

IMPACT QUANTIFICATION METHODOLOGY APPROVAL PROCEDURE

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OUR VISION: Climate security and sustainable development for all.

OUR MISSION: To catalyse more ambitious climate action to achieve the Global Goals through robust standards and verified impacts.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document outlines the Impact Quantification methodology approval process under the Gold Standard for the Global Goals (GS4GG).

2.0 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

2.1 The approved methodology is provided to the general public free of restrictions under copyright law. In some jurisdictions, the author may have moral rights that exist beyond the copyright. These rights may include the right to be identified as the author. Unless expressly stated otherwise, Gold Standard makes no warranties about the work, and disclaims liability for all uses of the work, to the fullest extent permitted by the applicable law.

3.0 METHODOLOGY APPROVAL PROCEDURE

3.1 Gold Standard for the Global Goals presents two methodology approval pathways as summarised below:

a. Regular approval procedure

To be followed when submitting a new methodology, i.e., not approved under any other certification scheme/standard.

b. Fast track approval procedure

To be followed when submitting a methodology that has been previously approved by another credible certification scheme/standard (e.g. CDM, VCS, CAR, CFI Australia, ACR and others) or a domestic scheme.

The methodology approval procedure under both regular and fast-track pathways are illustrated in Figure 1 below.

The methodology developer shall discuss the eligibility of new or approved methodology and applicable pathway with the Gold Standard Secretariat prior to submission of methodology for review and approval.

3.1.1 Regular approval procedure

The stepwise approach given below shall be followed for methodology approval under regular approval procedure.

3.1.1.1 Eligibility Check

The methodology developer shall submit the methodology concept note to the Gold Standard Secretariat to assess the eligibility of the new methodology.

Eligibility requirements are the following (including but not limited to):

- (a) The proposed methodology shall be in line with the general eligibility principles and criteria as given in Section 2.0 of the Gold Standard for the Global Goals Principles and Requirements as well as activity requirements.
- (b) Evidence shall be provided that the proposed methodology provides the quantification approach(s) to assess contribution to at least one Sustainable Development Goal (SDG).
- (c) The proposed methodology should not yet be covered by another approved or under-development Gold Standard methodology. If the proposed approach(es) has already been covered partially or completely by another Gold Standard methodology, modifications to the existing methodology should ideally be proposed. However, if a new methodology covering the scope of the exiting methodology(ies) (partially or completely) introduces innovative approaches, if justified, it may be considered for review.

