

## THE GOLD STANDARD PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

This document provides detailed instructions and guidance on the steps to be followed for the development of Gold Standard Programme of Activities (PoAs). Flowcharts are also provided in annex AG to depict the various steps involved, such as the registration of a programme, inclusion and verification of activities within a programme.

- Step 1. Programme Conceptualisation
- Step 2. Stakeholder Consultation process (at programme or activity level)
- Step 3. Do No Harm/Sustainable Development Assessment (at programme and/or activity level)
- Step 4. Gold Standard Programme and Activity Documentation
- Step 5. Programme Validation
- Step 6. Registration of the Programme
- Step 7. Inclusion of Activities
- Step 8. Verification and Issuance

### Step 1. Programme Conceptualisation

It is essential for Coordinating/Managing Entity (CME) or Project Participant (PP) to first determine whether they should develop a PoA or standalone project activities.

When the technologies/measures are being implemented over several years, a programmatic approach can ensure that activities are created as and when a batch is ready for implementation. For example, when units are implemented progressively under a standalone project, the units installed in the fifth year of the crediting period would miss out on 4 years of potential emission reductions, as the same crediting period applies to all units within a given project. In comparison, a CPA/VPA developed in the fifth year and included in the PoA would ensure that these units earn credits over an entire standard crediting period (or lifetime).

On the other hand, time to first issuance will likely be longer under a programmatic approach since the PoA must first be established and comes with more complex project documentation and administration. Furthermore, all project activities within a PoA can potentially be affected by one project activity, and therefore there may be cases leading to the whole PoA being put on hold while the issue within a failing activity is being investigated. Independent projects would not be exposed to such a risk.

The potential for replicability is also of importance: for initiatives that are implementing a single technology/measure, or a limited number of technologies/measures, the potential to replicate is greater and the programmatic approach is of most interest as it will lead to greater cuts in the transaction costs compared to standalone projects for a same overall volume.

As a first step, the Coordinating/Managing Entity of the programme should conduct a preliminary assessment of the programme against the following: scale of the programme, type of activity/ies within the programme, geographic boundary, Official Development Assistance (ODA), other voluntary schemes, retroactivity, additionality at program and activity level and registry account.

a) **Scale of the programme** – Programme scale classification under The Gold Standard is the same as for UNFCCC, with the exception of micro-scale activities. The scales apply to the activities within a programme. Only GS voluntary PoAs that reduce a maximum of up to 10,000 tCO<sub>2</sub> per annum are considered for the streamlined GS micro-programme rules. The transaction costs and time associated with the development of a micro-programme are lower in comparison to normal PoAs and the requirements for different aspects, like additionality, SD assessments etc. are more simplified.

b) **Type of activity/ies and eligibility** – The programme and the activity/ies within the programme must fit into renewable energy supply, and/or end-use energy efficiency improvement and/or waste handling and disposal categories. They must also comply with all eligibility criteria defined in The Gold Standard Requirements and Annex C of The Gold Standard Toolkit.

c) **Geographic boundary** – Gold Standard PoAs can be developed in any country. However, for countries with an enforced cap under the compliance regime an amount of allowances (AAUs) equal to the amount of credits issued must be retired for each of the activities located in that country. Any AAUs may be used for this purpose. Gold Standard credits will not be issued prior to receiving confirmation by the relevant local authorities that an equivalent amount of allowances have been retired. There is no limit on the number of countries that can be part of a PoA, but attention shall be paid to the fact that certification under such PoAs is more complex to manage. This is discussed in detail in the following sections.

d) **Official Development Assistance (ODA)** – The ODA check shall happen both at the programme and activity level. The programme overall or the relevant project activity/ies are not eligible for Gold Standard registration if it/they receives ODA under the condition that the credits generated by the project are transferred, directly or indirectly, to the donor country. Thus, if the programme or project activity is located in a country that is part of the OECD Development Assistance Committee's ODA recipient list, a written declaration shall be submitted to confirm compliance with these eligibility criteria. The CME shall use the *Declaration Template* (Gold Standard Annex D) and provide it as part of the PoA or Activity Passport, as appropriate.

e) **Other voluntary schemes** – PoAs and their project activity/ies claiming emission reductions under any other voluntary scheme are allowed to upgrade to GS provided they can submit proof of the following:

i. The PoA (and by default all activities) opt out from the other voluntary scheme and the emission reductions of a given vintage are claimed only once under one single scheme; and

ii. The total duration of the crediting period for activities does not exceed the standard UNFCCC crediting period (i.e. 10 years, or 7 years with the project being renewed twice maximum, so 21 years in total) when all carbon credits sought by the project participants are aggregated, regardless of the various carbon standards considered.

