

Gold Standard[®]

Climate Security & Sustainable Development

Climate Security +
Sustainable Development for All



Acknowledgements

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Special thanks to:

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GS Team:

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Climate Security & Sustainable Development

With support from:



Fact-Sheet: Gold Standard project, energy scope

This document provides basic information for developing a Gold Standard project under the Energy Scope.

The user can find a straightforward explanation about our principles and project certification cycle, including references to Gold Standard literature and other useful resources.

Fact-Sheet: Gold Standard project, energy scope

How to use this document?

OUR CERTIFICATION PROCESS

3. Engage
3.5 LSC for Retroactive projects

- GS may recommend a live meeting for SFR based on project do during 'Fast-Track' or 'Full PFA'.
- Inputs from stakeholders during SFR on:
 - Grievance Mechanism
 - Transfer of credit ownership for distributed heating/cooking proj
 - For large scale retroactive hydro projects, a LSC in line with GS re to be conducted

Resources:

- [GSv2.2 Toolkit, Section 2.5 Apply for a Pre-Feasibility Assessment if necessary.](#)
- [v2.2 ANNEX-P Fast Track Procedure.pdf](#)
- [Annex W, Grievance Mechanisms](#)
- [Annex C, Specify Eligibility Criteria, Project type: Hydro](#)

Back to "Our principles" Back to "Our Certification process"

Making Good Better **Gold Standard**
Climate Security & Sustainable Development

The resources provided includes a link to the relevant document or webpage.

Go to the "Our Principles" or "Certification Process" by clicking at the bottom in each slide.

OUR PRINCIPLES

All Gold Standard projects must adhere to the following principles:

Gold Standard Projects must...	1. Do no harm - complying with the UN Millennium Development Goals	2. Enhance sustainable development	3. Involve all relevant stakeholders
	4. Deliver real GHG emission reductions	5. Be compliant with all relevant laws and Gold Standard Principles	6. Be transparent
			7. Be continually and regularly monitored, reported and verified

Back to "Our Certification process"

Making Good Better **Gold Standard**
Climate Security & Sustainable Development

Go to specific section by clicking the step shown in the menu slide.

Fact-Sheet: Gold Standard project, energy scope

Content

Introduction:

- Why develop a GS project?

Our principles:

- 'Do-No Harm' Assessment
- Enhance Sustainable Development
- Involve all relevant stakeholders
- Deliver real GHG emission reductions
- Ensure compliance with all relevant laws and transparency
- Monitor continuously and regularly Report and Verify (MRV)

Our certification process

- **Select:** Project type
- **Enrol:** GS registry account
- **Engage:** Local Stakeholder Consultation, Stakeholder Feedback Round, Continuous inputs & Grievance Mechanisms
- **Finalize:** Templates, Implement, Validation, Registration
- **Monitor:** Carbon and Sustainable Development impact monitoring
- **Report:** Carbon Reporting, SD Reporting
Verify: Verification, Issuance of Credits

Marketing and communication

- Feature your project



Introduction

Why develop a Gold Standard project?

- **Higher price in the market.** Reports show that Gold Standard credits continue to command a higher price*.
- **Amplifying the impacts.** Our standards are designed to enable you to maximise the impacts of your projects.
- **Higher integrity = lower risk.** Gold Standard was created by WWF and continues to be driven by 80+ NGOs. Our supporters, principles and approach reduces risk and provides vital assurances for investors and buyers.
- **Streamlined project development process.** We remain available to assist project developers throughout the life of a project.
- **Regional support all around the world.** Help provided in local languages: Chinese, Turkish, Spanish, German, Hindu.
- **Build more demand.** We are committed to building demand for Gold Standard projects and will work with you to do this.
- **Strong partnerships.** We work closely with key industry standards like FSC, Fairtrade, and Rainforest Alliance, to ensure that we remain the highest standard for climate and development initiatives.
- **Pioneering approach.** We continually work with our partners, creating new and innovative ways for driving finance into climate and development initiatives.

*The full report is available in the following link: http://forest-trends.org/releases/uploads/SOVCM2015_FullReport.pdf

CONTRIBUTE TO A SUSTAINABLE,
EQUITABLE WORLD



PARIS2015
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
COP21•CMP11



THE GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development

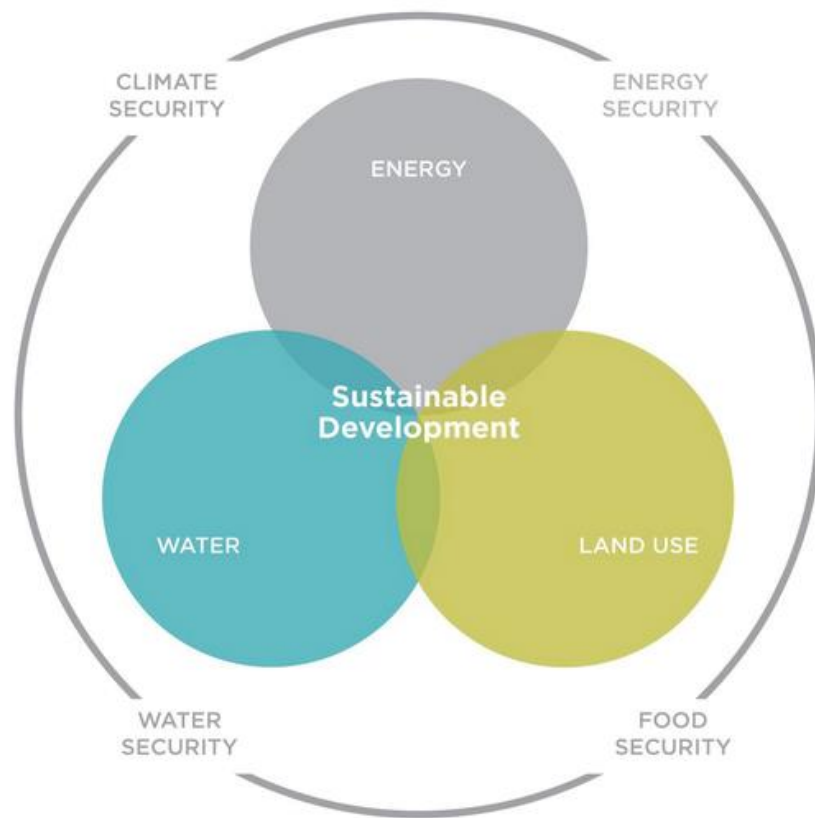
Gold Standard[®]

Gold Standard Version 3.0

Gold Standard is currently working on the development of Version 3.0. Below is a brief summary of how the standard is evolving and why.

