



TEMPLATE GUIDE

KEY PROJECT INFORMATION & VPA DESIGN DOCUMENT (PDD)

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VERSION **v. 2.0**

RELATED SUPPORT Programme of Activity requirements and procedures

GUIDE TO COMPLETING THE VOLUNTARY PROJECT ACTIVITY DESIGN DOCUMENT (VPA-DD)

1. Gold Standard PoAs require a completed Voluntary Project Activity (VPA)/Compliance Project Activity (CPA) design document (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. The PoA and its real case VPAs shall complete Validation (defined as the date of submission of Validation Report by the VVB) within two years of successful listing of the PoAs and its real case VPAs. A new real case VPA submitted for inclusion after PoA design certification shall also complete validation within two years of successful listing of the real case VPA.
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 to 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 Gold Standard for the Global Goals (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; [Community Service Activities \(CSA\)](#), Renewable Energy (RE), [Land Use & Forest 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 Emission Reduction and Sequestration Product Requirements](#) which is applicable to all VER/CER/Carbon credit project types.
7. You must also comply with all requirements in any selected Gold Standard 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 Principles and Requirements 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 and procedures](#) 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)

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

Section F - Eligibility and inclusion criteria for VPAs inclusion

Appendix 1 - Safeguarding Principles Assessment (mandatory)

Appendix 2- Contact information of VPA Implementer (mandatory)

Appendix 3- LUF Additional Information

Appendix 4-Summary of Approved Design Changes (VPA specific)

KEY PROJECT INFORMATION

To mark or unmark a checkbox (in 'Activity Requirements applied' below), please click on it.

<p>Type of VPA</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Real case VPA (An actual activity implemented/proposed to be implemented under a PoA that sets out a specific regulatory and design framework to be followed by similar regular VPAs. It is distinguished with other real case VPAs based on aspects like; technology/measure types, host country, end user type etc)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Regular VPA (An activity involving single measure or a set of interrelated measures implemented under a PoA that follow the framework/requirements set out by an associated real case VPA and PoA)</p>
<p>Scale of VPA</p> <p>Note that a VPA can be of one scale. Please select applicable scale accordingly.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Microscale</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Small scale</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Large scale</p> <p><i>Refer to corresponding Activity Requirements for definition of the scale of PoA.</i></p> <p><i>A regular VPA shall comply with the scale requirements as defined at corresponding real case VPA.</i></p>
<p>Title of corresponding real case VPA (if applicable)</p>	<p><i>Please use a unique title.</i></p> <p><i>Each real case VPA title must be prefixed with PoA GS ID that VPA is linked to. See example title below:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - POA GS ID - VPA Number - VPA Title - GS001 VPA-1 Choybalsan cookstoves in Mongolia
<p>GS ID of real case VPA (if applicable)</p>	<p>GS XXXXX</p> <p><i>You will receive a GS ID upon creation of a project on the SustainCERT App, please include it here once it is assigned</i></p>
<p>GS ID of VPA</p>	<p>GS XXXXX</p> <p><i>You will receive a GS ID upon creation of a project on the SustainCERT App, please include it here once it is assigned</i></p>
<p>Title of VPA</p>	<p><i>Please use a unique title.</i></p> <p><i>Each regular VPA title must be prefixed with the corresponding real case VPA GS ID followed by PoA GS ID that VPA is linked to. See example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - POA GS ID – Real case VPA ID – Real case VPA number – Regular VPA Title - GS001 GS0025 RVPA-1 Choybalsan cookstoves in Mongolia

Time of First Submission Date	DD/MM/YYYY <i>First submission refers to the process of uploading all project documents (as required) on the Gold Standard Impact Registry and payment of applicable fees to Gold Standard. For retroactive projects, this must take place within 1 year of the project start date.</i>
Date of Design Certification	DD/MM/YYYY <i>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.</i>
Version number of the VPA-DD	X.Y
Completion date of version	DD/MM/YYYY
Coordinating/managing entity	<i>The entity nominated in the cover letter submitted for each activity. This is the entity that communicates with Gold Standard on all matters related to a PoA and associated activities.</i>
VPA Implementer (s)	<i>The entity in charge of managing and operating an individual VPA under the PoA (which may or may not be the CME)</i>
Project Participants and any communities involved	<i>Use this space to list Project Owner (s) co-contributors not listed above. The signed Cover Letter clarifies the ownership relationship.</i>
Host Country (ies)	
GS ID and Title of applicable Design Certified VPA	<i>Where applicable, please provide the GS ID and title of the Real case 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)</i>
GS ID and Title of applicable Performance Certified VPA	<i>Where applicable (for small and large scale POAs only), please provide the GS ID and title of the real case verified VPA and the technologies/measures and methodologies applied. Mark N/A if this VPA is undergoing validation (as opposed to inclusion)</i>

