.1.4 ~~4.~~—Rural electrification²⁴~~(1.5)~~ project activities using renewable energy sources in countries with rural electrification rates less than 50%; the

²⁴ Rural electrification for the purpose of this document is defined as a project activity for supplying renewable electricity to facilities and energy consumers that do not have access to any electricity distribution system/network such as a national grid or regional grid. Such electricity end-use facilities may include but are not limited to households, public buildings, and/or small, medium and micro enterprises. Electricity uses may include but are not limited to interior lighting, street lighting, refrigeration, or agricultural water pumps.

most recent available data on the electrification rates shall be used to demonstrate compliance with the 50 percent threshold. In no case shall data be used if older than three years from the date of commencement of validation of the project activity

- 1.1.5 Project activities that involve technologies²⁵ and/or practices providing thermal energy to the user that have less than 20% adoption rate among the target users. The most recent available data on adoption rates shall be used to demonstrate compliance with the 20 per cent threshold in the target geographical area²⁶. In no case shall data be used if older than three years from the date of commencement of validation of the project activity.
- ~~1.1.1~~—The positive list of technologies shall be reassessed every five years or as per GS discretion.
- 1.1.6
- 1.1.7 Projects meeting the requirements listed in the CDM's Methodological tool: Positive list of technologies. The tool shall be read in conjunction with the Gold Standard Principles and Requirements, Renewable Energy Activity Requirement and Community Service Activity Requirements as applicable. Should there be a conflict, the eligibility requirements defined in the GS4GG standards will supersede. Please note, that under no circumstances should these conditions imply an exemption from the Gold Standard eligibility criteria related to the project types mentioned in the tool.

~~1. — 5. Project activities that involve technologies¹⁶¹ and/or practices providing thermal energy to the user that have less than 20% adoption rate among the target users. The most recent available data on adoption rates shall be used to demonstrate compliance with the 20 per cent threshold in the target geographical area[17]. In no case shall data be used if older than three years from the date of commencement of validation of the project activity. The positive list of technologies shall be reassessed every five years or as per GS discretion.~~

~~6. Projects meeting the requirements listed in the CDM's Methodological tool: Positive list of technologies. The tool shall be read in conjunction with the Gold Standard Principles and Requirements, Renewable Energy Activity Requirement and Community Service Activity Requirements as applicable.~~

²⁵ Examples of these technologies include but not limited to the introduction of improved biomass or fossil fuel cookstoves, ovens, dryers, space and water heaters (solar and otherwise), heat retention cookers, solar cookers, biodigesters, safe water supply and treatment technologies that displace the boiling of water, thermal insulation in cold climates, etc.

²⁶ Applicable geographical area – should be the entire host country. If the project participants opt to limit the applicable geographical area to a specific geographical area (such as province, region, etc.) within the host country, then they shall provide justification on the essential distinction between the identified specific geographical area and rest of the host country.

Should there be a conflict, the eligibility requirements defined in the GS4GG standards will supersede. Please note, that under no circumstances should these conditions imply an exemption from the Gold Standard eligibility criteria related to the below mentioned project types.

Endnotes

[1] Community refers to a group of people who live in the same area (such as a village, city, town, or neighbourhood) and share the services/resources. It shall be treated as guiding principle; the project proponent should refer to applicable rules, regulations, guidelines and official notifications of the host country in this regard.

Community may include variety of end-users for example households, commercial facilities such as shops, public services, residential and commercial buildings, small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs), etc. Projects that do not include activities providing services or access to resources for identified user categories as listed here, for example industrial wastewater treatment projects, are not eligible for Gold Standard certification under CS Requirements.

[2] An establishment with a specific purpose that serves individuals or group of individuals within its premises such as a hospital, school, etc.

[3] 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.

[4] 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).

[5] Please refer to High Conservation Value Resource Network for definition of High Conservation Value Area.

[6] www.protectedplanet.net

[7] www.ramsar.org/pdf/sitelist.pdf

[8] http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/UNLNP_2003.pdf

[9] Refer to EB-23, Annex 18 "Definition of Renewable Biomass or its update" http://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/023/cb23_repan18.pdf

[10] 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

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

~~[12] Refers to the percentage of the total fuel consumed on an annual energy basis.~~

~~[13] The reference date for the 3-year period is the start date of crediting period.~~

~~[14] 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~~

~~[15] Rural electrification for the purpose of this document is defined as a project activity for supplying renewable electricity to facilities and energy consumers that do not have access to any electricity distribution system/network such as a national grid or regional grid. Such electricity end-use facilities may include but are not limited to households, public buildings, and/or small, medium and micro enterprises. Electricity uses may include but are not limited to interior lighting, street lighting, refrigeration, or agricultural water pumps.~~

~~[16] Examples of these technologies include but not limited to the introduction of improved biomass or fossil fuel cookstoves, ovens, dryers, space and water heaters (solar and otherwise), heat retention cookers, solar cookers, biodigesters, safe water supply and treatment technologies that displace the boiling of water, thermal insulation in cold climates, etc.~~

~~[17] Applicable geographical area — should be the entire host country. If the project participants opt to limit the applicable geographical area to a specific geographical area (such as province, region, etc.) within the host country, then they shall provide justification on the essential distinction between the identified specific geographical area and rest of the host country.~~