

ANNEX A – THE GOLD STANDARD STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

The Gold Standard is a governance framework established by the NGO community in 2003 to define, demonstrate and drive best practice within carbon markets. It does this by certifying the emission savings generated by low carbon, sustainable development projects. The Gold Standard is the only ‘compliance grade’ certification standard also operating in the voluntary market and the only carbon standard under which every project is monitored for its CO₂ emissions reductions and sustainable development claims. Due to its unique governance and approach, it is the only standard to be supported and endorsed by more than 80 NGOs, who recognise that The Gold Standard principles of environmental rigour and sustainable development represent the true spirit of the Kyoto Protocol.

This section provides a brief introduction on the structure and governance of The Gold Standard Foundation:

- The Gold Standard Secretariat
- The Gold Standard Foundation Board
- The Gold Standard Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
- The Gold Standard NGO Supporters
- The Gold Standard RegistryTM

The Gold Standard Secretariat

The Gold Standard Foundation is a non-profit organisation under Swiss Law, funded by public and private donors. The operational activities of The Gold Standard are managed by the Secretariat based in Geneva, Switzerland. Activities include capacity building, marketing & communications, certification, registration and issuance as well as the maintenance of The Gold Standard rules and procedures.

The Gold Standard Foundation Board

The Foundation Board oversees the strategic and organisational development of The Gold Standard. The Board has currently 7 members. At least 50% of its members must be recruited from The Gold Standard NGO Supporter community, and one member is at the same time the Chair of The Gold Standard Technical Advisory Committee (GS-TAC, see below). In case of significant changes to The Gold Standard scope, the Board decides whether or not a Gold Standard NGO Supporter majority vote is necessary to implement the change. The Foundation Board will rely on GS-TAC advice in its decisions. The Foundation Board meets on an annual basis and is in frequent communication throughout the year. Please refer to The Gold Standard website for the most up to date information on our board members.

The Gold Standard Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The technical advisory committee evaluates and approves projects, new methodologies for VER projects, is in charge of updating The Gold Standard rules and procedures and advises the Foundation

Board on strategic changes to the Gold Standard scope. It is the equivalent of the CDM EB/Meth Panel for VER projects.

Gold Standard-TAC members are bound by confidentiality in their proceedings and are obliged to declare conflicts of interest. Project participants may also invoke conflicts of interest for individual GS-TAC members, if there is a clear substantiation. The chair of the GS-TAC will decide if conflicts of interest prevent an individual member to participate in GS-TAC discussions on a subject or if simple voting abstinence is in order.

The GS-TAC will take decisions unanimously wherever possible but in absence of consensus will use a simple majority vote, with the Chair casting the final ballot. The GS-TAC meets regularly and can make decisions via email exchange. The meeting schedule and minutes are care of the Secretariat, which has an observer role in the GS-TAC proceedings. The GS-TAC members are from the NGO community, multilateral organisations, aid agencies and the private sector. Please refer to The Gold Standard website for up to date information on our TAC members.

NGO Supporters

The Gold Standard NGO Supporter Network is a community of NGOs who agree that The Gold Standard certification scheme can ensure that a market mechanism for carbon finance will deliver the objectives of the Kyoto Protocol. These state that projects will:

- Provide a real contribution towards sustainable development in host countries (Article 6)
- Deliver real, measurable and long-term emissions reductions (Article 12)

The network is a crucial part of The Gold Standard's activities – by working together we can ensure that carbon markets continue to place an emphasis on transparency and sustainable development.

The network consists of a diverse selection of NGOs ranging from large international organisations such as WWF and Helio International, to smaller more technically or regionally focused NGOs, such as Save the Earth Cambodia. There is no financial commitment to becoming an NGO Supporter, however all the NGOs within the network show support for The Gold Standard principles and share an interest in promoting sustainable development and/or climate and energy issues.

Non-profit organisations sharing The Gold Standard vision and scope are invited to join The Gold Standard NGO Supporter community. The detailed procedures for this are laid out in the NGO Supporter form available on The Gold Standard website.

The Gold Standard Registry[™]

The Gold Standard Registry is operated by APX Inc. The Gold Standard Foundation owns all information stored in the Registry and APX Inc. is bound to full and total confidentiality on all non-public information stored on their platform. Project listing in the registry is mandatory (see Terms and Conditions in Annex M and the Requirements for details). The Gold Standard Foundation and APX Inc. share registry support functions, depending on the scope of queries.