

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**ASSESSMENT OF ARTICLE 6 PREPARATIONS IN
SELECTED COUNTRIES – INFORMATIONAL PRODUCT**

Date

10th November 2022

Context

Gold Standard is a civil society NGO and a standards body that promotes the best that can be achieved in climate and development projects. It was established in 2003 by [WWF](#) and other international NGOs as a best practice standard to ensure that projects which reduce carbon emissions also deliver credible, high-integrity sustainable development benefits. In close collaboration with its network of partners (civil society, governments, and private sector), Gold Standard leads several global innovation programs and supports 2000+ climate and development projects in over 80 countries worldwide.

In January 2021, Gold Standard launched an Article 6 Early Movers Programme, to support its users and other stakeholders with early implementation of Article 6 of the

Paris Agreement through technical support, information and guidance, and networking opportunities. This programme has been established through funding from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK), and this Request for Proposals forms part of the initiative.

Following the adoption of Article 6 Decisions at COP26, governments across the world have started to implement national frameworks to support their participation in Article 6. This includes, for instance, the introduction of national legislation, the establishment of new institutional arrangements within governments, and the development of national registries to record and manage information on Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs).

These developments are of material interest to project developers using Gold Standard, as well as other stakeholders, as many project developers may seek to develop projects within the Article 6 framework in the future. But at present, it is in many cases difficult to understand the status of Article 6 preparations in countries across the world, the differences between national approaches, and to compare progress in implementation between jurisdictions.

Overview and Purpose of the Assignment

Gold Standard is seeking an implementing partner to prepare a public product that summarises the state of Article 6 preparations within selected countries across the world. It is expected that the product will be in the form of a written document, though Gold Standard is open to considering other proposals, such as a dedicated page hosted on its website.

The primary purpose of this assignment is two-fold:

1. To provide key information that will be informative and useful for project developers and other market actors seeking to develop or enable carbon market projects under Article 6.
2. To act as a public good for other market actors, providing information on the state of Article 6 preparations across key jurisdictions.

To provide greatest benefit to Gold Standard users, the product must include information on at least the twenty countries with the highest number of projects certified under Gold Standard¹. It should also include:

1. An introductory chapter that provides context on Article 6 negotiations and preparations at the UNFCCC level, the main features of Article 6.2 and Article 6.4, and key steps that governments will need to take in order to implement Article 6 at the national level.
2. If applicable, case studies from any countries not included in the core list of assessed countries, which have taken notable and advanced steps to implement Article 6.

For each country, the implementing partner is expected to provide consistent, comparable and easy-to-access information, where available. This may for instance include information on:

1. Stated intention (or not) to use Article 6 within the country's most recent Nationally Determined Contribution or other official documents or statements
2. Existence of, or plans to establish, relevant national legislation or regulations
3. Existence of, or plans to establish, institutional arrangements within the government to support the use of Article 6 and authorization of ITMOs
4. Appointment of a designated national entity, or other focal point, responsible for interactions with the private sector
5. Development of, or plans to develop, national infrastructure to support the use of Article 6, such as a national registry
6. Publication of any other documentation or plans related to Article 6
7. Additional information on governmental steps to either support or regulate the generation and trade of carbon credits, whether associated with Article 6 or not

The implementing partner is likely to need to contact public officials in some cases to either establish or verify information for inclusion in the product, though no travel is expected under this assignment.

¹ This list is subject to change, but likely to include: India, China, Turkey, Uganda, Ghana, Kenya, Nepal, Rwanda, Myanmar, Madagascar, Indonesia, Honduras, Eritrea, Panama, Malawi, Colombia, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Viet Nam, Thailand.

The implementing partner will be expected to follow Gold Standard's brand guidelines, and prepare a product that is professional and visually appealing.

Finally, the product prepared by the Implementing Partner will reflect a snapshot of Article 6 preparedness at a certain point in time, which will inevitably become out of date as countries continue to make progress with their preparations. In light of this, Gold Standard may explore ways to update and maintain the relevance of information over time, possibly in partnership with other organisations. However any future work beyond the outputs summarised below is outside the scope of this assignment.

Description of the Assignment

The implementing partner will have flexibility to structure their work in the way that they consider most suitable to achieve the mandate and objectives of this assignment.

