



Methodology - Procedure

PROCEDURE FOR DEVELOPMENT, REVISION, AND CLARIFICATION OF METHODOLOGIES AND METHODOLOGICAL TOOLS

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SUMMARY

This document describes the process for reviewing, approving new methodology & methodology tool, revisions and updates to an approved methodology and methodology tool and addressing clarifications on approved methodology and tools, followed under the GS4GG.

The review and approval process involves two main stages:

1. Submitting a concept note summarising the proposal for a new methodology or revision to an approved methodology for eligibility check by Gold Standard Secretariat and/or its Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), as required.
2. After the concept note is approved, submitting the draft of new methodology or revised methodology for review and approval.

The draft methodology undergoes a completeness check by Secretariat, an in-depth review by the Methodology Working Group members and independent subject matter experts, a 30-day public stakeholder consultation hosted by the Gold Standard, and then is submitted for final approval by the TAC.

In addition to the procedure for methodology review and approval, this document also provide necessary guidance to key stakeholders, including but not limited to methodology developers, project developers, methodology working group members, Technical Advisory Committee, and other stakeholders involved in the process.

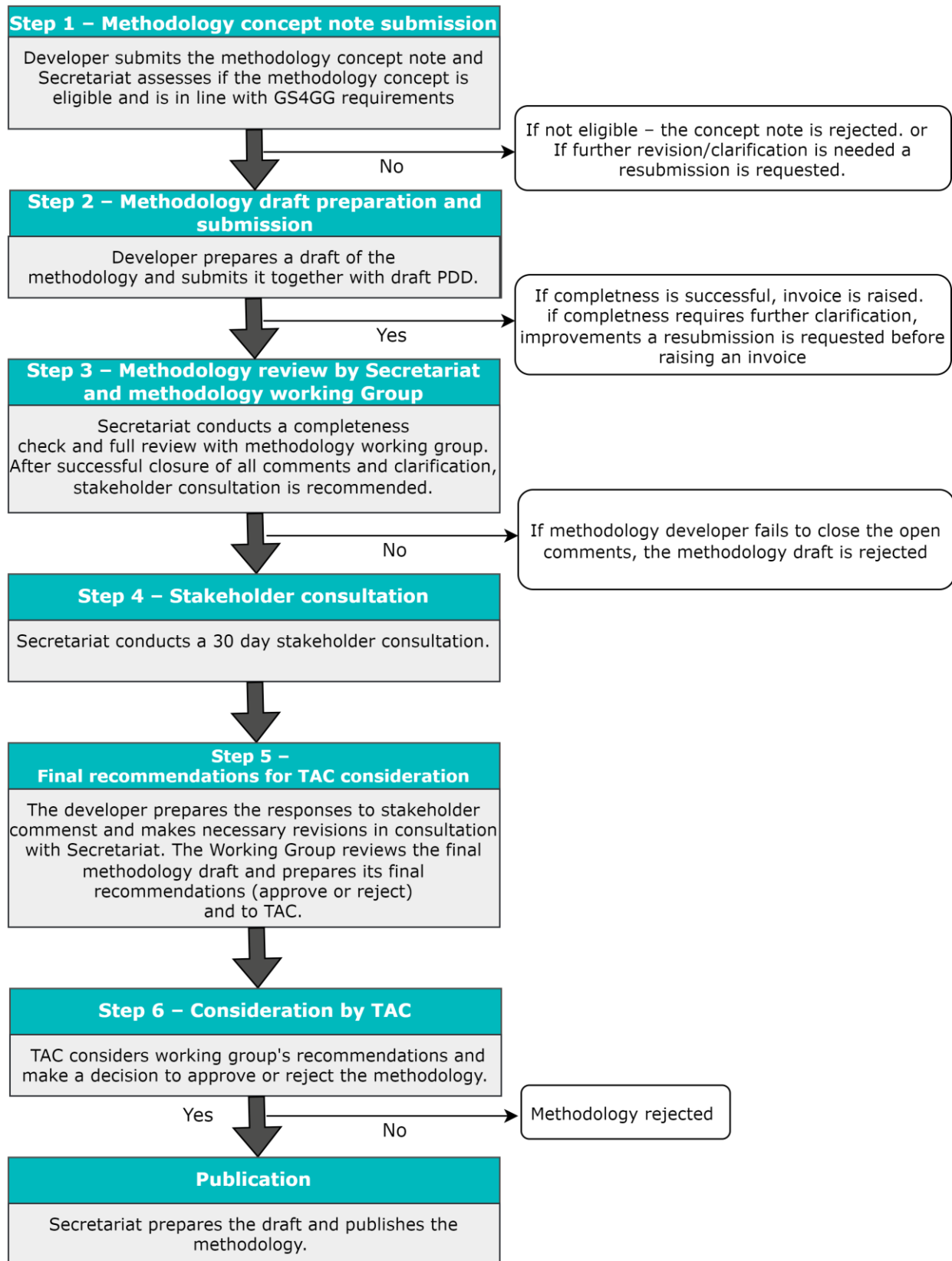


Figure 1. New methodology approval procedure (Stakeholder-led development track)

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1| SCOPE, APPLICABILITY AND ENTRY INTO FORCE

1.1 | Scope

1.1.1 | This document outlines procedure and requirements for the development of new methodology and methodological tool, the revision of approved methodology and methodological tool, and the provision of seeking clarification on approved methodology and methodological tool. It includes procedures for both, stakeholder-led and Secretariat-led methodology development and approval.

1.2 | Applicability

1.2.1 | The procedure applies to all new methodology and revisions to approved methodology and methodological tool, as well as seeking clarification for application of an approved methodology. From here on, both methodologies and methodological tools will be referred to as "methodology," unless stated otherwise.