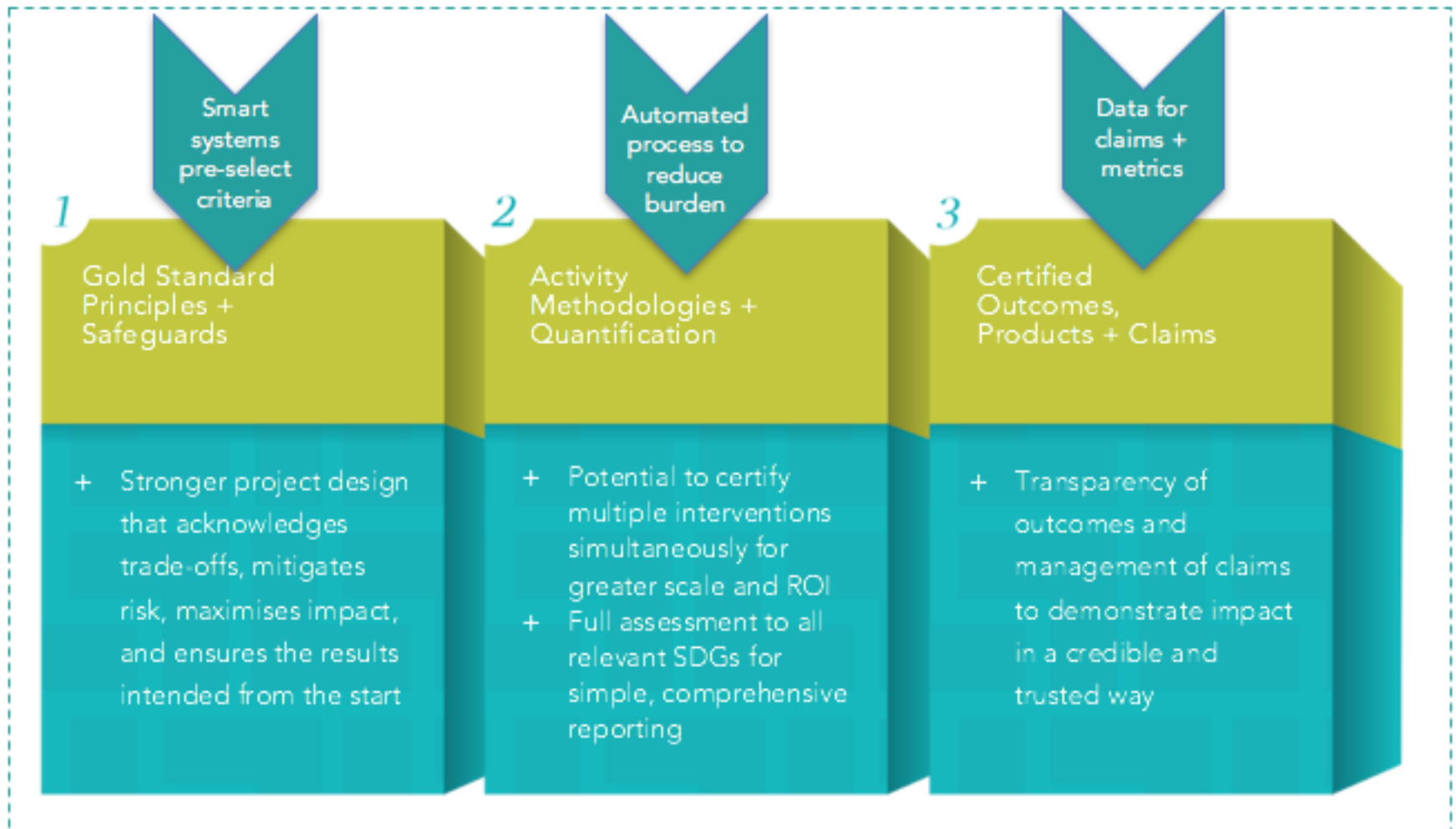
One comprehensive and integrated standard to:

- Guide best-practice design and implementation of climate and development projects
- Quantify progress to report against any given SDG target
- Set the foundation for results-based finance for a broad set of outcomes that contribute to keeping warming under 1.5°C and meet the SDGs



Gold Standard Version 3.0

SUPPORTED WITH NEW IT INFRASTRUCTURE



Our principles

All Gold Standard projects must adhere to the following principles:

Gold
Standard
Projects
must...

1.

Do no harm -
complying with the
UN Millennium
Development Goals

2.

Enhance
sustainable
development

3.

Involve all relevant
stakeholders

4.

Deliver real GHG
emission reductions

5.

Be compliant with
all relevant laws
and Gold Standard
Principles

6.

Be transparent

7.

Be continually and
regularly
monitored,
reported and
verified

Our principles

1. 'Do No Harm': Complying with the the UN Millennium Development Goals

You will now assess the risk that your project could have harmful impacts. The safeguarding principles of the UNDP lead your 'Do No Harm' assessment. These principles are derived from the Millennium Development Goals

Resources:

- [GSv2.2 Toolkit. Section 2.4.1 'Do No Harm' assessment](#)
- [Annex H, 'Guidance for 'Do no harm' assessment](#)



Safeguarding Principles

Human Rights

- 1 The project respects internationally proclaimed human rights including dignity, cultural property and uniqueness of indigenous people. The project is not complicit in Human Rights abuses.
- 2 The project does not involve and is not complicit in involuntary resettlement.
- 3 The project does not involve and is not complicit in the alteration, damage or removal of any critical cultural heritage.

Labour Standards

- 4 The project respects the employees' freedom of association and their right to collective bargaining and is not complicit in restrictions of these freedoms and rights
- 5 The project does not involve and is not complicit in any form of forced or compulsory labour.
- 6 The project does not employ and is not complicit in any form of child labour.
- 7 The project does not involve and is not complicit in any form of discrimination based on gender, race, religion, sexual orientation or any other basis.
- 8 The project provides workers with a safe and healthy work environment and is not complicit in exposing workers to unsafe or unhealthy work environments

Environmental Protection

- 9 The project takes a precautionary approach in regard to environmental challenges and is not complicit in practices contrary to the precautionary principle. This principle can be defined as: "When an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically."
- 10 The project does not involve and is not complicit in significant conversion or degradation of critical natural habitats, including those that are (a) legally protected, (b) officially proposed for protection, (c) identified by authoritative sources for their high conservation value or (d) recognised as protected by traditional local communities

Anti-Corruption

- 11 The project does not involve and is not complicit in corruption.



Our principles

2. Enhance sustainable development



2.1 Sustainable development matrix

Sustainable Development Indicators covering three categories:

- Environmental
- Social Development
- Economic and Technological Development

Linked to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Project scores each indicator (-, 0, +) using measurable parameters by comparing the baseline scenario to the project scenario

Resources:

- [GSv2.2 Toolkit. Section 2.4.2 Detailed impact assessment - sustainable development matrix](#)
- [Annex I, 'Guidance on SD Indicators'](#)
- [Annex AC, 'Sustainable Development Indicators Questions'](#)

Indicator	Mitigation measure	Relevance to achieving MDG	Chosen parameter and explanation	Preliminary score
Gold Standard indicators of sustainable development.	If relevant copy mitigation measure from "do no harm" – table, or include Mitigation measure used to neutralise a score of '-'	Check www.undp.or/mdg and www.mdgmonitor.org Describe how your indicator is related to local MDG goals	Defined by project developer	Negative impact: score '-' in case negative impact is not fully mitigated score 0 in case impact is planned to be fully mitigated. No change in impact: score 0 Positive impact: score '+'
Air quality				
Water quality and quantity				
Soil condition				
Other pollutants				
Biodiversity				
Quality of employment				
Livelihood of the poor				
Access to clean & affordable services				
Human and institutional capacity				
Quantitative employment and income generation				
Access to investment				
Technology transfer and technological self-reliance				



Our principles

2. Enhance sustainable development



2.2 Sustainability monitoring plan matrix

Sustainability monitoring plan should be prepared for:

- Each non-neutral indicator
- All mitigation measures (from both the 'Do No Harm' assessment and neutralised indicators, and from EIA if applicable and not already covered in SD matrix)
- Stakeholder concerns (identified during LSC/SFR)

Resources:

- [GSv2.2 Toolkit. Section 2.4.3 Sustainability Monitoring Plan \(get the document here\)](#)
- [Annex I, 'Guidance on SD Indicators'](#)

No.	
Indicator	
Mitigation measure	
Repeat for each parameter	
Chosen parameter	
Current situation of parameter	
Estimation of baseline situation of parameter	
Future target for parameter	
Way of monitoring	How
	When
	By who



Our principles

2. Enhance sustainable development



2.3 Environmental & Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)

Your project has to fulfil host country (local, regional or national) requirements concerning Environmental & Social Impact Assessments.

As part of the Cover Letter, you must provide to Gold Standard a declaration warranting that the project complies with local legislation.

