

GOLD STANDARD PROCEDURES FOR THE RENEWAL OF A CREDITING PERIOD

The following procedures are applicable for the renewal of the crediting period of a registered Gold Standard (GS) project.

I. Applying for the renewal of the crediting period

The following documents shall be submitted by project developers together with a formal request for the renewal of the crediting period of a registered Gold Standard project:

- I. For Version 1.0 projects:
 - a. Revised Project Design Document (PDD) and/or revised Gold Standard Annexes highlighting the changes in the project in track-change mode
 - b. GS validation report for renewal, and for GS CDM activities, CDM validation report for renewal
- II. For Version 2.0 and onwards:
 - a. Revised PDD highlighting the changes in the project in track-change mode
 - b. Revised GS Passport
 - c. GS validation report for renewal, and for GS CDM activities, CDM validation report for renewal

The Gold Standard then initiates a review period of 4 weeks.

Review comments are provided at the end of the review period. All issues need to be addressed in a satisfactory manner for The Gold Standard to grant approval to the application for a renewal of the crediting period.

The start date of the renewed crediting period is defined as the first day after the end date of the previous crediting period, provided the application for a renewal of the crediting period is submitted to Gold Standard prior to the end of the previous crediting period.

In the case when the application for renewal of the crediting period is not submitted to Gold Standard prior to the end of the previous crediting period, but is submitted within one year, then the start date of the renewed crediting period will be the date when the 4-week review period ends. The reason for delay in the submission of the application for renewal of the crediting period has to be justified by the Project Representative.

If the application for renewal of the crediting period is not submitted to Gold Standard within one year after the end of the previous crediting period, the crediting period will not be renewed.

II. Preparation of the revised project documentation

Project participants shall update all sections of the project documentation which are related to the baseline, the evaluation of emission reductions and the monitoring plan, using an approved baseline and monitoring methodology as follows:

- I. The latest approved version of a baseline and monitoring methodology, applied in the original PDD of the registered GS project shall be used.¹
- II. In case of the withdrawal of a baseline and monitoring methodology applied in the original GS registered PDD and replacement by a consolidated methodology, the latest approved version of the respective consolidated methodology shall be used.
- III. If the registered GS project does not meet the criteria specified under (i) or (ii) above because the methodology has been revised or the baseline for the project has been updated, the project participant can either select another applicable approved methodology or request for a deviation from the existing approved methodology in order to apply for the renewal of the crediting period.²

Project participants shall also submit revised documentation (Passport or PDD/GS Annex), which must include the following:

Stakeholder Consultation: Project participants shall discuss if and why there is or is not a need to conduct a complementary stakeholder consultation for the renewal of the crediting period. Project participants can choose to invite relevant stakeholders for comments electronically or via a physical meeting, but will be required to justify the same. Whenever possible, project participants shall conduct the complementary consultation prior to the submission of the request for a renewal of the crediting period.

Sustainable Development Assessment: The Sustainable Development Assessment shall be conducted with respect to the validity of the updated baseline. Project participants shall discuss any necessary revision in the scores of the 12 Sustainable Development (SD) indicators³ following a possible change of the baseline. For GSv2 projects, the same should be done with respect to the level of risk associated with the 11 Safeguarding Principles of the Do-No Harm Assessment (DNHA).

Sustainable Development Monitoring Plan: Project participants shall discuss whether there is a need to prepare a revised sustainable development monitoring plan to accommodate any changes and/or comments from the local stakeholders. This can potentially include new mitigation measures as per new comments by stakeholders. Changes in the scores of the SD indicators due to the new baseline

¹ Use the version applicable at the time of the crediting period renewal application to The Gold Standard.

² In such a case, the project participant needs to justify how the project is no longer applicable under the latest version of the baseline and monitoring methodology due to methodological revisions or due to an update in the baseline of the project. The same should also be a part of the validation report by the DOE. For registered CDM projects, the request has to be made to the CDM EB via the DOE and for registered GS VER project the request has to be made to the GS Secretariat.

³ Project participants are not required to conduct a blind scoring of the SD matrix again; the changed score(s) will be the result of a self-assessment taking into account the feedback from the stakeholder consultation.

can also lead to a revision of the sustainable development monitoring plan. The changes in the scores of the SD indicators shall be assessed as per the sustainable development assessment guidance discussed above.

The SD monitoring plan might include additional parameters if the mitigation plan has to be revised to address comments received during the complementary local stakeholder meeting, or if new non-neutral indicators are identified in the revised SD matrix or new mitigation measures have been introduced due to medium or high risk safeguarding principles being identified from the DNHA.

III. Preparation of the Validation Report

The validation DOE shall assess the following issues:

- I. Validity of the original baseline or its update through an assessment carried out as per the latest version of the “Tool to assess the validity of the original/current baseline and to update the baseline at the renewal of a crediting period” by the CDM EB;
- II. Correctness of the application of an approved baseline methodology for the determination of the continued validity of the baseline or its update, and the estimation of emission reductions for the applicable crediting period;
- III. Local stakeholder consultation process and its outcome;
- IV. Sustainable Development assessment including the SD Matrix and DNHA; and
- V. Revised SD monitoring plan

The DOE validating the application for renewal of the crediting period must carry out a site-visit as part of the validation process. For large-scale projects, the DOE that carries out the validation for renewal of the crediting period cannot carry out verification of the renewed crediting period.