The Gold Standard Sustainable Cities Programme: Framework

**Draft for Public Consultation**

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| NOTE for Reviewers: Please provide your contact details in the space allocated above. You can submit your feedback by either:   * Filling in the question/response boxes provided under each section; or * Submitting your inputs in the table provided at the end of the document; or * Inserting any comments or amendments via the track change mode in this document.   Please send your responses to [vikash.talyan@goldstandard.org](mailto:vikash.talyan@goldstandard.org) before **06 February 2015** | |

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# 1.0 About Gold Standard

The Gold Standard works to create an equitable world where the planet’s resources are used responsibly and sustainable development brings life-changing benefits to communities everywhere. Our role is to ensure every dollar of climate and development funding goes as far as it can. To do this, we design the strongest processes that amplify the impact of efforts to deliver clean energy and water, responsibly manage land and forests, and transform lives of the world’s poor. We verify those outcomes, inspiring greater confidence that drives investment to accomplish even more—making good better.

The Gold Standard is a global non-profit based in Geneva, Switzerland. The organisation was established in 2003 by WWF and other NGOs to maximise positive environmental and social outcomes by ensuring quality, integrity, and strong governance in climate change initiatives. With more than 1200 projects in over 50 countries, Gold Standard projects have delivered billions of dollars in reductions of global greenhouse gas emissions and life-changing sustainable development in local communities.

## 1.1 Governance

The Gold Standard Foundation consists of, and is supported by, a Secretariat, a Foundation Board, an independent Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and more than 85 international NGO partners. Each of these governance committees or supporters has a different role to play to ensure The Gold Standard fosters integrity, transparency, environmental rigor and sustainable development in carbon markets.[[1]](#footnote-1)

Over the last decade, The Gold Standard has matured, and been enhanced, through the incorporation of knowledge and experience gained through comprehensive public stakeholder consultations as well as input from its extensive network of NGO partners, governments and project developers.

# 2.0 Gold Standard Sustainable Cities Programme

Transforming cities will play a critical role in combatting climate change as cities consume around 75% of global resources and emit around 75% global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. By 2050 the global population in cities will rise from 3.5 to 6.25 billion with a corresponding 80% rise in energy requirements.

Despite this, climate finance has largely failed to reach cities and efforts to reduce GHG emissions that have taken place rarely focus on improving the lives of the people living in those communities, for example, by providing access to basic services like electricity and clean water. These shortfalls have been attributed to a lack of rigorous auditing frameworks and the absence of viable large-scale, long-term financing structures. In fact, according to the World Bank, only 4% of the largest 500 cities in the developing world are credit worthy in international markets, making it almost impossible to secure the finance needed for transformational change.

The Gold Standard Cities Programme is a groundbreaking Results Based Finance framework through which cities can develop, audit and verify urban programmes – in order to catalyse and scale up the currently missing investment. The new framework goes beyond strictly GHG-driven interventions, allowing funding agencies and developers the flexibility to include activities with significant social benefits independent of their associated GHGs emission reductions. For example, providing access to clean water can result in GHGs emission reductions and deliver a critical health service to a local community.

This framework document sets out the criteria for developing programmes under The Gold Standard Sustainable Cities Programme (referred to as the ‘Cities Programme’ throughout the rest of the document), providing a mechanism to measure success in participating cities while increasing confidence and trust that programme outcomes can and are being delivered. The Gold Standard will develop the detailed Standard and necessary guidelines by taking into account the feedback from this public consultation.