Resources:

- [GSv2.2 Toolkit. Section 2.4.4 Environmental & Social Impact Assessment \(ESIA\)](#)
- [Annex S, Cover letter](#)



Our principles

3. Involve all relevant stakeholders



3.1 Local Stakeholder Consultation Process

All the Gold Standard projects should have at least two rounds as part of the socialisation process. A 'bottom-up' participatory approach ensures all the stakeholders have the chance to participate.

The outcome of the stakeholder consultation process is well documented and transparently accessible for everyone, e.g., in the GS Passport and the PDD in the case of the micro-scale projects.

Resources:

[GSv2.2 Toolkit. Section 2.6.1 Local Stakeholder Consultation Meeting](#)

[Annex J, LSC Best Practices](#)

[LSC Report Template](#)



Our principles

4. Deliver real GHG emissions reductions



- The emissions reductions delivered by a project shall be thoroughly and accurately measured as well as reviewed by an approved independent third party AND Gold Standard Secretariat.
- The project shall demonstrate that emissions reductions and carbon sequestration are beyond business as usual, i.e., additional.

Resources:

- [Gold Standard Principles](#)
- [Gold Standard Energy Requirements](#)
- [GSv2.2 Toolkit. Section 2.3 Additionality Assessment](#)
- [List of DOEs](#)
- [Information about GS Audit Framework](#)
- [Tool for the demonstration and assessment of additionality](#)
- [GS Methodologies](#)
- [UNFCCC Methodologies](#)



Our principles

5. Be compliant with all relevant laws and Gold Standard principles



- The project shall follow the certification steps as outlined in the specific requirements for each scope and project type to ensure compliance with Gold Standard principles.
- The project developer shall sign a Gold Standard declaration confirming that the project is compliant with local laws and relevant international laws.
- The project shall demonstrate that property ownership and rights have been determined and clearly documented.

Resources:

- [Annex D, ODA Declaration Form](#)
- [Annex M, Terms & Conditions](#)
- [Annex S, Cover Letter](#)
- [Annex AI, Guidance Cover Letter](#)



Our principles

6. Be transparent



- The project's information shall be well documented to enable reproducibility and tracing of certified information.
- Project documents shall be made public on the Gold Standard Registry e.g. PDD, GS passport, LSC Report, Validation & Verification Reports, EIA.
- The 'continuous inputs & grievance mechanisms' establish a formal channel of communication with the stakeholder along the crediting period.

Resources:

- [Our Project Registry](#)
- [Transparency Initiative](#)
- [GS Annex W Continuous inputs & grievance mechanisms](#)



Our principles

7. Be continually and regularly monitored, reported and verified



- The sustainable development monitoring plan is prepared based on:
 - ‘Do No Harm’ assessment outcome, and;
 - sustainable development impact assessment
- All the parameters belonging to the monitoring plan shall be regularly monitored, reported and verified.
- Independent, accredited certification bodies shall verify that the project meets all rules and that all claims and calculations are accurate.
- The Gold Standard secretariat shall review all documentation and may require corrections or enhancements where needed to ensure that a project meets Gold Standard requirements. These corrections or enhancements may take place after the third party audit if that is deemed to be incomplete or incorrect.

Resources:

- [GSv2.2 Toolkit. Section 2.4.1 ‘Do No Harm’ Assessment](#)
- [Annex H, ‘Guidance for ‘Do no harm’ assessment ’](#)
- [GSv2.2 Toolkit. Section 2.4.2 Detailed impact assessment - sustainable development matrix](#)
- [Annex I, ‘Guidance on SD Indicators’](#)
- [Annex AC, ‘Sustainable Development Indicators Questions’](#)
- [GSv2.2 Toolkit. Section 2.4.3 Sustainability Monitoring Plan](#)
- [Annex I, ‘Guidance on SD Indicators’, Certification Process 4. Finalize, Certification Process 8. Verify](#)



Our certification process

To achieve Gold Standard certification, projects must follow these simple steps

1. Select

Read requirements to identify whether your project is suitable for Gold Standard certification.

2. Enroll

Open a Gold Standard registry account.

3. Engage

Review your project design with those affected by the project in a Local Stakeholder Consultation.

4. Finalize

Submit project documentation after addressing stakeholder feedback.

[The Registration Review involves the GS Secretariat, GS TAC and GS NGOs Supporters](#)

5. Implement

Begin project activity.

6. Monitor

Third party auditing of outcomes.

7. Report

Provide annual updates on development.

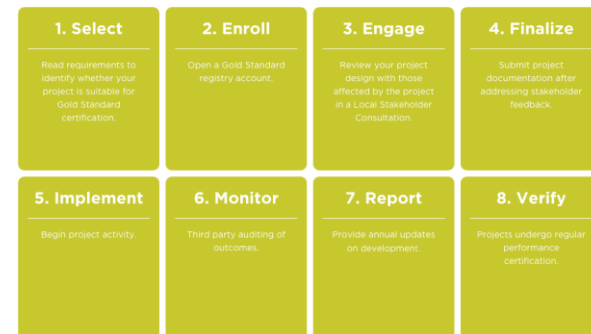
8. Verify

Projects undergo regular performance certification.

[The Issuance Review involves the GS Secretariat, GS TAC and GS NGOs Supporters](#)

Our certification process

Project cycle



- Depending on the start date of the project activity, the project follows either the regular project cycle or the retroactive cycle.
- ‘Time of first submission’** means submission of the Local Stakeholder Consultation Report for projects proceeding under the regular project cycle, and submission of the required Gold Standard project documentation for a Pre-Feasibility Assessment and payment of the applicable fee under the retroactive project cycle. LSC report must be uploaded into GS registry within three months after the date of the meeting.

Regular project cycle:

- The regular project cycle applies to project activities that apply for Gold Standard registration (time of first submission) before the start date of the project.

Retroactive project cycle :

- Retroactive project cycle applies to project activities that apply for Gold Standard registration (time of first submission) after the start date of the project.
- Also, please check GS Annex C for the type of projects that require to undergo for a Full PFA irrespective their start date.

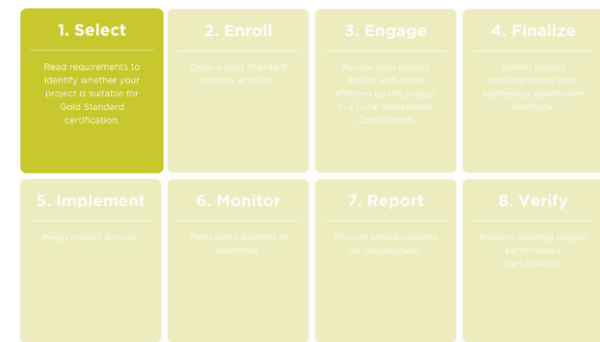
Resources:

- [GSv2.2 Toolkit. Section 2.5 Apply for a Pre-Feasibility Assessment if necessary.](#)
- [v2.2 ANNEX-P Fast Track Procedure.pdf](#)
- [Annex C, Specific Eligibility Criteria](#)



Our certification process

1. Select



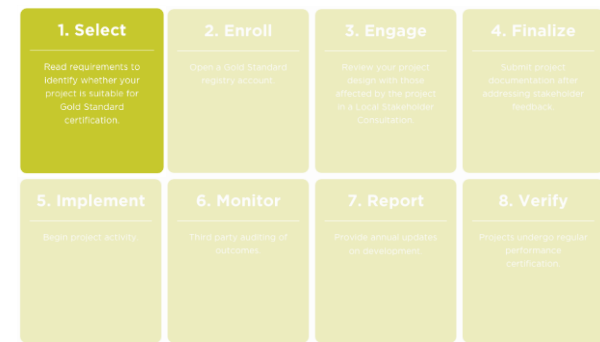
- Read the requirements to identify whether your project is suitable for Gold Standard Certification.
- Assess the project eligibility
 - Scale of project
 - Host country or state
 - Type of project
 - Greenhouse gases
 - Official Development Assistance (ODA)
 - Project timeframe
 - Other Certification Schemes
- Note: In regard to prior consideration, in order to be eligible under GS, a retroactive project must submit the required documents to GS within one year of its start date.