<p>Activity Requirements applied</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Community Services Activities (in general – off grid renewable energy, distributed technology, biogas, WASH)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Renewable Energy Activities (in general – renewable energy projects connected to national or regional grids or industrial facilities)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Land Use and Forestry Activities/Risks & Capacities</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>
<p>Other Requirements applied</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Programme of Activity requirements and procedures (PoA Requirements mandatory) Use this space to list requirements applicable to certain types of projects. E.g. microscale</p>
<p>Methodology (ies) applied and version number</p>	<p>A Gold Standard approved methodology is required to issue Products. Please refer to the SDG Impact Quantification Methodologies page for GS approved methodologies. Many CDM methodologies are also approved for use in GS - they may have additional rules that apply.</p>
<p>Product Requirements applied</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> GHG Emissions Reductions & 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>
<p>VPA Cycle:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Regular (Stakeholder Consultation (first round) has been conducted before the Start Date of the VPA)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Retroactive (Stakeholder Consultation (first round) is conducted after the Start Date of the VPA)</p> <p>Retroactive VPAs can claim GS VERs/CERs for a max 2 years prior to the date of design certification.</p>

Land-use & Forest and Agriculture - Key Project Information¹

(delete below table if N/A)

Scope:	<input type="checkbox"/> Forestry <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture
Silvicultural system:	<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation (no use of timber) <input type="checkbox"/> Selective Harvesting <input type="checkbox"/> Rotation Forestry
Project Area (ha):	
Eligible Area (ha):	
10% Set Aside Conservation area (ha):	
Evidence that Project Area Boundary is clearly distinguishable in the field:	
Planting Area	
How many Modelling Units (MUs) are included in the eligible area:	
Summary of New Areas added (copy and insert as needed):	
Size (ha):	
Date Added	

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

¹ Please refer to 0 for detailed information on LUF projects

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
<i>SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages</i>	<i>aDALYs</i>	<i>650</i>	<i>aDALYs</i>
<i>SDG 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all</i>	<i>MWh of renewable energy generated</i>	<i>11000</i>	<i>MWh</i>

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 physical/geographical location of the VPA;*
- 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

In case of Forestry and AGR VPAs, the CME shall also:

- a. Describe the present environmental conditions of the area planned for the Forestry and AGR VPAs, including the climate, hydrology, soils and ecosystems*
- b. Describe the presence, if any, of rare and endangered species and their habitats*
- c. Describe the species and varieties selected for the Forestry VPA*
- d. Describe the measures and know-how that will be transferred to the host Party, if applicable*
- e. Describe or list the legal title(s) to the land, current land tenure and rights enabling determination of the owner of the GS VERs to be issued for the Forestry and AGR VPAs*

A.1.1. Eligibility of the VPA 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.

Table 2 Eligibility for VPA inclusion as per PoA requirements

No.	Eligibility Criterion	Description/ Required condition	Description of the VPA in relation to the criteria, Means of Verification and Supporting evidence for inclusion
------------	------------------------------	--	--

1

2

3

...

A.1.2. Legal ownership of products generated by the VPA 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 VPA

>>

Provide details of the physical/geographical location of the VPA, 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 real case VPA and its regular VPAs*
- ii. The types and levels of services (such as the amount of certain type of product type produced or the amount of electricity fed into the electricity grid) provided by the facilities, systems and equipment and their relation, if any, to other facilities, systems and equipment outside the project boundary*
- iii. The arrangement of the facilities, systems and equipment*
- iv. The age and average lifetime of the equipment based on the manufacturer's specifications and industry standards*
- v. The installed capacities, load factors and efficiencies*
- vi. Provides the ranges, for example range of the age and average lifespan of the equipment based on the manufacturer's specifications and industry standards, installed capacities, load factors and efficiencies, if regular VPAs are expected to have variations in equipment features*

The CME shall also describe the energy and mass flows and balances of the facilities, systems and equipment, if necessary;

- i. The monitoring equipment and their location in the systems*
- ii. All information essential to understand the purpose of the activity*

The technologies/measures existing prior to the implementation of the VPA at the same site, as applicable, including the equivalent information listed above on the facilities, systems and equipment shall also be provided.