1.3 | Entry into force

1.3.1 | Version 2.0 of this standard document comes into force on 11/11/2023.

2| INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS, COPYRIGHT, AND DISCLAIMER

2.1 | Intellectual Property Rights

2.1.1 | All materials in this document are owned by Gold Standard under intellectual property rights. The use of these materials is permitted for Gold Standard certification programs, but any other commercial use is prohibited. This includes viewing, downloading, modifying, copying, distributing, transmitting, storing, reproducing, or otherwise using, publishing, licensing, transferring, selling, or creating derivative works.

2.2 | Disclaimer

2.2.1 | At Gold Standard, we strive to collect and provide accurate, current, and complete information. However, we cannot guarantee that the information we provide is free of errors. We want to remind our users that we, as well as our employees, advisers, and contributors, are not liable for any errors, omissions, or damages resulting from the use of or reliance on this information.

2.3 | Approved Methodology

2.3.1 | An approved methodology can be used by anyone without legal restrictions. However, in some places, the methodology developer may have additional rights, such as being acknowledged as the author. Gold Standard does not make any promises about a methodology and is not responsible for how it is used. A methodology may be updated or changed from time to time, so updates should be checked to ensure the accuracy of the work. The

methodology developers are encouraged to subscribe to the Gold Standard [Newsletter](#) to receive information on updates and any revisions to approved methodologies.

2.4 | Feedback and Comment

2.4.1 | Any feedback or suggestions for improving the methodology are welcomed and should be sent to methodology@goldstandard.org.

3| GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND REQUIREMENTS

3.1 | Guiding principles

3.1.1 | The methodology development and its review shall follow the guiding principles below, based on the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 14064 Part 2 (2019) specifications, for designing and developing requirements and criteria to ensure that methodology application facilitates compliance with GHG accounting principles.

- a. General - The application of principles is fundamental to ensure that GHG-related information is a true and fair account. The principles are the basis for and shall guide the development of methodology requirements and intended application.
- b. Relevance - Select the GHG sources, GHG sinks, GHG reservoirs, data, and methodologies appropriate to the activities/ measures covered.
- c. Completeness - Include all relevant GHG emissions and removals. Include all relevant information to support criteria and procedures.
- d. Consistency - Enable meaningful comparisons in GHG- related information.
- e. Accuracy - reduce bias and uncertainties in GHG related information.
- f. Transparency - Disclose sufficient and appropriate GHG-related information to allow intended users to make decisions with reasonable confidence.
- g. Conservativeness - Use conservative assumptions, values, and procedures to ensure that GHG emission reductions or removal enhancements are not overestimated.

3.2 | General requirements

3.2.1 | To ensure compliance with general guiding principles, the methodology shall

- a. design the applicability criteria that projects shall use to demonstrate compliance with the core principles of Gold Standard, as listed in the [Principles and Requirements](#);
- b. design flexible procedures to accommodate different types of projects of similar nature and circumstances while still ensuring the integrity of the GHG accounting process;

- c. establish criteria for the selection of relevant GHG sources, sinks, and reservoirs for regular monitoring or estimation where not monitored regularly;
- d. establish criteria and procedures for quantifying GHG emissions and/or removals for selected GHG sources, sinks, and/or reservoirs;
- e. define assumptions and specify quantification methods and monitoring requirements to ensure that GHG emission reductions and removals are not overestimated, particularly in cases where estimation methods, not direct measurement, are used to populate parameters;
- f. use conservative assumptions, values, and procedures to ensure that greenhouse gas emission reductions or removal enhancements are not overestimated;
- g. include methods for estimating uncertainty relevant to the project and baseline scenario and underlying parameters and uncertainty adjustment approach, where applicable;
- h. specify the approach to demonstrating the additionality of the activity applying the methodology.

3.2.2 | The '[Rules, Modalities, and Procedures for the Mechanism Established by Article 6, Paragraph 4 of the Paris Agreement](#)' outlines the principles, key requirements, and processes of the Article 6.4 mechanism. The developer shall take into account the requirements outlined in Chapter V B - Methodologies, Paragraphs 33-39 of the Annex when preparing the new methodology. The Gold Standard plans to issue additional guidelines to ensure compliance with the methodology requirements of Chapter V B (Methodologies) of the Rules, Modalities, and Procedures.

4| METHODOLOGY DEVELOPMENT - NEW METHODOLOGY

4.1 | Stakeholder-led development

a. Selection of approval pathways

4.1.1 | A new methodology can be submitted for approval using one of the following procedures:

- a. Regular approval - This procedure applies to a new methodology that has not been approved under any other certification scheme or standard.
- b. Fast track approval - This procedure applies to a methodology that has already been approved or updated in the last five years by another credible certification scheme or standard, such as CDM, Article 6.4 mechanism or a domestic scheme and is in compliance with the GS4GG general eligibility principles.

4.1.2 | The fast-track approval procedure follows the same requirements as the regular approval procedure, except that the Secretariat shall appoint at minimum one independent subject matter experts from the roster of experts

and one reviewer with sectoral expertise from the relevant TAC and/or methodology working group.

4.1.3 | The methodology developers are encouraged to confirm the applicable pathway by submitting an outline of the scope of proposed methodology to methodology@goldstandard.org, prior to submission of methodology concept note.

b. Methodology concept note

4.1.4 | A project developer, coordinating/ managing entity (CME), a Validation/Verification Body (VVB), a designated national authority (DNA), or any other stakeholder (hereinafter referred to as the methodology developer), may propose a new methodology by submitting a methodology concept note.