The implementing partner will though be required to complete two outputs during the implementation of the assignment, and so Gold Standard envisages that the assignment will include the following key phases:

1. **Phase I – Scope confirmation:** Agreement with Gold Standard of the scope of the assignment (e.g., countries to consider) and structure of the final product (e.g., information to include for each country, structure of country pages). For this, the implementing partner will be required to prepare and have approved a short 'scope confirmation' document or presentation.
2. **Phase II – Research and engagement:** Virtual research and communication with government officials and other stakeholders to build an understanding of the state of Article 6 preparations in selected countries.
3. **Phase III – Preparation of Article 6 preparedness product:** Preparation of the main Article 6 preparedness product, based on the research and engagement conducted. The implementing partner will be expected to provide Gold Standard with at least one complete draft for review and comments, and to take on board comments provided by Gold Standard prior to the finalisation of the product.
4. **Phase IV – Communications support:** Gold Standard will take responsibility for publication of the Article 6 preparedness product, and its communication. However the implementing partner will be expected to provide light support, including information and participation in one public event.

As stated above, no international travel is expected to complete this assignment. The implementing partner will be expected to communicate virtually (via email, telephone and video-conference) with Gold Standard and any other individuals or organisations.

The implementing partner will be expected to regularly update Gold Standard on progress with implementation of the assignment, and either party may request a meeting with the other where this is required. The implementing partner may also request Gold Standard's support to communicate with particular external organisations or individuals, though the implementing partner is generally expected to undertake such communication independently.

Anticipated outputs and timeline

The anticipated timeline for preparation of the required outputs is outlined below. This timeline will be confirmed as part of the Service Provider Agreement signed between Gold Standard and the selected implementing partner.

Output	Start date	End date
Output 1: Scope confirmation document	2 January 2023	20 January 2023
Output 2: First draft of Article 6 preparedness product	23 January 2023	17 March 2023
Output 3: Final version of Article 6 preparedness product	27 March 2023	14 April 2023

Methodology and Work Plan

Applicants should submit proposals relevant to the purpose and description of the assignment including all elements outlined below. Proposals should be no more than ten pages, and should include:

- (1) Overview of the organisation(s), highlighting relevant experience and evidence of related projects;
- (2) Profiles of the participating consultant(s) demonstrating suitable qualifications and experience (these may be annexed and in addition to the ten pages);
- (3) A high-level work plan for the assignment taking account of key touchpoints, including:
 - i. *Scope confirmation.*

- ii. *Research and engagement.* This should include information on how the applicant intends to identify relevant information, and whether it intends to engage directly with government officials or other informed stakeholders.
- iii. *Preparation of Article 6 preparedness product.* This should include information on the type of product the applicant intends to prepare and any distinguishing features.
- iv. *Communications support.*

(4) A budget, broken down between the phases outlined above.

The proposed budget must include day rates, man days and the total price of the assignment as well as payment terms. All figures should be presented in Euros (€).

Please note that whilst our maximum budget is €45,000, our tender evaluation will consider price as one of the key factors.

Evaluation criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on, but not limited to, the following formal criteria:

- 1) **Timeliness.** The proposals must be submitted on or before the stated deadline in order to be considered for further evaluation.
- 2) **Proposal Format.** The proposals shall follow the requested format and include all of its elements.
- 3) **Proposed Scope of Work.** Gold Standard will assess to what extent the proposal clearly addresses the needs of the assignment.
- 4) **Qualifications and Team.** Gold Standard will assess whether the proposed team possesses expertise and relevant experience to assure successful completion of the work and delivery of good quality outputs.
- 5) **Work plan.** The proposed work plan and approach will be assessed for efficiency, relevance and technical feasibility.
- 6) **Budget.** Gold Standard will assess if the budget is reasonable, adequate for the proposed work and provides good value for money.

Contract Award

Gold Standard will award a contract to the proposal that best meets the needs of our project, the requirements of the funding institution and the principles of the Gold Standard procurement policy. We may also find that no proposal completely fulfils

these needs and choose not to award a contract or alternatively to negotiate directly with one or more of the contractors to refine their proposals.

Proposals may be disqualified on the following grounds:

- Submission of an incomplete proposal
- Illegal conduct or attempts to influence the evaluation process
- Material misrepresentation in the proposal
- Determination that the contractor is in a conflict of interest or is unlikely to fulfil the terms or conditions of the proposal
- Requested changes by a contractor in the proposal representations made after the closing date
- Changes in laws or regulations affecting the solicitation

Confidentiality

Proposals should not include proprietary or confidential information. Each recipient of this Request for Proposals should treat the contents of the solicitation as business confidential and should use and disclose the contents of the solicitation only for the purposes of preparing and submitting a proposal.

Applications and closing date

Please submit your complete proposal to kavya.bajaj@goldstandard.org no later than **30th November 2022 18:00 CET**.

Indicative timeline	Due date
Release of the Request for Proposals	11 th November 2022
Closing date of the application process	30th November 2022
Indicative date for award of a contract	15 th December 2022