



Influence. Innovate. Inspire.

The Gold Standard  
**Afforestation/Reforestation (A/R)  
Requirements**

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Author The Gold Standard Foundation



### Eligible Projects

The Gold Standard **A/R Requirements** are for projects that include the planting of trees on land that does not meet the definition of a *forest*<sup>1</sup> at planting start.

Projects can apply all silvicultural systems:

- Conservation forests (no use of timber)
- Forests with selective harvesting
- Rotation forestry

All projects can include agriculture (agroforestry) or pasture (silvopasture) activities.

### Eligible host-countries

Projects can be implemented in all countries.

If projects are located in a country or state that has an operational mandatory national or pan-national cap-and-trade scheme to reduce green-house-gas emissions, and hereby accounts for its own land-based activities under its national or subnational accounting, the project proponent shall follow the 'A/R Guidelines - Double Counting' [coming].

### Guidelines and Background Information

'Guidelines' and 'Background Information' that are related to the Gold Standard 'A/R Requirements' are provided under: [www.CDMGoldStandard.org/AR-Requirements](http://www.CDMGoldStandard.org/AR-Requirements)

### Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Partnership

The Gold Standard and FSC are in partnership to promote environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable management of the world's forests. It will be possible for projects to obtain a *dual certification* (Gold Standard and FSC) in a parallel process.

With respect to potential *dual certification* The Gold Standard recognizes that FSC certification can replace the requirements of section '3. Sustainability' (except for chapter '3.5 Legal rights') of the 'A/R Requirements'.

This will simplify the process of a *dual certification*. When applying a *dual certification*, the project proponent shall provide the 'FSC Audit Report' instead of the template for 'Sustainability' and the 'FSC Annual Surveillance Report' instead of the template for 'Annual Report'.

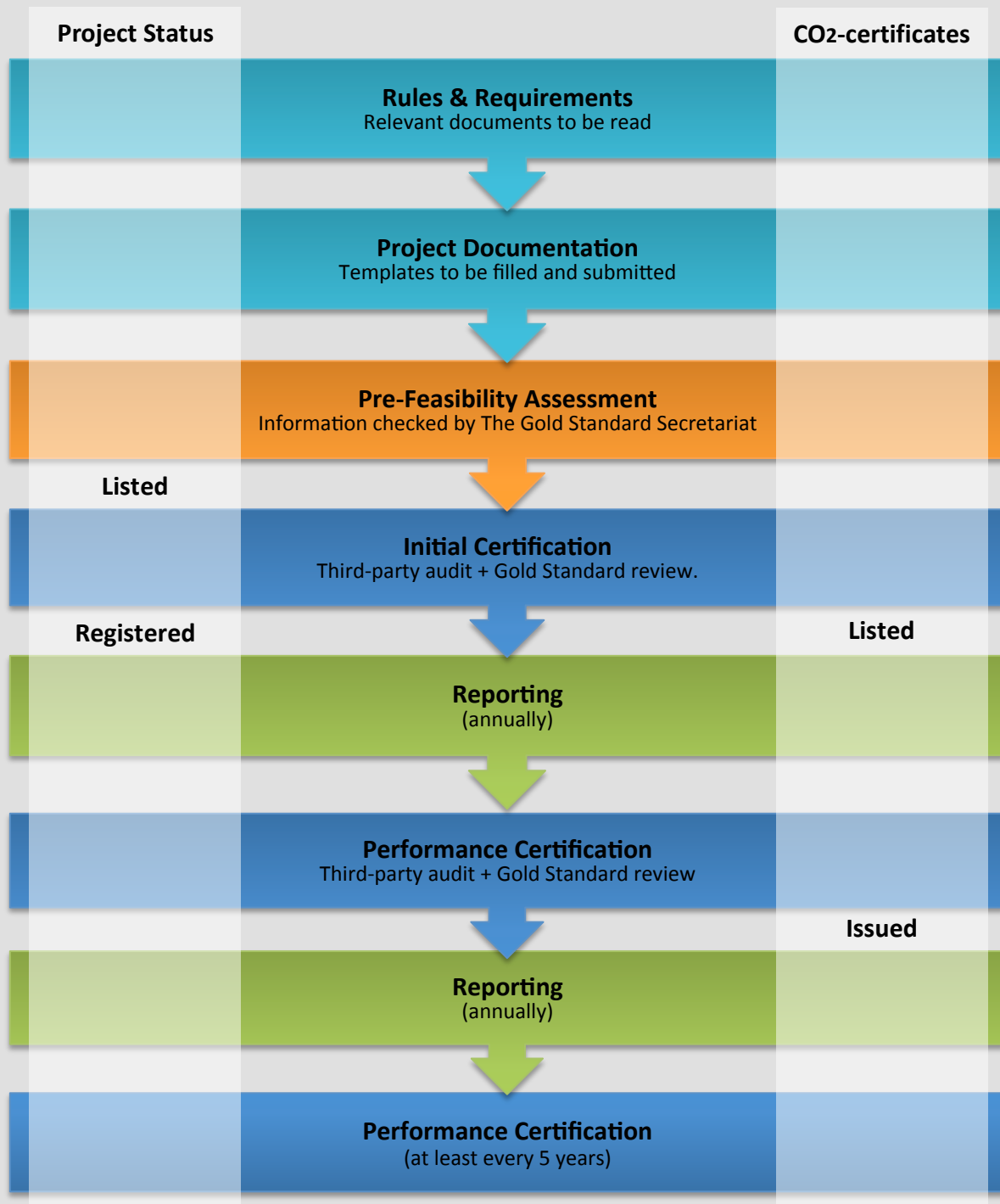
For *dual certification*, FSC certification is required to be valid throughout the crediting period.

<sup>1</sup> Forest

A forest is defined by the Designated National Authority (DNA) of the project's host-country:  
<http://cdm.unfccc.int/DNA>

### Certification Process

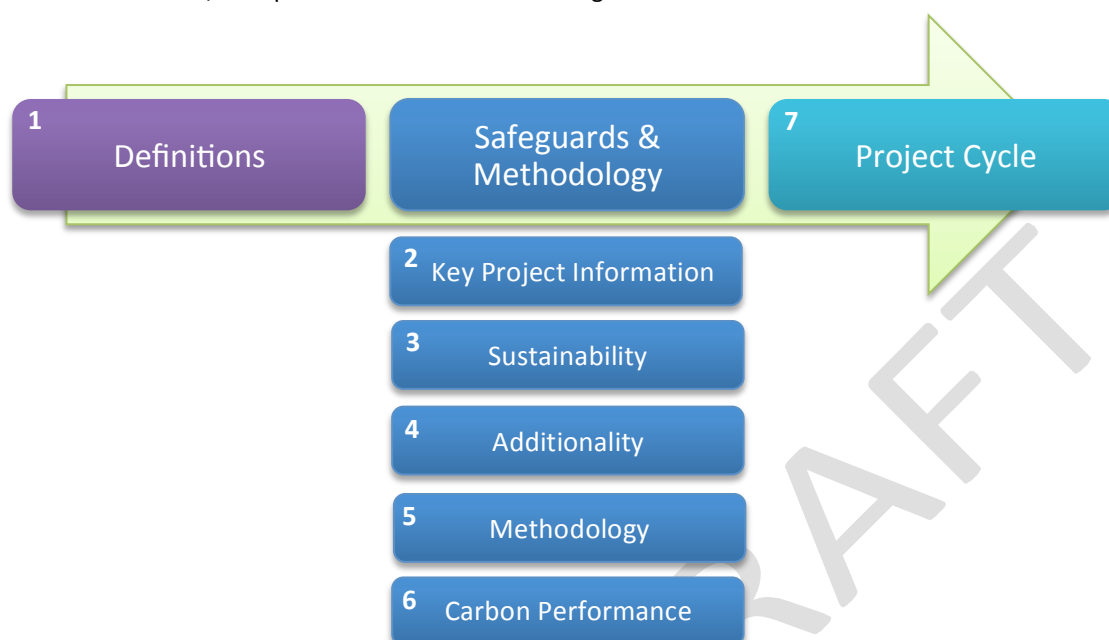
The following graph provides an overview of the different steps in The Gold Standard process along with the sequence of activities for *project registration* and the *issuance of CO<sub>2</sub>-certificates*:



## What you should know ...

### Structure

The Gold Standard 'A/R Requirements' have the following structure:



### Documentation

*Templates* are used to document evidence that the project meets the requirements. Where useful, inputs to the *templates* should be backed by *supporting documents*. These documents can be scientific reports, copies of contracts, meeting minutes, pictures, maps, etc. The filled-in *templates* together with the *supporting documents* form the base of information for the certification process.

### How to read this document

- Dashed underlined words are defined in this section '1. Definitions'.
- Words in *italics* improve the readability and understanding of the requirements.
- **Shall** indicates requirements must be followed in order to conform to the standard.
- **Should** indicates that a certain course of action is preferred but not necessarily required.
- **May** indicates a course of action is permissible.
- **Can** is used for statements of possibility and capability.

**Clear boxes** | The information in the clear boxes is to assist in using this document and to define the different processes which must be followed for each chapter depending on the type of certification being undertaken.

**Green boxes** | Some of the requirements appear in green boxes<sup>1</sup> in this document. The project proponent shall provide documentary evidence through the *templates* (and *supporting documents*) to demonstrate that they meet the requirements in green boxes.

**Grey boxes with a border** | Grey boxes with a border mark requirements and descriptions that do not require documentary evidence from the project proponent unless otherwise noted.

<sup>1</sup> If black and white printing is used, the green boxes can be identified as the boxes with no lines as borders.

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# 1. Definitions

## General terms

1. **tCO<sub>2</sub>** | The unit of tCO<sub>2</sub>-e (tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent) is expressed as tCO<sub>2</sub>.

2. **Tree** | A tree is a perennial woody plant with one or several dominant sprouts that increase its circumference due to secondary growth.

For a practical use of this document the definition of a tree in these 'A/R Requirements' goes beyond the scientific definition of a tree and also includes shrubs, palms and bamboo plants. Differences in the context of specific requirements are noted on the individual pages.

For forest inventories of these different types of trees additional guidance is provide by the 'A/R Guidelines - Forest Inventory' [coming].

In any project, trees shall reach a minimum height of 2 meters.

3. **Planting** | Planting refers to the activity of putting trees in the ground for growth; it also includes sowing or assisted natural regeneration.

## Governance

4. **Gold Standard Secretariat** | The staff of The Gold Standard Secretariat administer and maintain the quality of The Gold Standard, including the execution of the Pre-Feasibility Assessments, answering clarification requests and conducting project spot-checks.

The Gold Standard Secretariat is supported in its work by a roster of experts:  
[www.CDMGoldStandard.org/Roster-of-Experts](http://www.CDMGoldStandard.org/Roster-of-Experts) [coming]

5. **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** | The TAC is an independent technical body of experts for The Gold Standard Foundation. It provides expert advice and strategic input into The Gold Standard requirements. Further information about the work of the TAC is outlined under [www.CDMGoldStandard.org/TAC](http://www.CDMGoldStandard.org/TAC)

6. **Auditor** | The auditor conducts audit processes by assessing the compliance of project information with the requirements of the standard.

For 'Afforestation / Reforestation' project activities, The Gold Standard recognizes auditors that are:

- (a) Accredited by the UNFCCC as a *Designated Operational Entity (DOE)*<sup>1</sup> or *Accredited Independent Entity (AIE)*<sup>2</sup> under the sectorial scope of 'Afforestation and reforestation', OR
- (b) Accredited as a *certification body* by the FSC under the scope of 'Forest Management'. FSC auditors shall have at least one member of their audit team with direct experience in certifying carbon forest projects.

