

TEMPLATE GUIDE

KEY PROJECT INFORMATION & VPA DESIGN DOCUMENT (PDD)

PUBLICATION DATE **7.10.2020**

RELATED TEMPLATE

-v. 1.1 Key Project Information & VPA Design Document

GUIDE TO COMPLETING THE VPA-DD

1. Gold Standard PoAs require a completed VPA/CPA DD for each one of the different methodologies (or combination of methodologies) or each technology/measure (or combination of technologies/measures) to be submitted at PoA validation. This defines the common features and the modalities for designing future V/CPAs that correspond to the validated VPA/CPA.
2. For GS4GG projects, a project must complete Validation/inclusion (defined as the date of submission of the Validation Report) within two years of successful listing of the V/CPA.
3. Small scale and large scale projects must select a Gold Standard Approved [VVB](#) approved for the chosen scope and Certification Pathway
4. When completing this form and designing your projects, you should *initially* read and comply with the 3 Mandatory GS4GG Standard Documents (Principles and Requirements, Safeguard Principles and Requirements, Stakeholder Consultation Requirements). As a general rule, these mandatory documents form a base level and reference other documents which provide more detailed, project specific requirements that must be complied with. In case of conflict, project specific requirements supersede more general ones.

5. You should determine which GS4GG Standard Documents apply to your project technology and project framework type and then comply with them – these supersede requirements in Mandatory documents above. These principally include (but are not limited to) the following; CSA, RE, LUF Activity Requirements (technology types) and, possibly, Programme of Activity Requirements, Microscale requirements (framework types).
6. If you want to issue Products (VERs/CERs/REs), then you must also comply with GS4GG Product Requirements. The most popular document is GHG Product Requirements which is applicable to all VER/CER/Carbon credit project types.
7. You must also comply with all requirements in any selected GS Standard Approved methodologies (SDG Impact Quantification).
8. All Gold Standard Projects must use conservative assumptions, values and procedures to ensure that claims are not overestimated.
9. Guidance provided in this document is based on GS4GG versions 1.2 – in the event that a rule is updated and this template doesn't match, it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the correct information. Please use the email provided below to highlight any discrepancies.
10. Unless otherwise specified in the Programme of Activity Requirements document, Gold Standard PoAs (both voluntary and CDM) must follow the requirements for CDM Programmes of Activities, available [here](#).
11. For GS CER Label projects, please refer to relevant sections in CDM Templates where information is already supplied.
12. Where a PDD contains information that the project participants wish to be treated as confidential/proprietary, submit documentation in two versions:
 - (a) One version where all parts containing confidential/proprietary information are made illegible (e.g. by covering those parts with black ink) so that the version can be made publicly available without displaying confidential/proprietary information;
 - (b) A version containing all information that is to be treated as strictly confidential/proprietary by all parties handling this documentation (VVBs, sustainCERT, Gold Standard, Gold Standard Technical Advisory Committee and Gold Standard NGO Supporters)
13. Note that All Project Documentation, except confidential information, will be made publicly available through the Impact Registry. It is the responsibility of

the Project Developer to mark documents as confidential. Information used to demonstrate additionality, to describe the application of the selected methodologies, standardized baselines and the other methodological regulatory documents, and to support environmental impact assessments, is not considered proprietary or confidential)

14. You must make any data, values and formulae included in spreadsheets provided accessible and verifiable. You must clearly note the source of documents so that they are easily located and reviewed by assurance providers. The efficiency of the certification process is dependent upon transparent and effective communication.
15. Complete this form in English. Prepare all attached documents in English, OR a language that has been agreed upon by the Project Developer, the Gold Standard and the VVB.
16. Complete this form using the same format without modifying its font, headings or logo, and without any other alteration to the form.
17. Do not modify or delete tables and their columns in this form. Add rows of the tables as needed. Add additional appendices as needed.
18. If a section of this form is not applicable, explicitly state that the section is left blank intentionally.
19. Figures above one thousand shall be formatted with a comma (for example 1,000,000), and decimals will be separated by a point (for example 1.35)
20. Pictures, graphs, tables and supporting documents within Project Documentation shall be clearly marked with a unique ID
21. All Dates must be in the following format: DD/MM/YYYY
22. Maps, where required shall include:
 - (a) Name of the project
 - (b) ID of the project
 - (c) Legend
 - (d) Printing date
 - (e) Scale
 - (f) Direction of North
 - (g) GPS coordinate system (e.g. WGS 84)
 - (h) GPS grid
 - (i) Infrastructure (roads, houses, etc.) and rivers

- (j) Information on the satellite or aerial picture (date, resolutions, data source)
- 23. If you have any suggestions for improvement, or notice mistakes, please email templates@sustain-cert.com

This document contains the following Sections

Key Project Information

SECTION A – Description of project

SECTION B - Application of approved Gold Standard Methodology (ies) and/or demonstration of SDG Contributions

SECTION C – Duration and crediting period

SECTION D – Summary of Safeguarding Principles and Gender Sensitive Assessment

SECTION E – Summary of Local stakeholder consultation

Appendix 1 – Safeguarding Principles Assessment (mandatory)

Q - Contact information of VPA Implementer (mandatory)

Q - Summary of Approved Design Changes (project specific)

KEY PROJECT INFORMATION

To mark a checkbox (in 'Activity Requirements applied' below), please double click it. A dialogue box will appear that will allow you to mark 'ticked/checked'.