The scope of the Cities Programme enables project activities to be assessed as individual activities or under an umbrella programme that includes several activities within the city boundary. Currently project activities eligible within The Gold Standard scope include:

1. **Energy:** Renewable energy generation and end-use energy efficiency
2. **Waste Handling & Management:** Municipal solid waste handling, domestic wastewater treatment, industrial wastewater treatment, animal waste management etc.
3. **Land Use and Forests:** Urban forestry and agriculture
4. **Access to Basic Services:** Safe water supply, sanitation & healthcare services and clean & affordable energy.
5. **Infrastructure Development:** Transport, residential and commercial buildings (associated with end-use energy efficiency)

The users of this Cities Programme may request for additional scopes to be included and hence the inclusion of new activities and sectors, with a written request to The Gold Standard Secretariat. The scope expansion will take place with consent from the stakeholders. Note that, the eligible activity may or may not involve direct or indirect climate change mitigation impacts, however it must contribute to other categories of sustainable development as discussed in detail in later sections.

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| --- | --- |
| **Questions** | 1. **Does the section above provide enough clarity on what the Gold Standard Cities Programme is about?** 2. **Are the scope and areas defined above representative of the activities within the cities boundary or does it needs to be further expanded?** |
| Responses |  |

# 3.0 Objective of the Cities Programme:

The objective of the Gold Standard Sustainable Cities Programme is to provide transparent and consistent information on the performance and progress of planned actions in cities. With this objective in mind the framework documents aims to:

* enable assessment, monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) of sustainable development and/or climate change mitigation outcomes of city-based activities
* provide an assurance of outcomes to investors, city authorities and other stakeholders involved

The Cities Programme encompasses the interests of a broad range of stakeholders including, the city authorities, investors, local communities, NGOs and other institutes. Public and private investors and the city authorities - responsible for decision-making, planning and development of activities at a city level - are the primary intended users of this framework. It enables the local and global community, NGOs and other relevant institutions to get involved and influence the activities from inception through to completion of the development programme. It also enables the city authorities to evaluate the potential activity for its net contribution to sustainable development and/or climate change mitigation. Furthermore, it provides assurance of the outcomes to the investors.

This framework document outlines the requirements for a potential low carbon sustainable cities programme under the Gold Standard. It provides preliminary guidelines for carrying out the sustainable development assessment and quantification of GHG emissions at programme, project or city level; to carry out inclusive stakeholder consultation; and monitoring, reporting and verification of the outcomes.

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| **Question** | **Are the objectives of the Cities programme defined above, relevant and comprehensive enough?** |
| Response |  |

# 4.0 Gold Standard Principles:

The Gold Standard has seven guiding principles to ensure robustness of programme design, transparency, stakeholder involvement, legal adherence and assurance of a net positive contribution towards sustainable development. These principles set the requirements for all Gold Standard projects; minimum safeguards that every project must meet by following the Do-No-Harm assessment, positive contribution towards sustainable development and the involvement of stakeholders in the decision-making process. The details on how the Gold Standard evaluates the robustness of programme are included under Principle -1 (Do-No-Harm assessment), Principle -2 (sustainable development), Principle- 3 (stakeholder involvement) and Principle 5 (legal compliance).

The Gold Standard also requires monitoring, reporting and verification of all programme for both contributions to sustainable development and climate change mitigation. This is required throughout the financing cycle for the programme or minimum of seven years whichever is greater. If the programme design entails any risks or negative impacts, the Gold Standard requires mitigation of these risks or negative impacts with continuous monitoring, reporting and third party verification. Further details on how MRV is ensured are included under Principle -2 (sustainable development) Principle -4 (greenhouse gas emission reductions and carbon sequestration), Principle -6 (transparency) and Principle -7 (Monitoring, Reporting and Verification).

Each of these principles are listed below with further details on how these shall be interpreted in context of the Gold Standard Sustainable Cities Programme.