Resources:

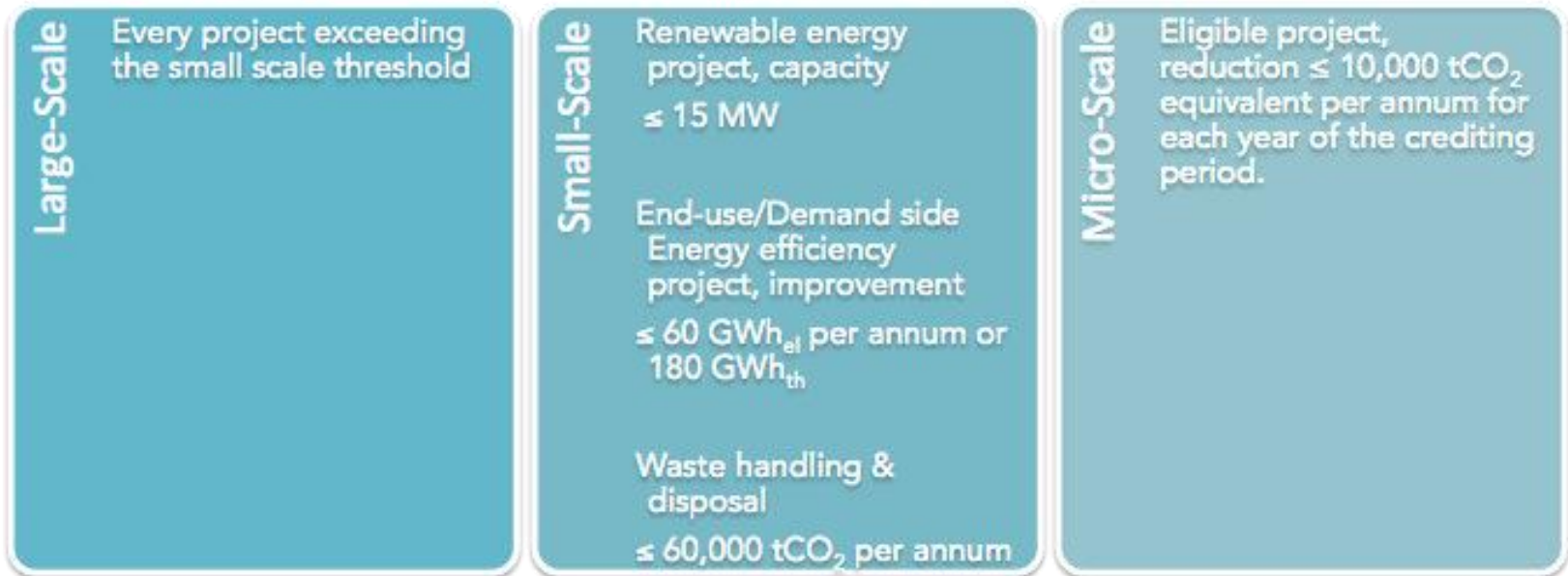
- [Gold Standard Energy Requirements, Section III](#)
- [GSv2.2 Toolkit. Section 1.2 Assess project eligibility](#)
- [Annex C, Specific Eligibility Criteria](#)
- [Annex B, Project Cycle Overview](#)

Our certification process

1. Select



1.1 Scale of project



Resources:

- [Gold Standard Energy Requirements, Section III.e](#)
- [GSv2.2 Toolkit. Section 1.2.1 Scale project](#)
- [Annex T, Standalone Micro-Scale Scheme](#)
- [Annex AE, Stand Alone Micro-Scale Flowcharts](#)

Our certification process

1. Select



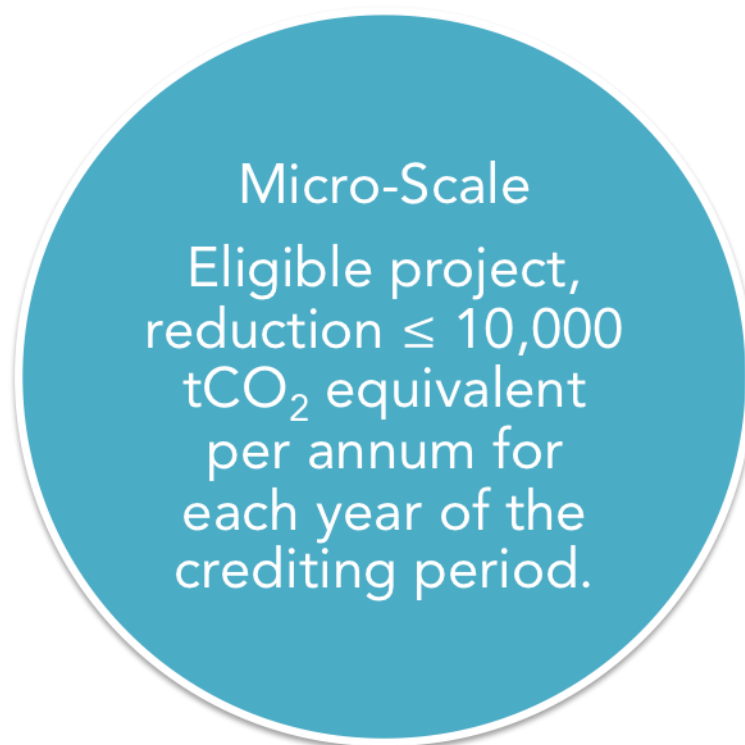
1.1.1 Micro-scale

To keep costs to a minimum, special considerations shall be given for development of micro-scale project.

- Specific templates for the design documents
- Projects can opt for internal validation/verification
- Simplified Project Design, additionality assessment and SD assessment.
- Objective Observer for project appraisal

Resources:

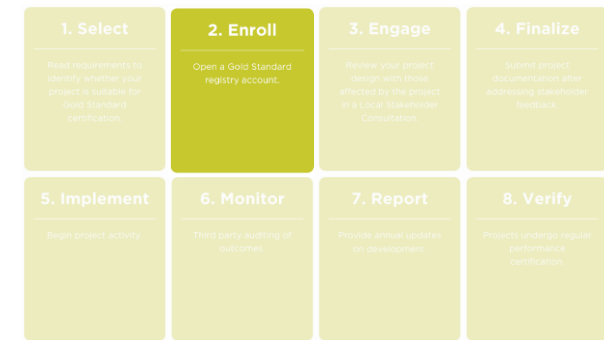
- [Gold Standard Energy Requirements, Section III.e](#)
- [GSv2.2 Toolkit. Section 1.2.1 Scale project](#)
- [Annex T, Standalone Micro-Scale Scheme](#)
- [Annex AE, Stand Alone Micro-Scale Flowcharts](#)
- [Annex AP, Micro-scale Project Design Document](#)
- [Sustainable Development Accreditation Scheme](#)





Our certification process

2. Enroll



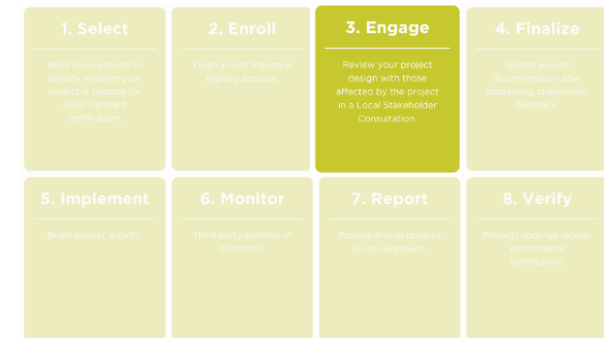
- Once you have screened your project and decided to develop it under Gold Standard, you need to open an account in the GS Registry.
- You will need such an account in order to apply for Gold Standard registration. The Gold Standard Registry is a web-based software application that provides a secure and transparent platform for our project administration and a tracking tool for our VER credits.