GS ID of Project	You will receive a GS ID upon creation of a project on the sustainCERT App, please include it here once it is assigned
Title of Project	Please use a unique title. The title of the C/VPA must be prefixed with the GS ID and title of the POA that it is linked to. The number of the VPA should also be in the title. See example below: POA GS ID - POA Title - VPA Title - VPA Number
Time of First Submission Date	This is the date project documentation was first submitted for preliminary review. For retroactive projects, this must take place within 1 year of the project start date.
Date of Design Certification	The date of Design Certification is the last day of the Design Review period (even if the review is concluded after this date). GS4GG Design Review for a VPA Inclusion is 2 weeks; GS4GG Design Review for a VPA validations is 4 weeks.
Version number of the VPA-DD	
Completion date of version	Dd/mm/yyyy
Coordinating/managing entity	The official focal point (s) for the PoA, the Registry account holder and authorized owner of certificates/ credits. The signed Cover Letter clarifies the ownership relationship.
VPA Implementer (s)	Entities/individuals responsible for the operation of the VPA (which may or may not be the CME)
Project Participants and any communities involved	Use this space to list Project Owner (s) co-contributors not listed above. The signed Cover Letter clarifies the ownership relationship.
Host Country (ies)	
GS ID and Title of applicable Design Certified VPA	Where applicable, please provide the GS ID and title of the Design Certified VPA used to establish the common features and the modalities for designing this V/CPA. Mark N/A if this VPA is undergoing validation (as opposed to inclusion)
GS ID and Title of applicable Performance Certified VPA	Where applicable (for small and large scale POAs only), please provide the GS ID and title

	<p>of the verified VPA and the technologies/measures and methodologies applied.</p> <p>Mark N/A if this VPA is undergoing validation (as opposed to inclusion)</p>
Activity Requirements applied	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Community Services Activities (<u>in general</u> – off grid renewable energy, distributed technology, biogas, WASH)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Renewable Energy Activities (<u>in general</u> – renewable energy projects connected to national or regional grids or industrial facilities)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Land Use and Forestry Activities/Risks & Capacities (self explanatory)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> N/A (projects that do not fall into either of the above, for example Shipping)</p> <p>Refer to the activity requirements for specific criteria</p>
Scale of the project activity	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Micro scale</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Small Scale</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Large Scale</p> <p>See A.4</p>
Other Requirements applied	<p>Use this space to list requirements applicable to certain types of projects</p> <p>E.g. microscale</p>
Methodology (ies) applied and version number	<p>A GS4GG approved methodology is required to issue Products. Please refer to the SDG Impact Quantification pages for GS4GG approved methodologies. Many CDM methodologies are also approved for use in GS4GG - they may have additional rules that apply.</p>
Product Requirements applied	<p><input type="checkbox"/> GHG Emissions Reduction & Sequestration (required to issue VERs/PERs and label CERs)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Renewable Energy Label (required to label Renewable Energy Certificates)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> N/A (This is the rare case when a project chooses to issue neither emission reductions/labels or renewable energy labels)</p>
Project Cycle:	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Regular</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Retroactive</p> <p>A VPA is retroactive if the 1st Round of Stakeholder Consultation conducted after the Project Start Date. Retroactive VPAs can claim GS VERs/CERs for a max 2 years prior to the date of design certification.</p>

Table 1 – Estimated Sustainable Development Contributions

This table is a summary of Information in Section B.6 which must be completed first - non binding example for illustration purposes

Sustainable Development Goals Targeted	SDG Impact (defined in B.6)	Estimated Annual Average	Units or Products
13 Climate Action (mandatory)	Emissions Reductions	15,000	VERs
SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	aDALYs	650	aDALYs
SDG 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	MWh of renewable energy generated	11000	MWh

Use the table to show clearly summarise what GS Products and Certified Impact Statements are sought (complete [B.6](#) first). Insert new rows as necessary - an example table is shown below.

GS Products - can only be generated by following Product Requirements and/or a GS Approved methodology. Use Units or Products heading to state any Product you seek for each SDG – it is essential that you use the correct Product Name. You also must include the relevant methodology and or product requirements in the Key Project Information table above.