iii. The project participant opts in for Gold Standard by delivering the full set of GS specific project documentation (i.e. PoA-DD, VPA-DD, PoA passport and VPA passport). Alternatively, the

project documentation provided under the other voluntary scheme together with a 'Gap Analysis Report', to highlight, discuss and report the gaps between the requirements of the other voluntary scheme when compared to The Gold Standard requirements. This report shall be validated by a DOE/AIE in accordance with The Gold Standard validation requirements.

f) **Retroactivity** – Retroactive registration and crediting is defined at the activity level (not at the PoA level). Activity/ies retroactive in nature should refer to Annex F Section 3.3 and 3.4 for the required steps. These steps are also given as a flow diagram in the Annex to this document.

g) **Additionality** - The Gold Standard requires that the programme and activities are 'additional'. Therefore, the programme and activities need to be assessed to ensure they reduce emissions beyond 'business as usual'. PPs are recommended to refer to the CDM Standard for demonstration of additionality and the development of eligibility criteria for activities under PoAs.<sup>1</sup>

h) **Registry account** - Once the eligibility of the programme has been assessed and the decision to develop it as a Gold Standard programme has been made, applicants must open a Gold Standard registry account. There is no cost for the CME, individual project owners and auditors when opening an account for a PoA. The CME and project owner must create project entries for the programme and for each activity submitted within the programme, this will ensure that each element will have an appropriate ID. For further information on managing a programme and its activities on the registry, refer to section 5 of Annex F and The GS Toolkit.

## Step 2. Stakeholder Consultation Process (at programme or activity level)

The Stakeholder Consultations for a Gold Standard programme of activities usually take place at both programme and activity levels.

The PoA Design Consultation is a mandatory consultation that must take place in all cases. This consultation seeks feedback from relevant authorities and NGOs on the design and expected impacts of the programme, in order to ensure it is in line with the national or regional sustainable development goals and priorities.

The stakeholders should also be asked their opinion on the right actors/institutions to be involved by the CME as part of the programme. It is essential that feedback be sought on the institutional framework relevant to the programme. Feedback will also be requested on the interaction of the initiative implemented by CME with other ongoing and/or planned initiatives within the geographic boundary chosen. In case the initiatives are overlapping then feedback on synergies and potential conflicts across these initiatives shall be taken into account.

Feedback can be obtained through emails, face-to-face meetings or consultation sessions, letters, or any other mode most adapted to the situation. The CME shall provide a time period of at least a month to the various relevant stakeholders for providing their inputs to the design of the programme. It must

---

<sup>1</sup> [http://cdm.unfccc.int/Reference/Standards/meth/meth\\_stan04.pdf](http://cdm.unfccc.int/Reference/Standards/meth/meth_stan04.pdf)

retain evidence such as email copies, letters, photographs, videos, newspaper etc. For face-to-face meetings or consultation session's stakeholders must be invited at least a month in advance.

When conducting the Design Consultation process, the CME should provide a non-technical summary of the programme, discuss the implementation plan of the programme, define the geographic spread of the programme, provide details about the technology(ies) considered, describe the target audience for the use of the technology(ies) etc. One of the key questions to be asked to the stakeholders is at which level the Local Stakeholder Consultation (see below) meeting should be conducted, i.e. at programme level or activity level.

The geographic spread of the Programme should be carefully chosen by the CME. If future changes to the boundaries are requested, additional rules apply, including an assessment of the impact of such changes and the CME is required to consult the relevant stakeholders from the new areas considered.

If a programme is spread across more than one country, then the CME should ensure that the PoA Design Consultation is representative of, and includes, all relevant stakeholders across all the different countries.

The time of first submission of the PoA to The Gold Standard is defined as the date of submission of the Design Consultation Report. The CME should aim to prepare the PoA Design Consultation Report as per the available template and submit it to The Gold Standard as soon as the process is completed. The Gold Standard Secretariat reviews the PoA Design Consultation Report so as to provide feedback to the CME. This review is part of the *listing process*, i.e. approval of the stakeholder consultation report allows the Programme to publicly become an applicant under The Gold Standard certification process.