Resources:

- [Annex E, Registry Operational Guidelines](#)
- [Our Project Registry](#)
- [Apply for a Gold Standard Registry Account here](#)
- [Transparency Initiative](#)

Our certification process

3. Engage



3.1 Local Stakeholder Consultation Meeting (LSC)

The LSC shall meet the following criteria:

- All stakeholders understand and adapt to the abilities of the stakeholders present
- All stakeholders have the opportunity to be involved
- The meeting is well documented, e.g., Invitations/notifications, participants list, dates, feedback forms, other meetings.
- The meeting is in line with host country requirements
- The outcome of the LSC meeting for micro-scale project is reported in the PDD section D.

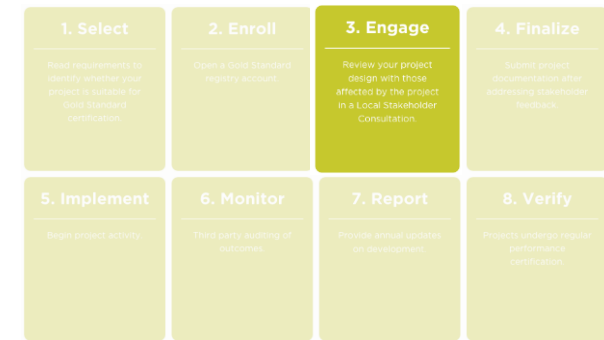
Resources:

- [GSv2.2 Toolkit. Section 2.6.1 Local Stakeholder Consultation Meeting \(get the document here\)](#)
- [Annex J, LSC Best Practices](#)
- [LSC Report Template](#)



Our certification process

3. Engage

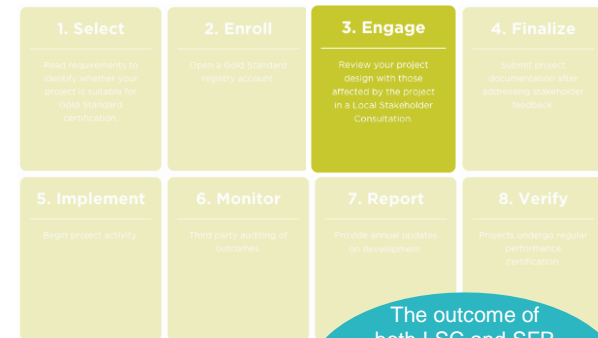


3.2 Stakeholder feedback round

- The documentation listed below is made publicly available in a readily accessible form for a period of two months prior to completion of the validation:
 - The latest version of the complete [PDD](#) (including the EIA, if applicable).
 - A non-technical summary of the project (in appropriate local language(s)); and an English summary.
 - All relevant supporting information (if available, in appropriate local language(s)); in the case of an ESIA, at least a one-page English summary is required.
 - Additional, non-translated information must be made available and shall be translated to the local language upon any justified request from a stakeholder.
- The outcome of the SFR is reported in the [Passport](#). This shall include:
 - A description of the procedure followed to invite comments, including all the details of the oral hearing such as place, date, participants, language, local or national Gold Standard NGO Supporters, etc.
 - All written or oral comments received.
 - The arguments on whether comments are taken into account or not and the respective changes to the project design.

Our certification process

3. Engage

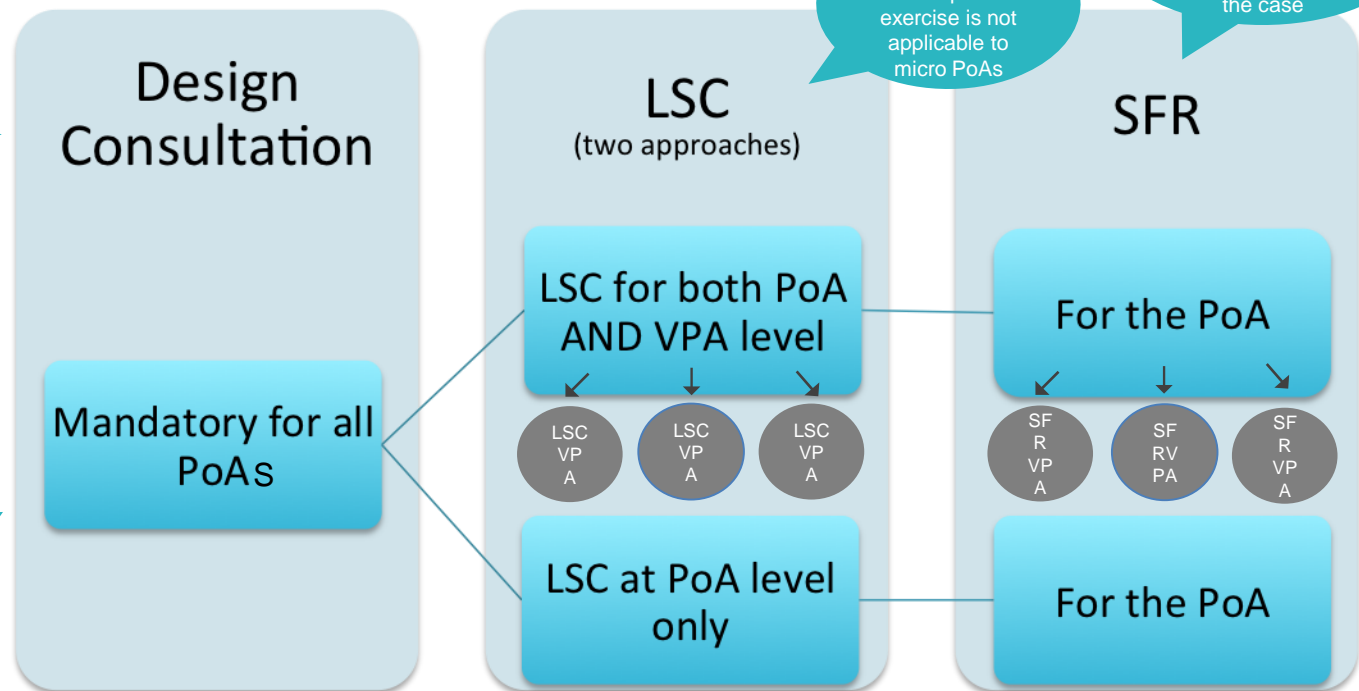


3.3 Local Stakeholder Consultation Meeting for PoAs

It can be either a virtual or live meeting

Multi-country PoAs must invite stakeholders across different countries to provide feedback

A single LSC live meeting can be organised for several VPAs as long as convincing justification is provided in the PDD and approved by GS

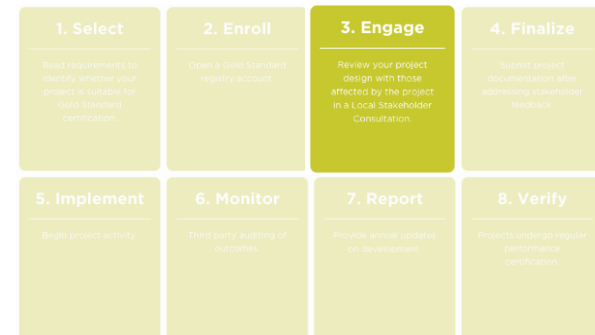


Resources:

- [GSv2.2 Toolkit. Section 2.6.1 Local Stakeholder Consultation Meeting \(get the document here\)](#)
- [Annex J. LSC Best Practices](#)
- [Annex Q. LSC Report Template](#)
- [Annex AK. PoA Design Consultation Report template](#)
- [Annex AL. PoA LSC Report template](#)

Our certification process

3. Engage



3.5 LSC for retroactive projects

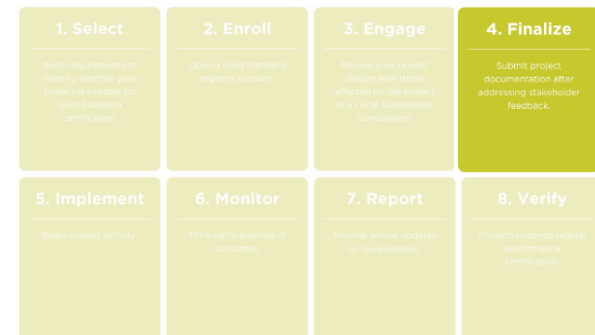
- GS may recommend a live meeting for SFR based on project documentation review during ‘Fast-Track’ or ‘Full PFA’.
- Inputs from stakeholders during SFR on:
 - Grievance Mechanism
 - Transfer of credit ownership for distributed heating/cooking projects
 - For large scale retroactive hydro projects, a LSC in line with GS requirements is to be conducted

Resources:

- [GSv2.2 Toolkit. Section 2.5 Apply for a Pre-Feasibility Assessment if necessary.](#)
- [v2.2 ANNEX-P Fast Track Procedure.pdf](#)
- [Annex W, Grievance Mechanisms](#)
- [Annex C, Specify Eligibility Criteria, Project type: Hydro](#)

Our certification process

4. Finalize



If your Local Stakeholder Consultation (LSC) report is approved after being uploaded into the Registry, your project's status will move from 'New Project Applicant' to 'Listed'. Only then will you obtain official Gold Standard applicant status. Please follow the steps below:

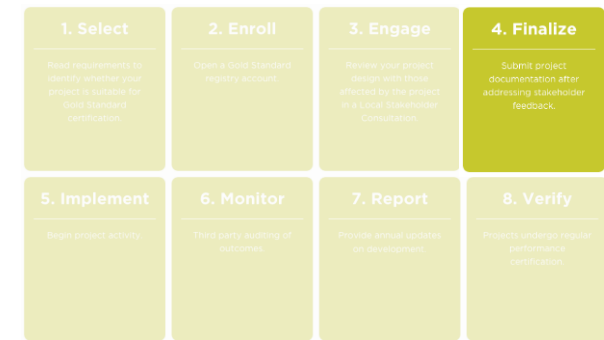
- Start writing the Project Design Document (PDD) and the GS passport.
- Select baseline and monitoring methodology
- Additionality assessment
- Sustainability assessment: 'Do No Harm' Assessment, Detailed Impact Assessment - Sustainable Development matrix, Sustainability Monitoring Plan, and Environmental & Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)

The approval of the LSC report lies with the GS Secretariat. The PP shall receive a review form (LSC review) that includes comments/request that should be addressed satisfactorily.



Our certification process

4. Finalize



4.1 Start writing the Project Design Document (PDD) and the GS Passport

For projects under regular project cycle:

If your Local Stakeholder Consultation (LSC) report is approved after being uploaded into the Registry, your project's status will move from 'New Project Applicant' to 'Listed'. Only then will you obtain official Gold Standard applicant status. You can proceed with the PDD and GS passport writing.

For projects under retroactive project cycle:

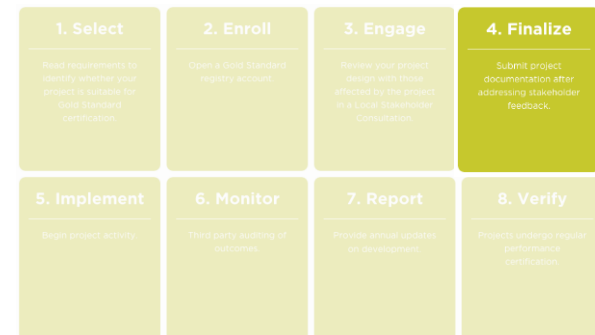
After pass either the 'Fast-Track' or 'Full PFA' you will move 'New Project Applicant' to 'Listed'. Only then will you obtain official Gold Standard applicant status. You can proceed with the PDD. (usually retroactive projects submit PDD, if available, and the GS passport, or at least a draft).

Resources:

- [Project Design Document](#)
- [Annex R, Gold Standard Passport](#)

Our certification process

4. Finalize



4.2 Select baseline and monitoring methodology

The emissions reductions certified under Gold Standard need to be real, measurable and verifiable. This can be assured by using an approved baseline and monitoring methodology. A baseline methodology estimates the emissions that would have been created without implementation of the project. A monitoring methodology calculates the actual emissions reductions from the project, taking into account any emissions from sources within the project boundary.

The use of a UNFCCC or Gold Standard approved methodology is mandatory for all GS projects.

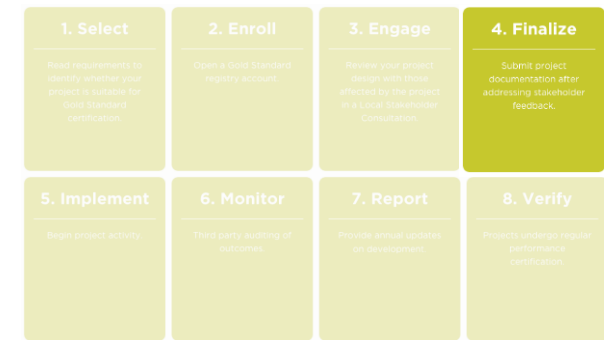
Resources:

- [CDM Rulebook](#)
- [CDM Methodologies](#)
- [Gold Standard Energy Methodologies](#)
- [Annex AD, Methodology Tool](#)



Our certification process

4. Finalize



4.3 Additionality assessment

- The project shall demonstrate that emissions reductions and carbon sequestration are beyond business as usual.
- In order to prove the additionality of your project, Gold Standard requires you to use one of the UNFCCC or Gold Standard approved additionality tools, irrespective of the scale and type of the project. However, micro-scale activities that meet stipulated eligibility criteria (see Gold Standard Annexes T and U) are excluded from this requirement.
- The Small-Scale Projects can use the Appendix A to attachment B of the CDM simplified additionality tool
- The PP shall provide evidence to demonstrate the serious prior consideration of carbon revenue and continuous actions to secure the revenue.

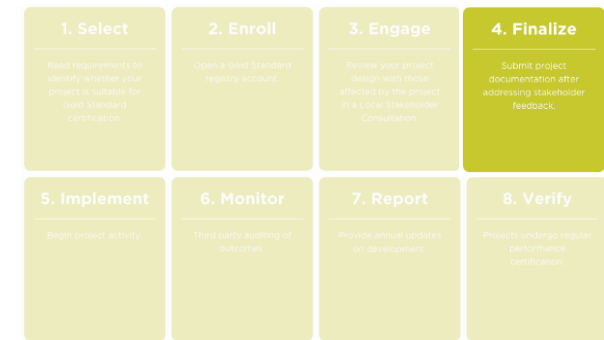
Resources:

- [GSv2.2 Toolkit. Section 2.3 Additionality Assessment](#)
- [Tool for the demonstration and assessment of additionality](#)