Auditors shall have at least one member of their audit team with local experience in the host country. Contact details of auditors: [www.CDMGoldStandard.org/Certifiers](http://www.CDMGoldStandard.org/Certifiers) [coming]

<sup>1</sup> DOEs

DOEs (Designated Operational Entities) are accredited certifiers of the UN climate secretariat:  
<http://cdm.unfccc.int/DOE/list/index.html>

<sup>2</sup> AIEs

AIEs (Accredited Independent Entities) are accredited certifiers of the UN climate secretariat:  
<http://ji.unfccc.int/AIEs/List.html>

## Project

7. **Project** | A project is the implementation and management of one or more activities in an area of similar environmental and social characteristics.

8. **Planting start** | The planting start is the date when the first trees are planted.

9. **Project information** | Project information is used as an umbrella term for *project documents* and *supporting documents*.

*Project documents* are documents that describe how the project meets the requirements. *Supporting documents* are referenced within the *project documents* and provide additional evidence to meet the requirements.

## Project Actors

10. **Project proponent** | (Source: FSC, where the term is 'The Organization') The person or entity that holds or is applying for certification and therefore responsible for demonstrating compliance with the requirements upon which Gold Standard certification is based.

11. **Workers** | (Source: FSC) All employed persons including public employees as well as 'self-employed' persons. This includes part-time and seasonal employees, of all ranks and categories, including labourers, administrators, supervisors, executives, contractor employees as well as self employed contractors and sub-contractors.

12. **Stakeholders** | The stakeholders are persons, groups or entities that may be affected by the project or that show interest in the project.

The following are categories of stakeholders:

- (a) Local people impacted by the project or their representatives
- (b) Local policy makers and representatives of local authorities
- (c) *Designated National Authority (DNA)*<sup>1</sup> and *National Focal Point*<sup>2</sup>
- (d) Local NGOs working on topics relevant to the project
- (e) The *Gold Standard Regional Manager*<sup>3</sup> located closest to the project
- (f) *International Gold Standard NGO Supporters*<sup>4</sup> and *Gold Standard NGO Supporters*<sup>5</sup> located in the host country of the project.

13. **Customary rights** | (Source: FSC) Rights which result from a long series of habitual or customary actions, constantly repeated, which have, by such repetition and by uninterrupted acquiescence, acquired the force of a law within a geographical or sociological unit.

<sup>1</sup> Designated National Authority (DNA)

<sup>2</sup> National Focal Point

<sup>3</sup> Gold Standard Regional Managers

<sup>4</sup> International Gold Standard NGO Supporters

<sup>5</sup> Gold Standard NGO Supporters

<https://cdm.unfccc.int/DNA/index.html>

<http://maindb.unfccc.int/public/nfp.pl>

[www.CDMGoldStandard.org/Contact](http://www.CDMGoldStandard.org/Contact)

[www.CDMGoldStandard.org/our-supporters/NGOs](http://www.CDMGoldStandard.org/our-supporters/NGOs) - in yellow

[www.CDMGoldStandard.org/our-supporters/NGOs](http://www.CDMGoldStandard.org/our-supporters/NGOs)

## Areas

14. **Project area** | (Source: FSC, where the relevant term is 'Management Unit') The project area is a spatial area or areas submitted for certification with clearly defined boundaries managed to a set of explicit long term management objectives.

New areas can be added to an existing project area after its Initial Certification (see chapter '7.4 Certification of New Areas').

The project area can be made up of discrete parcels of land.

15. **Planting area** | The planting area is the part of the project area where tree planting activities take place.

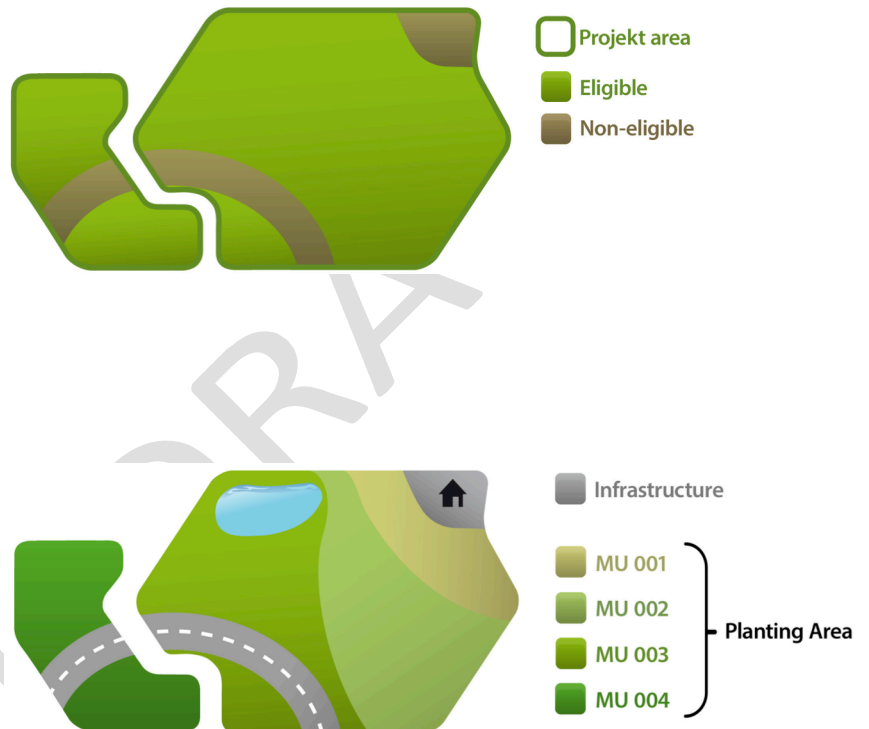
16. **Eligible planting area** | The eligible planting area is the part of the planting area which meets the applicability conditions (chapter '5.1 Applicability').

17. **Non-eligible planting area** | The non-eligible planting area are areas which do not meet the applicability conditions (chapter '5.1 Applicability'), but are still part of the project area.

18. **Modelling Unit (MU)** | Modelling Units are distinct parts of the planting area where carbon stocks can be quantified based on applying a forest growth-model.

To meet the precision level for the carbon stocks estimation (see chapter '5.7 CO<sub>2</sub>-Fixation'), MU areas normally have homogeneous characteristics in their growth patterns, silvicultural treatment and planting date.

19. **New area** | New areas are project areas that are added to an existing project after its 'Initial Certification'.







### Certificates

20. **CO<sub>2</sub>-certificates** | An issued CO<sub>2</sub>-certificate represents 1 metric ton CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent that is permanently stored by the different carbon pools of a forest (see chapter '5.2 Calculation of CO<sub>2</sub>-certificates'). Each CO<sub>2</sub>-certificate has a vintage year and is equivalent to the avoidance of 1 metric ton of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent emissions.

For the calculation see chapter '5. Methodology'.

21. **Crediting period** | The crediting period is the time span in which the fixation of CO<sub>2</sub> can be accounted for and is subject to monitoring.

The crediting period shall be minimum 30 years and maximum 50 years. The project proponent selects the crediting period based on the characteristics of the project.

The crediting period starts with the planting start and may be up to 2 years prior to the date the project reaches the 'registration' status (see chapter '7.1 Certification Process').

22. **Baseline, Leakage and CO<sub>2</sub>-Fixation** | These terms are defined in the respective chapters '5.5 Baseline', '5.6 Leakage' and '5.7 CO<sub>2</sub>-Fixation'.

23. **Gold Standard Registry** | The Gold Standard Registry is the operating system to administer project information and issue CO<sub>2</sub>-certificates. It is operated by the company *Markit* under the oversight of The Gold Standard Secretariat - [www.CDMGoldStandard.org/our-projects/project-registry](http://www.CDMGoldStandard.org/our-projects/project-registry)

## Certification

24. The following terms are defined in the chapter '7.1 Certification Process':

- Pre-Feasibility Assessment
- Initial Certification
- Performance Certification
- Audit
- Review

25. **Corrective Action Request (CAR)** | With a CAR the auditor or The Gold Standard Secretariat requests appropriate action be taken to show compliance with a requirement.

In order to achieve a successful *certification*, all CARs shall be formally closed.

CARs can be converted to FARs.

26. **Forward Action Request (FAR)** | With a FAR the auditor or The Gold Standard Secretariat requests appropriate action be taken to become fully compliant with a requirement.

A FAR will be issued where the impact of the infraction is:

- (a) not material within the current certification, **AND**
- (b) unusual or non-systematic, **AND**
- (c) correctable in a specific timeframe less than 5 years.

FARs can be closed by The Gold Standard Secretariat or an auditor.

27. **Observation (OBS)** | With an OBS the auditor or The Gold Standard Secretariat provides an observation on possible *future* non-compliance with a requirement.

Unlike CARs and FARs, observations are warnings and do not need to be formally corrected. They are given special attention during the next certification.

28. **Non-Compliance (NC)** | The term is defined in the chapter '8. Non-Compliance'.

CARs and FARs are converted to NCs when they are not corrected or inadequately addressed by the project proponent.

## 2. Key Project Information

### Requirements

### 2.1 Key Project Information

The information required in this chapter is used to provide a general overview of the project in 4-5 pages.

The project proponent shall undertake the following **process** based on the type of certification that is being pursued:

#### Process for Initial Certification

For the Initial Certification the project proponent shall provide the information in requirement 1, using the template 'Key Project Information'.

#### Process for Performance Certification

For the Performance Certification the project proponent shall provide any updates to the existing filled-in template 'Key Project Information'. The most recent version of the template shall be used.

1. A general description shall be provided which includes all of the following items:

- (a) Project activities
- (b) Organisations that are involved in the project
- (c) Communities involved in the project
- (d) Location of the project area and the planting area
- (e) Size of the project area and the planting area
- (f) Potential for the project area to change
- (g) Potential of the project activities to change
- (h) Time frame for the project activities
- (i) Number of (predicted) CO<sub>2</sub>-certificates
- (j) Land-use history and current situation
- (k) Socio-economic history and current situation
- (l) Forest management applied (past and future)
- (m) Forest characteristics (including main tree species planted)
- (n) Main social impacts (risks and benefits)
- (o) Main environmental impacts (risks and benefits)
- (p) Financial structure

The project proponent shall undertake the following **process** based on the type of certification that is being pursued:

### **Process for Initial Certification**

For the Initial Certification the project proponent shall provide the information in requirement 2 by uploading the shapefiles<sup>1</sup> in its Gold Standard Registry account.

### **Process for Performance Certification**

For the Performance Certification the project proponent shall provide the information in requirement 2 by updating its existing shapefiles in its Gold Standard Registry account.

2. The following information shall be clearly defined by the use of shapefiles:

- (a) Project area
- (b) Planting areas
- (c) Eligible planting area
- (d) Modelling Units
- (e) Infrastructure (roads, houses, etc.)
- (f) Water bodies
- (g) Sites with special significance for *indigenous people and local communities* - resulting from the Local Stakeholder Consultation (LSC)
- (h) Where *indigenous people and local communities* are situated
- (i) Where *indigenous people and local communities* have legal rights, customary rights or sites with special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance.

3. Boundaries of the project area and the planting area shall be clearly distinguishable in the field.

<sup>1</sup> Shapefile

A shapefile is a digital vector (non-topological) storage format for storing geometric location and associated attribute information.

### 3. Sustainability Requirements

This section '3. Sustainability' ensures that projects are designed and implemented in a sustainable and participatory way.

In its first chapter '3.1 Do-No-Harm Assessment' minimum social and ecological safeguards are set. In the following two chapters '3.2 Local Stakeholder Consultation' and '3.3 Input & Grievance Mechanism' requirements are set on how to build a continuous dialogue with stakeholders to ensure participatory implementation.

