



GUIDANCE

TRANSITION PROCEDURE TO TRANSITION PROJECTS FROM OTHER STANDARDS TO GOLD STANDARD FOR THE GLOBAL GOALS

VERSION **v. 0.1**

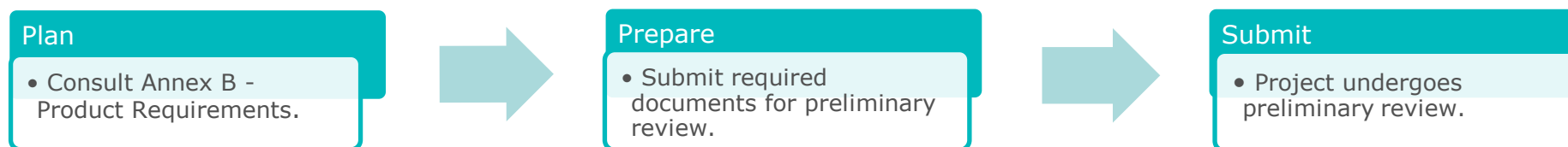
RELATED DOCUMENTS

- [GHG Emissions Reduction & Sequestration Product Requirements – Annex B](#)
 - [Transition Request Form](#)
 - [Design Certification Renewal Requirements: CDM Projects Transitioning to GS4GG](#)
 - [VVB Resources](#)
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SUMMARY

This document is intended to act as complementary guidance note for projects registered with other carbon standards seeking transition to Gold Standard for the Global Goals (GS4GG). To be used alongside [GHG Emissions Reduction & Sequestration Product Requirements – Annex B](#) and the [Transition Request Form](#), it identifies the main differences between Gold Standard and other standards and provides the key steps and requirements to help guide and prepare the conversion of POAs/CPAs/Projects from other standards to GS4GG. The document also contains annexes for frequently asked project specific technology types, which include improved cookstoves (ICS), rice cultivation and A/R projects.

PROJECT DEVELOPER TO DO LIST – TRANSITION PROJECTS



Stage	Objective	CDM	Other carbon standards (International or Domestic)
Planning	Check general eligibility criteria: Section 2 of Annex B - GHG Emissions Reduction & Sequestration Product Requirements (hereafter 'Annex B')	Not required to deregister from CDM. Must have crediting period start date with other standard on or after 01/01/2016.	Project/CPA/PoA is required to deregister from other standards and provide evidence to VVB before project submission for design review. Must have crediting period start date with other standard on or after 01/01/2016.
	Check Financial Additionality & Ongoing Financial Need Section 3 of Annex B	Not required to carry out assessment for demonstration of additionality over and above what has been done for CDM registration unless project falls into non-additional category under the relevant activity requirement.	Required to undergo additionality revalidation at the time of registration with Gold Standard, to re-establish the validity of existing demonstration of additionality at the time of registration with another standard.
	Check methodology eligibility. Section 4 of Annex B	Must apply Gold Standard approved CDM methodologies.	Must apply Gold Standard approved methodologies. A project registered with a methodology not approved by Gold Standard must transition to a Gold Standard approved methodology or seek approval for existing methodology to become approved.

<p>Check Project Scale. Section 5 of Annex B.</p>	<p>Project/CPA/PoA shall not change scale. Projects can decide on the transition approval procedure and how it uses VVB/CB’s as it works through the GS4GG project lifecycle. Check VVB eligibility, here.</p>	
<p>Check crediting cycle & Issuance. Section 6 of Annex B</p>	<p>Total duration of crediting period shall not exceed maximum crediting period allowed under relevant GS4GG activity requirements. Further CDM transition clarification, see rule clarification here.</p>	
<p>Check stakeholder consultation - Section 7 of Annex B.</p>	<p>Assess gaps between prior consultation activities and those required by the Gold Standard Consultation and Engagement Requirements; conduct any further stakeholder consultation activities as per the requirements.</p>	
<p>Check safeguarding principles & requirements. Section 8 of Annex B</p>	<p>Assess gaps between current project safeguarding principles and monitoring procedures against Gold Standard Safeguarding Principles and Requirements.</p>	
<p>Check contributions to SDGs. Section 9 of Annex B</p>	<p>Assess whether current project demonstrates positive impacts on at least 3 sustainable development goals (SDGs). Conduct baseline studies for future SDG Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV).</p>	
<p>Prepare and Submit Documentation</p>	<p>Complete transition request form (TRF), Cover Letter, T & C’s, ODA Form. Submit documentation to Gold Standard, including stakeholder consultation report (SCR), Project Design Document (PDD), previous monitoring report and subsequent audit reports (if applicable) from previous standard.</p>	<p>May use CDM PDD</p> <p>Must use Gold Standard template for PDD (page 14 onwards on TRF)</p>

ANNEX I – IMPROVED COOKSTOVES (ICS) TRANSITION PROJECTS

Key Criteria to consider:

- ICS PoAs/CPAs/Projects registered with CDM should apply version of GS approved CDM methodology at time of registration.
- ICS PoAs/CPAs/Projects registered with other standard should apply version of GS approved methodology at time of registration. If not using an approved GS methodology, it shall convert to a GS eligible methodology at the time of GS registration.
- At crediting period renewal, all projects shall apply the latest version of an approved GS methodology.
- ICS project once successfully transitioned to the Gold Standard, has the option to switch to a specific GS methodology at time of crediting period renewal.
- If transitioning a CDM project, please consult rule clarification for renewal of crediting period applied under GS: “Design certification renewal requirements: CDM projects transitioning to GS4GG”.
- Please see table below which outlines the key differences between the Gold Standard cookstove methodology requirements.