4.1.5 | The methodology developer shall use the template (Form - [Methodology Concept Note](#)) and follow instructions provided to complete the Methodology Concept Note. Once completed, the developer shall send the Methodology Concept Note and Form – Methodology Submission to methodology@goldstandard.org. The concept note shall be used to evaluate the eligibility of proposed methodology.

4.1.6 | The methodology concept note shall present the following information:

- a. Methodology idea
- b. Reference to GS4GG Activity Requirement(s), if applicable
- c. Typical project
 - i. Technology maturity level and Technology adoption level
 - ii. Baseline scenario
 - iii. Expected sustainable development contributions
 - iv. Quantification and monitoring approach
 - v. Expected emission reductions or removals or SDG impacts
 - vi. Risk of reversal
 - vii. Safeguarding risks and likely mitigation measures
 - viii. Example case studies/pilot projects, if available
- d. Additionality approach
- e. Methodology uptake potential
- f. Alignment with GS4GG principles and requirements
- g. Reference to similar methodologies
- h. Supporting documents, as necessary.

4.1.7 | The methodology concept note should comply with the eligibility principles of the [Principles and Requirements](#) and shall present impact quantification approach(es) to assess the contribution to at least one Sustainable Development Goal (SDG).

4.1.8 | If a proposed methodology partially or completely covers the scope of an approved methodology and introduces innovative approaches, it may be considered for review as a new methodology. However, if the proposed approach(es) are covered partially or completely by an approved Gold

Standard approved methodology, modifications to the existing methodology should be proposed through the methodology revision procedure. Refer to section [5|Methodology revisions - Approved methodology](#).

- 4.1.9 | The methodology concept note shall be subjected to a completeness check by the Secretariat, and upon positive conclusion of the completeness check followed by a review by methodology working group and/or TAC.
- 4.1.10 | During the completeness check and review, the Secretariat may request that the methodology developer provide additional information as needed.
- 4.1.11 | The methodology working group and/or TAC review process may result in one of the following decisions as communicated by the Secretariat:
- a. Resubmission: The Methodology Developer is requested to revise and resubmit the draft Methodology Concept Note to address the issues identified by the reviewers.
 - b. Approval: The Methodology Developer is advised to proceed to the next steps as noted in section c below.
 - c. Rejection: The Methodology Developer is advised that Concept note has been rejected.
- 4.1.12 | The decision to reject a methodology concept note is at the sole discretion of the Gold Standard. The Gold Standard may reject the methodology concept note for any of the following reasons, including but not limited to:
- a. non-compliance with GS4GG eligibility principles
 - b. non-compliance with the guiding principles and requirements outlined in Section 3|
 - c. lack of robust scientific basis & evidence to support the proposed concept and underlying assumptions
 - d. lack of a robust measuring and monitoring approach for the primary SDG that it will contribute to risk of overestimating impact
 - e. involvement of a material safeguarding risk that cannot be mitigated.
- 4.1.13 | If there are multiple methodology concept notes with similar ideas submitted by different developers around the same time, the Secretariat may suggest multiple developers collaborate for the next steps or may propose to lead the development as appropriate.
- 4.1.14 | The Secretariat shall maintain a publicly available list of all proposed new methodologies and methodological tools and methodology developer/funder on the Gold Standard website. The list shall indicate the current status of each proposed methodology in the process and whether it has been deemed qualified for consideration by the Methodology Working Group or relevant TAC.
- 1.1.1 |** The developer shall submit a summary of proposed concept note, without disclosing any proprietary and financially sensitive information for publication on GS4GG website. Refer to Form - [Methodology Concept Note](#)
- 4.1.15 | The developer shall submit the full methodology draft within six months of methodology concept approval. If the developer fails to submit the

methodology draft within the six months of its approval, the Secretariat reserves the right to mark the methodology as

- a. "on-hold" and the methodology concept note can be marked as "active" once the methodology draft is submitted, OR
- b. "withdrawn" and may decide to invite or allow another developer to develop the methodology instead.

c. Preparation of draft methodology or methodology tool

4.1.16 | The methodology developer prepares and submits the following documents

- a. [Form – Methodology Submissions](#);
- b. Draft Methodology or new methodology module and/or tool as applicable
- c. A model project design document (PDD) of the planned activity that intends to apply the proposed new methodology, with at least the following sections of the form and relevant appendices completed, applying the proposed new methodology:
 - i. Description of project activity;
 - ii. Application of selected approved baseline and monitoring methodology;
 - iii. Duration and crediting period;
 - iv. Demonstration of additionality approach, where a new approach is proposed as part of methodology

If necessary to facilitate the methodology review, the Secretariat may request developer to draft additional sections of PDD.

4.1.17 | The draft methodology document should be written in a clear and precise manner. The language used shall be logical and concise, making it easy to read and understand. The layout and terminology should align with applicable Activity Requirements, if available. The document should use English adequately and unambiguously, and all relevant information should be included to provide comprehensive and thorough coverage of the subject matter.

d. Review by methodology working group

4.1.18 | The Secretariat shall issue an invoice to the methodology developer for the payment of the review fee, as applicable.

4.1.19 | The Secretariat shall conduct a completeness check of the submission within two weeks of receiving the methodology documentation.

4.1.20 | After the completeness check,

- a. If the submission is found complete, the Secretariat shall notify the developer of the conclusion and shall share the planned review timeline including expected response time from Secretariat for each round of review.
- b. If the submission is found incomplete, the Secretariat shall request the developer to submit the missing or revised documents and/or information. The developer shall submit the requested documents

and/or information to the Secretariat within three weeks of receiving the request. If the developer fails to submit the requested documents and/or information by this deadline, the Secretariat shall conclude that the submission is incomplete. In this case, the developer may resubmit the proposed new methodology with revised documentation at any time. Upon submission, the Secretariat shall provide a revised review timeline, considering the availability of reviewer(s).