In chapter '3.4 Sustainable Development (SD) Matrix' the project proponent examines the co-benefits and impacts of the project compared to the business-as-usual scenario. Relevant sustainability indicators and safeguards that show risk of non-compliance are subject to continuous monitoring through the '3.5 Sustainability Monitoring Plan'. Lastly, chapter '3.6 Legal Rights' and '3.7 Risk Register' provide requirements that safeguard other risks which may impact a project and its long-term viability.

#### 3.1 Do-No-Harm Assessment

The 'Do-No-Harm Assessment' provides minimum requirements for the social and ecological integrity based on The Gold Standard safeguarding principles.

The project proponent shall undertake the following **process** based on the type of certification that is being pursued:

##### Process for Initial Certification

- For the Initial Certification each of the 'Do-No-Harm' requirements shall be assessed on their relevance to the project.
- If not relevant; the project proponent shall provide a description to the non-relevance.
- If relevant; the project proponent shall provide evidence of how the project is in compliance with the requirement **AND** provide a rating of the future risk of non-compliance (*low, medium, or high*).
- If the rating is *high*; mitigation measures shall be put in place and subject to monitoring under the '3.5 Sustainability Monitoring Plan'.

For documentation of meeting these requirements, the project proponent shall use the template 'Do-No-Harm Assessment'.

##### Process for Performance Certification

For the Performance Certification the project proponent shall update the existing filled-in template 'Do-No-Harm Assessment'. The most recent version of the template shall be used.

### Social

#### Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

1. Sites with legal rights and customary rights of *indigenous people and local communities* shall be identified, known and respected by the workers.
2. Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance to the *indigenous people and local communities* shall be identified, known and respected by the workers.
3. The transfer of control of any activities from *indigenous people and local communities* to the project proponent shall be documented.
4. The project shall not involve and shall not be complicit in the involuntary relocation of people.
5. On sites with significant disputes, all operations should be stopped until the disputes are resolved.

#### Working Conditions

6. Workers shall be able to establish and join labour organizations.
7. Workers and labour organizations shall be generally satisfied with their working agreements.
8. Working agreements with all individual workers shall be documented and implemented.
9. There shall not be forced labour, as defined by the *ILO Forced Labour Convention*<sup>1</sup>.
10. There shall not be child labour, as defined by the *ILO Minimum Age Convention*<sup>2</sup>.
11. If the host country did not ratify one or more of the 8 *ILO Fundamental Conventions*<sup>3</sup>, the project proponent shall provide a written affirmation to uphold them.
12. Copies of the 8 *ILO Fundamental Conventions* shall be available for workers.

#### No Discrimination

13. The project proponent shall not be involved, and shall not be complicit, in any form of:
  - (a) sexual harassment, **OR**
  - (b) discrimination based on gender, race, religion, sexual orientation or any other basis.

#### Anti-Corruption

14. The project proponent shall not be involved and shall not be complicit in corruption. The project proponent shall publicize a commitment not to offer or receive bribes in money or any other form of corruption. The project proponent shall comply with anti-corruption legislation where this exists.

#### Occupational Health & Safety

15. There shall be a 'Health & Safety Policy' that is documented, implemented and regularly updated. This policy shall include at a minimum:
  - (a) provisions for first aid, **AND**
  - (b) provisions for the safe transport of workers, **AND**
  - (c) provisions for timely evacuation of workers to an adequately equipped medical facility in case of serious accident, **AND**
  - (d) a health insurance scheme for workers who are impacted by workplace accidents **AND**
  - (e) if workers stay in camps for a longer period of time, measures shall be provided to ensure that conditions for accommodation and nutrition comply at least with those specified in the *ILO Code of Practice on Safety & Health in Forestry*<sup>4</sup>.
16. An individual shall be appointed to have overall responsibility for 'Health & Safety' at the worksite.
17. Workers shall have job-specific training and supervision to safely implement the project.
18. Workers shall have safe protective equipment, tools and machinery appropriate for their work.

<sup>1</sup> ILO Forced Labour Convention [Link](#)

<sup>2</sup> ILO Minimum Age Convention [Link](#)

<sup>3</sup> ILO Fundamental Conventions [Link](#)

<sup>4</sup> ILO Safety & Health in Forestry [Link](#) - criteria 226 to 229

### Environmental

#### Tree species

19. The genotypes of the tree species used shall be well-adapted to the site.
20. *Alien tree species*<sup>1</sup> shall only be used when direct experience, or scientific research, demonstrate that there is, or can be, no invasiveness and no adverse impacts.

#### Habitat connectivity

21. Through a smart mosaic of the planting areas, buffer zones and infrastructure habitat connectivity for flora and fauna should be enhanced.

#### GMOs

22. *Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)*<sup>2</sup> as defined by FSC shall not be used.

#### Biodiversity

23. To ensure *biological diversity*<sup>3</sup> the following aspects shall be identified and appropriate measures shall be put in place to protect them:
  - (a) existing patches of *forests*<sup>3</sup> that are within the *project area*, AND
  - (b) *endangered species*<sup>4</sup>, AND
  - (c) representative sample areas of *native ecosystems*<sup>5</sup>, AND
  - (d) *native species*<sup>6</sup>.

#### Erosion

24. To ensure healthy soils the following aspects shall be identified and appropriate measures shall be put in place to protect them:
  - (a) soil types, AND
  - (b) biota, AND
  - (c) erosion.
25. Ploughing on slopes with a gradient greater than 10% (5°) shall follow the land contour.

#### Fertilizers

26. Fertilizers shall be avoided, or their use shall be minimised and justified.
27. If the aerial application of fertilizer is used, then measures shall be put in place to prevent drift.

<sup>1</sup> Alien tree species (Source: FSC) A species, subspecies or lower taxon, introduced outside its natural past or present distribution; includes any part, gametes, seeds, eggs, or propagules of such species that might survive and subsequently reproduce.

<sup>2</sup> GMO (Source: FSC) An organism in which the genetic material has been altered in a way that does not occur naturally by mating and/or natural recombination. See 'FSC Interpretation on GMO - FSC-POL-30-602': <https://ic.fsc.org/policies.338.htm>

<sup>3</sup> Biological diversity (Source: FSC) The variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.

<sup>4</sup> Endangered species All *endangered* and *critically endangered* species as defined by the IUCN Red List - [www.IUCNredlist.org](http://www.IUCNredlist.org)

<sup>5</sup> Native ecosystem (Adapted from FSC) Sites to favour or restore native species and associations of native species that are typical of the locality, and for managing these associations and other environmental values so that they form ecosystems typical of the locality.

<sup>6</sup> Native species (Source: FSC) Species, subspecies, or lower taxon, occurring within its natural range (past or present) and dispersal potential (that is, within the range it occupies naturally or could occupy without direct or indirect introduction or care by humans).

#### Chemical pesticides

28. Chemical pesticides shall be avoided, or their use shall be minimised and justified.
29. Chemical pesticides shall be used in accordance with the *FSC Pesticides Policy*<sup>1</sup>.
30. There shall be a 'Chemical Pesticides Policy' that is documented, implemented and regularly updated. This policy shall include at a minimum:
  - (a) provisions for safe transport, storage, handling and application, AND
  - (b) provisions for emergency situations.
31. In the case that chemical pesticides are used and two or more different chemical pesticides are equally effective, the least hazardous chemical pesticide shall be used.

#### Biological control agents

32. *Biological control agents*<sup>2</sup> shall be avoided, or their use shall be minimised and justified.

#### Water resources

33. On both sides of permanent or temporary *water bodies* (lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands, etc.) riparian buffer zones of 15 meters shall be implemented on each site. In these riparian buffer zones:
  - (a) only *native tree species*<sup>3</sup> may be planted, AND
  - (b) *invasive species*<sup>4</sup> shall be removed, AND
  - (c) all existing vegetation shall be kept, AND
  - (d) no timber harvesting activities shall take place.
34. The flows of *water bodies* shall not be blocked.
35. The groundwater in and around the planting area shall not be negatively affected by the project.

#### Waste

36. All sources of waste and *waste products* shall be identified and classified. *Waste products* include amongst others:
  - (a) chemical wastes, AND
  - (b) containers, AND
  - (c) fuels and oils, AND
  - (d) human waste, AND
  - (e) rubbish (including metals, plastics, organic and paper products), AND
  - (f) abandoned buildings, machinery or equipment.
37. Measures for waste products and their spillage shall be in place for safe and environmentally appropriate:
  - (a) collection, AND
  - (b) transport, AND
  - (c) storage, AND
  - (d) handling, AND
  - (e) disposal.

<sup>1</sup> FSC Pesticides Policy      See guideline FSC-GUI-30-001 on [www.pesticides.fsc.org](http://www.pesticides.fsc.org)

<sup>2</sup> Biological control agents      (Source: FSC) Organisms used to eliminate or regulate the population of other organisms.

<sup>3</sup> Native tree species      (Source: FSC) Species, subspecies, or lower taxon, occurring within its natural range (past or present) and dispersal potential (that is, within the range it occupies naturally or could occupy without direct or indirect introduction or care by humans).

<sup>4</sup> Invasive species      (Source: FSC) Species that are rapidly expanding outside of their native range. Invasive species can alter ecological relationships among native species and can affect ecosystem function and human health.



### 3.2 Local Stakeholder Consultation

The requirements for the 'LSC' ensure that stakeholders are actively involved in the project from the beginning, thus enabling them to influence the project design and implementation.

This participatory process empowers stakeholders to define the *mitigation measures* that safeguard the social, economic and environmental success of the project.

The project proponent shall undertake the following **process** based on the type of certification that is being pursued:

#### Process for Initial Certification

For the Initial Certification the project proponent shall provide documentation using the templates 'Stakeholders' and 'Local Stakeholder Consultation'.

#### Process for Performance Certification

For the Performance Certification chapter '3.2 Local Stakeholder Consultation' does not apply. The continuous dialogue is ensured through the requirements of the chapter '3.3 Input & Grievance Mechanism', the yearly reporting and regular certifications that include feedback from The *Gold Standard NGO Supporters*.

1. The Local Stakeholder Consultation (LSC) shall be conducted in accordance with 'A/R Guidelines - LSC'.

#### Invitation of Stakeholders

2. The project proponent shall proactively invite The Gold Standard Secretariat and the stakeholders, including all *Gold Standard NGO Supporters*<sup>1</sup> active in the host country of the project, to provide comments on the proposed project in accordance with the guidelines provided in 'A/R Guidelines - LSC'.

#### Notice to Designated National Authority and National Focal Point

3. The *Designated National Authority (DNA)*<sup>2</sup> or *National Focal Point*<sup>3</sup> shall be notified about the existence of the project.

#### Timeline

4. The LSC should be conducted prior to the planting start date. If the LSC is conducted after the planting start date, the project proponent shall provide further explanation of how comments received during the LSC are taken into account in the project.

#### Public consultation meeting

5. The LSC shall include at least one public in-person meeting, which shall be open to anyone willing to attend and which shall be conducted in accordance with the guidelines provided in this document.

#### Input & Grievance Mechanism

6. Projects applying The Gold Standard 'A/R Requirements' shall have a formal input and grievance mechanism in place in accordance with the chapter 'Input & Grievance Mechanism'. This mechanism shall be described during the LSC.

#### Report

7. An *LSC Report* shall be prepared using the 'LSC Report' template and in accordance with the guidelines provided in this document. The LSC Report shall include the outcome from the physical meeting(s) and feedback received via other means, and it shall be submitted for the Pre-Feasibility Assessment.