Common Products: SDG 13 - VER/CER/PER; SDG 7 - GS-RELS; SDG 3 – aDALYs; SDG 6 - WBCs)

Certified Impact Statements - Clearly state the proposed SDG Impact and the Units that define the Certified Impact Statement. If a GS Approved methodology is used (for example Gender Responsive Certification), you also must include the relevant methodology in the Key Project Information table above.

SECTION A DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

A.1 Purpose and general description of project

Provide the purpose and a general description of the VPA, including a summary of:

- i. The location of the project activity;*
- ii. The technologies/measures to be employed and/or implemented by the project activity;*
- iii. The project boundary;*
- iv. The baseline scenario;*

This information is a short summary of the information in sections A.2, A.3, B.3 & B.4

A.1.1 Eligibility of the project under approved PoA

For the columns Eligibility criterion & Description/Required condition replicate the information from the Design Certified POA-DD. Use column marked "Means of Verification/Supporting evidence for inclusion" to describe how the VPA meets the required condition and provide supporting evidence.

No.	Eligibility Criterion	Description/ Required condition	Means of Verification/Supporting evidencefor inclusion
1			
2			
3			
...			

A.1.2 Legal ownership of products generated by the project and legal rights to alter use of resources required to service the project

For each relevant point, justify that project owner has:

- i. full and uncontested legal ownership of all Products that are generated under Gold Standard Certification (Where such ownership is transferred from project beneficiaries this must be demonstrated transparently and be discussed during local stakeholder consultations)*
- ii. legal rights concerning changes in use of resources required to service the Project (e.g water rights)*
- iii. full and uncontested legal land title/tenure required to implement the Project (e.g. A/R projects, see LUF Activity Requirements)*

A.2 Location of project

Provide details of the physical/geographical location of the project activity, including:

- i. Physical address (host Party, region/state/province, city/town/community, street name and number)*
- ii. a map,*
- iii. if necessary, other information allowing for the unique identification of the project activity (e.g. geographic coordinates).*

A.3 Technologies and/or measures

Describe the technologies and measures to be employed and/or implemented by the project, including:

- i. a list of the facilities, systems and equipment that will be installed and/or modified by the project.*
- ii. The age and average lifespan of the equipment based on the manufacturer's specifications and industry standards*
- iii. Include all information essential to understand the purpose of the project and how it reduces GHG emissions and/or contributes to SDGs*

A.4 Scale of the project

- i. Confirm whether project is micro scale, small scale or large. (For VER/CER projects, note CDM rules on project types I,II,III; a project may contain more than one component belonging to each of the three, mutually exclusive project types. The project scale is determined by the project type (I,II,III) scale limits that all components are within (i.e. if types I,II,III components are all within their respective small scale limits, then the project as a whole is small scale)*
- ii. Justify the scale referring to the applied Activity Requirements*

A.5 Funding sources of project

- i. Indicate whether the project activity receives public funding. If any public funding is received, provide information on the sources of the public funding.*
- ii. For carbon credit projects taking place in countries on the OECD Development Assistance Committee's ODA recipient [list](#) a signed Official Development Assistance (ODA) Declaration is required.*

SECTION B APPLICATION OF APPROVED GOLD STANDARD METHODOLOGY (IES) AND/OR DEMONSTRATION OF SDG CONTRIBUTIONS

B.1 Reference of approved methodology (ies)

If more than one GS approved methodology is applied, provide information for each methodology separately in sections B1 to B5

Indicate the exact references (titles, versions and - where applicable - UNFCCC reference numbers) of:

- i. Selected GHG baseline and monitoring methodologies [e.g. Technologies and Practices to Displace Decentralized Thermal Energy Consumption (version 3.1)]
- ii. Any methodologies or methodological tools to which the selected methodologies refer, where applicable
- iii. Any selected standardized baselines, where applicable
- iv. Any mandatory GS Guidelines (e.g. Usage Survey Guidelines), where applicable

Refer to the validated VPA/generic CPA for the exact reference of the above.

B.2 Applicability of methodology (ies)

Justify the choice of the selected methodology by:

- i. demonstrating that the project meets each applicability condition of the applied methodology (typically listed the start of the methodology)
- ii. Demonstrating the project meets any additional GS criteria mandated on use of [UNFCCC methodologies](#)

If inclusion criteria are used to demonstrate methodology applicability, make explicit reference to section A.1.1.

B.3 Project boundary

Source	GHGs	Included?	Justification/Explanation
Baseline scenario	Source 1	CO ₂	
		CH ₄	
		N ₂ O	
		...	

Project scenario	Source 2	CO ₂
		CH ₄
		N ₂ O
		...

		...
		...
		...
	Source 1	CO ₂
		CH ₄
		N ₂ O
		...
	Source 2	CO ₂
		CH ₄
		N ₂ O
		...

		...
		...
		...