**Principle 1: The programme shall do no harm, complying with the UN Safeguarding Principles**

The programme shall assess the risk of potential harmful impacts against a series of safeguarding principles and international conventions. The purpose of Safeguarding Principles is two fold. Firstly, to identify, avoid, mitigate or repair the negative impacts of planned actions. Secondly, to enhance the robustness of a programme design by integrating social, environmental and governance concerns into the decision-making process at an early stage. The 11 Principles include the following safeguard criteria;

Social Safeguards (Human Rights and Labour Standards):

1. No human rights abuses
2. No Involuntary settlement
3. No damage on critical cultural heritage
4. Freedom of association
5. Safe working environment
6. No forced labour
7. No child labour
8. No discrimination

Environmental Safeguards:

1. Precautionary approach to environmental challenges
2. No significant conversion or degradation of critical natural habitats

Governance Safeguards:

1. No corruption

The programme developer carries out the “Do-No-Harm“ assessment to check that the actions are in compliance with the Safeguarding Principles. The Programme developer shall evaluate the relevance of each Safeguarding Principle, provide evidence to demonstrate that the programme/planned action is in compliance with the requirement and assess the risk level (low, medium or high) of future non-compliance. The programme developer must also describe how a negative impact will be mitigated. The mitigation measures for negative impacts and any identified criteria with a risk of future non-compliance must be included in the Sustainability Monitoring Plan for further monitoring.

**Principle 2: The programme shall enhance sustainable development.**

The programme shall demonstrate a net positive contribution to sustainable development through the completion of a detailed impact assessment using Gold Standard tools i.e. the Sustainable Development Matrix (SD Matrix). As a minimum requirement, the planned actions need to have a positive impact on at least three of the four sustainability categories that form the basis of the Gold Standard Sustainable Development Matrix. The four categories are “Environment”, “Social Development”, “Economic and Technical Development” and “Governance”. Each category includes a set of indicators to evaluate the programme’s positive or negative contribution towards sustainable development and its relevance to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These categories and the set of relevant indicators are listed in the table below. Each indicator must be scored with +(positive), 0 (neutral) or – (negative). The list below also includes the core indicators for the Gold Standard Do-No-Harm assessment. These indicators shall be evaluated objectively (Yes, No or Not Relevant) based on their relevance to the proposed activity.

**Table: List of Sustainable development categories and indicators**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Indicators** | **Relevance** |
| Environment | Air quality | SDGs |
| Water quality and quantity | SDGs |
| Solid waste management | SDGs |
| Biodiversity | SDGs |
| Other pollutants (noise, solid/liquid waste from construction activities), soil pollution | Other |
| Climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, preparedness for extreme natural disasters | SDGs |
| Sustainable infrastructure | SDGs |
| Environmental safeguards | SPs |
| Social | Human rights | SPs |
| Labour standards | SPs |
| Access to affordable and clean energy sources | SDGs |
| Qualityof employment | SDGs |
| Livelihood of poor | SDGs |
| Economic and Technical Development | Quantitative employment and income generation | Other |
| Access to investment | Other |
| Technology transfer and technology self reliance | Other |
| Governance[[2]](#footnote-2) | Governance safeguard | SPs |
| Participatory planning and decision making | SDGs |
| Institutional capacity | Other |
| Capacity building awareness | Other |

\*Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); Safeguarding Principles (SPs)

All impacts need to be monitored, using appropriate monitoring parameters that are defined in the Sustainability Monitoring Plan. For any negative impacts, these impacts need to be neutralised. Furthermore, any safeguarding principles (SPs) that are reported “yes”, i.e. they carry a risk of negative impact, must be included in the sustainability monitoring plan. For ex-ante sustainable development assessment of programmes/activities and the identification of monitoring parameters for ex-post monitoring of outcomes/impacts, please refer to Annex-2.

**Principle 3: The programme shall involve (local) stakeholders.**

An extensive stakeholder consultation process is required for each programme, during which the stakeholders have an opportunity to provide inputs on the most important indicators of social, economic and environmental success. The Programme Developer shall organise stakeholder consultations on two levels; one, a city level consultation with the decision and/or policy makers and two; a consultation with local communities and those who are going to be directly affected by the programme, to ensure stakeholder participation for planning and decision-making. Ideally, the stakeholder consultations shall be organised prior to implementing the programme/activity so that:

* Stakeholders understand the relevant aspects of the planned actions and the impacts this will have prior to the programme starting
* The sustainable development impact assessment can be discussed with stakeholders, enabling them an opportunity to provide their opinion and input to influence the programme design. The programme/project developer must provide an account of all relevant feedback received from stakeholders during the consultations.
* Stakeholders can understand the process behind the input and grievance mechanism, to ensure a transparent and continuous feedback channel is maintained.