Our certification process

4. Finalize



4.4 Sustainability assessment

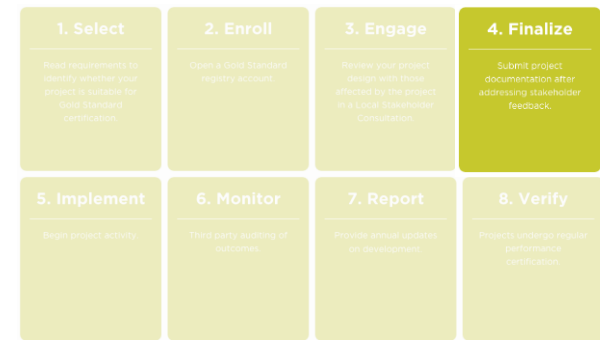
- The sustainability assessment includes:
 - ‘Do No Harm’ assessment
 - Detailed impact assessment - sustainable development matrix
 - Sustainability monitoring plan, and;
 - Environmental & Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)

Resources:

- [GSv2.2 Toolkit. Section 2.4 Sustainability Assessment](#)

Our certification process

4. Finalize



4.4.1 Do no harm – Complying with the UN Millennium Development Goals

You will now assess the risk that your project could have harmful impacts. The safeguarding principles of the UNDP lead your 'Do No Harm' assessment. These principles are derived from the Millennium Development Goals

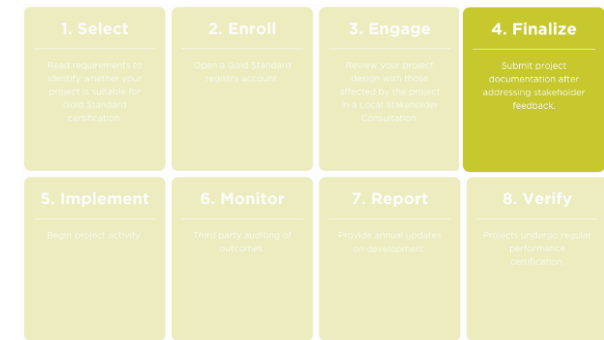
Resources:

- [GSv2.2 Toolkit. Section 2.4.1 'Do No Harm' assessment \(get the document here\)](#)
- [Annex H, 'Guidance for do no harm assessment'](#)

Safeguarding Principles	
Human Rights	
1	The project respects internationally proclaimed human rights including dignity, cultural property and uniqueness of indigenous people. The project is not complicit in Human Rights abuses.
2	The project does not involve and is not complicit in involuntary resettlement.
3	The project does not involve and is not complicit in the alteration, damage or removal of any critical cultural heritage.
Labour Standards	
4	The project respects the employees' freedom of association and their right to collective bargaining and is not complicit in restrictions of these freedoms and rights
5	The project does not involve and is not complicit in any form of forced or compulsory labour.
6	The project does not employ and is not complicit in any form of child labour.
7	The project does not involve and is not complicit in any form of discrimination based on gender, race, religion, sexual orientation or any other basis.
8	The project provides workers with a safe and healthy work environment and is not complicit in exposing workers to unsafe or unhealthy work environments
Environmental Protection	
9	The project takes a precautionary approach in regard to environmental challenges and is not complicit in practices contrary to the precautionary principle. This principle can be defined as: "When an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically."
10	The project does not involve and is not complicit in significant conversion or degradation of critical natural habitats, including those that are (a) legally protected, (b) officially proposed for protection, (c) identified by authoritative sources for their high conservation value or (d) recognised as protected by traditional local communities
Anti-Corruption	
11	The project does not involve and is not complicit in corruption.

Our certification process

4. Finalize



4.4.2 Sustainable development matrix

12 Sustainable Development Indicators covering three categories:

- Environmental
- Social Development
- Economic and Technological Development

Linked to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Project scores each indicator (-, 0, +) using measurable parameters by comparing the baseline scenario to the project scenario.

Resources:

• [GSv2.2 Toolkit. Section 2.4.2 Detailed impact assessment - sustainable development matrix \(get the document here\)](#)

• [Annex I, 'Guidance on SD Indicators'](#)

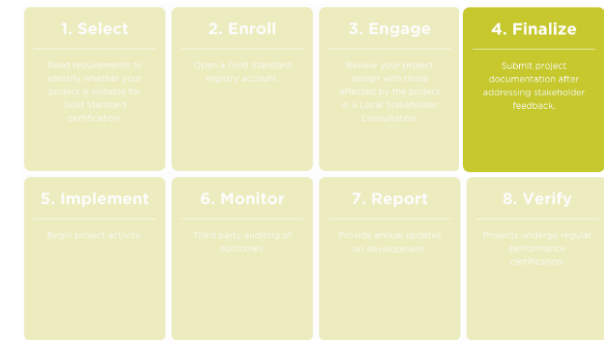
• [Annex AC, 'Sustainable Development Indicators'](#)

[Questions](#)

Indicator	Mitigation measure	Relevance to achieving MDG	Chosen parameter and explanation	Preliminary score
Gold Standard indicators of sustainable development.	If relevant copy mitigation measure from "do no harm" – table, or include Mitigation measure used to neutralise a score of '-'	Check www.undp.or/mdg and www.mdgmonitor.org Describe how your indicator is related to local MDG goals	Defined by project developer	Negative impact: score '-' in case negative impact is not fully mitigated score 0 in case impact is planned to be fully mitigated. No change in impact: score 0 Positive impact: score '+'
Air quality				
Water quality and quantity				
Soil condition				
Other pollutants				
Biodiversity				
Quality of employment				
Livelihood of the poor				
Access to clean & affordable services				
Human and institutional capacity				
Quantitative employment and income generation				
Access to investment				
Technology transfer and technological self-reliance				

Our certification process

4. Finalize



4.4.3 Sustainability monitoring plan matrix

Sustainability monitoring plan should be prepared for:

- Each non-neutral indicator
- All mitigation measures (from both the 'Do No Harm' assessment and neutralized indicators, and from EIA if applicable and not already covered in SD matrix)
- Stakeholder concerns (identified during LSC/SFR)

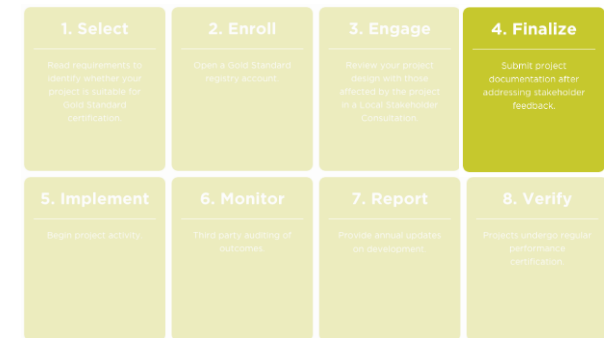
Resources:

- [GSv2.2 Toolkit. Section 2.4.3 Sustainability Monitoring Plan \(get the document here\)](#)
- [Annex I, 'Guidance on SD Indicators'](#)

No.	
Indicator	
Mitigation measure	
Repeat for each parameter	
Chosen parameter	
Current situation of parameter	
Estimation of baseline situation of parameter	
Future target for parameter	
Way of monitoring	How
	When
	By who

Our certification process

4. Finalize



4.4.4 Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)

Your project has to fulfil host country (local, regional or national) requirements concerning Environmental & Social Impact Assessments.

As part of the Cover Letter, you must provide Gold Standard with a declaration warranting that the project complies with local legislation.

Resources:

- [GSv2.2 Toolkit. Section 2.4.4 Environmental & Social Impact Assessment \(ESIA\) \(get the document here\)](#)
- [Annex S, Cover letter \(get the document here\)](#)



Our certification process

5. Implement



Begin your project activity

The start date of the project is the earliest date at which either the implementation or construction or real action of a project begins (furthermore, the guidance provided in paragraph 67 of CDM EB 41st meeting report is applicable).

The project implementation for regular cycle projects can start right after the submission of the LSC report ([time of first submission](#))

For retroactive projects, the implementation took place before the time of first submission of Gold Standard.

