Annex C

Guidance on Project Type Eligibility

Project type eligibility

Please find additional specific eligibility criteria for some of the eligible types of project activities in Table C-1. This table is subject to regular updates. If you have questions on eligibility of your project type, please contact the Gold Standard secretariat.

Table C-1

Hydro	- All hydro projects must at a minimum discuss the relevance and implications of the full list of items provided in Table C.2 as part of the sustainable assessment process. - Project activities involving hydropower plants with an installed capacity of less than, or equal to 20 MWe shall be eligible for Gold Standard registration. This capacity threshold shall apply to each one of the project activities part of a bundle, and not to the overall bundle, and to each one of the CPA part of a PoA. - The eligibility of project activities involving a hydropower plant with an installed capacity greater than 20 MWe shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the Gold Standard Foundation, in the light of a Pre-feasibility assessment, in accordance with the procedure provided in section T.2.5. The project participant shall provide the following additional information as part of the documentation to be reviewed: - A Local Stakeholder Consultation Report, in accordance with the guidelines for a Local Stakeholder Consultation as provided in section T.2.6. For project activities involving existing dams (such as dams built for irrigation purposes), the stakeholder consultation shall include a site-visit by local stakeholders taking part to the consultation. - A report ('Compliance Report') showing that the project activity is in compliance with the latest WCD guidelines[1], validated by a DOE/AIE.
Electricity and/or heat, and liquid biofuels from biomass resources	Biomass resources: - Project activities making use of non-renewable biomass resources shall NOT be eligible for Gold Standard registration. The project applicant shall therefore provide convincing evidence that the project activities make use of renewable biomass resources[2], and shall include this in the Sustainability Monitoring Plan. - Project activities planning to make use of biomass resources already in use (e.g. food, heating, etc.) shall NOT be eligible for Gold Standard registration unless convincing evidence is provided that the current users are in agreement with the new use envisioned. In the absence of such an agreement, the project applicants shall demonstrate that the project activities makes use of surplus biomass[3], and shall include this in the Sustainability Monitoring Plan. - Project activities making use of land currently in use for growing food crops to grow dedicated energy crops shall NOT be eligible for Gold Standard registration unless convincing evidence is provided showing that the energy crop is part of a traditional rotational cropping. The project applicant shall

[1] www.dams.org

[2] as defined in Annex 18 of the report of the 23 meeting the CDM Executive Board http://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/Meetings/023/eb23_repan18.pdf

[3] In accordance with the approach proposed in paragraph 18 of the Attachment C to Appendix B: Indicative simplified baseline and monitoring methodologies for selected small-scale CDM project activity categories, „General guidance on leakage in biomass project activities", http://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/SSCmethodologies/AppB_SSC_AttachmentC.pdf

	therefore demonstrate that the project activities make use of otherwise set aside or marginal land, and shall include this in the Sustainability Monitoring Plan. - Project activities making use of GMOs shall declare so in a transparent way. Local stakeholders opinion on GMOs shall prevail and appropriate mitigation measures shall be put in place to address their concerns, if any, in a satisfactory way. Biomass conversion: - Avoidance of methane from biomass decay shall be eligible as long as biomass is used as a substitution for non-renewable fuels in project activities delivering energy services. - The use of non-renewable fuel in biomass heat and/or electricity generation plants is authorised for up to a limit of 5% of the annual electricity and/or heat delivered annually[4], in order to avoid disruption of the operation due to temporary feedstock shortage, maintenance, etc. - The eligibility of project activities making use of Palm oil and/or palm oil mill by-products or residues for electricity and/or heat generation, and/or for biofuel production shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the Gold Standard Foundation, in the light of a Pre-feasibility assessment. The project participant shall provide the following on top of the usual project documentation: - A Local Stakeholder Consultation Report, in accordance with the guidelines for a Local Stakeholder Consultation as provided in section T.2.6, and provided as part of the documentation to be reviewed at the time of the pre-feasibility assessment. - A report ('Compliance Report') showing that the project activity is in compliance with the latest version of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil guidance document on Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Palm Oil Production[5], validated by a DOE/AIE, and provided as part of the documentation to be reviewed at the time of the registration review. Project proponents must demonstrate that they have started the process for RSPO compliance at the time of submission for the pre-feasibility assessment. - Methane recovery project activities in waste water treatment plants related to Palm Oil production shall comply with all rules provided for palm oil project activities in the section 'Electricity and/or heat, and liquid biofuels from biomass resources.'
Biogas (landfill gas and biogas from agro-processing, wastewater and other residues)	- Methane recovery project activities shall be eligible for emission reductions from both methane avoidance (including from the flared biogas fraction) and non-renewable fuel substitution under the following conditions: - At the time of validation, project proponents shall demonstrate that the system is designed in a way to maximise the utilisation ratio of the biogas for the delivery of energy services (e.g. electricity, heat). The rated biogas consumption of the generator(s) should at least correspond to 65% of the expected volume of methane captured (minimum utilisation ratio). - Project proponents shall monitor the methane utilisation ratio over the monitoring period considered. If a 65% minimum threshold is not

