

GOLD STANDARD FOR THE GLOBAL GOALS

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Version 1.2

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GOLD STANDARD FOUNDATION VISION & MISSION

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. SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY

- 1.1.1 The aim of the stakeholder consultation is to engage affected stakeholders and to discuss potential environmental, social and economic impacts (both positive contributions and potential risks) that projects may have during design, planning and implementation and to establish an ongoing mechanism for feedback.
- 1.1.2 All Gold Standard projects shall “take gender issues into account”. This requires local stakeholder consultation processes to reach a wide range of community representatives in ways that ensure equal and effective participation of both women and men, and that gender issues are fully factored into comprehensive social and environmental impact assessments.”¹ Project Developers are referred to the Gold Standard [Gender Equality Requirements & Guidelines](#) and [Gender Policy](#).

2. TIMING OF LOCAL STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

- 2.1.1 The Stakeholder Consultation shall be conducted prior to the start date of the Project so that the stakeholders can truly influence the project design, planning and its implementation.
- 2.1.2 If the Consultation is conducted after the start date, the stakeholders shall be provided with an opportunity to comment on the project² and the Project Developer shall provide further explanation of how comments received during the consultation were taken into account.

3. MINIMUM GROUP OF STAKEHOLDERS TO BE CONSULTED

- 3.1.1 The Project Developer shall identify and invite all relevant (local, affected and interested) stakeholders as mentioned below for consultations and comments.
- (a) Local people, communities and or representatives³ who are directly or indirectly affected by the project
 - (b) Stakeholders with land-tenure rights within or adjacent to the project must be contacted
 - (c) Local policy makers and representatives of local authorities

³ Legitimate stakeholder representatives could be, but are not limited to: elected representatives of regional, local, traditional representatives, such as leaders (chairmen, directors) of local cooperatives, other community-based organisations, local businesses/business groups, local NGOs, and local women’s groups, politicians and local government officials, school teachers, and religious leaders.

- (d) National government officials or National focal bodies responsible for the project in the host country, for example, Designated National Authority⁴ (DNA)
 - (e) Local non-governmental organisations (NGOs), Women Groups working on topics relevant to the project or working with communities who are likely to be affected by the project
 - (f) A Gold Standard representative at help@goldstandard.org
 - (g) Relevant international Gold Standard [NGO Supporters](#)⁵ with representation in your region and all Gold Standard [NGO Supporters](#) located in the host country of the project
- 3.1.2 The Project Developer shall provide evidence that invitations were sent to the relevant stakeholders and that their comments were invited. If any of the relevant stakeholders were not invited, the project participants shall provide appropriate justification.

4. MEANS FOR INVITING STAKEHOLDERS

- 4.1.1 The Project Developer shall invite local stakeholders to participate in the meeting and provide comments on the proposed project in an open and transparent manner, in a way that facilitates comments to be received from local stakeholders.
- 4.1.2 The Project Developer shall invite the stakeholders selecting an invitation method that is most appropriate to the context and for the region, taking into account local and national circumstances, including appropriate language and measures and using adequate and effective means.
- 4.1.3 Projects shall ensure that the stakeholders are invited in a 'gender-sensitive' manner and efforts must be made to solicit input from women and marginalised groups.
- 4.1.4 The Project Developer shall not deny anyone access to the consultation. It shall be open for anyone wishing to participate.
- 4.1.5 The invitation for the consultation meeting shall be given at least 30 days before the meeting takes place.

⁴ List of DNAs is available at <https://cdm.unfccc.int/DNA/bak/index.html>

⁵ List of Gold Standard NGO Supporters is available at <https://www.goldstandard.org/about-us/ngo-supporters>

5. INFORMATION TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1.1 Prior to the consultation, the Project Developer shall provide information in a manner including format, language(s) that allows local stakeholders to understand and engage with the project. The information to be made available to stakeholders shall include, inter alia:
- (a) A non-technical summary of the project including information on project design, technology, objectives, scale, duration and implementation plan (so far as known)
 - (b) Summary of the economic, social and environmental impacts of the project as per [Safeguarding Principles & Requirements](#)
 - (c) Contact details to get further technical detail and project information, should any stakeholder be interested
 - (d) Other relevant information to help stakeholders understand the project
 - (e) Means and method to provide feedback for those who are not able to join the consultation meeting

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1.1 The Stakeholder Consultation shall comprise of a minimum two rounds of consultation including one mandatory physical meeting and one stakeholder feedback round lasting for at least two months.
- 6.1.2 Where necessary, other means and approaches that are appropriate for local and national circumstances can be used to conduct stakeholder consultation meetings. For example, due to the nature of the project, instead of one big physical consultation meeting, several meetings at different locations may be conducted to ensure that relevant stakeholders can participate.
- 6.1.3 The project shall encourage equal and effective participation by both men and women in the stakeholder consultation (this also includes the suitability of place and timing of the consultation(s)).
- 6.1.4 For retroactive projects, project implementation is started without conducting the first round of stakeholder consultation following the Requirements. In such cases, the physical meeting shall be integrated with the stakeholder feedback round, if this has not taken place as part of previous stakeholder consultations. The physical meeting conducted during the stakeholder feedback round must follow all requirements listed in this document. Special attention must be paid to the fact that the projects must take into account stakeholder feedback and shall modify project design, where reasonable.

7. CONTINUOUS INPUT AND GRIEVANCE MECHANISM

- 7.1.1 All projects shall setup a formal input, feedback and grievance mechanism with the purpose of providing stakeholders with an opportunity to submit any feedback or raise grievances during the entire project life.
- 7.1.2 The project shall discuss the potential options with stakeholders and agree on an appropriate method.
- 7.1.3 At a minimum, Continuous Input and Grievance Expression Process Book shall be made available at an agreed location.

8. CONSIDERATION OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

- 8.1.1 The Project Developer shall apply a gender lens while assessing the relevance and appropriateness of the stakeholders' comments.
- 8.1.2 The project shall consider the comments provided by the Stakeholders and report on how the comments have been accounted for. It may also involve changes in the project design, where appropriate. The Project Developer shall provide justifications when any comments have not been incorporated or addressed.
- 8.1.3 The Stakeholders shall be provided with the feedback on how their comments have been taken into account as part of the stakeholder feedback round.

9. ONGOING REPORTING

- 9.1.1 Ongoing Monitoring & reporting roject Developer shall provide information in the annual and monitoring report, as applicable, for the following:
 - (a) Concerns that have been identified and raised by stakeholders during the stakeholder consultations and the mitigation measures put in place to address those.
 - (b) Any feedback given by stakeholders as part of the project's grievance mechanism

10. STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION DOCUMENTATION

- 10.1.1 The Project Developer shall make use stakeholder consultation report [template](#) to document all the steps taken to meet the [Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements](#) and provide evidence to demonstrate the compliance.

- 10.1.2 The Stakeholder consultation report shall be submitted to Gold Standard within three months of the event (though this date may be after the Project Start Date).