The project can be submitted for validation and subsequently to registration after reaching the “Listed” Status. The [SFR](#) project can be submitted for validation and subsequently to registration after reaching the “Listed” Status as well. The SFR can be run in parallel to the validation. The final validation report shall include the outcome of the [SFR](#). It is not required to finalize the Validation or Registration to start the project implementation. In fact the project implementation or operation can take place after finalising the validation/registration

Our certification process

5. Implement



Registration

The project can be submitted for registration upon the successful completion of the validation and payment of the registration fee.

The registration is requested by uploading the project documents, e.g., PDD, GS passport (and supporting documents), Validation Report, and ERs calculation to the GS Registry and by notifying the closest GS Regional Manager.

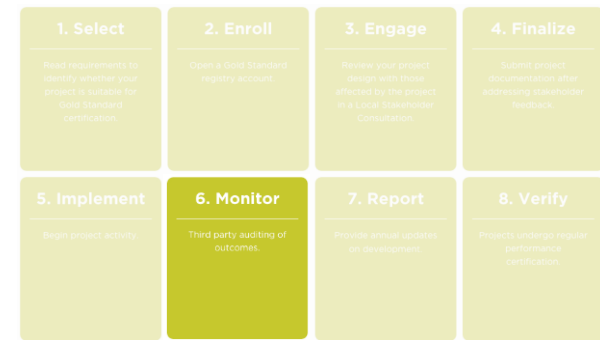
The Registration review lasts 6 weeks. During this period the GS secretariat undertakes a detailed review of the project documents and the validation report to ensure everything is inline with the requirements of the standard. Also, during this period the GS TAC and GS NGO Supporters are notified about the registration request, and they can raise comments/clarifications that will be included in the registration review form for further response by the project participant.

The Registration date is defined as the end of the 6-week review period, regardless of how much time the closing of the comments/request takes, the status will not be updated to Registered until all the comments/request are successfully closed.



Our certification process

6. Monitor



Third party auditing of outcomes

- The project shall have a Monitoring Plan, based on the outcome of the ‘Do No Harm’ assessment and detailed sustainable development impact assessment, to ensure that the project indeed contributes to sustainable development and does no harm. The parameters in the Monitoring Plan shall be regularly monitored, clearly reported and independently verified.
- In order to make sure that claimed emissions reductions and contributions to sustainable development can be attributed to the project, both of these aspects have to be monitored.

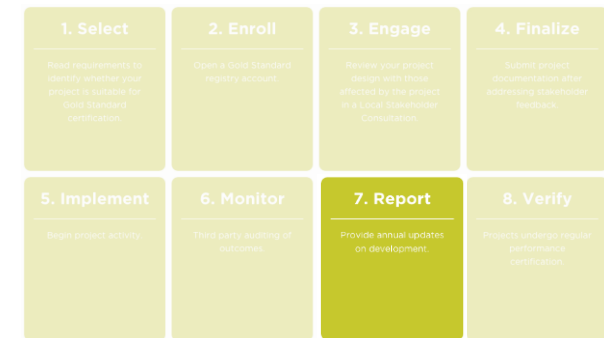
Resources:

- [GSv2.2 Toolkit. Section 2.4.3 Sustainability Monitoring Plan](#)
- [Annex I, ‘Guidance on SD Indicators’](#)



Our certification process

7. Report

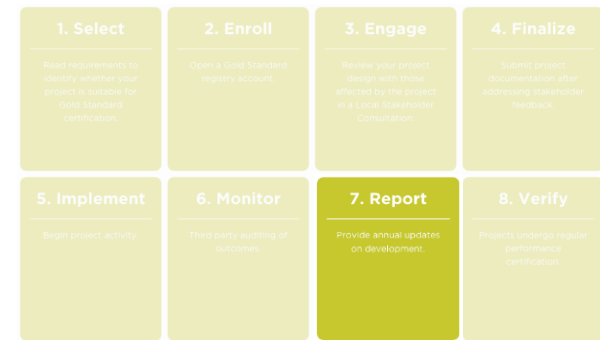


Provide annual updates on development

- The results of emissions reductions and contributions to sustainable development have to be presented in monitoring reports that are verified by a DOE/VVBs.
- The GHG emissions reductions resulting from your project have to be monitored according to the monitoring plan of the PDD; this will give the amount of credits to be issued. The sustainability impact of your project should be monitored according to the sustainability monitoring report.

Our certification process

7. Report



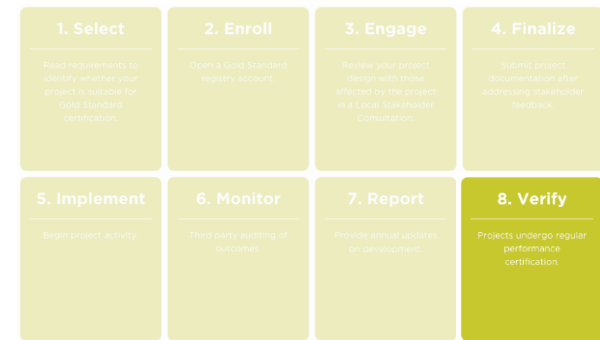
Provide annual updates on development

- The monitoring report does not have a fixed format; however it must contain at a minimum:
 - Monitoring table from your PDD and Passport;
 - Data entry sheets of self-monitored parameters;
 - Remarks on the monitoring process used;
 - Current status of your parameters in the table;
 - Other data sources to substantiate your claims;
- Usually the CDM Monitoring Report Template is also applied for the Sustainability Monitoring Report.
- Elaborations made to the Monitoring Report are not required to be recorded on an annual basis.



Our certification process

8. Verify



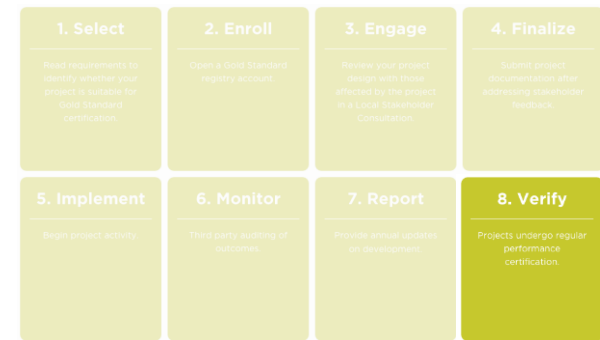
Projects undergo regular performance certification

- The verification will need to result in a verification report or reports.
- The verifier bases verification report(s) on the monitoring plans of the PDD and Passport and reports on:
 - Emission reductions;
 - Leakage;
 - Changes to the key sustainable development indicators;
 - Achievement and implementation of mitigation/compensation measures, according to the success indicators as established in the monitoring plan(s).
 - Responses by project participants to the grievances raised by local stakeholders.



Our certification process

8. Verify



Issuance of GS VERs

The project can request issuance upon the successful completion of the verification .

The issuance is requested by uploading the project documents, e.g., Monitoring Report (and supporting documents), Verification Report, ERs calculations, to the GS Registry and by notifying to the relevant GS Regional Manager.

The Issuance review lasts 3 weeks. During this period, the GS secretariat undertakes a detailed review of the project documents and the validation report to ensure everything is inline with the requirements of the standard. During this period the GS TAC and GS NGO supporters are notified of the issuance request and may raise comments/clarifications that will be included in the issuance review form for further response by the project participant.

Credits are issued when all the C/R from the 3-week review are closed and upon the issuance fee.

A close-up photograph of a woman with a joyful expression, her mouth open in a wide smile. She is wearing a vibrant red headscarf and a light blue garment. Balanced on top of her head is a large, weathered yellow plastic container. In the blurred background, other individuals are visible, including a man in a light blue shirt and a woman in a black and yellow garment, suggesting a community setting. The overall scene is brightly lit, likely outdoors.

Gold Standard[®]

Thank You!
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