Define the project boundary of the project activity, including the physical delineation of the project activity

1. where possible, present a flow diagram of the project boundary based on the description provided in [Technologies and/or measures](#) above (a list of the facilities, systems and equipment that will be installed and/or modified by the project).
2. For GHG methodologies, include which sources and GHGs are included in the project boundary, in accordance with the applied methodologies
3. For GHG methodologies, use the table in the form to describe emission sources and GHGs included in the project boundary for the purpose of calculating project emissions, baseline emissions and if applicable,

B.4 Establishment and description of baseline scenario

Describe the baseline scenario for the project activity and explain how it is established in accordance with:

- i. Selected methodology(ies) and*
- ii. relevant applicable legislation and how effectively these are enforced (GS4GG Principle 1)*

Note, if a suppressed demand baseline is used it should be explained and justified and cannot be used for large scale projects; Products and Impact Statements sold as Assets cannot be stacked (i.e. have different revenue streams) when using a suppressed demand baseline as the definition of baseline may be contradictory.

B.5 Demonstration of additionality

Specify the methodology, activity requirement or product requirement that establishes deemed additionality for the proposed project (including the version number and the specific paragraph, if applicable).	
Describe how the proposed project meets the criteria for deemed additionality.	

Use this table for Automatic Additionality Only – delete if N/A

*Projects applying [GHG Emissions Reduction & Sequestration Product Requirements](#) must demonstrate Financial Additionality as defined in the POA-dd, or by using the **most up to date** version of one of the following:*

- i. UNFCCC-approved additionality Tool*
- ii. Gold Standard-approved additionality tool*
- iii. Activity requirements to demonstrate project additionality (for example LUF)*

(Refer to Activity/Product requirements for any limitations of use of the above)

If the project activity is a type of project activity which is deemed automatically additional, the table above may be completed to demonstrate additionality

Projects ***NOT*** applying GHG Emissions Reduction & Sequestration Product Requirements must demonstrate impacts that are additional as compared to their baseline scenario.

If inclusion criteria are used to demonstrate methodology applicability, make explicit reference to section A.1.1.

B.5.1 Prior Consideration

Only (non-CER) retroactive projects and all projects undergoing Design Changes to include new technologies/measures are required to demonstrate Prior consideration by submission timelines. Use this space to supply evidence that the:

- i. time of first submission is within one year of the project start date, OR
- ii. the request for Design Change approval is within one year Design Change start date.

Mark N/A if project regular, has no Design Changes or is a GS CER project

B.5.2 Ongoing Financial Need

This information need only be included at Design Certification Renewal and only for those projects that are required to demonstrate financial additionality. Please provide a short narrative that demonstrates how the revenue from Gold Standard certification is material to the ongoing sustainability of the project. Commercially sensitive or confidential information need not be disclosed and may be referred to in other attached documentation.

B.6 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) outcomes

Relevant Target/Indicator for each of the three SDGs

Non binding example for illustration purposes

Sustainable Development Goals Targeted	Most relevant SDG Target	SDG Impact Indicator (Proposed or SDG Indicator)
13 Climate Action (mandatory)	N/A	Emissions Reductions
7 - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	7.2: By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix	MWh of renewable energy generated
3 - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	3.9: By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination	aDALYs

For each of the minimum three SDGs addressed by the project, specify the relevant SDG Target, then the SDG Indicator or, if required, a Proposed Indicator as defined in the corresponding validated vpa. A project cannot be Listed until a minimum of three SDGs are specified.

An SDG Impact is demonstrated by either an SDG Indicator or Proposed Indicator (with justification). Copy each SDG Impact across to Table 1 and provide an estimate of the values.

Note: SDG 13 is mandatory and may simply be demonstrated by VERs/CERs – no SDG 13 Target is required in this case. The SDG Impact is Emissions Reductions/Removals.

B.6.1 Explanation of methodological choices/approaches for estimating the SDG Impact

Under headings for each SDG, explain how the methodological steps in the selected methodology(ies) or proposed approach for calculating baseline and project outcomes are applied as defined in the corresponding validated VPA. Clearly state which equations will be used in calculating net benefit.

B.6.2 Data and parameters fixed ex ante

Copy the table for each piece of data and parameter; use headings to group parameter tables by SDG

SDG13

Data/parameter	
Unit	
Description	
Source of data	
Value(s) applied	
Choice of data or Measurement methods and procedures	
Purpose of data	
Additional comment	

(SDG n ...)

Under headings for each SDG, include a compilation of information on the data and parameters that are not monitored during the crediting period but are determined before design certification and remain fixed throughout the crediting period (like IPCC defaults and other methodology defaults).

Copy the table for each piece of data and parameter. Where ex ante parameters are used to calculate more than one SDG (for example Installed Capacity, numbers of technology), always include it under the SDG 13 heading first (if it is used for SDG 13) and use Additional Comment to explain which other SDGs rely on the same parameter. Do not duplicate parameter tables.