#### Confidentiality

8. The *LSC Report* shall be made publicly available on The Gold Standard Registry once the project is 'listed'. Prior to being 'listed', only The Gold Standard Secretariat and Technical Advisory Committee shall be able to access the report.

<sup>1</sup> Gold Standard NGO Supporters

<sup>2</sup> Designated National Authority (DNA)

<sup>3</sup> National Focal Point

<http://www.cdmgoldstandard.org/our-supporters/ngos>

<https://cdm.unfccc.int/DNA/index.html>

<http://maindb.unfccc.int/public/nfp.pl>

### 3.3 Input & Grievance Mechanism

The 'Input & Grievance Mechanism' provides a transparent and continuous communication channel with stakeholders and is used in addition to the LSC. It ensures that issues that arise during the lifetime of a project are properly addressed.

The project proponent shall undertake the following **process** based on the type of certification that is being pursued:

#### **Process for Initial Certification**

For the Initial Certification the project proponent shall provide documentation using the template 'List of Inputs & Grievances'.

#### **Process for Performance Certification**

The 'List of Inputs & Grievances' is part of the 'Annual Reporting' process, thus for the Performance Certification all of the annually prepared lists of inputs/grievances since the last certification shall be provided.

1. The project proponent shall establish an 'Input & Grievance Mechanism' in accordance with the 'A/R Guidelines - Input & Grievance Mechanism'.

### 3.4 Sustainable Development (SD) Matrix

The 'SD Matrix' provides a general overview and a rating of the sustainability impacts of a project, together with a list of *mitigation measures* that relate to these impacts.

The project proponent shall undertake the following **process** based on the type of certification that is being pursued:

#### Process for Initial Certification

For the Initial Certification the project proponent shall use the template 'SD Matrix' which contains the table below. The scoring shall be against the without project scenario (baseline scenario) and easily reproducible (see also chapter '3.2 Local Stakeholder Consultation').

#### Process for Performance Certification

For the Performance Certification the project proponent shall update the existing filled-in template 'SD Matrix'. The most recent version of the template shall be used.

1. The project shall, at a minimum, contribute positively to two of the three indicator categories (Environmental, Social Development, Economic & Technical Development) and be neutral to the third category. All individual indicators are given the same weight.
2. Individual indicators that are scored positive (+1) or negative (-1) shall be subject to monitoring under the chapter '3.5 Sustainability Monitoring Plan'.

Indicator	Description and Score	Mitigation measure
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Negative impact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>score negative (-1) if the negative impact on the indicator is not fully mitigated</li> <li>score neutral (0) if the impact on the indicator is or is planned to be fully mitigated</li> </ul> </li> <li>No change in impact: score neutral (0)</li> <li>Positive impact: score positive (+1)</li> </ul>	If relevant, copy <i>mitigation measures</i> from the '3.1 Do-No-Harm Assessment', or include <i>mitigation measures</i> used to neutralise a negative (-1) score
<b>Environment</b>		
1. Air quality		
2. Water quality and quantity		
3. Soil condition		
4. Other pollutants		
5. Biodiversity		
<b>Social Development</b>		
6. Quality of employment		
7. Livelihood of the poor		
8. Access to affordable and clean energy services		
9. Human and institutional capacity		
<b>Economic &amp; Technical Development</b>		
10. Quantitative employment and income generation		
11. Access to investment		
12. Technology transfer and technological self-reliance		

### 3.5 Sustainability Monitoring Plan

This chapter provides the requirements for developing the 'Sustainability Monitoring Plan' for monitoring the *mitigation measures* identified in the chapters '3.1 Do-No-Harm Assessment' and '3.4 SD Matrix'.

The project proponent shall undertake the following **process** based on the type of certification that is being pursued:

#### Process for Initial Certification

For the Initial Certification the project proponent shall provide documentation using the templates 'Sustainability Monitoring Plan' which contains the table below.

#### Process for Performance Certification

For the Performance Certification the project proponent shall use an empty template 'Sustainability Monitoring Plan'; copy *remaining* parameters that have not yet reached their target and add *new* parameters from the update of the chapter '3.1 Do-No Harm Assessment' or '3.3 Input & Grievance Mechanism'.

1. The project proponent shall use the table below to define the monitoring for the *mitigation measures* identified in the chapters '3.1 Do-No-Harm Assessment' and '3.4 SD Matrix'.

2. The selected parameters shall be practical to measure and be relevant to the *mitigation measure*.

The table format for the 'Sustainability Monitoring Plan' is provided below. A separate table should be prepared for each of the parameters to be monitored.

Sustainability Monitoring ID		
Indicator for		
Mitigation measure		
Chosen parameter		
Current situation of parameter		
Estimation of baseline situation of parameter		
Target for parameter		
Monitoring	How will it be monitored and documented?	
	Who is responsible for monitoring and documentation?	
	When will it be monitored (duration and frequency)?	
	Who will check the performance against the target?	

### 3.6 Legal Rights

This chapter outlines the requirements to ensure that ownership and title for the CO<sub>2</sub>-certificates and the projects implementation are transparent and enforceable.

The project proponent shall undertake the following process based on the type of certification which is being pursued:

#### Process for Initial Certification

For the Initial Certification the project proponent shall provide documentation using the template 'Secured Titles', 'List of Representatives' and submit the signed templates 'Gold Standard General Terms & Conditions' and 'Cover Letter'.

#### Process for Performance Certification

For the Performance Certification the project proponent shall update the existing filled-in template 'Secured Titles' and 'List of Representatives'. The most recent version of the template shall be used.

#### Secured Titles

1. For all persons or legal entities listed in chapter '2. Key Project Information' the following information shall be provided:
  - (a) Name and contact details
  - (b) Each entity's legal registration number and documentation by the governing jurisdiction that proves that the entity is in good standing.
2. For the duration of the crediting period the project proponent shall:
  - (a) hold an uncontested legal land title for the project area, AND
  - (b) own the CO<sub>2</sub> user rights or carbon sequestration rights for the project area, AND
  - (c) own the rights for timber and non-timber forest products for the project area, AND
  - (d) hold all necessary permits to implement the project (planting permits, infrastructure permits, harvesting permits, etc.), AND
  - (e) participate in the financing of the project.

If the project proponent does not meet all of the above requirements, the persons or legal entities that do meet those respective requirements shall endorse the expected project being undertaken by the project proponent through an agreement that aligns with the duration of the crediting period.

#### Project Representatives

3. The project proponent shall provide a list of representatives for the project. The list shall identify responsibilities with respect to:
  - (a) communication with The Gold Standard Secretariat and the auditor
  - (b) representatives of the project proponent who can update the list of representatives for the project.

#### GTC and Cover Letter

4. The project proponent shall sign The Gold Standard's *General Terms & Conditions (GTCs)* and the declarations of the *Cover Letter*.

### 3.7 Risk Register

This section provides requirements to ensure that sufficient human, technical and financial capacities are available to the project in the long-term, and that material risks to the project are mitigated.

The project proponent shall undertake the following **process** based on the type of certification that is being pursued:

#### Process for Initial Certification

- For the Initial Certification each of the following risks shall be assessed on their relevance to the project.
- If not relevant; the project proponent shall provide a description of the non-relevance.
- If relevant; the project proponent shall score the risk with regard to the long-term viability of the project into the category *low*, *medium*, or *high*. The scoring shall be based on the likelihood of the risk occurring and the impact of that occurrence on the long-term viability of the project.
- If the rating is *medium* or *high* the mitigation measure shall be described and implemented.

For the documentation, the project proponent shall use the template 'Risk Register'.

#### Process for Performance Certification

For the Performance Certification the project proponent shall update the existing filled-in template 'Risk Register'. The most recent version of the template shall be used.

The table format for the 'Risk Register' is provided below with suggested risk topics.

Suggested Risk Topics	Risk score, based on likelihood and impact on the project	Mitigation measure
	high (+) medium (0) low (-) not relevant (n/a)	
<b>Management qualifications</b> in forestry, operations, finance, legal		
<b>Workers qualifications</b> in the technical implementation		
<b>Technical equipment</b>		
<b>Financial means:</b> complete and realistic income streams (investment, funding, co-funding, sales, etc.) and expenditure (administration, infrastructure, machines, labour, audits, unexpected expenditures, etc.)		
<b>Water:</b> drought, flood, hail, snow, heavy rains		
<b>Wind:</b> heavy wind, hurricanes		
<b>Animals:</b> domestic, wild		
<b>Fire:</b> natural fires, fire management		
<b>Diseases:</b> insects, bacteria, viruses		
<b>Temperatures:</b> frost, heat		
<b>Irregular resettlement or illicit crop production</b>		
<b>Exploitation of underground resources:</b> mining, water, etc.		

## 4. Additionality

### Requirements

#### 4.1 Additionality

The requirements in the section *Additionality* ensure that projects can demonstrate that they would not have been implemented without the benefits of carbon certification.

There are two options that the project proponent may use to demonstrate that the project is additional.

The project proponent shall undertake the following **process** based on the type of certification that is being pursued:

##### **Process for Initial Certification**

For the Initial Certification the project proponent shall provide documentation using the template 'Additionality'.

##### **Process for Performance Certification**

For the Performance Certification the project developer is not required to update the template 'Additionality'.

#### **Option 1 - A/R CDM Tools**

1. The project shall meet the additionality requirements of the latest version of the A/R CDM '*Combined tool to identify the baseline scenario and demonstrate additionality in A/R CDM project activities*'. Link: <http://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/ARmethodologies/tools/>

The CDM specific terms of the A/R CDM additionality tool (tCERs, A/R CDM project, etc.) shall be interpreted within The Gold Standard context.

The '*Guideline on the assessment of investment analysis*' and the '*Guidelines for objective demonstration and assessment of barriers*' can be used.

Link: <http://cdm.unfccc.int/Reference/Guidclarif/index.html>

### Option 2 - Positive List

2. The project shall meet all of the requirements (a), (b) and (c) in the list below and at least one of the requirements from (d) to (g) in order to be considered as additional under Option 2.
  - (a) The project shall not be mandatory by any law or regulation, **OR** if it is mandatory, it shall demonstrate that these laws or regulations are systematically not enforced.
  - (b) The project shall have no intention of creating a forest for the commercial use of the timber or non-timber forest products.
  - (c) The project is located in a Less Developed Country (LDCs) or in a region with a recent *UNDP Human Development Indicator*<sup>1</sup> below 0.8.
  - (d) The project area is located in a region with a mean annual precipitation of less than 600 mm.
  - (e) The soil pH of the planting area is less than 4.0.
  - (f) The planting area is planted with minimum 5 different native tree species in mixed stands, covering at minimum 50% of the planting area.
  - (g) The project area is located:
    - In a country or region with a recent *UNDP Human Development Indicator*<sup>1</sup> below 0.5, **OR**
    - In a *Small Island Developing State (SIDS)*<sup>2</sup>

The different choices under Option 2 are an extraction of choices from the CDM guideline '*Land type and/or land uses and socio-economic conditions in which afforestation/reforestation project activities are not likely to be implemented without the financial incentives of the CDM*'.

Other choices from this guideline can be requested for approval by The Gold Standard Secretariat.

### Retroactive submission

3. If the submission to the *Pre-Feasibility Assessment* was before the planting start, the project proponent shall demonstrate that
  - (a) the revenues from *CO<sub>2</sub>-certificates* were seriously considered in the decision to implement the project, **AND**
  - (b) there was continuous interest in *CO<sub>2</sub>-certificates* for the project in parallel with its implementation.

Evidence to support this can include: contracts, draft versions of project information, correspondence with financial institutions or other stakeholders, minutes and notes of meetings, agreements or negotiations with auditors, publications in newspapers.

For Option 1, this replaces requirement 7 of the '*Combined tool to identify the baseline scenario and demonstrate additionality in A/R CDM project activities*'.