A.4. Scale of the VPA

>>

The CME shall indicate the scale of VPAs following the applicable activity scale definition, summarised below

Activity requirements	Scale and type		
	Large scale	Small scale	Microscale
Renewable Energy (RE)		As per Renewable Energy Activity Requirements	10,000 tCO ₂ e/yr
Community Services Activity (CSA)		Community Services Activity Requirements	10,000 tCO ₂ e/yr
Agriculture (AGR)	No cap applies	60,000 tCO ₂ e/yr	10,000 tCO ₂ e/yr and 500 ha
Forestry		16,000 tCO ₂ e/yr	10,000 tCO ₂ e/yr and 500 ha
Others		As per defined cap in the methodology	-

If selecting a small-scale VPA, the CME shall consider that:

- i. The three small scale project types (i.e. Type I, II and/or III) are mutually exclusive;
- ii. A small-scale VPA may contain more than one component, each belonging to one of the three project types referred to above. In this case, the sum of the scale of components belonging to the same project type shall not exceed the limit of that project type.
- iii. If more than one component is included in the VPA, the CME shall provide information on the small-scale project type (i.e. Type I, II and/or III), technologies/measures and applied methodologies separately for each component.

A.5. Funding sources of VPA

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- 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 Gold Standard approved methodology is applied, provide information for each methodology separately

For first real case VPA submitted with the proposed PoA, the CME shall select the latest or valid version of an approved methodology and methodological tool available at the time first submission of real case VPA to Gold Standard.

For new real case VPA after PoA listing, the CME shall apply the latest version of the methodology or combination of the methodologies, available at the time of its first submission to Gold Standard.

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*

The CME designing a small-scale VPA shall only use small-scale methodologies. However, the CME may use large-scale methodologies for small scale VPAs if the VPA follows applicable rules and requirements for large-scale project activities

B.2. Applicability of methodology (ies)

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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. VPA boundary

>>

Source	GHGs	Included?	Justification/Explanation
Baseline	Source 1	CO ₂	
		CH ₄	

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

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

*In accordance with the applied methodology(ies), for **non-forestry and non AGR** activity the CME shall:*

- i. define the project boundary including the physical delineation of the VPA, and*
- ii. select the sources and GHGs that are included/excluded in the project boundary and provide explanation with justification for the choice.*

The CME shall 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

Where possible, the CME shall 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.

*In accordance with the applied methodology(ies) in real case VPA involving **Forestry or AGR** activity, the CME shall:*

- i. define the project boundary that geographically delineates the proposed VPA under the control of the CME or the project participants, including information allowing for the unique identification of the VPA. If the proposed VPA contains more than one discrete area of land, each discrete area of land shall have a unique identification. AND*
- ii. select the carbon pools, emission sources and GHGs to account for in the project boundary of the real case VPA, and provide explanation with justification for the choice*
- iii. describe how to define the project boundary of its regular VPAs, including how to determine the physical delineation of each regular VPAs, and*
- iv. which sources, which carbon pools (for Forestry and AGR VPAs) and GHGs are to be included/excluded in its regular VPAs boundary, under which conditions or circumstances.*

B.4. Establishment and description of baseline scenario

>>

*In case of **non forestry and non AGR** activity the CME shall establish and describe the baseline scenario for the real case VPA in accordance with the applied methodology, including the following information:*

- i. the facilities, systems and equipment to be operated under the real case VPA and in the baseline scenario, and clear explanation on how the same types and levels of services provided by the real case VPA would have been provided in the baseline scenario.*
- ii. in case of replacement of the existing equipment, estimation of the point in time when the existing equipment would be replaced in the absence of the proposed real case VPA in accordance with the CDM methodology Tool 10 ["Tool to determine the remaining lifetime of equipment"](#). In case small-scale real case VPA, the CME may disregard this requirement for household devices/appliances to be used in VPA.*

As a general principle, relevant national and/or sectoral policies, regulations and circumstances shall be taken into account in the establishment of the baseline scenario, without creating perverse incentives that may impact host Parties' contributions to the ultimate objective of Paris agreement.