A guide to completing the table is below.

"Value(s) applied": provide the value applied. Where a time series of data is used, where several measurements are undertaken or where surveys have been conducted, supply detailed information in the appendix or as annexes. To report multiple values referring to the same data or parameter, use one table. If necessary, use references to spreadsheets; For the row "Source of data", ensure that the source of data are provided so that they can be reviewed; The name and reference of the supporting documentation must match the quoted source for easy traceability during certification. For example Bp,y – the Source of Data could be described as the filename of the study containing the reported data e.g. Developer Name Baseline Survey results.xls. Ideally the sheet (or page no. for documents) will also be referenced. E.g. Developer Name Baseline Survey results.xls. (Summary Sheet) OR Baseline Study Report.pdf (page 14). The aim is to direct your assurance providers to the information as quickly as possible, which will result in a **quicker** review process. The version number need not be included as long as the filename is correct.

"Measurement methods and procedures": where values are based on measurement, include a description of the measurement methods and procedures applied (e.g. which standards have been used), indicate the responsible person/entity that undertook the measurement, the date of the measurement and the measurement results.

"Purpose of data": choose one of the following:

- (i) Calculation of baseline scenario;
- (ii) Calculation of project scenario;
- (iii) Calculation of leakage.

B.6.3 Ex ante estimation of SDG Impact

Provide a transparent ex ante calculation of baseline and project scenarios (or, where applicable, direct calculation of net benefit) during the crediting period, applying all relevant equations provided in the selected methodology(ies) or as per proposed approach. For data or parameters available before design certification, use values contained in the table in section B.6.3 above. For data/parameters not available before design certification and monitored during the crediting period, use estimates contained in the table in section B.7.1

A reader should be able to see how each equation is applied, in such a manner that enables them to reproduce the calculation.

B.6.4 Summary of ex ante estimates of each SDG outcome

Year	Baseline estimate	Project estimate	Net benefit
Year 1			
Year 2			
Year 2			
Year 4			

Year 5			
Year n (delete if N/A)			
Total			
Total number of crediting years			
Annual average over the crediting period			

B.7 Monitoring plan

B.7.1 Data and parameters to be monitored

Copy the table for each piece of data and parameter; use headings to group parameter tables by SDG

SDG 13

Data / Parameter	
Unit	
Description	
Source of data	
Value(s) applied	
Measurement methods and procedures	
Monitoring frequency	
QA/QC procedures	
Purpose of data	
Additional comment	

(SDG n...)

Under headings for each SDG, Include specific information on how the data and parameters that need to be monitored in the selected methodology(ies) or proposed approaches.

Copy the table for each piece of data and parameter. Where ex ante parameters are used to calculate more than one SDG (for example Usage Rate), always include it under the SDG 13 heading first (if relevant) and use Additional Comment to explain which other SDGs rely on the same parameter. Do not duplicate parameter tables.

Use the same guide as B.6.3. and

"QA/QC procedures": describe the Quality Assurance (QA)/Quality Control (QC) procedures to be applied, including the calibration procedures, where applicable;

B.7.2 Sampling plan

If data and parameters monitored in section B.7.1 above are to be determined by a sampling approach (i.e. not all technologies/units are measured/monitoring, provide a description of the sampling plan. Please refer to the latest version of [Standard: Sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and programme of activities](#)

B.7.3 Other elements of monitoring plan

Describe the other elements of the monitoring plan, including the operational and management structure for monitoring, provisions for data archiving, and responsibilities and institutional arrangements for data collection and archiving.

SECTION C DURATION AND CREDITING PERIOD

C.1 Duration of project

C.1.1 Start date of project

Specify start date of the project in DD/MM/YYYY format

Define the start date as per GS4GG Principle 4. [Unless otherwise stated in the applied Activity/Product Requirements (e.g. LUF Requirements), the start date is "the earliest date on which the Project Developer has committed to expenditures related to the implementation of the Project"]

State (and supply a copy where relevant) the evidence proving this date

As per GS4GG Principle 4, Justify if the project is regular, or retroactive and ensure KPI table matches.

C.1.2 Expected operational lifetime of project

Specify in years and months how long the project will be active.

C.2 Crediting period of project

C.2.1 Start date of crediting period

Specify in dd/mm/yyyy.

For most projects, this is the start of project operation or a maximum of two years prior to the date of Project Design Certification whichever is later.

For Projects applying LUF Requirements, it is a maximum of three years prior to the date of Project Design Certification. Please refer to GHG Reqs.

C.2.2 Total length of crediting period

All GS4GG projects operate on a renewable 5 year cycle except transition projects which maintain their existing crediting cycle and maximum crediting periods.

