



**Gold Standard®**  
for the Global Goals

**Gold Standard®**

## **STANDARDS SETTING WORKPLAN 2021 - 2022**

**31 May 2021**

## Gold Standard

Following the ISEAL Alliance “Setting Social and Environmental Standards” Code of Best Practice, we are sharing our work plan to update Gold Standard for the Global Goals and launch any supporting initiatives. The table below reflects the work planned for the year 2021-2022 as well as work completed in 2020. It’s split into four areas and includes any requirements, methodologies, frameworks, tools or supporting programmes to help accelerate progress toward climate security and sustainable development.

The next Gold Standard work plan will be published in April 2022, although please note that significant updates may be made during the intervening period.

| Document or project being developed   | Document series (as per GS-SSP) | Objectives   | Timeline  | Remarks  |
|---|---------------------------------|--|---|--|
| <b>I. Gold Standard for the Global Goals – Standard Updates</b>                                       |                                 |  |   |  |
| <b>Gold Standard for the Global Goals (GS4GG) – Post-2020 carbon market policies and requirements</b> | All                             | <p>Updates to align with the Paris Agreement Article 6.4, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rules and requirements for corresponding adjustments or domestic policy recognition</li> <li>Updates to baseline, ongoing financial need (OFN), additionality, MRV in line with Article 6</li> </ul> | <p>Rules to be developed Q3 + Q4 2021 based on outcomes of third-party negotiations and ongoing consultations.</p> <p>Updates may defer to later in 2022, if required</p> | <p>Proposals for aligning the voluntary carbon market (VCM) to the Paris Agreement were released for consultation between 18 Feb – 15 April 2021:</p> <p><a href="https://www.goldstandard.org/our-work/innovations-consultations/integrity-scale-aligning-gold-standard-projects-paris-agreement">https://www.goldstandard.org/our-work/innovations-consultations/integrity-scale-aligning-gold-standard-projects-paris-agreement</a></p> |

## Gold Standard

|   |                           |   |            |   |
|---|---------------------------|---|------------|---|
|   |                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a Practitioners Guidebook</li> <li>• Assess suppressed demand approaches for post-2020 scenarios</li> </ul>  |            | <p>To read the current thinking on how the VCM can transition:</p> <p><a href="https://www.goldstandard.org/our-story/vcm-transition-framework">https://www.goldstandard.org/our-story/vcm-transition-framework</a></p>   |
| <b>Claims guidelines</b>                                    | Principles & Requirements | Develop additional guidance for 'financing' claims, to be used by companies wishing to purchase carbon credits.   | Q3 2021    | Consultations will be held where required   |
| <b>Rule updates to meet CORSIA<sup>1</sup> requirements</b> | All                       | <p>Develop rule updates to ensure requirements are user friendly &amp; align with CORSIA.</p> <p>Update the Gold Standard Impact Registry to ensure its equipped to flag adjusted units and cancellation remarks.</p> | Q2-Q4 2021 | <p>Gold Standard has been approved as an eligible standard to participate in the pilot phase of CORSIA that will run from 2021-2023.</p> <p>Several updates to GS4GG requirements will be published throughout 2021 to comply with additional requirements set by ICAO Council.</p> |

1 <https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/CORSIA/Pages/default.aspx>

## Gold Standard

| <b>II. Gold Standard for the Global Goals – Standard Documentation Review &amp; Simplification</b> |                          |  |   |   |
|--|--------------------------|--|---|---|
| <b>Standard streamlining</b>   | All                      | Review standard documents in collaboration with SustainCERT to streamline and bring clarity to standard documents + templates where required                           | Standard updates and updated templates will be released on an ongoing basis throughout the year         |   |
| <b>ISEAL alignment + reporting</b>   | Governance               | In 2021, Gold Standard achieved ISEAL Code Compliant Status, to ensure we retain this status we regularly review our code for standard setting, assurance and impacts. | Updates on governance will be released on an ongoing basis throughout the year when and where relevant. |   |
| <b>Micro scale requirements</b>  | Principle & Requirements | Review of micro scale requirements including micro-PoA requirements and make necessary changes where required  | Q4 2021   | Consultations will be held where required |