The key stakeholders involved in a typical citywide programme include city authorities, local legislators, private sector and civil society organisations, who may have direct influence in decision-making and who are familiar with local issues of concern, target populations, the municipality, local NGOs etc. Further guidelines on stakeholder consultations are provided in Annex-1.

**Principle 4: Greenhouse gas emission (GHGs) reductions and carbon sequestration shall be real.**

The programme developer shall ensure that the emission reductions and carbon sequestration delivered by the activity(ies) are above business as usual, accurately measured and reviewed by both an independent party and the Gold Standard Secretariat. To quantify the GHG emission reductions, the programme developer may follow:

* Gold Standard/CDM methodologies; or
* GHG protocols for City GHGs accounting[[3]](#footnote-3); or
* Mitigation Goal Standard[[4]](#footnote-4); or
* Policy and Action Standard[[5]](#footnote-5); or
* IPCC Guidelines for National GHGs Inventories[[6]](#footnote-6)

The selected methodology or protocol shall be followed throughout the programme lifetime. This is to maintain consistency in quantification and or reporting. Note that the Gold Standard Secretariat only verifies the emission reductions to ensure that they are real, permanent and additional. Emission reduction credits are not issued for trading purposes under the Sustainable Cities Programme.

**Principle 5: The programme shall be compliant with all relevant laws and Gold Standard Principles.**

The programme must follow the certification steps as outlined in the requirements section below to ensure compliance with Gold Standard Principles. The programme developer must sign a Gold Standard declaration, which states that the programme and all activities to be included will comply with the Gold Standard rules, local legislations and commits not to violate the Safeguarding Principles. The programme shall demonstrate that property ownership and rights have been determined and clearly documented. The Gold Standard confirms the compliance through regular monitoring, reporting and third party verification by independent agencies.

**Principle 6: The programme shall be transparent.**

The programme developer shall ensure that the information related to the programme/planned actions is well documented to enable reproducibility and tracing of certified information. All relevant documents shall be made public through an online platform hosted by Gold Standard. The programme developer has a right to keep private any information that can be justified as confidential.

**Principle 7: The programme’s compliance and progress shall be monitored, reported and independently verified**

The programme shall have a Monitoring Plan, based on the outcome of the Do-No-Harm assessment, Sustainable Development Impact assessment, Stakeholder Consultations and the chosen GHGs methodology/protocol. This Monitoring Plan will ensure that the programme and the activities to be included indeed do no harm, positively contribute to sustainable development and deliver GHGs emission reductions that are real. The Programme may also include additional indicators to meet investor’s requirements (e.g. those linked with milestone-based payment etc.).

The programme developer shall report the monitoring results after third party verification to Gold Standard on annual or biennial basis. The Independent, accredited certification bodies will verify the outcome to ensure that the programme meets all rules and that sustainable development claims and GHGs calculations are accurate. The team of auditors involved in verification of the outcomes under the programme must have ISO14000, as well as SA8000, certification and training.

The Gold Standard Secretariat shall review all documentation and may require corrections or enhancements to ensure that a programme 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.

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| **Questions** | **1. Are the principles and associated requirements clearly defined? Is the Gold Standard approach clear?**  **2. Are there any other important aspects that are not covered under the above principles?** |
| Response |  |

# 5.0 Sustainability Monitoring Plan

The following parameters will be monitored:

1. All Safeguarding Principles (SPs) other than those, which score a “Not Relevant” and “No”, need to be monitored through relevant mitigation measures during the life of the programme(s).
2. All Sustainable Development Goal indicators other than those that score “neutral” need to be monitored using relevant monitoring parameters throughout the financing cycle for the programme or minimum of seven years whichever is greater.. Mitigation measures shall be identified in the Sustainable Development Assessment for all indicators that score “negative” and will be monitored through relevant monitoring parameters.
3. All measures put in place to address stakeholder concerns, investor’s requirements shall be monitored.