Refer to Principle 4 of the applied Activity Requirements to determine the maximum length of crediting period; where no Activity Requirements are applied, the maximum length is 10 years.

Where a Gold Standard Project has been or is registered under other voluntary carbon standards or certification schemes, the total aggregated crediting period under all schemes combined shall not exceed the maximum allowed under Gold Standard

SECTION D SUMMARY OF SAFEGUARDING PRINCIPLES AND GENDER SENSITIVE ASSESSMENT

D.1 Safeguarding Principles that will be monitored

A completed Safeguarding Principles Assessment is in [Appendix 1](#), ongoing monitoring is summarised below.

Principles	Mitigation Measures added to the Monitoring Plan
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Principle x.y

A project meets Requirements via a detailed Safeguarding Principles Assessment by either design, management or risk mitigation. This table is a summary of the Assessment available in [Error! Reference source not found.](#) to clearly show which aspects form part of the Project monitoring plan.

A Safeguarding Principles Assessment need only be conducted once for the validated VPA/CPA that defines each one of the different methodologies (or combination of methodologies) or each technology/measure (or combination of technologies/measures) in the PoA. The results of the approved assessment (i.e. a demonstration of how requirements are met may simply used for each VPA that corresponds to the validated VPA/CPA. For multi-country POAs, the assessment may need to be reconducted if conditions differ between countries.

You may also complete parameter boxes in B7.1 (where suitable); if this is the case, you can simply mark 'refer to B7.1' for each relevant safeguard in the table. In either case, the approach to monitoring must be clearly shown and referenced via this table.

Complete the assessment (following the instructions given) and copy the relevant results into the table - you only need copy measures that you will monitor. You do not need to copy across any other information.

D.2 Assessment that project complies with GS4GG Gender Sensitive requirements

Question 1 - Explain how the project reflects the key issues and requirements of Gender Sensitive design and implementation as outlined in the Gender Policy?	
Question 2 - Explain how the project aligns with existing country policies, strategies and best practices	

Question 3 - Is an Expert required for the Gender Safeguarding Principles & Requirements?	
Question 4 - Is an Expert required to assist with Gender issues at the Stakeholder Consultation?	

Answer the questions in the table,

- i. provide evidence that the Project concept and design covers the overall societal context from a gender perspective*
- ii. Justify how the project complies with local policies on gender or women empowerment (where they exist)*
- iii. Question 3 of the Gender Requirements is addressed by default in the GS4GG Safeguarding principles assessment; provide your view if an expert is needed. An expert may be required if Gender is not adequately addressed in the Safeguarding principles assessment.*
- iv. Question 4 of the Gender Requirements is addressed by default in GS4GG Stakeholder Consultations; provide your view if an expert is needed. An expert may be required if the consultations present particular challenges from a Gender perspective.*

Please refer to Gold Standard [Gender Equality Guidelines and Requirements](#) and the Gold Standard [Gender Policy](#) for more information.

SECTION E SUMMARY OF LOCAL STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

The below is a summary of the 2 step GS4GG Consultation for monitoring purposes. Please refer to the separate Stakeholder Consultation Report for a complete report on the initial consultation and stakeholder feedback round.

A single stakeholder physical meeting can be organised for several VPA(s)/CPA(s) as long as convincing justification is provided and approved by Gold Standard at the time of listing, e.g. the activities are close enough to each other in location and time (start of construction/implementation within the same 2 years).

E.1 Summary of stakeholder mitigation measures

Summarise all concerns that were raised by stakeholders during the stakeholder consultations for which mitigation measures were proposed. Detail how the mitigation measure (s) will be monitored (if required or a commitment to stakeholders was made)

E.2 Final continuous input / grievance mechanism

Method	Include all details of Chosen Method (s) so that they may be understood and, where relevant, used by readers.
Continuous Input / Grievance Expression Process Book (mandatory)	
GS Contact (mandatory)	help@goldstandard.org
Other	

Please declare the final methods agreed with stakeholders during the consultation process (note that justification is not required in this document). The Design Certified PDD must contain the most up to date version of this table for transparency.

All issues identified during the crediting period through any of the Methods should be declared in the monitoring report and have a response or appropriate mitigation measure in place. Mitigation measures that require ongoing monitoring must be added to the monitoring plan.

APPENDIX 1 - SAFEGUARDING PRINCIPLES ASSESSMENT

Follow these instructions to complete the Assessment table in full below then copy any Mitigation Measures for each Principle into [SECTION D](#) above.

Requirements: are numbered (and have no assessment question) - you must show how the Project will achieve the requirements through design, management or risk mitigation (and add the relevant information to the Monitoring Plan). The Monitoring report provides a separate section to report on safeguards throughout the project cycle.

Assessment Questions: are what a Project must respond to – with justification - in order to identify key risks and adverse outcomes to the Principles.

There are three responses to an Assessment Question, Yes, Potentially or No.