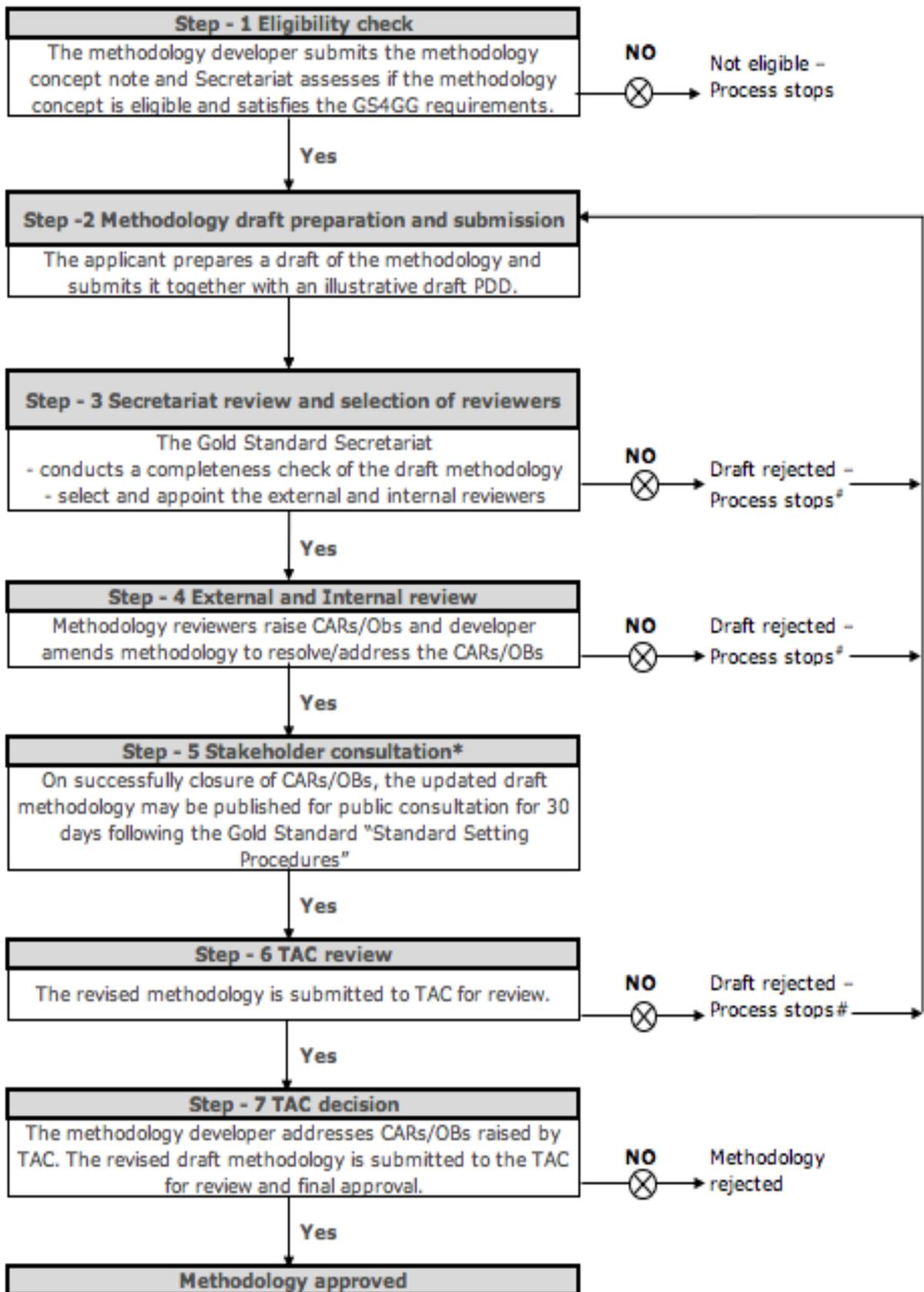


Figure 1. Methodology approval process

The decision will include the rationale for rejection and suggestions to update the methodology for future consideration. The methodology developer may request for reconsideration of the proposed methodology by paying an additional review fee.

* The decision for stakeholder consultation shall be at the discretion of the Gold Standard Technical Governance Committee or another appointed committee. For example, new cross-cutting, first-of-kind, complex methodologies or, in some cases, new methodologies or updates may require a 30-day public consultation.

3.1.1.2 Methodology draft preparation and submission

If eligibility is confirmed by the Gold Standard Secretariat, the methodology developer shall prepare:

- (a) a draft methodology document
- (b) a PDD that shows how the methodology is applied (full project information and calculations are not required)
- (c) Names of three potential subject matter experts (external experts)

The *draft methodology document* shall include at least the following key elements:

- (a) Methodology title
- (b) Summary of the methodology (max. 100 words)
- (c) Definitions and terms specific to the methodology or that deviate from definitions used in the applicable Activity Requirements
- (d) Possible additional requirements for the chapters 'Sustainable Development Goals'
- (e) Crediting period (for Land Use & Forest [LUF] related methodologies only)
- (f) Applicability conditions
- (g) Ex-ante parameters/defaults and monitoring parameters and frequency
- (h) Selected emission pools and sources (for LUF related methodologies only)
- (i) Baseline
 - Stratification (for LUF related methodologies only)
 - Baseline scenario
 - Baseline assessment including monitoring, if applicable
- (j) Project activities
 - Stratification (for LUF related methodologies only)
 - Project activities scenarios
 - Project activities monitoring
- (k) Leakage
- (l) Other emissions
- (m) List of references
- (n) Considerations in case of applying methodology in PoA

The draft methodology document shall also consider the following quality criteria:

- (a) Clear, logical, concise and precise formulation
- (b) Layout and terminology streamlined with the applicable Activity Requirements¹

¹ Gold Standard for the Global Goals Activity Requirements
<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/activity-requirements>

(c) Adequate, precise and unambiguous use of English

3.1.1.3 Secretariat review and selection of reviewers

The Gold Standard Secretariat conducts a completeness check of the draft methodology in line with the requirements mentioned under 3.1.1.2.

When deemed necessary, the methodology developer may be asked to revise the draft methodology document before continuing with the methodology approval process. The Gold Standard Secretariat reserves the right to not accept the draft methodology document.