4.1.21 | The Secretariat shall notify the TAC at the beginning of the review process.

4.1.22 | To review the draft methodology, the Secretariat shall select up to two independent subject matter experts from the roster of experts and one reviewer with sectoral expertise from the relevant methodology working group and/or TAC.

- a. If a member of the TAC or methodology working group participates in the methodology review, they may join the discussions but are not permitted to vote on the methodology's approval or rejection decision.
- b. If the TAC or methodology working group member is also the methodology developer or representing the developer in any capacity, they shall not participate in discussions and are not permitted to vote on the methodology's approval or rejection decision.

4.1.23 | The Secretariat may appoint more than three reviewers at its discretion, depending on the scope and technical complexity of the methodology. It may also draw upon external expertise, as necessary. If the Secretariat cannot find suitable and available experts on the roster, it may use the services of experts not included on the roster.

4.1.24 | If the reviewers, including the Secretariat, identify any Corrective Action Requests (CARs), Observations (OBs), or need clarification (CLs), the developer shall submit the responses, missing or revised documents, and/or information within three weeks of receipt of the request. This process may involve several rounds of discussion to satisfactorily address any open CARs/OBs/CLs. The review process concludes only after all CARs/OBs have been successfully closed. For each round the developer shall submit the responses within three weeks of receipt of the request. If the developer does not respond within 90 days, the submission shall be considered withdrawn.

4.1.25 | Upon conclusion of the review, the secretariat shall notify the developer of the review outcome and

- a. If the submission is concluded as unqualified for consideration, or incomplete, the Secretariat shall communicate the underlying reason(s) to the developer. In this case, the developer may resubmit the proposed new methodology with revised documentation at any time.
- b. If the submission is concluded as qualified, the Secretariat shall submit the methodology for consideration to the relevant methodology working group. The methodology working group shall consider the draft new methodology or methodological tool and review the draft recommendation prepared by Secretariat. The

Secretariat shall submit the draft recommendation to TAC and request decision to publish methodology for stakeholder consultation, or notify TAC where decision is not requested.

e. Stakeholder consultation

- 4.1.26 | The Secretariat shall make the methodology draft publicly available on the GS website for 30 days of global stakeholder consultation following TAC approval and/or methodology working group recommendation.
- 4.1.27 | The Secretariat shall compile and share the comments received during the stakeholder consultation with the methodology developer. The developer shall then address the relevant comments and make necessary changes to the draft methodology.
- 4.1.28 | The Secretariat shall publish all comments and responses on the methodology consultation page of the website.
- 4.1.29 | The relevant working group shall finalize the recommendation for the TAC on the draft new methodology, taking into account the comments received during the global stakeholder consultation and any revisions or refinements made to address those comments. The working group shall prepare recommendations to the TAC to either approve or reject the proposed new methodology.
- 4.1.30 | The Secretariat shall place the recommendation to the TAC on the agenda of the next TAC meeting.

f. Consideration by TAC

- 4.1.31 | The TAC shall decide whether to approve or reject methodology working group recommendation and provide guidance on the issues for review, if necessary.
- 4.1.32 | If the TAC approves the proposed new methodology or methodological tool, the Secretariat shall,
 - a. note the decision in the minutes of minutes of the meetings of that date,
 - b. advise the developer of the successful approval with next proposed steps, including the final drafting of the Methodology, reformatting and language checks as well as any inputs needed from the Developer to be submitted in writing.
 - c. prepare the final draft including reformatting, language check etc. and update the status of the methodology.
 - d. send a copy of final draft to the developer for a final review and confirmation no later than 5 working days.
 - e. publish the approved new methodology or methodological tool on the website within 30 days of the approval.
- 4.1.33 | If the TAC rejects the proposed new methodology or methodological tool, the Secretariat shall,
 - a. note the decision in the minutes of minutes of the meetings of that date,

- b. inform the developer of the rejection of the methodology.
- c. update the status of the methodology with rational of decision of GS website.

4.1.34 | If the TAC provisionally approves the proposed new methodology or methodological tool, the Secretariat shall,

- a. note the decision in the minutes of minutes of the meetings of that date,
- b. advice the developer on provisional decision with next proposed steps, including the guidance on next steps to be followed to address any pending issue before final approval,
- a. inform the methodology working group on next steps and guidance to implement the TAC decision,
- b. prepare the final draft including reformatting, language check etc. and update the status of the methodology, once issue is resolved.
- c. send a copy of final draft to the developer for a final review and confirmation no later than 5 working days.
- d. publish the approved new methodology or methodological tool on the website within 30 days of the approval.

c. Other

4.1.35 | The Secretariat is responsible for maintaining a publicly available list of all proposed new methodologies that are considered qualified for review by a relevant methodology working group and/or TAC. The list should indicate the current status of the review process and can be accessed on the GS4GG website.

4.1.36 | At any point before the TAC makes a final decision, the Secretariat may request that the developer provide additional information about the proposed methodology within a defined time frame. This will facilitate the assessment by the secretariat and/or the consideration by the relevant methodology working group and/or the TAC.

4.2 | Secretariat-led development

a. Methodology development plan

4.2.1 | The Secretariat, in consultation with TAC and/or the Methodology Working Group, may decide to develop a new methodology (including a new consolidated methodology) or methodological tool at any time. In this case, the TAC shall consider the proposal and decide whether to develop such methodology or methodological tool.

4.2.2 | If the TAC approves the proposal for development of a new methodology or methodological tool, the Secretariat shall prepare a methodology plan that identifies, among other things, the scope, applicability, and time frame for the development of the new methodology or methodological tool.