The programme developer shall provide a detailed monitoring plan, which includes monitoring parameters based on a monitoring methodology, the frequency for monitoring and details of the agency that is responsible for on-going monitoring. The below provides a table format for the sustainability monitoring plan. This table shall be copied and completed for each monitoring parameter.

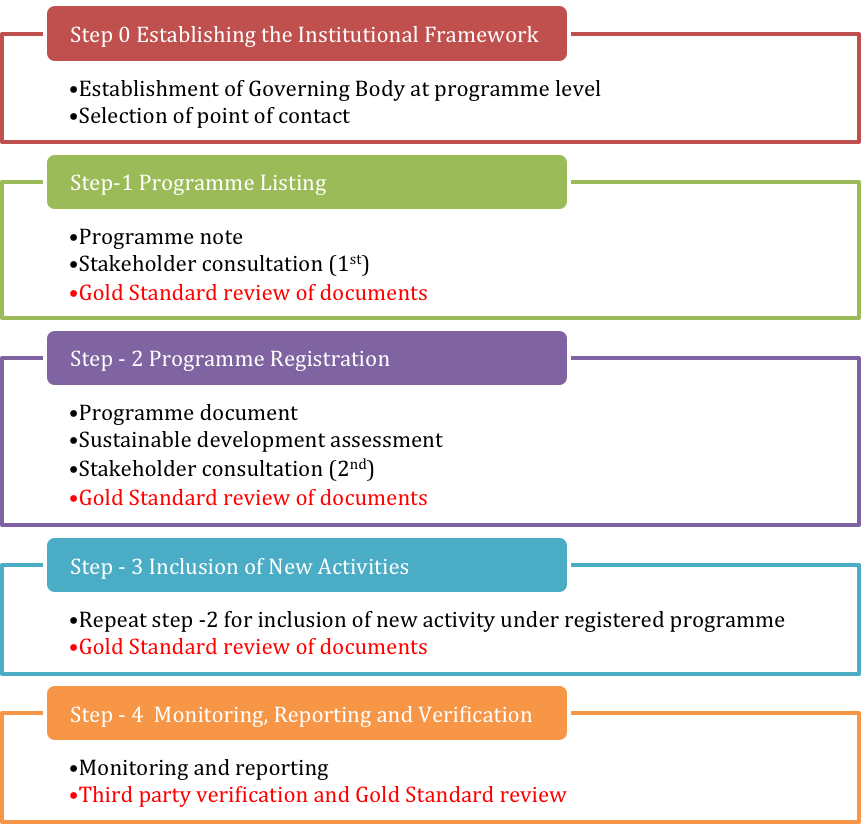
**Table: Sustainability monitoring plan**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Question** | **Are the requirements for the Sustainability Monitoring Plan feasibly implemented? If not, what changes do you propose.** |
| Response |  |

# 6.0 Programme Cycle:

The programme shall follow the step-by-step approach of the Gold Standard Sustainable Cities Programme Cycle as outlined below. The various steps of programme development can be aligned with the typical project planning, implementation and operational phases. The Programme Cycle is depicted in figure 1 below.



Status

Listing

Registration

Inclusion of new activity

Certification of results

Figure 1 - The Gold Standard Sustainable Cities Programme Cycle

**Step 0. Establish the Institutional Framework for Governance of the Programme**

The objective of this step is to set up a governing body within the City Authorities, to carry out the required activities for the proposed programme and to act as a point of contact for all the stakeholders. Various civic and utility bodies at the City level can co-ordinate with the governing agency when proposing different activities. The governing body is responsible for carrying out activities such as the stakeholder consultations, overseeing the implementation of activities and the MRV of these activities as per the designed Sustainability Monitoring Plan.

