

Annex A

Gold Standard Structure and Governance



The Gold Standard Foundation was created in 2003 by non-governmental organisations, including the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), SouthSouthNorth and Helio International. Since then, over 60 NGOs have joined the Gold Standard, signifying their consensus that the Gold Standard principles of environmental rigour and sustainable development represent the true spirit of the Kyoto Protocol. Gold Standard projects cut back on emissions from the very beginning by promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency projects that serve to improve environmental, economic and social conditions for recipient communities, while at the same time addressing climate change.

This section provides a brief introduction on the Structure of the Gold Standard Institutions and their Governance. The Gold Standard's institutions are:

- The Secretariat, including the Local Expert Network
- The Foundation Board
- The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
- The NGO supporters

Gold Standard Secretariat

The Gold Standard Foundation is a non-profit organization under Swiss Law, funded by public and private donors. The operational activities of the Gold Standard are managed by the Gold Standard secretariat based in Geneva, Switzerland, including capacity building, marketing & communications, certification, registration and issuance as well as maintenance of the Gold Standard rules and procedures. The secretariat is the contact point for all market actors applying the Gold Standard certification scheme or making use of the Gold Standard.

For a list of the current Gold Standard Secretariat, including the Local Expert Network, please see the GS website. <http://www.cdmgoldstandard.org/>

Foundation Board

The Foundation Board oversees the strategic and organizational development of the Gold Standard. At least 50% of its members must be recruited from the Gold Standard NGO supporter community. In case of significant changes to the Gold Standard scope, the Board decides whether or not a Gold Standard NGO supporter majority vote is necessary to implement the change. The Foundation Board will rely on GS-TAC advice in its decisions.

The Foundation Board meets on an annual basis and is in frequent communication throughout the year. For a list of the current members, please see the GS website.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The Technical Advisory Committee oversees the project approval process, approves new methodologies for VER projects and Gold Standard rules and procedural changes, and advises the Foundation Board on strategic changes of the Gold Standard scope. It is the equivalent of the CDM Executive Board / Meth Panel for VER projects. The GS-TAC members act in their personal capacity and independently of their professional affiliations.

The GS-TAC members are bound by confidentiality in their proceedings and are obliged to declare conflicts of interest. Conflicts of interests may also be invoked by project proponents for individual GS-TAC members with a clear substantiation. The chair of the GS-TAC will decide if conflicts of interest prevent an individual member to participate in GS-TAC discussions on a subject or if simple voting abstinence is in order.

The GS-TAC decision-making process requires the presence of a quorum (half plus one member), with the Chair casting the final ballot in the case of a tie. The GS-TAC meets monthly and can make decisions via email exchange. The meeting schedule and minutes are managed by the Secretariat, which has a consultative role in the GS-TAC proceedings.

The GS-TAC members are from the NGO community, multilateral organizations, aid agencies and the private sector. Current Members of the TAC (as well as their professional affiliation) can be found on the GS website.

NGO Supporters

Non-profit organisations sharing the Gold Standard vision and scope are invited to join the Gold Standard NGO Supporter community. The detailed procedures for this are laid out in the NGO Supporter form available on the Gold Standard website.

Gold Standard Supporter NGOs must be consulted as part of the Gold Standard stakeholder consultation in case they have operations in the relevant host country. Supporter NGOs are also invited to take part in the project reviewing process and can request an in-depth audit of GS projects both at the registration as well as issuance stage.

NGO supporter comments will be addressed to the Gold Standard Secretariat which will decide on the further proceedings, where necessary consulting with DOEs, project proponents, the GS-TAC or the Foundation Board.

NGO supporters may also be consulted for strategic changes of scope of the Gold Standard, and may initiate such changes through a request to the Foundation Board to be submitted to the Secretariat.

Please consult the Gold Standard website for a list of NGO supporters, and when in doubt whether any given organisation has offices in the country a given project is located please consult the Secretariat.