4.2.3 | The Secretariat shall select two members of the relevant methodology working group and forward the draft development plan to them for review. The selected members shall provide input on the draft development plan.

b. Preparation of draft new methodology or methodology tool

4.2.4 | The Secretariat shall prepare a draft of a new methodology or methodological tool using the methodology draft template in accordance with the development plan.

4.2.5 | When preparing the draft of a new methodology or methodological tool, the Secretariat may draw upon external expertise, depending on the technical complexity of the new methodology or methodological tool, by selecting a maximum of two independent experts from the roster of experts and one reviewer with sectoral expertise from the relevant TAC and/or methodology working group to review the draft. If the Secretariat does not find suitable and available experts on the roster, it may use the services of experts not included on the roster.

4.2.6 | The Secretariat shall finalize the draft of the new methodology or methodological tool, taking into account the input from the selected members of the relevant methodology working group, and submit it to the panel or working group for consideration at its meeting.

c. Consideration by working group

4.2.7 | The relevant working group shall consider the draft new methodology or methodological tool and prepare a draft recommendation. The Secretariat shall notify TAC or submit the draft recommendation to TAC and seek decision to publish methodology for stakeholder consultation.

d. Stakeholder consultation

4.2.8 | The Secretariat shall make the methodology draft publicly available on the GS website for 30 days of global stakeholder consultation.

4.2.9 | The Secretariat shall publish all comments and responses on the consultation page of the GS website.

4.2.10 | The relevant working group shall finalize the recommendation for the TAC on the draft new methodology or methodological tool, taking into account the comments received during the global stakeholder consultation and any revisions or refinements made to address those comments.

4.2.11 | The Secretariat shall place the recommendation to the TAC on the agenda of the next TAC meeting.

e. Consideration by TAC

4.2.12 | The TAC shall decide whether to approve, reject, or request that the relevant methodological panel or working group review the recommendation to the TAC and provide guidance on the issues for review.

4.2.13 | If the TAC approves the proposed new methodology or methodological tool, the Secretariat shall publish the approved new methodology or methodological tool on the website within 30 days of the approval.

5| METHODOLOGY REVISIONS - APPROVED METHODOLOGY

5.1 | Stakeholder-led revisions

a. Selection of type of revisions

5.1.1 | The developer shall select the category of the proposed revisions to an approved methodology (including CDM or A6.4 body approved methodology). The categories are defined as

- a. **Major revisions:** Major revisions refer to changes in the scope, project boundary, applicability conditions, baseline scenario, additionality approach, or quantification and monitoring approach that result in significant changes to the methodology. Examples of such revisions may include, but are not limited to, expanding the scope to cover project activities of a similar nature, implementing a new or adapted quantification method or approach, or modifying the GHG quantification and monitoring approach.
- b. **Minor revisions:** Minor revisions refer to changes made to improve the language and clarity of the methodology, update emission factors, improve procedures, or make minor expansions to the scope that include similar project activities consistent with the existing methodological approach. These revisions have little or no impact on the methodology's scope, project boundary, applicability conditions, baseline scenario, or additionality approach. The purpose of revisions is to improve clarity and maintain consistency in the methodology, without significantly altering its approved objective, scope, and application.

5.1.2 | The review and approval procedure for both types of revisions is the same except that the minor revisions may be published without stakeholder consultation.

5.1.3 | the developer may confirm the category of revisions by submitting a brief outline of proposed changes to methodology@goldstandard.org, prior to submission of revisions to the methodology.

b. Submission of proposed revisions

5.1.4 | The developer shall use the Form - Methodology concept note and follow instructions provided there in to complete the form. Once completed, the developer shall send the Form - Methodology Concept Note and Form – Methodology Submission to methodology@goldstandard.org. The methodology concept note shall be used to evaluate the eligibility of proposed revisions to the methodology.

5.1.5 | The methodology concept note shall include the following information:

- a. A summary of proposed revisions, including the scope, nature of the revision (e.g. minor, major revision, eligibility expansion, additionality, quantification, and/or monitoring approach)
- b. Safeguarding risks and likely mitigation measures
- c. Example case studies or pilot projects, if available

- 5.1.6 | A request to revise an approved methodology or methodological tool shall note include proposed changes that would exclude, restrict, or narrow the methodology or tool's applicability conditions for other project activities or PoAs as a whole. If a developer wants to make such changes to an approved methodology, they shall propose a new methodology instead. If a request to revise an approved methodology is likely to add new procedures or scenarios to over half of the methodology's provisions, the developer shall propose a new methodology.
- 5.1.7 | The methodology concept note is subject to a completeness check by the Secretariat, and upon positive conclusion of the completeness check followed by a review and methodology working group and/or TAC.
- 5.1.8 | During the completeness check and review, the Secretariat may request that the methodology developer provide additional information as needed.
- 5.1.9 | The methodology working group and/or TAC review process may result in one of the following decisions as communicated by the Secretariat:
- a. Resubmission: the methodology developer is requested to revise and resubmit the Methodology Concept Note to address issues identified by the reviewers.
 - b. Approval: The Methodology Developer is advised to proceed to the next steps as noted in Section c below.
 - c. Rejection: The Methodology Developer is advised that Concept note has been rejected.
- 5.1.10 | The decision to reject a proposed revision is at the sole discretion of the Gold Standard. The Gold Standard may reject the proposed revisions for any of the reasons described in para [4.1.12 | above](#), including but not limited to.
- 5.1.11 | The Secretariat shall maintain a publicly available list of all rejected concept notes proposed for revisions to methodology and methodological tools on the Gold Standard website.

c. Preparation of draft revised methodology

- 5.1.12 | The methodology developer prepares the methodology draft, which will be subject to review by Secretariat, methodology working group members and external subject matter experts, public stakeholder consultation (major revisions only), and relevant technology advisory group.
- 5.1.13 | The methodology developer prepares and submits the following documents
- a. Form - Methodology Submissions;
 - b. methodology draft or modules and tools as applicable - the proposed revisions, highlighting the proposed changes to the approved methodology or methodological tool;
 - c. A model project design document (PDD) of the planned project activity that intends to apply the proposed revised methodology, with at least the following sections of the form and relevant appendices completed, applying the proposed revised methodology:
 - i. Description of project activity;

- ii. Application of selected approved baseline and monitoring methodology;
- iii. Duration of crediting period;
- iv. Demonstration of additionality approach, where a new approach is proposed as part of methodology revision

If necessary to facilitate the methodology review, the Secretariat may request developer to draft additional sections of PDD.