### No Deforestation

4. The planting area shall not have been *forest*<sup>3</sup> for at least 10 years prior to the planting start, **OR**  
 In case the planting area was deforested in the 10 years prior to the planting start, evidence shall be provided which demonstrates that:
  - (a) the deforestation was caused by force majeure, **OR**
  - (b) the primary motivation for the deforestation was not the prospect of replanting the area and receiving *CO<sub>2</sub>-certificates* from the planting area.

<sup>1</sup> UNDP Human Development Indicator

<sup>2</sup> Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

<sup>3</sup> Forest

<http://hdr.undp.org/en/data/profiles/>

[www.un.org/special-rep/ohrls/sid/list.htm](http://www.un.org/special-rep/ohrls/sid/list.htm)

A forest is defined by the Designated National Authority (DNA) of the project's host-country: <http://cdm.unfccc.int/DNA>



# 5. Methodology

## Requirements

The section *Methodology* describes how a project determines its number of CO<sub>2</sub>-certificates.

In its first chapter '5.1 Applicability', the planting area is assessed on its *eligibility* to apply this methodology. The following chapter '5.2 Conversion Procedure' describes the conversion process from cubic meters [m<sup>3</sup>] of timber to tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent [tCO<sub>2</sub>]. In the subsequent chapters the '5.3 Calculation of CO<sub>2</sub>-certificates' is described, based on the parameters '5.4 Project Emissions', '5.5 Baseline', and '5.6 Leakage' which are deducted from the actual '5.7 CO<sub>2</sub>-Fixation' by the trees.

### 5.1 Applicability

The project proponent shall undertake the following **process** based on the type of certification that is being pursued:

#### Process for Initial Certification

For the Initial Certification the project proponent shall provide documentation using the template 'Applicability'.

#### Process - Performance Certification

For the Performance Certification the project proponent is not required to update the template 'Applicability'.

The project area shall meet all of the requirements below for this methodology to be applicable for the calculation of CO<sub>2</sub>-certificates from the project.

1. Areas shall be planted before the certification.
2. Areas shall not be on *wetlands*<sup>1</sup>.
3. Areas with *organic soils* shall not be drained or irrigated (except for irrigation for planting)
4. Soil disturbance (through ploughing, digging of pits, stump removals, infrastructure, etc.) on *organic soils*<sup>2</sup> shall be in less than 10% of the area that is submitted to certification (not 10% of the entire project area).
5. The most likely scenario without the project (baseline scenario) shall be defined for the project area. This scenario shall not show any *significant*<sup>3</sup> increase of 'tree' biomass.

<sup>1</sup> Wetland      Definition of wetland according to the IPCC: 'This category includes land that is covered or saturated by water for all or part of the year (e.g. peatland) and that does not fall into the forest land, cropland, grassland or settlements categories.' Source: IPCC - Good Practice Guidance - Wetlands.

<sup>2</sup> Organic soils      Organic soils fulfil one of the following requirements:

1. If the soil is never saturated with water for more than a few days, and contains >20% (by weight) of organic carbon (35% organic matter)
2. If the soil is subject to water saturation episodes and has either:
  - >12% (by weight) organic carbon (20% organic matter) if it has no clay
  - >18% (by weight) organic carbon (30% organic matter) if it has >60% clay
  - a proportional lower limit of organic carbon content between 12 and 18% if the clay content of the mineral fraction is between 0 and 60%

<sup>3</sup> Significant      Significant is defined to be more than 5% of the 'long-term CO<sub>2</sub>-Fixation' - see chapter '5.7 CO<sub>2</sub>-Fixation'.

### 5.2 Conversion Procedure

The requirements of the chapter *Conversion Procedure* prescribe how to convert 'tree biomass' from cubic meters [m<sup>3</sup>] or tonnes of dry matter [tdm] to tonnes of carbon [tC] and tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent [tCO<sub>2</sub>].

The project proponent shall undertake the following **process** based on the type of certification that is being pursued:

#### Process for Initial Certification

For the Initial Certification the project proponent shall provide documentation using the template 'CO<sub>2</sub>-Fixation'.

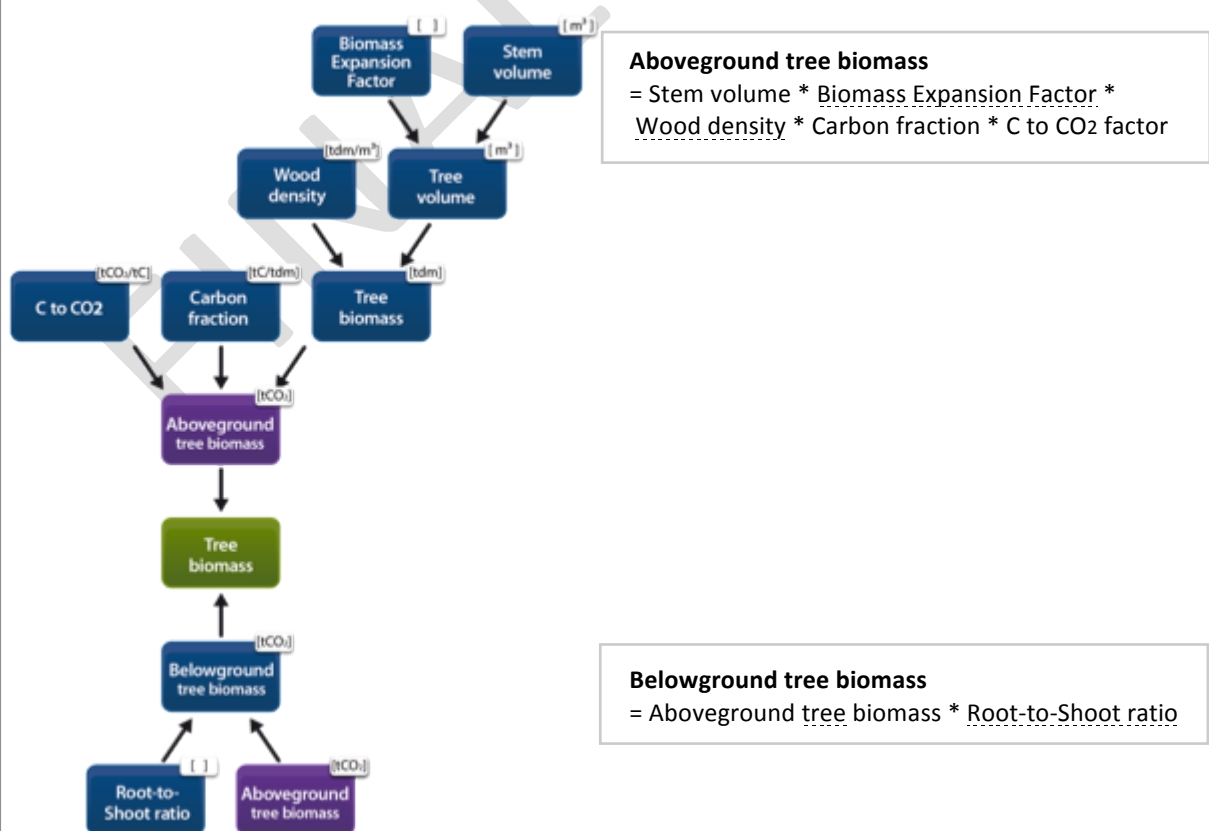
#### Process - Performance Certification

For the Performance Certification the project proponent is not required to update the *conversion factors* in the template 'CO<sub>2</sub>-Fixation'.

1. *Conversion factors* shall be determined on the level of a Modelling Unit:
  - (a) Wood Density
  - (b) Biomass Expansion Factor
  - (c) Root-to-Shoot ratio

All factors shall be based on the best available scientific sources.

For 'tree biomass' the following factors are the influencing parameters:

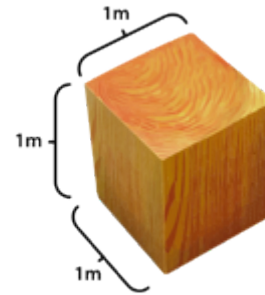


**Wood density** | The woody density is the ratio between the mass of dry wood divided by its volume.

Example:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Wood density} &= \text{Mass} / \text{Volume} \\
 &= 0.6 \text{ t} / 1 \text{ m}^3 \\
 &= 0.6 \text{ t} / \text{m}^3
 \end{aligned}$$

Often the unit t (tonnes) is expressed as tdm (tonnes of dry matter).

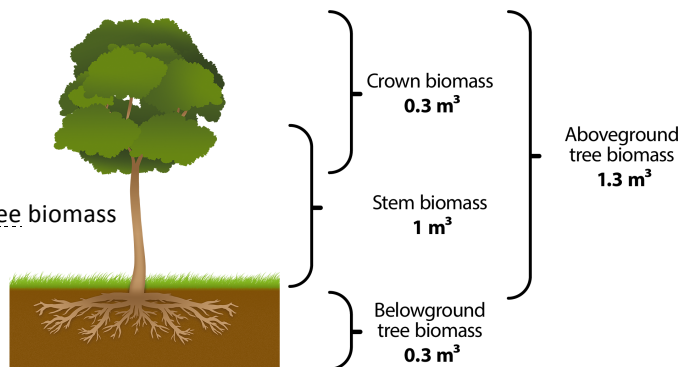


**Biomass Expansion Factor (BEF) and Root-to-Shoot ratio** | The following graph shows how the BEF and Root-to-Shoot ratio are determined based on the ratio of different parts of the tree.

Examples:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{BEF} &= \text{Aboveground tree biomass} / \text{Stem biomass} \\
 &= 1.3 \text{ m}^3 / 1 \text{ m}^3 \\
 &= 1.3
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Root-to-Shoot ratio} &= \text{Belowground tree biomass} / \text{Aboveground tree biomass} \\
 &= 0.3 \text{ m}^3 / 1.3 \text{ m}^3 \\
 &= 0.23
 \end{aligned}$$



The different factors can be influenced by one or several of the following attributes. The project proponent should consider these in deciding which factors are most appropriate for a particular Modelling Unit:

- Some BEFs already include the Root-to-Shoot ratio.
- The 'Stem volume' is based on a specific diameter of stump (x cm). The BEF should relate to this.
- Most Root-to-Shoot ratios are calculated from the 'Tree volume' (including branches and leaves/needles), but some are based on the 'Stem volume'.
- In cases where a *Biomass Conversion and Expansion Factor* (BCEF) is used the factors BEF and Wood density are both integrated.
- The BEF can be age-dependent and thus change over time.
- Dead-wood differs in its Wood density, BEF and Root-to-Shoot ratio from the living tree.
- Scientific sources can relate to a *relative* figure (0.4) or *calculative* figure (1.4).

### Conservative Approach

2. When aggregated together, the factors shall lead to a conservative calculation approach. This means that in the consideration and calculation of uncertainties:
  - (a) the CO<sub>2</sub>-Fixation shall not be overestimated, AND
  - (b) the Baseline and Leakage shall not be underestimated.