[4] For cogeneration units, 5% of the electricity delivered annually.
[5] www.rspo.org

	met during a given monitoring period (e.g. technical failure, unexpected fluctuations of LFG production, etc.), the eligibility of the project activity is not compromised but project proponents shall demonstrate that everything is undertaken to meet compliance again for the next monitoring period. Only then can they claim emission reductions for the monitoring period that did not meet the minimum utilisation ratio. In such a case however, emission reductions from methane avoidance by flaring can only be eligible for a maximum of 35% of the total volume of methane captured. - The difference in pressure, temperature, and methane fraction between the biogas fed to the generator(s) and the biogas flared/released shall be taken into account in the calculation of utilisation ratio. The volumes of biogas fed to the generator(s) and flared/released shall be calculated at normal conditions (0℃ and 1 Atm). - Whenever the fraction of the methane flared/released is not monitored for the purpose of costs savings, project proponents cannot claim GS credits/labels from methane avoidance from flaring. They also have to demonstrate that the utilization ratio can reasonably be estimated, i.e. with an acceptable error level. - In line with the Gold Standard Requirements, project proponents may choose to exclude the start-up phase of a methane recovery project activity from the calculation of the 65% threshold by opting-in at a later stage in the crediting period, when a stable utilisation of biogas is technically easier to achieve. - Methane recovery project activities in waste water treatment plants related to Palm Oil production shall comply with all rules provided for palm oil project activities in the section 'Electricity and/or heat, and liquid biofuels from biomass resources'.
Waste heat recovery	- Project activities involving waste heat recovery in industrial processes shall be eligible for Gold Standard registration for emission reductions related to on-site energy consumption. Emission reductions related to the export of heat or electricity generated from the waste heat recovered shall NOT be eligible unless it can be shown that the primary and unique source of energy for the industrial process is renewable energy. This requirement applies on an annual basis and the electricity generation profile does not have to necessarily match the on-site demand profile on an instantaneous basis.
Waste gases recovery	- Project activities involving the use of waste gases recovery in industrial processes shall be eligible for Gold Standard registration for emission reductions related to on-site energy consumption. Emission reductions related to the export of heat or electricity generated from the waste gases recovered shall NOT be eligible unless it can be shown that the primary and unique source of energy for the industrial process is renewable energy. This requirement applies on an annual basis and the electricity generation profile does not have to necessarily match the on-site demand profile on an instantaneous basis. Emissions from the combustion of the recovered gases shall of course be taken into account in the project emissions calculations.
Fossil-fired cogeneration	- Fossil-fired co-generation project activities shall be eligible for emission reduction related to on-site energy consumption. Emission reductions related to the export of heat or electricity generated from the waste heat recovered

	shall NOT be eligible. This requirement applies on an annual basis and the electricity generation profile does not have to necessarily match the on-site demand profile on an instantaneous basis.
Waste incineration and gasification	- Co-firing of non-renewable and renewable waste within incineration or gasification facilities shall NOT be eligible under Gold Standard.
Relighting	- Relighting project activities implying the substitution of incandescent light bulbs by CFLs shall provide a detailed description of the future collection and transport process and disposal or recycling plan of the CFLs, with a particular attention to mercury.
End-use fossil fuel switching	- Project activities involving fossil fuel switching shall only be eligible for Gold Standard registration for the emission reductions related to end-use energy efficiency improvements associated with the fuel switch (e.g. energy recovery by water condensation in the fumes of natural gas fired boilers); emission reductions related to the difference in carbon content between a non-renewable fuel and a less carbon intensive non-renewable fuel used for substitution shall NOT be eligible.
Improved distributed heating and cooking devices (e.g. biodigesters, cook-stoves), and distributed micro-scale electricity generation units (e.g. micro-hydro and PV for households)	Project activities involving a large amount of small, distributed heating, cooking or electricity generation devices using renewable energy sources shall provide the Gold Standard with a clear description of the transfer of credits ownership all along the investment chain, and with proof that end-users are aware of and willing to give up their rights on emission reductions.

Special guidance for hydro projects

All hydro projects must at a minimum discuss the relevance and implications of the full list of items provided in Table C-2 below as part of the sustainable assessment process.

Table C-2

Management domain	Basic requirements
	Minimum Flow Goal is a dynamic flow regime, which qualitatively simulates the natural hydrological regime
	Minimum flow which guarantees habitat quality and prevents critical oxygen and chemical concentrations
	No disconnection of lateral rivers
	Minimum water depth for fish migration during critical periods
	Lateral and vertical connectivity (flood plains and groundwater) shall not be substantially disturbed
	Provides sufficient transport capacity for sediments
	Landscape compartments shall not be destroyed
	Flood plain ecosystems shall not be endangered
	Conservation of locally adapted species and ecosystems
Hydropeaking	Rate of change of water level should not impair fish and benthic populations
	Reduction in water level should not lead to drying of the water course.
	Protective measures if flood plain ecosystems are impaired.
	No isolation of fish and benthic organisms when water level decreases
	No impairment of spawning habitat for fish
Reservoir management	Are there feasible alternatives to reservoir flushing?
	Changes in reservoir levels should not impair lateral ecosystems (flood plains, river

	shores, …)
	Connectivity with lateral rivers should not be impaired
	Sediment accumulation areas should be used as valuable habitats, where feasible.
	Special protection of flood plain ecosystems if they are impaired
Sediment management	Sediments have to pass through the power plant.
	No erosion and no accumulation in the river bed below storage dams and water intakes because of a deficit in sediments.
	Sediment transport should sustain morphological structures, which are typical for the river.
	No accumulation of sediments below dams
	Riverine habitats have to be established
Power plant design	Free fish migration upwards and downwards (as far as technologically feasible)
	Protection of animals against injury and death stemming from power plant operations (turbines, canals, water intakes, …)
Social impacts	Cultural landscapes
	Human heritage (including protection of special ethnic groups)
	Preservation of lifestyles
	Empowerment of local stakeholders in the decision-making process (about mitigation and compensation of social impacts)
	Resettlement of local population under similar or better living conditions (than prior to the project)
	Build additional social infrastructure, sufficient to cope with population increase (due to migration induced by the project)
	Water quality and fishing losses affecting downstream riverside population