Methodology Section	AMS II.G	TPDDTEC V4.0	GS Simplified Methodology	Methodology for metered & measured energy cooking devices
Scope & Applicability	Does not include fuel switch. Firewood, charcoal and fuel mix eligible. All project scales possible.	Includes ICS, fuel switch, retrofitting and non-domestic premises. Includes all fuel types. All project scales possible.	Does not include retrofitting of existing cookstoves or non-domestic premises. Firewood only eligible fuel type. Micro-Scale only.	Includes introduction of ICS only. Electric, LPG, biogas and bioethanol cookstoves. Micro and Small-scale possible.
Geographic Boundary	Physical, geographical site	Fuel production and collection area shall also be included in the project boundary.		

	of the efficient cookstoves that utilise biomass.			
	CH4 and N2O excluded. Fuel production and transportation excluded.	All major GHG’s are included. Fuel production and transportation included.		
Baseline & Project Scenario	<p>Baseline: Consumption of fossil fuels.</p> <p>Project: fuel-consumption patterns of end-users within a target population that adopt a project technology.</p>	<p>Baseline: fuel consumption patterns in target population (non-renewable firewood). Can have combinations of baseline scenarios.</p> <p>Project: allows different types of efficient cookstoves to be installed in a single project activity, creating multiple project scenarios.</p>	<p>Baseline: Consumption of non-renewable firewood.</p> <p>Project: fuel-consumption patterns of end-users within a target population that adopt a project technology.</p>	<p>Baseline: Typical baseline fuel consumption patterns in target population. Combinations of baseline and project scenarios.</p> <p>Project: fuel-consumption patterns of end-users within a target population that adopt a project technology.</p>
Quantification of GHG emission reductions	<p>(i) How are emission reductions calculated? Emission reductions are a product of the amount of woody biomass saved, number of operational devices & operational days (AMS-II.G), technology days, usage rate, fNRB, NCV of biomass and EF of fuel avoided.</p> <p>(ii) Fuel Savings Various fuel consumption estimation methods for baseline and project fuel consumption depending on methodology (default value, KPT, WBT).</p> <p>(iii) Efficiency Determination of baseline stove efficiency and rated thermal capacity of project cookstove, application dependent on methodology.</p>			

Monitoring Methodology Requirements.

fNRB, Number of hours of utilization (AMS-II.G only), sales record and project database, monitoring surveys, usage survey, stove utilization days (AMS-II.G only), number of operational stoves & days (GS methodologies), Leakage. See frequency and sampling requirements under relevant methodology.

ANNEX II – RICE CULTIVATION TRANSITION PROJECTS

- Projects transitioning from other standards, shall transition to the latest approved Gold Standard methodology: "[methane emission reduction by adjusted water management practice in rice cultivation](#)".
- Projects registered with other voluntary standards under the CDM AMS-III.AU methodology must transition to recent version of GS methodology and are not allowed to continue with the latest version of the existing methodology.
- This is applicable to all projects with an "active registration" with another standard (listed or validated). Projects with an "active registration" with another standard (Domestic or International) are eligible to transition but will have to meet all mandatory principle, methodology and transition requirements to become listed as a GS4GG project.
- Key requirements part of this methodology, include:
 - Eligible measures include changing water regime during the cultivation period from continuously to intermittently flooded conditions and/or a shortened period of flooded conditions, using the alternate wetting and drying (AWD) method, adopting aerobic rice cultivation methods, and switching from transplanted to direct-seeded rice (DSR).
 - Applicable to all geographies and scales.
 - Stratification Plan can be designed based on multiple parameters.
 - Requires direct measurement of methane in project fields and in baseline reference fields.
 - Provides **additional guidance** on in-field methane measurements as a dedicated appendix to the document.
 - Mandates demonstration of regulatory surplus by all the projects, irrespective of scale.
 - Introduces **tier-2 approaches** to estimate methane emissions by determining country-specific baseline emission factors.

- Allows **flexibility for small-scale and microscale projects** by offering simplified approaches of estimations.
- It provisions to account for N₂O emissions and CO₂ emissions from the project fields.
- For further detailed requirements regarding any aspect of the methodology, please refer to the methodology [here](#).

ANNEX III – A/R TRANSITION PROJECTS

- POAs/CPAs/Projects registered with other standard should apply the latest version of GS approved methodology at time of registration with Gold Standard.
- CDM A/R methodologies are not eligible for project registration with the Gold Standard.
- The total duration of the crediting period shall not exceed the maximum crediting period allowed under relevant GS4GG activity requirements.
- The transition project or CPA may request issuance of GSVERs or convert issued GSCERs to GSVERs, for retroactive period - which starts with crediting period start date with other standard or maximum two years before the date of first submission (submission for preliminary review), whichever occurs later. A/R projects are eligible for retroactive crediting for maximum three years (**Reference 6.4.1** – Annex B, GHG Emissions Reduction & Sequestration Product Requirements).
- A/R projects seeking Gold Standard – VERs for eligible soil carbon component can only submit the request of issuance for the monitoring period undergoing performance certification (see rule clarification [here](#)).