### Default Factors

3. The following *default factors* shall be used for all conversions:

- |     |               |                        |   |
|-----|---------------|------------------------|---|
| (a) | 0.5           | [tC/tdm]               | as the 'Carbon fraction' for 'tree biomass'     |
| (b) | 0.4           | [tC/tdm]               | as the 'Carbon fraction' for 'non-tree biomass' |
| (c) | $^{44}/_{12}$ | [tCO <sub>2</sub> /tC] | is used to convert 'C to CO <sub>2</sub> '      |

4. The following *default factors* shall be used when no rigorous scientific information is available:

For the parameters of CO<sub>2</sub>-Fixation:

- |     |     |                       |  |
|-----|-----|-----------------------|--|
| (a) | 0.3 | [tdm/m <sup>3</sup> ] | Wood density                           |
| (b) | 1.1 | [ ]                   | BEF                                    |
| (c) | 0.2 | [ ]                   | Root-to-Shoot ratio for 'tree biomass' |

For the parameters of Baseline or Leakage:

- |     |     |                       |  |
|-----|-----|-----------------------|--|
| (d) | 0.7 | [tdm/m <sup>3</sup> ] | Wood density                               |
| (e) | 3.5 | [ ]                   | BEF  |
| (f) | 0.8 | [ ]                   | Root-to-Shoot ratio for 'tree biomass'     |
| (g) | 4.0 | [ ]                   | Root-to-Shoot ratio for 'non-tree biomass' |

More *default values* for 'tree biomass' are in the *IPCC Guidelines for National GHG Inventories*:  
[http://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/public/2006gl/pdf/4\\_Volume4/V4\\_04\\_Ch4\\_Forest\\_Land.pdf](http://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/public/2006gl/pdf/4_Volume4/V4_04_Ch4_Forest_Land.pdf)

More *default values* for 'non-tree biomass' are in the *IPCC Guidelines for National GHG Inventories*:  
[http://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/public/2006gl/pdf/4\\_Volume4/V4\\_06\\_Ch6\\_Grassland.pdf](http://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/public/2006gl/pdf/4_Volume4/V4_06_Ch6_Grassland.pdf)

### 5.3 Calculation of CO<sub>2</sub>-certificates

1. The number of CO<sub>2</sub>-certificates is determined for every year (t) of the crediting period using the following formula.

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{CO}_2\text{-certificates} \\
 \text{[tCO}_2\text{]}
 \end{array}
 =
 \left(
 \begin{array}{c}
 \text{CO}_2\text{-Fixation} \\
 \text{of every MU [tCO}_2\text{/ha]}
 \end{array}
 -
 \begin{array}{c}
 \text{Baseline} \\
 \text{of every MU [tCO}_2\text{/ha]}
 \end{array}
 -
 \begin{array}{c}
 \text{Leakage} \\
 \text{of every MU [tCO}_2\text{/ha]}
 \end{array}
 -
 \begin{array}{c}
 \text{Other Emissions} \\
 \text{of every MU [tCO}_2\text{/ha]}
 \end{array}
 \right)
 *
 \begin{array}{c}
 \text{Eligible} \\
 \text{planting area} \\
 \text{[ha]}
 \end{array}$$

#### Summary of this Methodology

- The number of CO<sub>2</sub>-certificates is determined for each Modelling Unit. Therefore, the CO<sub>2</sub>-Fixation of every MU is determined and its portion of the total Baseline and total Leakage is deducted.
- The sum of all MUs CO<sub>2</sub>-certificates make up the CO<sub>2</sub>-certificates of the entire project.
- With the applicability conditions this methodology assumes no significant increase in the Baseline, so the Baseline is only deducted in year 1 (t=1).
- Also Leakage is only deducted in year 1 (t=1).
- Other Emissions are either linked to the Baseline and therefore deducted in year 1 (t=1) or linked to the use of fertilizer and deducted over time.

The project proponent shall undertake the following **process** based on the type of certification that is being pursued:

#### Process for Initial Certification

For the Initial Certification the project proponent shall meet the requirements by entering the numbers from chapters '5.4 Other Emissions', '5.5 Baseline', '5.6 Leakage' and '5.7 CO<sub>2</sub>-Fixation' in its *ClimateProjects*<sup>1</sup> account. The system will create a 'Modelling Units Report' that the project proponent shall submit to The Gold Standard Registry.

Instead of using the *ClimateProjects* software, the project proponent can also submit its 'Modelling Units Report' by creating a spread sheet with the calculations in accordance to the requirements of these chapters.

#### Process for Performance Certification

For the Performance Certification the project proponent shall meet the requirements by updating the numbers from the chapters '5.4 Other Emissions' and '5.7 CO<sub>2</sub>-Fixation' and in its *ClimateProjects* account. The system will create a 'Modelling Units Report' that the project proponent shall submit to The Gold Standard Registry.

Instead of using the *ClimateProjects* software, the project proponent can also submit its 'Modelling Units Report' by creating a spread sheet with the calculations in accordance to the requirements of these chapters.

<sup>1</sup> ClimateProjects

ClimateProjects is a web-based software that allows project proponents to manage their carbon calculation: [www.ClimateProjects.info](http://www.ClimateProjects.info)

### Scientific formulas of this Methodology

#### CO<sub>2</sub>-certificates MU,t

= (CO<sub>2</sub>-Fixation MU,t - Baseline MU,t - Leakage MU,t - Other Emissions MU,t) \* Eligible planting area MU

$$\text{CO}_2\text{-certificates Project area, t} = \sum_{\text{MU}=1}^{\text{MUs}} \sum_{t=1}^{\text{CP}} \text{CO}_2\text{-certificates MU, t}$$

CO<sub>2</sub>-certificates Project area, t = [tCO<sub>2</sub>/ha] CO<sub>2</sub>-certificates of a project area in year t

CO<sub>2</sub>-certificates MU,t = [tCO<sub>2</sub>] CO<sub>2</sub>-certificates of a MU in year t

MUs = 1, 2, 3, ... MUs of a project area

t = 1, 2, 3, ... Years of the crediting period

CP = [ ] Year the crediting period ends

The CO<sub>2</sub>-certificates are determined in a cumulative way, alongside the growth of a forest. This implies that at the beginning of a project, emissions from the parameters Other Emissions, Baseline, and Leakage can outweigh the parameter CO<sub>2</sub>-Fixation and the net amount of CO<sub>2</sub> sequestered is negative. In this case, no CO<sub>2</sub>-certificates are generated. Only when the accumulation becomes positive can CO<sub>2</sub>-certificates be issued.

The different parameters of this formula are described on the following pages.

### Carbon Pools

For the calculation of the parameters CO<sub>2</sub>-Fixation, Baseline and Leakage, the following carbon pools shall be assessed:

Carbon Pools		Includes	CO <sub>2</sub> -Fixation	Baseline	Leakage
Tree biomass	Aboveground	Stem, branches, bark	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Belowground	Tree roots	Yes	Yes	Yes
Non-tree biomass	Aboveground	Grass, herbs, etc.	No	Yes	No
	Belowground	Roots of grass, herbs, etc.	No	Yes	No
Soil		Organic material	No	No	No
Harvested wood (timber & energy wood)		Furniture, construction material, etc.	No	No	No
Litter & Lying dead-wood		Leaves, small fallen branches, lying dead wood	No	No	No

Standing dead-wood is part of the carbon pool 'tree biomass'.

Positive leakage (from activity shifts) shall not be accounted for under this methodology.

### 5.4 Other Emissions

The requirements in this chapter relate to the emissions that result from certain land preparation techniques, from the use of fertilisers and energy during project activities, and from nitrogen-fixing trees.

#### Site preparation

1. Where existing 'tree' and 'non-tree' biomass of the Baseline is burned for the purpose of land preparation, an additional 10% of the Baseline shall be deducted. This is to account for the non-CO<sub>2</sub> green-house-gas emissions (N<sub>2</sub>O and CH<sub>4</sub>) that are released during the burning process.

#### Fertilizer

2. 0.005 tCO<sub>2</sub> per kg of nitrogen (N) fertilizer shall be deducted. No differentiation is made between synthetic and organic fertilizer.

#### Combustion of fossil fuel

3. Non-CO<sub>2</sub> green-house-gas emissions caused by the use of fossil fuel from project activities (flights, management operations, etc.) are insignificant and may therefore be neglected.

#### N-fixing trees

4. Non-CO<sub>2</sub> green-house-gas emissions caused by the use of N-fixing species may be conservatively assumed to be zero.

The project proponent shall undertake the following **process** based on the type of certification that is being pursued:

#### Process for Initial Certification

For the Initial Certification the project proponent shall tick in its *ClimateProjects* account the Modelling Units (MUs) where the Baseline vegetation was burned (requirement 1). For the fertilizer (requirement 2) the project proponent shall submit the amounts in the provided fields of its *ClimateProjects* account.

Instead of using the *ClimateProjects* software, the project proponent can also submit its 'Modelling Units Report' by creating a spread sheet with the calculations in accordance to the requirements of these chapters.

#### Process for Performance Certification

No monitoring for requirement 1. For requirement 2 the project proponent shall update the amount of fertiliser used - in accordance with the figures submitted in its 'Annual Reports'.

Instead of using the *ClimateProjects* software, the project proponent can also submit its 'Modelling Units Report' by creating a spread sheet with the calculations in accordance to the requirements of these chapters.

### 5.5 Baseline

The Baseline is the estimated carbon stocks that would occur in the *baseline scenario*. The *baseline scenario* describes the activities that would occur in the absence of the proposed project.

The project proponent shall undertake the following **process** based on the type of certification that is being pursued:

#### Process for Initial Certification

For the Initial Certification the project proponent shall provide documentation using the template 'Baseline'. The resulting figures of this documentation shall be submitted to the projects ClimateProjects account.

Instead of using the *ClimateProjects* software, the project proponent can also submit its 'Modelling Units Report' by creating a spread sheet with the calculations in accordance to the requirements of these chapters.

#### Process for Performance Certification

For the Performance Certification the project proponent is not required to update the template 'Baseline'.

1. The Baseline shall be determined by estimating the 'tree' biomass that is present in the eligible planting area just prior to the planting start.

2. To determine the Baseline of the eligible planting area the land shall be
  - (a) stratified according to its vegetation types (grassland, bushland, etc.), AND
  - (b) for each of these strata scientifically based *local<sup>1</sup>*, regional or national *default values* shall be found which state the biomass of these vegetation types.

*International default values<sup>2</sup>* from the IPCC shall only be used if no other values are available.

3. The Baseline shall be determined on a Modelling Unit (MU) level using the following formula:

$$\text{Baseline MU}_t [\text{tCO}_2/\text{ha}] = \text{Baseline Eligible planting area} [\text{tCO}_2] / \text{Eligible planting area} [\text{ha}]$$

The Baseline is deducted in the first year ( $t=1$ ).

4. The Baseline is not subject to monitoring.

<sup>1</sup> Local default values

Local *default values* are project area specific value generated through a 'tree' and 'non-tree' inventory on the project area.

<sup>2</sup> International default values

International *default values* are found e.g. in the *IPCC Guidelines for National GHG Inventories*: [http://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/public/2006gl/pdf/4\\_Volume4/V4\\_04\\_Ch4\\_Forest\\_Land.pdf](http://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/public/2006gl/pdf/4_Volume4/V4_04_Ch4_Forest_Land.pdf)



### 5.6 Leakage

Leakage are emissions that occur due to a *shift of activities* from the inside of a project area to the outside of a project area.

These *shifts of activities* can cause four different categories of Leakage by:

- (a) collection of wood (for firewood, charcoal, etc.)
- (b) timber harvesting
- (c) farming (agriculture, shrimp, etc.)
- (d) livestock.

These four categories are used in the formulas below.

Note that only the 'tree biomass' affected by these activity shifts shall be considered.

The project proponent shall undertake the following **process** based on the type of certification that is being pursued:

#### **Process for Initial Certification**

For the Initial Certification the project proponent shall provide documentation using the template 'Leakage'. The resulting figures of this documentation shall be submitted to the projects ClimateProjects account.

Instead of using the *ClimateProjects* software, the project proponent can also submit its 'Modelling Units Report' by creating a spread sheet with the calculations in accordance to the requirements of these chapters.

#### **Process for Performance Certification**

For the Performance Certification the project proponent is not required to update the template 'Leakage'.