5.1.14 | Submitting a draft Project Design Document (PDD) is not mandatory when requesting minor revisions to an approved methodology or methodological tool. However, the relevant panel or working group may request it at a later stage to facilitate its consideration.

5.1.15 | The draft revised methodology document should be written in a clear and precise manner. The language used should be logical and concise, making it easy to read and understand. The layout and terminology should align with the Activity Requirements. The document should use English adequately and unambiguously, and all relevant information should be included to provide comprehensive and thorough coverage of the subject matter.

d. Review by working group

5.1.16 | The Secretariat shall send an invoice to the methodology developer for the review fee. Minor revisions do not require any review fee.

5.1.17 | The secretariat shall conduct a completeness check of the submission within two weeks of receiving methodology documentation and follow the procedure outlined in the para [4.1.19 | above](#).

5.1.18 | After positive conclusion of completeness check, the secretariat shall conduct a methodology review within four weeks following the requirements with revisions below and procedure outlined in para [4.1.20 | above](#).

- a. For major revisions - Secretariat shall select up to two independent subject matter experts from the roster of experts and one reviewer with sectoral expertise from the relevant TAC and/or methodology working group.
- b. For minor revisions - Secretariat shall select one independent subject matter expert from the roster of experts and one reviewer with sectoral expertise from the relevant TAC and/or methodology working group.
- c. The Secretariat may appoint additional reviewers at its discretion, depending on the scope and technical complexity of the methodology. It may also draw upon external expertise, depending on the technical complexity of the new methodology. If the Secretariat cannot find suitable and available experts on the roster, it may use the services of experts not included on the roster.

e. Stakeholder consultation

5.1.19 | Major revisions - the Secretariat shall make the methodology draft publicly available on the GS website for 30 days of global stakeholder consultation

following the requirements and procedure summarised in [4.1.26 | above](#)
[4.1.30 | above.](#)

5.1.20 | Minor revisions - the stakeholder consultation is not mandatory, however the Secretariat at its discretion and in consultation with methodology working group may request TAC decision to publish revised methodology for stakeholder consultation.

f. Consideration by TAC

5.1.21 | The TAC shall make the decision following the requirement and procedures summarised in [4.1.31 | above- 4.1.32 | above.](#)

5.1.22 | If the TAC approves the proposed revised methodology, the Secretariat shall prepare draft revised methodologies draft for publication.

g. Other

5.1.23 | The Secretariat shall maintain on its website a publicly available list of all proposed revised methodologies deemed qualified for consideration by the relevant methodology working group and/or TAC. The list should indicate the current status of the review process and can be accessed on the GS website.

5.1.24 | At any point before the TAC makes a final decision, the Secretariat may request that the developer provide additional information about the proposed methodology within a defined time frame. This will facilitate the assessment by the secretariat and/or the consideration by the relevant methodology working group and/or the TAC.

5.2 | Secretariat led revisions

a. Methodology revision

5.2.1 | The Secretariat shall conduct methodology revisions following the below requirements -

- a. Periodic Review - The Secretariat shall review methodology, module, and tool at least once every three years following its last update or review. However, if at least five certified projects have not applied an approved methodology, the review may be conducted within five years after its last update or review.
- b. *Ad hoc* review - The Secretariat, in consultation with TAC and/or the Methodology Working Group, taking into account the appendix to this procedure, may decide to revise an approved methodology or methodological tool at any time. The Secretariat may prioritize revisions to approved methodologies or tools based on their relevance to least developed countries and small island developing states, host country priorities, potential for global or regional climate action, potential for programmatic approaches, and participation of small and micro-businesses.

5.2.2 | The Secretariat, in consultation with TAC and/or the Methodology Working Group, may initiate an *ad hoc* review of an approved methodology or methodological tool at any time, taking into account the appendix to this procedure. If the Methodology Working Group or the Secretariat considers

that the current version of the methodology or methodological tool should be put on hold, they shall recommend it to TAC. In this case, TAC shall consider the proposal and/or the recommendation and decide whether to:

- a. Suspend an approved methodology or its version with immediate effect. In this case, for a project activity or PoA or its VPA that applies the methodology beginning from the day after the TAC decision is published,
 - i. the project developer or CME cannot submit a request for preliminary review to list a new activity.
 - i. VVB shall also not submit any request for design certification or renewal of the crediting period of a project activity or PoA or its VPA.
- b. Suspend an approved methodology or its version with a grace period of 60 days. In this case, for a project activity or PoA or its VPA that applies the methodology beginning from the day after the TAC decision is published,
 - i. the project developer or CME cannot submit a request for preliminary review to list a new activity.
 - ii. the VVB shall not request for design certification or any request for renewal of crediting period of a project activity or PoA or its VPAs, applying the methodology or methodological tool after the grace period; or
- c. Maintain the current version of the approved methodology or methodological tool until its validity expires; or
- d. Establish and decide an ad hoc interim provision to address the identified issues.