If you respond No or Potentially, the Requirements do not need to be demonstrated as met. You must clearly and adequately justify this response in Justification of Relevance.

If you respond Yes, all Requirements of the relevant Safeguarding Principle apply to your project. If this is the case, you must copy the relevant Requirements from the GS4GG Safeguarding Principles and Requirements document into the table in the space marked >> and demonstrate how your project will achieve the requirements through design, management or risk mitigation (and add the relevant information to the Monitoring Plan)

The following safeguarding principles assessments may require an Expert Opinion, please pay careful attention to the Safeguard Principles and Requirements if these principles are applicable to your project

The following safeguarding principles assessments may require an Expert Opinion:

- **Principle 2 – Gender Equality and Women’s Rights (if concerns are raised from the self assessment)**
- Principle 4.1 Sites of Cultural and Historical Heritage
- Principle 4.2 Forced Eviction and Displacement
- Principle 4.3 Land Tenure and Other Rights
- Principle 4.4 Indigenous Peoples
- **Principle 6.1 Labour Rights (for child labour on family farms ONLY)**
- Principle 8.1 Impact on Natural Water Patterns/Flows
- Principle 8.2 - Erosion and/or Water Body Instability
- Principle 9.10 - High Conservation Value Areas and Critical Habitats
- Principle 9.11 - Endangered Species

Complete the Assessment below and copy all Mitigation Measures for each Principle into [SECTION D](#) above. Please refer to the instructions in the Guide to Completing this Form.

Assessment Questions/ Requirements	Justification of Relevance (Yes/potentially/no)	How Project will achieve Requirements through design, management or risk mitigation.	Mitigation Measures added to the Monitoring Plan (if required)
Principle 1. Human Rights			
1. The Project Developer and the Project shall respect internationally proclaimed human rights and shall not be complicit in violence or human rights abuses of any kind as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 2. The Project shall not discriminate with regards to participation and inclusion			
Principle 2. Gender Equality			
1. The Project shall not directly or indirectly lead to/contribute to adverse impacts on gender			

<p>equality and/or the situation of women</p> <p>2. Projects shall apply the principles of nondiscrimination, equal treatment, and equal pay for equal work</p> <p>3. The Project shall refer to the country's national gender strategy or equivalent national commitment to aid in assessing gender risks</p> <p>4. (where required) Summary of opinions and recommendations of an Expert Stakeholder(s)</p>			
Principle 3. Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions			
<p>1. The Project shall avoid community exposure to increased health risks and shall not adversely affect the health of the workers and the community</p>			
Principle 4.1 Sites of Cultural and Historical Heritage			

Does the Project Area include sites, structures, or objects with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional or religious values or intangible forms of culture?			
>>			
Principle 4.2 Forced Eviction and Displacement			
Does the Project require or cause the physical or economic relocation of peoples (temporary or permanent, full or partial)?			
>>			
Principle 4.3 Land Tenure and Other Rights			
a. Does the Project require any change, or have any uncertainties related to land tenure arrangements and/or access rights, usage rights or land ownership?			
b. For Projects involving land use tenure, are there any uncertainties with regards to land tenure, access rights, usage rights or land ownership?			

Principle 4.4 - Indigenous people			
Are indigenous peoples present in or within the area of influence of the Project and/or is the Project located on land/territory claimed by indigenous peoples?			
>>			
Principle 5. Corruption			
1. The Project shall not involve, be complicit in or inadvertently contribute to or reinforce corruption or corrupt Projects			
Principle 6.1 Labour Rights			
1. The Project Developer shall ensure that all employment is in compliance with national labour occupational health and safety laws and with the principles and standards embodied			

<p>in the ILO fundamental conventions</p> <p>2. Workers shall be able to establish and join labour organisations</p> <p>3. Working agreements with all individual workers shall be documented and implemented and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Working hours (must not exceed 48 hours per week on a regular basis), AND b) Duties and tasks, AND c) Remuneration (must include provision for payment of overtime), AND d) Modalities on health insurance, AND e) Modalities on termination of the contract with provision for voluntary resignation by employee, AND 			
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<p>f) Provision for annual leave of not less than 10 days per year, not including sick and casual leave.</p> <p>4. No child labour is allowed (Exceptions for children working on their families' property requires an Expert Stakeholder opinion)</p> <p>5. The Project Developer shall ensure the use of appropriate equipment, training of workers, documentation and reporting of accidents and incidents, and emergency preparedness and response measures</p>			
Principle 6.2 Negative Economic Consequences			
<p>1. Does the project cause negative economic consequences during and after project implementation?</p>			