*In case of **Forestry or AGR** activity, the CME shall establish and describe the baseline scenario separately for each stratum in the proposed Forestry and AGR VPA in accordance with the applied methodology. When describing how to establish the baseline scenario, the CME shall take into account relevant national and/or sectoral policies, regulations and circumstances, such as historical land use practices, without creating perverse incentives that may impact the host Party's contributions to the ultimate objective of the Paris Agreement.*

In case of small scale and microscale VPAs, if a suppressed demand and corresponding baseline scenario is established, it should be explained and justified as per applicable methodology requirements.

B.5. Demonstration of additionality

>>

Use this table for Automatic Additionality [Only](#) – delete if N/A

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 VPA meets the criteria for deemed additionality.	

The CME shall demonstrate the additionality at real case VPA level in line with the [Principles and Requirements](#) or applicable Activity or Methodology Requirements using one of the following options:

- a. [Positive lists of technologies or deemed additionality criteria as per applicable activity requirements](#). If the project activity is a type of project activity which is deemed automatically additional, the table above may be completed to demonstrate additionality
- a. With the exception of specific GS4GG Activity or Product Requirements as stated in the relevant standards, Gold Standard-approved Additionality tool or an applicable CDM EB approved additionality tool:
 - i. [Tool for the demonstration and assessment of additionality \(Tool 01\)](#),
 - ii. [Combined tool to identify the baseline scenario and demonstrate additionality \(Tool02\)](#),
 - iii. [Demonstration of additionality of small-scale project activities, under specific Activity Requirements for small-scale Projects \(Tool 21\)](#).
 - iv. [Additionality of first-of-its-kind project activities \(Tool 23\)](#)
 - v. [Positive lists of technologies \(Tool 32\)](#)

The CME shall apply the latest version of additionality tool or positive list available at the time of first submission (Preliminary Review) of real case VPA.

If the real case VPA applies a combination of large-scale methodologies or large-scale and small-scale methodologies, and the combination results in changed cash-flow for individual measures in comparison to the situation where the measures are implemented separately, the conditions shall be such that additionality is demonstrated for the measures both individually (i.e. for each of the measures) and collectively (i.e. for the combination of the measures).

B.5.1. Prior Consideration

>>

For retroactive real case VPAs, the CME shall demonstrate prior consideration in accordance with [GHG Emissions Reductions & Sequestration](#) that the revenues from carbon credits were seriously considered in the decision to implement the Project. Evidence to support carbon revenue consideration and continuous actions may include contracts, draft versions of Project information, correspondence with financial institutions or other stakeholders, minutes and notes of Board/Management meetings, agreements or negotiations with auditors, publications in newspapers.

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 follow the latest version of [Principles and Requirements](#).

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

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 aDALYs for deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

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;*

"Source of data": *ensure that the data sources 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 parameter 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 VPA

>>

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 VPA

>>

dd/mm/yyyy, XX years, ZZ months

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.

Unless otherwise stated in a specific Methodology or Product Requirements, the crediting period start date of real case VPA is either the VPA Start Date or two years prior to the date of Design Certification or Inclusion Date – whichever is later. For the VPA Start date definition, refer to the Project Start Date as defined in the [Principles & Requirements](#) or applicable activity requirements, if includes a definition of start date.

The CP shall start on or after the PoA crediting cycle start date and shall not exceed the end of the duration of the PoA, regardless of the VPA inclusion date or start date.

C.2.2. Total length of crediting period

>>

XX years, ZZ months (*State the total duration of the proposed VPA in years, months*).

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
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 [Appendix 1 - Safeguarding Principles Assessment](#) 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

<p>Question 1 - Explain how the project reflects the key issues and requirements of Gender Sensitive design and implementation as outlined in the Gender Policy?</p>	
<p>Question 2 - Explain how the project aligns with existing country policies, strategies and best practices</p>	
<p>Question 3 - Is an Expert required for the Gender Safeguarding Principles & Requirements?</p>	
<p>Question 4 - Is an Expert required to assist with Gender issues at the Stakeholder Consultation?</p>	

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 Stakeholder consultation at the real case VPA level shall be conducted as per [Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements](#)

In the real case VPA, the CME shall also select one of the followings or both options for Stakeholder consultation as inclusion criteria for its regular VPAs:

- a. Stakeholder consultation shall be conducted at the each regular VPA level*
- b. Stakeholder consultation may be conducted for a group of regular VPAs, where the applicability requirements included in paragraph below shall be complied with.*

If CME opts for grouped stakeholder consultation, in such cases:

- a. It is limited to the group of regular VPAs that are implemented or to be implemented within the geographic boundary of one host country.*
- b. The CME shall clearly identify geographical boundary of stakeholder consultation and invite stakeholders accordingly.*
- c. During the group stakeholder consultation, the CME shall clearly indicate to the stakeholders the period for which the consultation is valid and their intentions to add new VPAs to the PoA.*
- d. The regular VPAs shall be submitted for inclusion within two years of the grouped physical meeting.*
- e. The stakeholder consultation report shall be submitted to Gold Standard with inclusion request for 1st regular VPA of the group.*
- f. For all such regular VPAs, the CME should during monitoring gather feedback from local stakeholders – primarily end users and impacted stakeholder groups on the project implementation and its impacts, on a sample basis as part of ongoing feedback mechanism.*

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)

The CME shall include details in the Stakeholder Consultation Report on how stakeholder comments are taken into account and summaries changes, if any, following the stakeholder feedback received. The CME shall provide justification when any comments have not been incorporated or addressed.

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 POA must contain the most up to date version of this table for transparency.

Each VPA must report on all issues identified during the crediting period through any of the Methods 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.

SECTION F. Eligibility and inclusion criteria for VPAs inclusion

>>

The below table shall be completed for all VPAs.

The CME shall provide clear description on how eligibility criteria set at real case VPAs are complied with for each real case and regular VPAs submitted for inclusion.

The CME shall not change the eligibility criteria and required condition set at real case VPAs. At the time of inclusion of regular VPAs, the CME shall only describe how the regular VPAs comply with the eligibility criterion.

No.	Eligibility Criterion	Description/ Required condition	Description of the VPA in relation to the criteria, means of Verification/Supporting evidence for inclusion
1			
2			
3			
...			

APPENDIX 1 - SAFEGUARDING PRINCIPLES ASSESSMENT

Complete the Assessment below and copy all Mitigation Measures for each Principle into [SECTION D](#) above.

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

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			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Project shall not directly or indirectly lead to/contribute to adverse impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women 			

<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>			
<p>Principle 3. Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions</p>			
<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>			
<p>Principle 4.1 Sites of Cultural and Historical Heritage</p>			
<p>Does the Project Area include sites, structures, or objects with historical, cultural,</p>			

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			

<p>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?</p>			
<p>>></p>			
<p>Principle 5. Corruption</p>			
<p>1. The Project shall not involve, be complicit in or inadvertently contribute to or reinforce corruption or corrupt Projects</p>			
<p>Principle 6.1 Labour Rights</p>			
<p>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 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 f) Provision for annual leave of not less than 			
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<p>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>			
<p>Principle 6.2 Negative Economic Consequences</p>			
<p>1. Does the project cause negative economic consequences during and after project implementation?</p>			
<p>>></p>			
<p>Principle 7.1 Emissions</p>			

<p>Will the Project increase greenhouse gas emissions over the Baseline Scenario?</p>			
<p>>></p>			
<p>Principle 7.2 Energy Supply</p>			
<p>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?</p>			
<p>>></p>			
<p>Principle 8.1 Impact on Natural Water Patterns/Flows</p>			
<p>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?</p>			
<p>>></p>			
<p>Principle 8.2 Erosion and/or Water Body Instability</p>			

<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>			
<p>>></p>			
<p>Principle 9.1 Landscape Modification and Soil</p>			
<p>Does the Project involve the use of land and soil for production of crops or other products?</p>			
<p>>></p>			
<p>Principle 9.2 Vulnerability to Natural Disaster</p>			
<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>			
<p>>></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)			

<p>ecosystems, critical habitats, landscapes, key biodiversity areas or sites identified?</p>			
<p>>></p>			
<p>Principle 9.11 Endangered Species</p>			
<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>b. Does the Project potentially impact other areas where endangered species may be present through transboundary affects?</p>			
<p>>></p>			

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- LUF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Risk of change to the Project Area during Project Certification Period:	
Risk of change to the Project activities during Project Certification Period:	
Land-use history and current status of Project Area:	
Socio-Economic history:	
Forest management applied (past and future)	
Forest characteristics (including main tree species planted)	
Main social impacts (risks and benefits)	
Main environmental impacts (risks and benefits)	
Financial structure	
Infrastructure (roads/houses etc):	
Water bodies:	
Sites with special significance for indigenous people and local communities - resulting from the Stakeholder Consultation:	
Where indigenous people and local communities are situated:	
Where indigenous people and local communities have legal rights, customary rights or sites with special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance:	

APPENDIX 4-SUMMARY OF APPROVED DESIGN CHANGES

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