5.2.3 | If a member of TAC or a methodology working group, or the Secretariat, finds that it is necessary to revise an approved methodology or methodological tool to correct an obvious error, the chair and the vice-chair of the relevant methodological working group may decide to directly initiate the revision.

5.2.4 | The Secretariat, in consultation with TAC and/or the Methodology Working Group, may request to suspend a methodology where no projects using it have been design certified within five years of the last update or review. In this case the methodology will be made inactive and may be reactivated by completing a review and any associated revisions, as outlined in the procedure below.

b. Preparation of draft revised methodology or methodology tool

5.2.5 | If the TAC decides or the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the relevant methodological working group decide to revise the methodology in accordance with paragraph [5.2.1](#) | above, the Secretariat shall prepare a draft revised methodology or methodological tool.

5.2.6 | In preparing the draft revised methodology or methodological tool, the Secretariat may draw upon external expertise, depending on the technical complexity of the revision, by selecting a maximum of two independent

experts from the roster of experts and one reviewer with sectoral expertise from the relevant TAC and/or methodology working group to review the draft revised methodology or methodological tool. If the Secretariat does not find suitable and available experts on the roster, it may use the services of experts not included on the roster.

5.2.7 | The Secretariat shall finalize the draft of the revised methodology or methodological tool, taking into account the input from the selected members of the relevant methodology working group, and submitting it to the panel or working group for consideration.

c. Consideration by working group

5.2.8 | The relevant methodological panel or working group shall consider the draft revised methodology or methodological tool and prepare a draft recommendation to the TAC on the draft revised methodology or methodological tool. The Secretariat shall notify TAC and submit the draft recommendation to TAC to seek decision to publish methodology for stakeholder consultation.

d. Stakeholder consultation

5.2.9 | The Secretariat shall make the methodology draft publicly available on the GS website for 30 days of global stakeholder consultation following the requirements and procedure summarised in [4.1.26 | above 4.1.30 | above.](#)

e. Consideration by TAC

5.2.10 | The TAC shall make the decision following the requirement and procedures as per the section [4.1.31 | above 4.1.32 | above.](#)

5.2.11 | If the TAC approves the proposed revised methodology, the Secretariat shall prepare draft revised methodologies draft for final publication.

f. Other

5.2.12 | The Secretariat may propose an editorial revision to an approved methodology or methodological tool at any time. In such cases, the secretariat shall submit a draft revised methodology or methodological tool to the chair of the relevant methodology working group for review. If the chair approves the draft revised methodology or methodological tool, the secretariat shall publish the revised methodology on GS website.

6| VALIDITY OF NEW, REVISED AND PREVIOUS VERSIONS

6.1.1 | An approved new or revised methodology or methodological tool shall become effective on the date of publication on the website. From this date, project or PoA may apply the new or revised version, and a request for preliminary review, design certification, or renewal of the crediting period can be submitted.

6.1.2 | If TAC approves a revised methodology or methodological tool indicating that it is a

- a. major revision, the version number of the methodology or methodological tool shall increase by one whole number (e.g., from 1.0 to 2.0).
 - b. minor revision or if an editorial revision, the version number of the methodology shall increase by one fractional number (e.g., from 1.0 to 1.1).
- 6.1.3 | The previous version will remain valid for 90 days after the revised version becomes effective, unless the TAC has put the previous version on hold in accordance with paragraph [5.2.3 | above](#) or [5.2.4 | above](#).
- 6.1.4 | If a project developer or CME wishes to use the latest version of the methodology or methodological tool for monitoring emission reductions or removals after the design certification of the project activity or PoA, they shall submit a request for a design change following the design change procedure.
- 6.1.5 | The revision of an approved methodology shall not affect project activities or Programmes of Activities (PoAs) that have already been certified, until the end of their crediting periods, unless the TAC has put the revised version on hold in accordance with paragraph [5.2.3 | above](#) or [5.2.4 | above](#).

7| CLARIFICATION OF APPROVED METHODOLOGY OR METHODOLOGICAL TOOL

- 7.1.1 | The project developer, CME, VVB, DNA, or any other stakeholder (hereinafter referred to as "the enquirer") may request clarification of an approved methodology or methodological tool by submitting a completed "Form - Clarification Request" to the secretariat.
- 7.1.2 | The Secretariat shall conduct a completeness check of the submission within one week of receiving it.
- 7.1.3 | If the Secretariat found the submission incomplete, the secretariat shall request that the enquirer to submit the missing or revised documents and/or information. The enquirer shall submit the requested documents and/or information to the secretariat within one week of receiving the request. If the enquirer does not submit the requested documents and/or information by this deadline, the Secretariat will conclude that the submission is incomplete and stop further processing of the submission.
- 7.1.4 | Upon conclusion of the completeness check, the Secretariat shall conduct an initial assessment of the submission within two weeks to determine either:
 - a. It does not involve any regulatory and/or technical ambiguity, or only involves simple regulatory and/or technical issues, and therefore requires no analysis or only a simple analysis to formulate a clarification.
 - b. It involves complex regulatory and/or technical issues, and therefore requires a thorough analysis to formulate a clarification.
- 7.1.5 | If initial assessment conclusion is as the case described

- a. in 7.1.4 a, the Secretariat shall prepare a clarification using the Form - Clarification Request and send it to the enquirer within three weeks of the conclusion of the completeness check.
- b. in 7.1.4 a, the secretariat may consult with the Methodology Working group and/or TAC as needed. In that case, the timeline referred above shall not apply. The Secretariat shall send the draft clarification to the Methodology Working group member(s) and/or TAC member(s) in three weeks of the conclusion of the completeness check.
 - i. If all members agree with the draft clarification, the secretariat shall send it to the enquirer within two weeks of confirmation from members.
 - ii. If any of the member object to the draft clarification, the secretariat shall submit the draft clarification to TAC for discussion in next scheduled TAC meeting. At the meeting where the case is placed on the agenda, TAC shall make every effort to finalize the clarification within one meeting. The Secretariat shall send it to the enquirer within two weeks of the meeting in which it was concluded.
- c. in 7.1.4 b, the Secretariat, in consultation with the relevant methodology working group or TAC, shall prepare a clarification using the Form - Clarification Request and send it to the enquirer within two weeks of the meeting in which it was concluded.