1. To determine the Leakage of a project area the formulas below shall be applied.

2. Leakage shall be determined on a Modelling Unit (MU) level using the following formula:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Leakage MU,t [tCO}_2\text{/ha]} \\ = \text{Leakage Project area [tCO}_2\text{]} / \text{Eligible planting area [ha]} \end{aligned}$$

Leakage is deducted in the first year (t=1).

3. Leakage is not subject to monitoring.

### Formula for category (a) (b) and (c)

**Leakage** Project area [tCO<sub>2</sub>]

= Area [ha] \* % of activity-shift [%] \* CO<sub>2</sub>-stock [tCO<sub>2</sub>/ha]

**Area** = Land within the project area where the activity is taking place

**% of activity-shift** = Percentage of the activity that

- will be displaced, **AND**
- will have impact on the 'tree biomass' outside the project area

The factor is determined by:

- credible estimations, **OR**
- a representative survey

**CO<sub>2</sub>-stock** = Average stock of 'tree biomass' on the area where the activity will be displaced to

If it is not known where the activity will be displaced to, the CO<sub>2</sub>-stock = the average stock of 'tree biomass' of a natural forest in the projects host-country

### Formula for category (d)

**Leakage** Project area [tCO<sub>2</sub>]

= Displaced heads [head] \* Grazing capacity [ha/head] \* CO<sub>2</sub>-stock [tCO<sub>2</sub>/ha]

**Displaced heads** = Amount of heads that

- will be displaced, **AND**
- will have impact on the 'tree biomass' outside the project area

The factor is determined by:

- credible estimations, **OR**
- a representative survey

**Grazing capacity** = Grazing capacity of the area where the livestock will be displaced to

**CO<sub>2</sub>-stock** = Average stock of 'tree biomass' on the area where the activity will be displaced to

If it is not known where the activity will be displaced to, the CO<sub>2</sub>-stock = the average stock of 'tree biomass' of a natural forest in the project's host-country

### 5.7 CO<sub>2</sub>-Fixation

The project proponent shall undertake the following **process** based on the type of certification that is being pursued:

#### Process for Initial Certification

For the Initial Certification the project proponent shall provide documentation using the template 'CO<sub>2</sub>-fixation'. Where useful, the *supporting documents* should contain a spread sheet file with the growth-models of the Modelling Units. The resulting figures of this documentation shall be submitted to the projects ClimateProjects account.

Instead of using the *ClimateProjects* software, the project proponent can also submit its 'Modelling Units Report' by creating a spread sheet with the calculations in accordance to the requirements of these chapters.

#### Process for Performance Certification

For the Performance Certification the project proponent shall update the existing filled-in template 'CO<sub>2</sub>-Fixation' based on the information of the 'Forest Inventory'. The most recent version of the template shall be used. The resulting figures of this documentation shall be used to update the projects ClimateProjects account.

Instead of using the *ClimateProjects* software, the project proponent can also submit its 'Modelling Units Report' by creating a spread sheet with the calculations in accordance to the requirements of these chapters.

1. The yearly (t) CO<sub>2</sub>-Fixation is determined at the level of Modelling Unit (MU) during the crediting period.

2. For every MU a growth-model and *conversion factors* (see chapter '5.2 Conversion Procedure') shall be determined.

3. The *conversion factors* allow the conversion of the 'Stem volume', which is normally measured in cubic meters [m<sup>3</sup>] during the *forest inventories*, to 'tree biomass' with the unit tCO<sub>2</sub>. For the conversion the chapter '5.2 Conversion Procedure' shall be followed.

The *conversion factors* are not subject to monitoring.

4. Existing 'tree biomass' from the carbon stock of the Baseline that is not removed shall be reflected in the growth-model.

5. A realistic survival-rate shall be reflected in the growth-model.

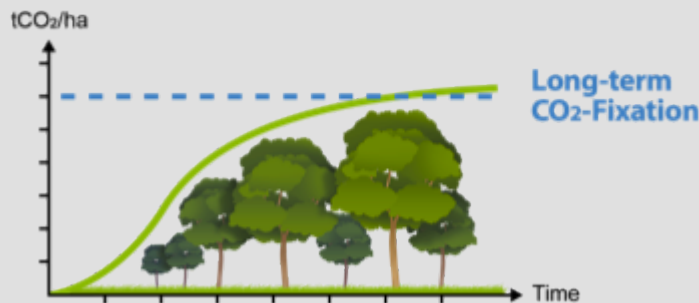
### Long-term CO<sub>2</sub>-Fixation

6. The *long-term CO<sub>2</sub>-Fixation* shall be determined depending on the *silvicultural method* applied / envisioned (see options below).

#### Option 1 - Selective harvesting or Conservation forest

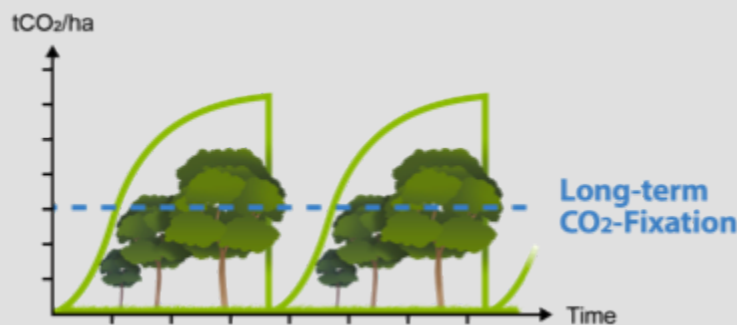
If the silvicultural method applied / envisioned is *selective harvesting*<sup>1</sup> or *conservation forest*<sup>2</sup>, the *long-term CO<sub>2</sub>-Fixation* is determined by the 'tree biomass' when a MU reaches its equilibrium.

If the 'tree biomass' is still increasing at the end of the *crediting period*, the *long-term CO<sub>2</sub>-Fixation* is determined by the 'tree biomass' of a MU in the year the *crediting period* ends.



#### Option 2 - Rotation forestry

If the silvicultural method applied / envisioned is 'rotation forestry', the *long-term CO<sub>2</sub>-Fixation* is the average 'tree biomass' of a MU during the *crediting period*.



$$CF_{MU, \text{long\_term}} = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^T CF_{MU, t}}{T}$$

$CF_{MU, \text{long\_term}}$	= [tCO <sub>2</sub> /ha]	Long-term CO <sub>2</sub> -fixation of a MU
$CF_{MU, t}$	= [tCO <sub>2</sub> /ha]	CO <sub>2</sub> -fixation of a MU in year t
T	= [ ]	Amount of years of the crediting period
t	= 1, 2, 3, ...	Years of the crediting period

<sup>1</sup> Selecting harvesting Selective harvesting is done through the continuous harvest of single trees or groups of trees by maintaining forest on the area.

<sup>2</sup> Conservation forest Conservation forest is forest managed without any intention of tree cutting.

### Forest Inventory

The project proponent shall undertake the following **process** based on the type of certification that is being pursued:

#### Process for Initial Certification

Normally, there are no results of a *forest inventory* during the Initial Certification. If there are, follow the process of the Performance Certification.

#### Process - Performance Certification

For the Performance Certification the project proponent shall provide documentation using the template 'Forest Inventory'. Its *supporting documents* shall contain a spread sheet file with the calculation of the *forest inventory* for each MU. The resulting figures of this documentation shall used to update the template 'CO<sub>2</sub>-Fixation'.

1. The growth-models of the MUs shall be confirmed / adjusted by the results of MU specific *forest inventories*.
2. For the *forest inventories* the 'A/R Guidelines - Forest Inventory' [coming]<sup>1</sup> shall be followed.
3. The process of a *forest inventory* shall be documented clearly and easy replicated.
4. *Forest inventories* shall be repeated at minimum before every Performance Certification.
5. The amount of sample plots of a *forest inventory* shall meet a MU precision with a maximum error of  $\pm 20\%$ , considering a confidence interval of minimum 90%. Where the error is above 20%, the additional difference shall be deducted (see example below).

#### Example:

A *forest inventory* determined the mean 'Stem volume' of a MU at  $100 \text{ m}^3/\text{ha}$  with an error of 23%.

The error is 3% higher than required:  $3\% * 100 \text{ m}^3/\text{ha} = 3 \text{ m}^3/\text{ha}$

The mean 'Stem volume' which can be accounted for is:  $100 - 3 = 97 \text{ m}^3/\text{ha}$

<sup>1</sup> In the meanwhile the forest inventory guidelines of the BioCarbon Fund ([Link](#)) or CarbonFix ([Link](#)) shall be followed.

# 6. Carbon Performance

## Requirements

### 6.1 Carbon Performance

The section *Carbon Performance* describes how a project proponent must ensure that the project carbon stocks are aligned with the number of issued CO<sub>2</sub>-certificates over time. This section also defines the activities which can be implemented if the project carbon stocks decline below the levels represented by issued CO<sub>2</sub>-certificates.

The project proponent shall undertake the following **process** based on the type of certification that is being pursued:

#### Process for Initial Certification

Not applicable.

#### Process for Performance Certification

For the Performance Certification the project proponent shall provide documentation using the template 'Carbon Performance'. The most recent version of the template shall be used.

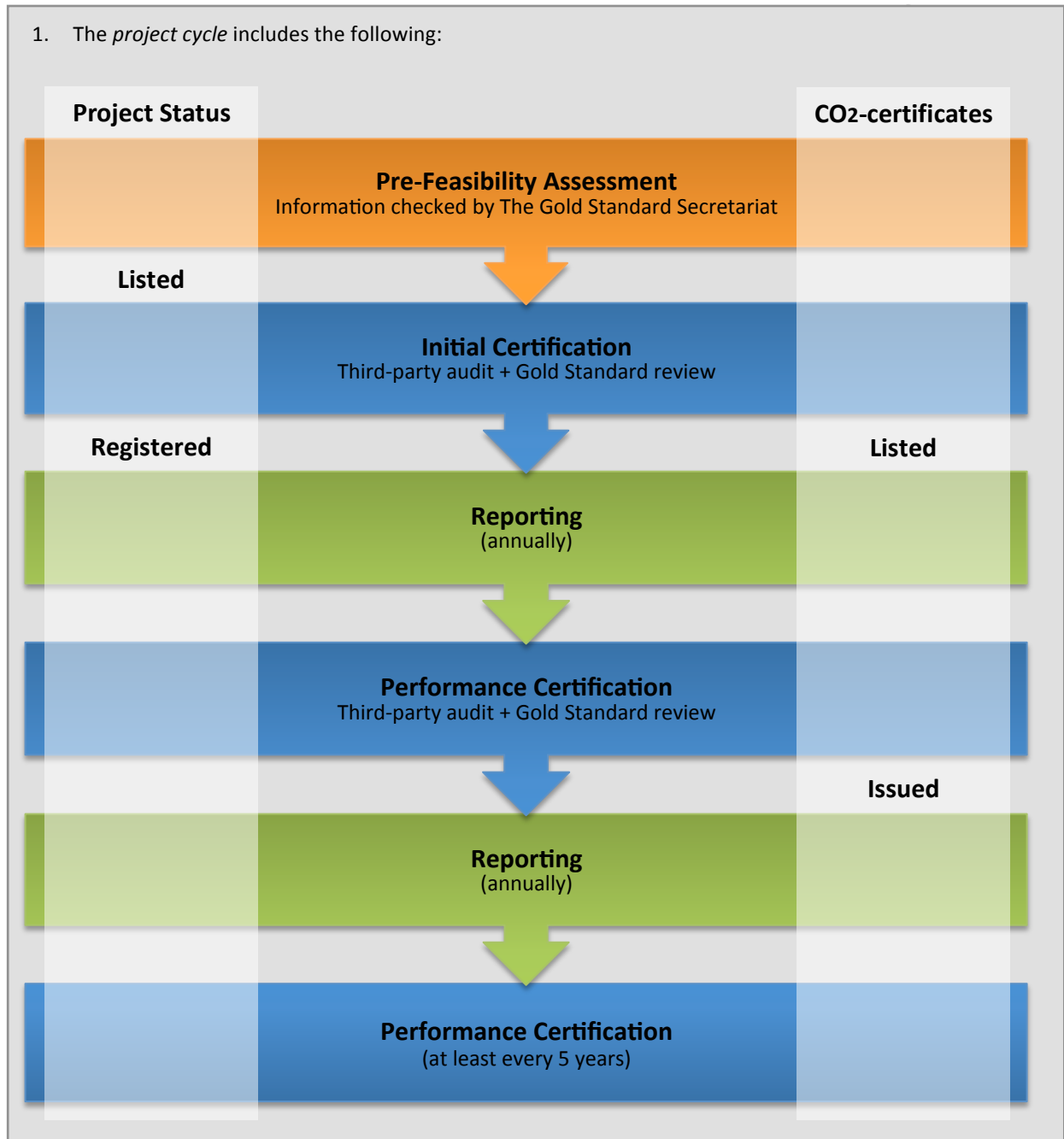
1. At any time during a crediting period, the project proponent shall ensure that the quantity of the issued CO<sub>2</sub>-certificates with respect to the project is less than or equal to the project's carbon stocks (expressed in tCO<sub>2</sub>).
2. Incidents, or events, that effect compliance with requirement 1 shall be reported to The Gold Standard Secretariat. If they occur outside a certification process, the incidents or events shall be reported to The Gold Standard Secretariat no more than 2 months after their discovery. The template 'Carbon Performance' shall be used for this reporting.
3. If compliance with requirement 1 is not maintained, the project proponent shall demonstrate to The Gold Standard Secretariat how the project will realistically recover appropriate levels of carbon stocks to comply with requirement 1.  
The project proponent shall use one or more of the following approaches:
  - (a) retiring of issued CO<sub>2</sub>-certificates from the project which are not yet transferred or retired
  - (b) purchasing of issued CO<sub>2</sub>-certificates from other Gold Standard certified projects
  - (c) replanting of an appropriate planting area and recovery of the project carbon stocks over time
  - (d) planting of new areas to generate further CO<sub>2</sub>-certificates