**Step 1. Program listing**

The objective of this step is to communicate the programme concept to the key stakeholders and the Gold Standard. The programme developer outlines the programme design, sustainable development assessment and carries out the city level stakeholder consultation with the key stakeholders who have direct influence in decision-making and who are familiar with local issues of concern. Guidelines for organising a successful stakeholder consultation are provided in Annex-1. The programme developer summarises the approach that was followed and the outcomes of the consultation in a standard template within the stakeholder consultation report. At this stage, the programme concept note; stakeholder consultation report; do-no-harm assessment; and sustainable development assessment for each sector within the Cities programme are submitted for Gold Standard review. On successful review of the submitted documents the programme is listed on the Gold Standard Cities Registry.

**Step 2. Programme registration**

In this step the programme developer must prepare the programme documentation following the standard templates. The programme developer completes the sustainable development and GHG assessment for the potential activities under the programme. Assessing their compliance against the sustainable development assessment done at a sector level. The programme follows the guidance for sustainable development assessment provided in Annex -2.

At this stage, the programme developer organizes the consultation for the local stakeholders who are primarily going to be affected. This consultation takes place at an activity level where each activity represents a different sector. The objective of this consultation is to discuss the programme design and sustainable development assessment to collect feedback from the relevant stakeholders. The procedure to be followed for the consultation and how to represent the outcomes is summarised in the activity consultation report. The programme documents including details of the sustainable development assessment, stakeholder consultations and the GHG assessment are submitted for Gold Standard review. On successful review of the submitted documents the programme is registered on the Gold Standard Cities Registry.

**Step 3. Inclusion of new activities**

If a programme involves multiple activities, the programme developer repeats Step 2 for each activity. The sustainable development assessment and local stakeholder consultation are required for each individual activity; however, the programme details are provided in a simplified template. In the case when a programme developer would like to add a new sector to an already registered programme, Step 1 needs to be followed (e.g. providing a sustainable development assessment and programme note). To include an activity into a new sector then Step 2 must be followed. At this stage the required documents are submitted for Gold Standard review. On successful review of the submitted documents the new activity or new sector is included in the registered programme.

**Step 4. Monitoring, reporting and verification**

Once implementation of the programme is underway, the developer starts to monitor programme performance as per the registered monitoring plan. The plan will include monitoring parameters from the Do-No-Harm assessment, sustainable development assessment, GHG quantification methodology and any additional parameters linked with the payment for outcomes as agreed with the investors. The programme developer prepares the monitoring report annually or biennially as agreed at the time of programme registration. A third party auditor verifies the monitoring reports prior to Gold Standard review. The objective of this on-going MRV is to verify the outcomes and the physical progress of the programme implementation. It also provides consistency, enables transparency and delivers the information a funding entity might seek for payments (if this is part of the monitoring plan).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Questions** | 1. **Is the programme cycle clear? Do you understand the process and stage for different requirements? Is there anything missing?** 2. **Do you think that the programme cycle contains all the logical steps or should this process be shortened/simplified further?** |
| Response |  |

# Annex -1 Guidelines for stakeholder consultation

To understand what is expected during the local stakeholder consultation process, go through all the steps outlined below and consider how they fit into your entire programme cycle. Organise the stakeholder consultation meeting at a stage when you have formulated your programme/project idea and laid out the first design, but are still genuinely open for comments that may require changes. A programme is more likely to be accepted and therefore successful if you involve the people that are most affected by it from the start.

**Preparation and announcement**

The first step is to prepare a concept note on the programme design and its impacts on the environment and local communities. The following questions may be used for gathering and disseminating relevant information, but the answers must be carefully framed if they are to prove both technically accurate and easily understandable for the local people.

i. What is the overall objective of the proposed programme/project?

ii. What mitigation actions are being proposed?

iii. Ideally, who will be involved at planning and execution level(s)?

iv. How will the programme affect the city? What are the outcomes?