A second level of consultation is conducted in a two-step process: the Local Stakeholder Consultation (LSC) and the Stakeholder Feedback Round (SFR). Both consultations are also mandatory, but how many consultations must be conducted depends on the approach followed, following either the own choice of the applicant or expectations from The Gold Standard and/or the validation DOE.

The LSC involves a physical live meeting with the relevant stakeholders including local people, communities impacted, local NGOs, government officials etc. This meeting should be complemented with other feedback gained via bilateral discussions, call for inputs via emails, letters of support, etc. The aim of this consultation process is to inform stakeholders in detail about the activities to be implemented within the programme and give them the opportunity to discuss the impact of the activities on them and on the environment. It should also be used to specifically solicit concerns local people might have and address them with appropriate mitigation measures and a monitoring plan. The overall goal is to improve the design of the activities based on stakeholder comments and to increase the local involvement of the communities impacted by the activities within the programme.

The default approach is to conduct the LSC at the activity level, i.e. plan for such a consultation to take place for each single activity included in the programme. However, a PoA level LSC approach can be followed if it can be shown that the targeted population across the geographic boundaries and the

impacts of the various activities on the targeted population and the environment are sufficiently similar.

Also, the stakeholders taking part at a PoA level LSC should be representative enough of the entire population targeted by the programme and the CME must demonstrate that sufficient feedback can be collected that way. In the case of PoAs with large geographic boundaries, multiple live meetings may thus have to be conducted to ensure that sufficient feedback is taken from all the relevant stakeholders of the programme.

In case the CME decides to carry out the Local Stakeholder Consultations at the CPA/VPA equivalent level, then a live meeting is not required at the PoA level and the PoA will be listed when the PoA Design Consultation Report and the LSC Report for the CPA/VPA accompanying the programme is approved.

When the CME decides to carry out the LSC at the programme level only, then a live meeting shall be conducted together with the Design Consultation. The justification for this choice must be provided in the LSC Report and later on in the PoA Passport.

The CME shall also discuss the Continuous Input/Grievance Mechanism as part of the PoA level LSC, including details of the input methods chosen and the appropriateness of these methods. The final outcome shall then be implemented across activities.

A preliminary approval of the approach chosen must be gained from GS at the LSC Report Review (*listing process*). GS further assesses this approach during the Registration Review stage, once the validating DOE has also provided its opinion on the approach based on its findings in the field. It shall be noted that the ability of the CME to implement the input methods chosen for Continuous Input/Grievance Mechanism during PoA level LSC, across activities, will also be a factor considered while approving the PoA level LSC approach.

In this case, please note that activities will not be listed and publically available in the registry before the approval of the inclusion.

It should also be noted that there is a possibility that at the time of Registration Review, the PoA level LSC approach is rejected. In such a case, further consultations at the activity level are requested. Hence, it is recommended that this risk be kept in mind while proposing a PoA level LSC.

For PoAs conducting LSC(s) at the activity level, all activities applying for inclusion into the programme shall conduct the LSC and SFR rounds. The CPAs/VPAs are *listed* once GS has approved the Local Stakeholder Consultation Reports. The CME/PP shall refer to The Gold Standard Toolkit for guidance on how to conduct LSC and SFR rounds. The CME/PP shall also note the requirements of the Continuous Input/Grievance mechanism that applies to all activities within the PoA.

CME/PP can potentially conduct a common LSC meeting for a group of CPAs/VPAs. In such a case, the justification for this shall be provided along with the LSC Report for the first CPA/VPA submitted to GS. GS shall approve this approach at the Listing stage based on the justification given by the CME/PP. The

approval given by GS for such an approach would generally be based on certain criteria e.g. – for a cookstove PoA, all the activities in the group start construction/implementation within a time frame of 3 years, the design of the stoves remains the same or sufficiently similar within these activities, and these activities are located in the same district etc. If it is found, at the time of listing future activities from this group, that the criteria used by GS to approve the LSC meeting for a group of activities are not being matched, then GS may ask for additional consultations. For activities with a common LSC meeting, the LSC Report shall be uploaded under the GS IDs for each one of the activities.

For further information on the rules regarding stakeholder consultations, please refer to Section 6 of Annex F and the GS Toolkit.

While the submission of the Design Consultation Report and the PoA/activity level LSC Report can happen at the same time, it is highly recommended that the Design Consultation Report be submitted to GS first. This ensures that the time of first submission of the PoA is set and can avoid some of the activities becoming retroactive and hence requiring pre-feasibility assessments to be conducted.