- 7.1.6 | In preparing the draft clarification, the Secretariat may draw upon external expertise, depending on the technical complexity of the issues in question, by selecting a maximum of two independent experts from the roster of experts to review the submission. If the Secretariat does not find suitable and available experts on the roster, it may use the services of experts not included on the roster.
- 7.1.7 | The secretariat shall select one member of the methodology working group and/or TAC and send draft recommendation for review. The selected member shall provide input on the draft recommendation within five days of receipt of it.
- 7.1.8 | The secretariat shall finalize the recommendation, taking into account the input from the selected member, and submit it to relevant methodology working group or TAC for consideration at its meeting.
- 7.1.9 | At the meeting where the case is placed on the agenda, TAC shall make every effort to finalize the clarification within one meeting. The Secretariat shall send it to the enquirer within two weeks of the meeting in which it was concluded.
- 7.1.10 | The Secretariat shall publish the clarification on GS website, specifying to which version(s) of the methodology or methodological tool the clarification applies.
- 7.1.11 | At any step before the clarification is finalized, the secretariat may request the enquirer to provide additional information regarding the request for clarification within a defined time frame to facilitate the assessment by the secretariat and/or the consideration by the Methodological working group. If

such information significantly affects the outcome of the consideration, the secretariat shall make the information publicly available on Gold Standard website.

- 7.1.12 | If the TAC, a relevant methodology working group, or the Secretariat finds it necessary to clarify provisions of an approved methodology or methodological tool, an interim clarification may be issued following the procedure above. The revised methodology or methodological tool shall incorporate all relevant clarifications issued prior to the revision.

A. APPENDIX - PRINCIPLES FOR REVISION, AND CLARIFICATION OF METHODOLOGIES

A.1. SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY

- 1.1.1 This appendix provides guiding principles for initiating a revision to an approved methodology or methodological tool, and for initiating a (request for) clarification of an approved methodology or methodological tool.

A.2. PRINCIPLES FOR REVISION

- 2.1.1 A revision is the modification of an already approved methodology or methodological tool in order to improve it or broaden its scope and applicability.
- 2.1.2 A revision of an approved methodology or methodological tool may be carried out if one or more of the following conditions apply:
- a. New or generally accepted scientific evidence indicates that estimates of emission reductions or removal enhancements will be overestimated or underestimated based on approved methodologies or methodological tools, or that these reductions or enhancements may not be real, measurable, or verifiable.
 - b. The applicability conditions require broadening to include more potential project types or conditions for use¹.
 - c. There are identified inconsistencies, errors, and/or ambiguities in the language and/or formulae used within or between methodology or methodological tool.
 - d. Further simplification (e.g. default values) is required to improve the user-friendliness of the approved methodology or methodological tool;
 - e. Key issues clarified through a request for clarification of the approved methodology or methodological tool are required to be incorporated in the approved methodology or methodological tool.

¹ A request for revision is suitable in situations where an approved methodology or methodological tool is not applicable to a project activity or PoA, but the project activity or PoA is broadly similar to the project activities or PoAs to which the approved methodology is applicable. Similarity is based on the nature (technology/measure) of the project or PoA and the sources of the emissions affected by the project or PoA. For instance, an approved methodology might not be applicable because the sources of emissions affected by the project are the same as those in the methodology, but the technology/measure used in the project is not covered under the applicability conditions; or the procedures provided in the methodology for estimating emissions from sources are not applicable because of slight variations in the approach, flow of events, or structure chosen in the project.

- f. There are changes to a methodological tool to which an approved methodology refers to and the changes affect the provisions of the methodology.

A.3. PRINCIPLES FOR CLARIFICATION

- 3.1.1 A clarification on an approved methodology or methodological tool is to clarify:
 - a. The applicability of the methodology or methodological tool to a specific (planned) project or PoA;
 - b. Various procedures provided in the methodology or methodological tool, inter alia, for identifying the baseline scenario, demonstrating additionality, estimating baseline emissions, project emissions and leakage; or
 - c. Monitoring data and procedures provided in the approved methodology or methodological tool.
- 3.1.2 A clarification of an approved methodology or methodological tool may be requested if:
 - a. Any of the provisions of the approved methodology or methodological tool are unclear or ambiguous, and there is room for interpretation of the provisions; and/or
 - b. Rationale or further background information is needed regarding conditions under which the approved methodology or methodological tool is to be applied.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Version number	Release date	Description
V 2.0	11.10.2023	<p>Updates and new requirements including following changes -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General methodology principles and requirements, including reference to Article 6.4 RMP methodology requirements. 2. Methodology review through methodology working group. 3. Secretariat-led methodology development, revision, and clarification procedure. 4. Revision request pathways (developer and Secretariat-led models). 5. Ad hoc and periodic methodology review, with the ability to pause methodology if necessary. 6. Required 30-day public consultation for methodology and any major revisions. 7. Standard validity applicability conditions. 8. Procedure for methodology clarifications. 9. Public disclosure requirements for different approval stages of methodology. 10. Editorial changes
V.1.0	22.10.2018	Initial adoption