Table: Stakeholder consultations and requirements

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Consultation** | **Activity** | **Requirement** |
| Citywide Stakeholder Consultation (1st) | Preparation and announcement | Programme concept note, sustainable development assessment invitation sent to relevant stakeholders via email or through other media sources for in-person and/or online consultation. |
| Identification of stakeholders | List of stakeholders |
| Organizing consultation | Consultation overview including purpose, structure and mechanism, programme summary note, feedback assessment form.  Outcome - Consultation report (1st) |
| Local Stakeholder Consultation (2nd) | Preparation and announcement | Project/programme document, detailed sustainable development assessment, invitation sent to relevant stakeholders and an announcement in a local newspaper or through other media sources for in person meeting. |
| Identification of stakeholders | List of stakeholders |
| Organizing consultation | Consultation overview including purpose, structure and mechanism, programme and activity summary note, feedback assessment form.  Outcome - Consultation report (2nd) |

The programme concept note is the initial document, which shall provide information on the identified issue(s), proposed initiatives, its impact and how new and existing institutional players of the city can play a role in the design and implementation of the programme. At this stage, this document(s) shall be conceptually consistent, factually correct and easily understandable by the participants.

At various stages, it may be appropriate to provide the programme details to a particular group or groups. For example, elected officials, city administrative staff, nongovernment organisations, the private sector, the general public or the media. Different details are appropriate for different groups, as their understanding, concerns, and roles will not be identical. Note that confidential information does not have to be made public, if justified.

**Identification of stakeholders;**

The main types of stakeholder group include;

i. Those who are – or who are likely to be directly affected by the programme/project

ii. Those who are with a decision-making authority (at various levels). These are particularly important in relation to programme plans that require interventions at different scales.

iii. Special purpose institutions (e.g. community and non-governmental organisations focused on environmental and/or social issues)

iv. Those with technical expertise relevant to the programme

The programme coordinator shall pro-actively invite the different stakeholder groups. The invitations may be sent via email or mail. Announcements made via media such as newspapers, radio or television advertisements would be actively encouraged. In the invitation the objectives of the consultation need to be clearly mentioned together with the process for submitting feedback for those unable to attend the face-to-face consultation (e.g. in writing or via other means such as email).

**Consultation 1: Citywide Stakeholder Consultation**

The city level consultation shall be organised at a convenient date and time for identified stakeholders. Also, invite local officials, non-governmental organisation representatives and the Gold Standard secretariat, to provide useful and additional inputs. If one meeting is not feasible for all stakeholder groups, a programme developer can organize multiple smaller meetings for specific groups.

In the consultation the developer shall provide an overview of the programme, discuss the outcomes of the sustainable development assessment and seek feedback from stakeholders. Also, the meeting shall be recorded and/or pictures taken to provide evidence of the consultation taking place. If there are any comments/suggestions that are serious, reasonable and proportional, these must be taken into account and the relevant changes need to be made to the programme design. This consultation can also be carried out electronically. However, the details of the proposed programme and the sustainable development assessment will need to be clearly explained. Other mediums of gathering feedback like phone calls may be employed to explain the programme and to get feedback from the stakeholders.

**Consultation 2: Local Stakeholder Consultation**

The objective of second consultation is to involve the local stakeholders who are likely to be affected by the proposed programme/initiative. The programme coordinator shall make sure that the consultation meets the following criteria:

Efforts should be made to clearly explain the programme e.g. employ the use of local language where necessary, so that involved stakeholders can understand the programme better and can provide valuable feedback.

All stakeholders have the opportunity to be involved. A way for all stakeholders to reach out with additional or further comments at a later date needs to be provided.

The meeting needs to be well documented; capture meeting minutes, photographs etc.

The meeting needs to be in line with host country requirements.