Ideally, the LSC meeting should be planned after receiving feedback from GS. The period between submitting the Design Consultation Report and the listing of the programme can be used to respond to queries that GS may have on the design consultation step.

A Stakeholder Feedback Round is required to be conducted for both PoA and activity level LSCs. The feedback round provides an opportunity for the CME to take feedback from stakeholders that could not attend the LSC conducted in both cases i.e. only at PoA level and only at activity level. CME shall refer to the GS Toolkit on how to conduct the Stakeholder Feedback Round.

### **Step 3. Do No Harm/Sustainable Development Assessment (at programme and/or activity level)**

The Do No Harm Assessment (DNHA) and the detailed Sustainable Development Assessment (SD Matrix) can be carried out at the PoA level or at the CPA/VPA level. For detailed rules, refer to Section 7 of Annex F.

The approach to opt for by default is to conduct these assessments at the activity level. However, a PoA level approach to sustainable development assessment (DNHA and/or SD Matrix) is potentially acceptable when it can be demonstrated that all activities within the Programme are expected to have similar impacts on the target population and the environment. This can typically happen in cases where the same technology is implemented in all activities, the impacts of such a technology on the environment are not site-dependent, and the targeted populations have very similar cultural and socio-economic characteristics. The justification for a PoA level assessment has to be validated by the contracted DOE and approved by The Gold Standard.

This is followed, by identifying SD inclusion criteria that will determine which activities can be included in the Programme. The inclusion criteria, provides a set of eligibility requirements that are required to be met by the activity in line with the structure of the PoA.

When the sustainable development assessment is conducted at the PoA level, the SD inclusion criteria must be chosen appropriately and defined in the PoA Passport, as this criteria will have a bearing on the future activities to be included in the programme the same way inclusion criteria must be established for carbon accounting and monitoring in PoAs. In such cases, the PoA Passport must contain a DNHA and an SD Matrix per type of activity considered in the PoA.

The sections F.1 and F.2 of the GS Passport must contain information on the compliance of the activity with the SD inclusion criteria set in the PoA Passport.

CME should therefore pay attention to the fact that when opting for the PoA level approach to sustainable development assessment, they are able to save costs on stakeholder consultation activities but on the other hand they lock themselves within a defined set of criteria that all future activities will have to comply with to be eligible for inclusion. Design change requests can be submitted, and potentially approved, but this is an additional process applicants need to go through, which can potentially involve post-registration validation.

#### **Step 4. Gold Standard Programme and Activity Documentation**

The following documents must be prepared in view of submission for validation under The Gold Standard:

- PoA-DD
- PoA Passport
- Specific CPA/VPA-DD(s)
- CPA/VPA Passport(s)

The purpose of the *Programme Design Document (PoA-DD)* is to present relevant programme information focusing on the programme design and the application of the selected methodology(ies) to evaluate and monitor the emission reductions. The Gold Standard requires the use of the latest template of the UNFCCC Programme Design Document (PoA-DD or SSC-PoA-DD).

The *Gold Standard PoA Passport* is the document that presents all required information that is not already covered in the PoA-DD, such as information on the outcome of the two-step stakeholder consultations, the outcome of the sustainability assessment, the sustainability monitoring plan, and any deviations from CDM with respect to carbon accounting for example due to the application of the GS conservativeness principle.

The use of a UNFCCC or Gold Standard approved methodology is mandatory for any programme applying for certification under GS. When using an approved methodology The Gold Standard principles of conservativeness and transparency must be followed. CME can use multiple methodologies in a programme without prior approval from The Gold Standard. For details of the rules, please refer to Section 8 of Annex F. It should be ensured that the version of the methodology(ies) intended to be used is the latest one available at the time of first submission of the programme to The

Gold Standard. For further information on the methodology version to be used at activity level, refer to Section 16 of Annex F.

The Specific CPA/VPA–DD and CPA/VPA Passport will include details of the specific activities being submitted alongside the PoA documentation. Unlike CDM, it is not required to submit CPA/VPA-DD template for a dummy project. For registration of the PoA involving multiple technologies/measures, the CMEs must submit a VPA-DD for each one of the different methodologies (or combination of methodologies) or technologies/measures (or combination of technologies/measures). For e.g. if the CME plans to implement activities with two different combinations of methodologies *viz.*:

1. AMS III.E and AMS I.D.
2. AMS III.G and AMS I.D.

then CME should submit at time of PoA registration, VPA-DD for activities representing each of these combination of methodologies. This implies that each of these activities will have to be validated by the DOE along with the PoA documents. In case the CME intends to include a new methodology after PoA registration, this could be allowed for after an assessment as per the GS project design change rules.