During the period where the project proponent is not in compliance with requirement 1, an equal number of CO<sub>2</sub>-certificates from The Gold Standard Compliance Reserve will be put on-hold.
4. Further CO<sub>2</sub>-certificates shall only be issued for the project after the project proponent has complied with requirement 1.
5. If the project proponent after 5 years cannot demonstrate that compliance with requirement 1 will occur, the project proponent shall follow the Non-Compliance (NC) process as outlined in section '8. Non-Compliance'.

## 7. Project Cycle Requirements

The *project cycle* includes the *certification* and *reporting* process for The Gold Standard 'A/R Requirements'. Fees related to the different steps are in the 'Annex XX Fee Schedule' [coming].

1. The *project cycle* includes the following:



### 7.1 Certification Process

1. A Pre-Feasibility Assessment is conducted by The Gold Standard Secretariat once at the beginning of a project.
2. The Pre-Feasibility Assessment is followed by the Initial Certification, which includes an audit by an accredited auditor together with a review by The Gold Standard Secretariat.
3. A Performance Certification shall be conducted after the Initial Certification and the project activities have commenced. Performance Certification shall occur at least every 5 years until the end of the crediting period.

### Pre-Feasibility Assessment

4. During the Pre-Feasibility Assessment The Gold Standard Secretariat checks the project information through a desk review. It assesses whether the project is likely to comply with the requirements.

The outcome of the Pre-Feasibility Assessment is the Pre-Feasibility Assessment report.

5. The Pre-Feasibility Assessment starts when the project proponent has
  - (a) signed and submitted the template 'General Terms and Conditions', AND
  - (b) submitted the template 'List of Representatives', AND
  - (c) submitted the first documents of the project information through The Gold Standard Registry, AND
  - (d) paid the *fee*<sup>1</sup> for the Pre-Feasibility Assessment.
6. A Pre-Feasibility Assessment can lead to:
  - (a) a successful Pre-Feasibility Assessment report without any CARs, FARs or OBSs, OR
  - (b) a successful Pre-Feasibility Assessment report with CARs, FARs or OBSs, OR
  - (c) an unsuccessful Pre-Feasibility Assessment report with at least one NC.
7. With a successful Pre-Feasibility Assessment report the project will obtain 'listed' status in The Gold Standard Registry. This means that:
  - (a) the project information is made publically available, AND
  - (b) the project proponent can promote the project according the Communication Guidelines<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Annex XX Fee Schedule

<sup>2</sup> Communication Guidelines

Link [coming]

Link [coming]



Every certification includes a third-party audit by an accredited auditor together with a review by The Gold Standard Secretariat.

### Audits

8. An audit is the assessment by an auditor to confirm the project's compliance with the requirements. It shall include, but is not limited to:
- (a) Audit planning, AND
  - (b) *Desk review*, AND
  - (c) Field visit (field observations and interviews with workers and stakeholders), AND
  - (d) Reporting.

9. The *desk review* shall take into account:
- (a) the submitted project information (*project documentation* and *supporting documents*), AND
  - (b) the 'Annual Reports' since the last certification, AND
  - (c) the audit report and review report of the last certification.

10. Once an audit is completed, the auditor provides a written report to The Gold Standard Secretariat. This report shall:
- (a) give an overview of the audit (including the quantity of CO2-certificates)
  - (b) describe the competency of the audit team
  - (c) give an overview on the history of the document
  - (d) describe the objectives and scope of the report
  - (e) describe the level of assurance and materiality levels for the estimation of CO2-certificates
  - (f) describe the methodology applied
  - (g) provide a summary of the assessment from the audit process
  - (h) provide an audit conclusion and opinion
  - (i) list the individual requirements of the assessment, including its Corrective Action Requests (CARs), Forward Action Requests (FARs), Observations (OBSs), and Non-Conformities (NCs).

The auditor shall use the template provided: [www.CDMGoldStandard.org/AR-Requirements](http://www.CDMGoldStandard.org/AR-Requirements)

11. An audit can lead to:
- (a) a successful audit report without any CARs, FARs and OBSs, OR
  - (b) a successful audit report with FARs and OBSs, OR
  - (c) an unsuccessful audit report with at least one NC.

### Review

12. During the review period The Gold Standard Secretariat, Gold Standard NGO Supporters and the Technical Advisory Committee may open new CARs or FARs on the project and the successful audit report.

If any new CARs or FARs are opened, these shall be addressed by the project proponent or the auditor. The Gold Standard Secretariat will document this in a review report.

13. The review period ends
- (a) after 8 weeks for the Initial Certification or after 3 weeks for a Performance Certification, AND
  - (b) when no more CARs are pending.

14. When the review period has ended, the project will obtain 'registered' or 'verified' status ('registered' in case of the Initial Certification). This means that:
- (a) the updated project information is made publically available, AND
  - (b) the project proponent can promote the project according the Communication Guidelines<sup>1</sup>.

### Issuance

15. After the review period the CO2-certificates are issued into the project proponent's Gold Standard Registry account.

16. 10% of the issued CO2-certificates shall be transferred into The Gold Standard Compliance Reserve. The project proponent may transfer CO2-certificates from other Gold Standard certified projects to the Gold Standard Compliance Reserve in lieu of the CO2-certificates from the project.

<sup>1</sup> Communication Guidelines

Link [coming]

### 7.2 Reporting

Through the 'Reporting' requirements, transparent and frequent updates on the project's performance and compliance are ensured, in addition to the information provided by the certifications.

1. *Reporting* shall take place on an annual basis.

2. For the *reporting*, the project proponent shall use the template 'Annual Report' and  
(a) upload it through The Gold Standard Registry, AND  
(b) send it to stakeholders that show interest in the project.

3. The 'Annual Report' shall focus on information since the last 'Annual Report'. It shall include:  
(a) a summary (in English and local language) of the recent projects activities  
(b) a clear statement (in English and local language) on how stakeholders can provide inputs/grievances  
(c) a list of inputs/grievances which have been received together with their respective answers/actions

The following documents shall be submitted together with the 'Annual Report' as *supporting documents*:

- (d) an update of the template 'Key Project Information'
- (e) an update of the template 'Stakeholders List' (which includes the stakeholders who will receive the 'Annual Report')
- (f) the most recent certification report
- (g) an update of the template 'Legal Rights' (in case of changes)

The project proponent shall attest to the accuracy of the information provided by its signature on the 'Annual Report'.

4. Based on the uploaded 'Annual Report', The Gold Standard Secretariat, Gold Standard NGO Supporters and the Technical Advisory Committee can assess the continuous compliance of the project to the 'A/R Requirements'.

Identified or reported Non-Compliances (NCs) are processed according to the procedures outlined in section '8. Non-Compliance'.

### 7.3 Technical Procedure & Formatting

1. The project proponent shall create an account on The Gold Standard Registry - [www.CDMGoldStandard.org/our-projects/project-registry](http://www.CDMGoldStandard.org/our-projects/project-registry)
2. With this account project information can be submitted for the Pre-Feasibility Assessment and any certification.
3. All project information, except confidential information, shall be made publically available through *The Gold Standard Registry*.
4. For the documentation of the project information the various templates are available at [www.CDMGoldStandard.org/AR-Requirements](http://www.CDMGoldStandard.org/AR-Requirements)
5. Templates shall be filled out in green using a Calibri, size 10 font.
6. Red coloured comments in the template shall be deleted before document submission.
7. The *project documents* and *supporting documents* shall be submitted in
  - (a) English, OR
  - (b) a language that has been agreed upon by the project proponent, The Gold Standard Secretariat and the auditor.
8. Figures above one thousand shall be formatted with a space (1,000,000), and decimals will be separated by a point (1.35).
9. Pictures, graphs and tables within project documents shall be clearly marked with a unique ID.
10. Maps shall include the following information:
  - (a) Name of the project
  - (b) ID of the project
  - (c) Legend
  - (d) Printing date
  - (e) Scale
  - (f) Direction of North
  - (g) GPS coordinate system (e.g. WGS 84)
  - (h) GPS grid
  - (i) Infrastructure (roads, houses, etc.) and rivers
  - (j) Information on the satellite or aerial picture (date, resolutions, data source)

## 8. Non-Compliance Requirements

### 8.1 Non-Compliance Process

1. Project proponents shall report possible Non-Compliances (NCs) on requirements within 1 month of their discovery.

2. Any reported NC will be investigated by The Gold Standard Secretariat together with the Technical Advisory Committee.

A NC shall have at minimum one of the following characteristics:

- (a) it continues over a long time
- (b) it is repeated/systematic
- (c) it affects a significant area
- (d) it causes significant damage

3. Depending on the strength of the reported NC presumption, the project proponent's account on *The Gold Standard Registry* may be frozen during the time of investigation.

4. When clear evidence is found confirming the NC the project is *suspended*.

5. When clear evidence is found confirming the project cannot rectify the NC, the *suspended project* is *cancelled*, and the project is no longer a Gold Standard certified project.

6. The *cancellation* of a project leads to the retirement of a corresponding number of CO<sub>2</sub>-certificates from *The Gold Standard Compliance Reserve*. With this, the permanence of CO<sub>2</sub>-certificates that have been transferred or retired is maintained.



FINAL DRAFT

#### History of this document

Version	Date	Nature of revision
01	August 2013	Initial publication