**III. Innovation / Programmes**

|   |  |  |            |  |
|---|--|--|------------|--|
| <b>Integration of new products/pathways</b> | Principles & Requirements<br><br>SDG Impact Quantification | <p>Inclusion of technology-based removal activities.</p> <p>Scoping studies to expand eligibility to include Blue Carbon and Integrated Forest Management activities.</p> <p>We will also review PERs, and potentially, shipping sector requirements and renewable energy options.</p> | Q4 2021    | Consultations will be held where required  |
| <b>SDG Tool Programme</b>                   | Principles & Requirements                                  | <p>Update the SDG tool based on pilot phase feedback.</p> <p>Develop user guidelines, case studies and training to support application.</p>  | Q2-Q3 2021 | <p>A 60-day piloting period was initiated between 04 Feb – 04 Apr 2021:</p> <p><a href="https://www.goldstandard.org/our-work/innovations-consultations/gold-standard-sdg-impact-tool-piloting-consultation">https://www.goldstandard.org/our-work/innovations-consultations/gold-standard-sdg-impact-tool-piloting-consultation</a></p> |
| <b>Digital innovation</b>                   | All  | <p><b>MRV</b></p> <p>Research innovative approaches to digitalize Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) for Nature Based Solutions and Energy activities.</p>   | Q4 2021    |  |

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|  |                           | <p><b>Digitalising the Standard</b></p> <p>Research into how Gold Standard can digitalize its standard documentation + SDG tools</p>  |            |  |
| <b>IV. Gold Standard for the Global Goals – Methodologies</b>            |                           |   |            |  |
| <b>METHODOLOGY REVIEW</b>  |                           |   |            |  |
| <b>TPDDEC methodology and simplified cookstove methodology</b>           | SDG Impact Quantification | <p>Improvements to the following methodologies will be made to further enhance the integrity of credits generated using approaches as defined within these methodologies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe water supply methodology</li> <li>• Improved cookstove methodology</li> <li>• Biogas methodology</li> </ul> <p>A new methodology is under review and will be submitted for TAC approval:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Metered technology methodology</li> </ul> | Q2-Q3 2021 | Further guidelines will be developed for VVBs to use during audits of distributed technology projects to enhance the rigour of their assessments by applying various cross-check mechanisms. |
| <b>The Gold Standard Simplified Methodology for Efficient Cookstoves</b> | SDG Impact Quantification | Methodology revision  | Q3 2021    |  |

## Gold Standard

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| <b>Soil Organic Framework</b>  | SDG Impact Quantification | Review on the following Soil Organic Carbon methodologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SOC Framework Methodology</li><li>• SOC Activity Modules Approval Procedure</li></ul> | Q4 2021         |  |
| <b>Afforestation/Reforestation GHG Emissions Reduction &amp; Sequestration Methodology</b> | SDG Impact Quantification | A/R methodology review & revision<br><br>A new methodology for Mangroves/blue carbon   | Q4 2021/Q1 2022 |  |
| <b>NEW METHODOLOGY DEVELOPMENT</b>   |                           |  |                 |  |
| <b>AGR - Activity Module Recycled Fertilizers and Soil Amendments</b>                      | SDG Impact Quantification | New methodology review and submission for approval   | Q3 2021         |  |