A new measure/technology implemented in line with a new methodology requested for incorporation in the registered PoA or implemented as part of an already incorporated methodology, must undergo a design change assessment, and full validation by a DOE (including a site visit) followed by an 8-week registration review by The Gold Standard.

## **Step 5. Programme Validation**

### a) Selection of a DOE

Any UNFCCC DOE accredited for the appropriate scope may validate or verify a Gold Standard programme. To begin the validation, the DOE must upload a Programme Validation Workplan. There is no fixed format for the workplan but it must contain information on the composition and experience of the audit team, indicative timeline, interview planning, etc. Further guidance on the workplan is provided in Section 3.3 of the GS Toolkit.

Site visits at the time of PoA validation may differ from that for standalone project activities. For e.g. Programmes using multiple technologies/methodologies would entail site visits per technology/methodology combination as presented in a VPA-DD and hence the information in the workplan must include information on these aspects.

### b) Submission of documents

The CME must submit the PoA-DD, PoA Passport, CPA/VPA-DD(s), CPA/VPA Passport(s), PoA/activity level LSC Report(s) and all other supportive documentation (e.g. pre-feasibility assessment feedback, financial overview, compliance statement with environmental law, environmental impact assessment, etc.) to the DOE.



At the start of the SFR either the DOE or the CME must upload the latest version of PoA-DD, PoA Passport, CPA/VPA-DD(s), CPA/VPA Passport(s) and other relevant documents to the GS registry together with supporting documents.

#### c) Review of documentation and site visit

The DOE will conduct a desk review of the documentation and visit the project site(s) for validation. The Gold Standard requires that DOEs conduct a site visit during this stage for each one of the activities submitted within the programme. For CDM PoA validation, site visits should ideally coincide with CDM site-visits.

During the desk review, the DOE checks the documentation for the following aspects:

- i. Programme eligibility
- ii. Baseline and monitoring methodology/ies – conservative approach, check of the baseline scenario, version of the methodology
- iii. Additionality at PoA and activity level
- iv. Stakeholder consultations (PoA Design Consultation, PoA or activity level LSC and SFR)
- v. Sustainable development/do no harm assessment at PoA and activity level
- vi. Monitoring plans for carbon and sustainability aspects
- vii. Inclusion criteria in the PoA-DD, as well as in the PoA Passport (if DNHA and SD assessment is done at PoA level only)
- viii. In case of implementation of more than one type of technology in the PoA, check again for the above points
- ix. Sampling approach for site visits during inclusion
- x. Sampling approach for verifications

#### d) Validation opinion

At the end of the validation, the DOE will reach a validation opinion. The validation opinion shall either advise The Gold Standard positively on registration of the programme, or explain the reason(s) for non-acceptance. The validation opinion shall include:

1. A summary of the validation methodology/ies and process, and the applied validation criteria;
2. A statement on project components/issues not covered in the validation engagement;
3. A summary of the validation conclusions;
4. A statement on the likelihood of emission projections and sustainable development impacts.

After the DOE reaches a validation opinion, the PoA documentation will undergo a 8-week registration review, along with the CPAs/VPAs submitted with the PoA.

After registration, the following documents must be publicly posted on the registry:

- PoA-DD
- PoA Passport
- CPA/VPA- DDs
- CPA/VPA – Passport(s)
- Validation report

#### e) Cover letter

The cover letter is part of the legal basis for the programme and must be uploaded to the GS registry on the ID of the activity and must be signed by CME and project participants. Within the letter it must be declared that the programme has followed the requirements set out by The Gold Standard. The letter must include:

1. **Communication** – identification of the CME and for activity level the project owners that will be responsible for communication with The Gold Standard and the means of communication.
2. **Issuance of credits** – the entities to whom The Gold Standard quality labels, or voluntary carbon credits will be issued.
3. **Ownership of the credits** – the entities holding legal title to voluntary credits or the credits to the fullest extent permitted by law.
4. **Terms & Conditions** – a statement that The Gold Standard Terms & Conditions have been signed by the CME/PP and have been uploaded onto the Registry.
5. **Fee Structure** – Refer to Section 15 of Annex F for the fee structure for PoAs.