Once a draft methodology has been accepted for progression, the Gold Standard Secretariat will identify external and internal reviewers to conduct the in-depth review of the draft methodology. Two external subject matter experts with relevant background will be identified and appointed by the Gold Standard Secretariat. In addition, two internal reviewers will be identified by the sectoral Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) where:

- (a) One reviewer will be from the relevant sectoral Gold Standard TAC, and
- (b) One reviewer from the 'Energy TAC', 'Land-use TAC, and/or the 'Water TAC', in case the context of the proposed methodology is relevant to more than one sectors

The reviewers will assess the draft methodology based on the following:

- (a) Requirements outlined in 3.1.1.2.
- (b) Alignment with the Gold Standard for the Global Goals Principles & Requirements² and the respective Activity Requirements
- (c) Alignment with the latest version of the Gold Standard for the Global Goals Safeguarding Principles & Requirements³
- (d) Reputational risks for the Gold Standard

The Gold Standard Secretariat and the TAC shall choose reviewers to ensure no conflict of interest among the parties involved. In case a TAC member participates in the development of the methodology, the respective member may participate in the discussions but shall not vote on the methodology approval/rejection decision.

3.1.1.4 External and Internal review

Over a period of two weeks, the external and internal reviewers shall conduct their assessment in parallel and send Corrective Action Requests (CARs) and Observations (OBs) to the Gold Standard Secretariat. The overall review time will be longer than two weeks and the methodology developer will be duly informed of timelines.

The CARs and OBs provided by the reviewers shall be consolidated by the Gold Standard Secretariat and shared with the methodology developer. The

² Gold Standard for the Global Goals Principles & Requirements
<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/principles-and-requirements>

³ Gold Standard for the Global Goals Safeguarding Principles & Requirements
<https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/100/101-4-gold-standard-for-the-global-goals-safeguarding-principles-requirements>

methodology developer shall address any CARs/OBs raised by the external and internal reviewers, Gold Standard and/or TAC and re-submit the revised draft methodology document to the Gold Standard Secretariat.

The Gold Standard Secretariat reviews the revised draft methodology document, liaises with the methodology developer and reviewers, if required, to close all CARs/OBs. The process may involve several rounds of discussion to address the open CARs/OBs in a satisfactory manner. The review process concludes when all CARs/OBs have been successfully closed.

3.1.1.5 Stakeholder consultation

Once all CARs/OBs have been successfully closed, the revised draft methodology document may be published for public consultation for a 30-day period following the Gold Standard "Standard Setting Procedures". Please refer to Figure 1 for further details.

The Gold Standard Secretariat shall compile and share the comments received during the public consultation with the methodology developer who shall address the relevant comments and incorporate them in the draft methodology document.

3.1.1.6 TAC review and decision

Once all CARs have been closed in satisfactory manner, the revised draft methodology is submitted to the TAC for review and approval. Over a period 6 weeks, TAC shall conduct review and may open or raise new CARs and OBs.

The methodology developer then shall update the draft methodology document in order to address CARs/OBs raised by the TAC in a satisfactory manner. The process may involve several rounds of discussion to address the open CARs/OBs.

After all CARs/OBs have been successfully closed, the draft methodology document will be submitted for decision vote by the TAC. With approval, the methodology is accepted and published as a Gold Standard-approved methodology.

3.1.2 Fast-track approval process

The following simplifications apply to the eligible methodologies that have been previously approved by another certification scheme/standard (e.g. CDM, VCS, CAR, CFI Australia, ACR and others) or a domestic scheme.

The methodology developer shall check pre-approved methodologies at this link: <https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/401-13-cdm-unfccc-clean-development-mechanism-methodology-gold-standard-eligibility/>

If the methodology has not been included or assessed earlier, the methodology can be submitted under the fast-track approval procedure following the steps below:

- The developer shall submit the request to the Gold Standard Secretariat to assess the eligibility of the methodology.

- External and/or internal review shall follow the stepwise approach discussed under Regular approval procedure prior to the submission for TAC final review/approval.

The methodology submitted for fast-track approval shall go through a mandatory internal review by TAC members (one or two reviewers) prior to its submission for TAC review and approval. If mandated by TAC, external review by one or two reviewers will be required prior to submission of the methodology for TAC review/approval. Public consultation may be required at discretion of TGC or another appointed committee.

4.0 FEE

Please refer to GS website⁴ for applicable methodology approval fee.

⁴ <https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/fees/>