## Completed documents/projects (2020):

| Document or project being developed   | Document series (as per GS-SSP) | Objectives  | Timeline   | Remarks  |
|---|---------------------------------|---|--|--|
| <b><i>I. Gold Standard for the Global Goals – Standard Documentation Updates</i></b>                  |                                 |   |  |  |
| <b>Gold Standard for the Global Goals (GS4GG) – Post-2020 carbon market policies and requirements</b> | All                             | <p>In 2020 Gold Standard hosted a consultation on operationalising + scaling post-2020 VCM:</p> <p><a href="https://www.goldstandard.org/our-work/innovations-consultations/operationalising-and-scaling-post-2020-voluntary-carbon-market">https://www.goldstandard.org/our-work/innovations-consultations/operationalising-and-scaling-post-2020-voluntary-carbon-market</a></p> <p>Post consultation updates, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop criteria to support the transition of high impact CDM projects</li> <li>• Update of GWP values for GHGs as per IPCC-AR5</li> </ul> | <p>Consultation completed in Q2 2020</p> <p>Updates completed in Q1 2021</p> | <p>Latest consultation results, held in Q1 2021:</p> <p><a href="https://www.goldstandard.org/our-work/innovations-consultations/integrity-scale-aligning-gold-standard-projects-paris-agreement">https://www.goldstandard.org/our-work/innovations-consultations/integrity-scale-aligning-gold-standard-projects-paris-agreement</a></p> <p>Current thinking on transitioning the VCM:</p> <p><a href="https://www.goldstandard.org/our-story/vcm-transition-framework">https://www.goldstandard.org/our-story/vcm-transition-framework</a></p> |

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| <b>II. Gold Standard for the Global Goals – Standard Documentation Review &amp; Simplification</b> |            |  |   |   |
|--|------------|--|---|---|
| <b>Standard streamlining</b>   | All        | Review to bring clarity to standard documents + templates where required   | Rule updates and clarifications were provided throughout the year |   |
| <b>COVID-19 interim measures</b>   | All        | Guidance on measures that can be adopted by projects to ensure they are not adversely impacted during the duration of the COVID-19 crisis.               | Updates completed in Q2 2020                                      |   |
| <b>Standard setting procedure (SSP)</b>  | Governance | Review of the SSP to identify procedures that need to be updated based on past experience  | Completed in Q3 2020  |   |
| <b>Impacts Monitoring &amp; Evaluation (M&amp;E) System</b>  | Governance | System + manual to track progress of contributions that our standards system makes toward achieving long-term social, environmental or economic impacts. | Completed in Q1 2021  | Consultation: <a href="https://www.goldstandard.org/our-work/innovations-consultations/impacts-monitoring-and-evaluation-system">https://www.goldstandard.org/our-work/innovations-consultations/impacts-monitoring-and-evaluation-system</a> |

## Gold Standard

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|--|---------------------------|--|----------------------|--|
| <b>Stakeholder consultation policy</b>                 | Governance                | New document developed that defines the policy we follow when hosting a public stakeholder consultation.   | Completed in Q3 2020 |  |
| <b>Deviations</b>                                      |                           | Procedures released for projects seeking a deviation from GS4GG requirements.<br><br>This procedure helps Gold Standard review unique project situations on a case-by-case basis, providing additional flexibility to projects whilst maintaining the robustness fundamental to Gold Standard certification. | Completed in Q3 2020 |  |
| <b>Validation and Verification Bodies requirements</b> | Principles & Requirements | VVB requirements reviewed and enhanced for auditing purposes   | Completed in Q2 2020 |  |

## Gold Standard

| <b>III. Innovations / Programmes</b>                          |                           |   |                         |   |
|---|---------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|
| <b>SDG Impact Tools</b>                                       | Principles & Requirements | SDG Impact Tools developed and released for piloting  | Completed in Q1 2021    | Consultation: <a href="https://www.goldstandard.org/our-work/innovations-consultations/gold-standard-sdq-impact-tool-piloting-consultation">https://www.goldstandard.org/our-work/innovations-consultations/gold-standard-sdq-impact-tool-piloting-consultation</a> |
| <b>IV. Gold Standard for the Global Goals – Methodologies</b> |                           |   |                         |   |
| <b>Soil Organic Framework Methodology</b>                     | SDG Impact Quantification | Methodology to quantify changes in GHG emissions and soil organic carbon stocks through the adoption of improved agricultural practices | Completed in Q1 2020    |   |
| <b>Safe Water Supply Methodology</b>                          | SDG Impact Quantification |   | Completed in April 2021 |   |