Principle 7.1 Emissions			
Will the Project increase greenhouse gas emissions over the Baseline Scenario?			
>>			
Principle 7.2 Energy Supply			
Will the Project use energy from a local grid or power supply (i.e., not connected to a national or regional grid) or fuel resource (such as wood, biomass) that provides for other local users?			
>>			
Principle 8.1 Impact on Natural Water Patterns/Flows			
Will the Project affect the natural or pre-existing pattern of watercourses, ground-water and/or the watershed(s) such as high seasonal flow variability, flooding potential, lack of aquatic connectivity or water scarcity?			
>>			

Principle 8.2 Erosion and/or Water Body Instability			
<p>a. Could the Project directly or indirectly cause additional erosion and/or water body instability or disrupt the natural pattern of erosion?</p> <p>b. Is the Project's area of influence susceptible to excessive erosion and/or water body instability?</p>			
>>			
Principle 9.1 Landscape Modification and Soil			
<p>Does the Project involve the use of land and soil for production of crops or other products?</p>			
>>			
Principle 9.2 Vulnerability to Natural Disaster			
<p>Will the Project be susceptible to or lead to increased vulnerability to wind, earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding, drought or other extreme climatic conditions?</p>			

>>			
Principle 9.3 Genetic Resources			
Could the Project be negatively impacted by or involve genetically modified organisms or GMOs (e.g., contamination, collection and/or harvesting, commercial development, or take place in facilities or farms that include GMOs in their processes and production)?			
>>			
Principle 9.4 Release of pollutants			
Could the Project potentially result in the release of pollutants to the environment?			
>>			
Principle 9.5 Hazardous and Non-hazardous Waste			
Will the Project involve the manufacture, trade, release, and/ or use of hazardous and non-hazardous chemicals and/or materials?			
>>			

Principle 9.6 Pesticides & Fertilisers			
Will the Project involve the application of pesticides and/or fertilisers?			
>>			
Principle 9.7 Harvesting of Forests			
Will the Project involve the harvesting of forests?			
>>			
Principle 9.8 Food			
Does the Project modify the quantity or nutritional quality of food available such as through crop regime alteration or export or economic incentives?			
>>			
Principle 9.9 Animal husbandry			
Will the Project involve animal husbandry?			
>>			
Principle 9.10 High Conservation Value Areas and Critical Habitats			

Does the Project physically affect or alter largely intact or High Conservation Value (HCV) ecosystems, critical habitats, landscapes, key biodiversity areas or sites identified?			
>>			
Principle 9.11 Endangered Species			
<p>a. Are there any endangered species identified as potentially being present within the Project boundary (including those that may route through the area)?</p> <p>1. Does the Project potentially impact other areas where endangered species may be present through transboundary affects?</p>			
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Assessment Questions/ Requirements	Justification of Relevance (Yes/potentially/no)	How Project will achieve Requirements through design, management or risk mitigation.	Mitigation Measures added to the Monitoring Plan (if required)
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<p>3. The Project Developer and the Project shall respect internationally proclaimed human rights and shall not be complicit in violence or human rights abuses of any kind as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights</p> <p>4. The Project shall not discriminate with regards to participation and inclusion</p>			
Principle 2. Gender Equality			
<p>5. The Project shall not directly or indirectly lead to/contribute to adverse impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women</p> <p>6. Projects shall apply the principles of nondiscrimination, equal treatment, and equal pay for equal work</p>			

<p>7. The Project shall refer to the country's national gender strategy or equivalent national commitment to aid in assessing gender risks</p> <p>8. (where required) Summary of opinions and recommendations of an Expert Stakeholder(s)</p>			
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<p>Does the Project Area include sites, structures, or objects with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional or religious values or intangible forms of culture?</p>			
>>			

Principle 4.2 Forced Eviction and Displacement			
Does the Project require or cause the physical or economic relocation of peoples (temporary or permanent, full or partial)?			
>>			
Principle 4.3 Land Tenure and Other Rights			
c. Does the Project require any change, or have any uncertainties related to land tenure arrangements and/or access rights, usage rights or land ownership?			
d. For Projects involving land use tenure, are there any uncertainties with regards to land tenure, access rights, usage rights or land ownership?			
>>			
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6. The Project Developer shall ensure the use of appropriate equipment, training of workers, documentation and reporting of accidents and incidents, and emergency preparedness and response measures			
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7. Does the project cause negative economic consequences during and after project implementation?			
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>>			

APPENDIX 2- CONTACT INFORMATION OF VPA IMPLEMENTER

Organization name	
Registration number with relevant authority	
Street/P.O. Box	
Building	
City	
State/Region	
Postcode	
Country	
Telephone	
E-mail	
Website	
Contact person	
Title	
Salutation	
Last name	
Middle name	
First name	
Department	
Mobile	
Direct tel.	
Personal e-mail	

APPENDIX 3-SUMMARY OF APPROVED DESIGN CHANGES

Please refer to Design Change [Requirements](#) for more information on procedures governing Design Changes

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