### **Step 6. Registration of the Programme**

The programme, and activities submitted along with it, shall undergo an 8-week registration review. During this period, The Gold Standard TAC and NGO Supporters shall provide their comments on the programme. The formal date retained for the registration of the programme is always at the end of the 8-week review period, regardless of the time taken to close all issues, however registration may only occur if and when all issues have been addressed appropriately. The CME must then upload final versions of the documentation e.g. PoA-DD, CPA/VPA-DDs, Passport(s), Validation Reports, GS review documents, the cover letter and other documents, on the registry.

In case LSC and SD assessments are done at PoA level, GS provides the final approval for this approach at this stage.

Importantly, GS also reviews as part of the registration process the approach proposed in the PoA-DD for DOE site visits at time of inclusion, and the approach proposed for verification in case of sampling verification of VPAs. These approaches must be discussed in detail and must be validated by the DOE, who must provide a clear opinion of these in the validation report.

GS often requires DOE opinion on Comment/Request(s) raised as part of the registration review process and hence CME should ensure that the DOE is available to provide responses to requests formulated.

### **Step 7. Inclusion of Activities**

Each activity/ies submitted by the CME for inclusion into the programme must first be '*listed*' under a new ID on the GS registry.

For regular activities, CME/PP must submit the LSC Report for approval by Gold Standard in this purpose.

Retroactive activities are subjected to pre-feasibility assessments as per the applicable scenario defined in Section 3.4 of Annex F.

Once an activity is *listed*, the DOE that validated the PoA can include it into the programme or the CME can appoint a new DOE for inclusion of the activity into the registered PoA.

The DOE must as a first step, upload the inclusion workplan. When the activity does not require a site visit, as per the approach given in the PoA-DD, this must be mentioned in the workplan.

Subsequently, the DOE must perform a compliance check based on the inclusion criteria defined in the registered PoA-DD and SD compliance criteria defined in the PoA Passport, if the sustainability assessment is done at PoA level, for inclusion of the activity in the registered PoA.

Once the DOE has finalised the inclusion report, the CME/PP/DOE can request for formal inclusion of the activity into the programme by contacting the GS Regional Manager by email. For the inclusion of an activity to be processed, the CPA/VPA – DD, CPA/VPA Passport, LSC report and inclusion report must be made available.

After receiving the formal inclusion request from the CME/PP/DOE along with the final documents, GS initiates a 2-week completeness check. During this period, GS NGO Supporters and the GS TAC can bring any issues to the attention of the GS Secretariat. At the end of this period, GS informs the CME/PP about the approval of the inclusion of the activities within the PoA, or instead about the selection for a spot-check. In such cases, GS would review all documents within the week following the completeness check period and may request clarifications or corrective actions as is done during registration reviews for standalone project activities.

The difference between these 2 periods is essentially that for the 2-week completeness check period, GS would only check that all the inclusion criteria are discussed in the VPA-DD and have been assessed by the DOE. Hence, GS feedback will be sent out only if essential information is missing. Otherwise, GS will send an email to the CME/DOE confirming that the CPA/VPA has been included.

## Step 8. Verification and Issuance

- a) Select a DOE(s) – CME shall select DOE(s) for verification of the CPA(s)/VPA(s). The selected DOE(s) should be different from the one that validated the PoA and included any CPA/VPA.
- b) Selected DOE(s) open a registry account, if not already done, and uploads the verification work-plan in the CPA/VPA ID. The verification work-plan will provide information on whether or not the activity is being chosen for site-visit and justification for the same in line with the verification protocol in the registered PoA-DD. GS may require the DOE to conduct a site visit for an activity outside the ones chosen for site-visit.
- c) CME shall submit monitoring reports and other relevant documentation for all activities undergoing verification to DOE(s) to initiate verification.
- d) In the case of sampling verification, DOE(s) undertakes verification (including site-visit) as per the sampling approach defined in the registered PoA-DD. In case multiple DOEs verify, the sampling approach defined in the PoA-DD will be applicable to each DOE individually.
- e) Upon successful closure of issues, DOE(s) will reach a verification opinion following which the issuance review for the activities is undertaken by GS. GS will initiate a 3-week review period during which Secretariat, GS TAC and the Supporter NGOs may request further clarification or corrective action from the DOE or the project developer/CME.
- f) In case issues are noted during the issuance review, GS may conduct a spot-check on activities that are not actually verified by the DOE. This would entail another 3-week review period.
- g) This is followed by the issuance of GS-VERs or the labeling of CERs for the programme.