The programme coordinator shall prepare the programme summary, which includes the background, implementation plan and key impacts on the local environment and stakeholders etc. The activity impacts that affect local stakeholders shall be assessed in line with the sustainable development assessment guidelines of the Gold Standard Foundation. Along with the activity details, the agenda and evaluation forms need to be shared with the participants. If possible, these should be shared at the time of sending invitations. The coordinator shall appoint someone in advance to take minutes at the consultation. These details are required for reporting purpose. Also, appoint someone to take pictures or record the session on a digital video. The coordinator may need to conduct more than one meeting with smaller groups. However, for each meeting the same process will need to be followed. Once the consultation has taken place, the programme co-ordinator will need to prepare a detailed stakeholder consultation report as per the template provided by the Gold Standard. This needs to be completed within a specified period of time.

The programme shall be open to feedback and input from The Gold Standard NGO community during the design, implementation and verification phases. This will help lend further credibility to local sustainable development initiatives. Every NGO that supports The Gold Standard strengthens the robustness of the standard and the programmes operating within it.

# Annex- 2 List of indicators and corresponding monitoring parameters

| **Category** | **Indicators** | **Monitoring/Parameters** | **Relevance** | **Other SDGs apply to** | **Assessment**  **(Yes, No, Not Relevant, Positive, Negative, Neutral)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Environment | Air quality | Mean urban air pollution of particulate matter (PM 10 and PM2.5) | SDG-3 | 9, 11, 12 |  |
| Mortality from indoor air pollution (to be developed) | SDG-3 |  |  |
| Mean concentration of SOx, NOx | Other |  |  |
| Water quality and quantity | Percentage of households connected with city's water supply network | SDG-6 | 1, 2, 3, 5, 9,11 |  |
| Per capita water consumption level | Other |  |  |
| Continuity of water services (hours per day of continuous water supply) | Other |  |  |
| Percentage of wastewater flows treated to national standards, by municipal and industrial source | SDG-6 | 3, 9, 11, 12 |  |
| % of water samples in a year that comply with national potable water quality standards | Other |  |  |
| Solid waste management | Percentage of urban households with regular solid waste collection [and recycling] - to be developed | SDG-11 | 3, 12 |  |
| Solid waste generation per capita | Other |  |  |
| Percentage of the city’s municipal solid waste % disposed of in sanitary landfills or treated (composting, anaerobic digestion, etc) | Other |  |  |
| Percentage of the city’s municipal solid waste % is disposed of in open dumps, controlled dumps, or bodies of water or is burnt | Other |  |  |
| Biodiversity | Urban green space per capita or green area per 100,000 residents | SDG-11 | 15 |  |
|  | Annual change in forest area and land under cultivation | SDG-15 | 2, 12 |  |
|  | Area of forest under sustainable forest management as a percent of forest area | SDG-15 | 12 |  |
| Other Pollutants (Noise, solid/liquid waste from construction activities), soil pollution | Level/time and frequency of noise | Other |  |  |
| Solid/liquid waste from the construction stage | Other |  |  |
| Climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, preparedness for extreme natural disasters | Availability and implementation of a transparent and detailed deep decarbonization strategy, consistent with the 2°C - or below - global carbon budget, and with GHG emission targets for 2020, 2030 and 2050. | SDG-13 | 9, 12, 17 |  |
| CO2 intensity of the power sector, and of new power generation capacity installed (gCO2 per KWh | SDG-13 | 7, 8, 9 |  |
| CO2 intensity of the transport sector (gCO2/vkm), and of new cars (gCO2/pkm) and trucks (tCO2/tkm) | SDG-13 | 8, 9 |  |
| Prioritization and implementation of city level adaptation plan/ strategies and/or inclusion of disaster risk management planning in city development planning | SDG-13 | Other |  |
| CO2 intensity of the building sector and of new buildings (KgCO2/m2/year) | SDG-12 |  |  |
| Sustainable infrastructure | Modal split (specifically public transport) - share of each mode (passenger cars, buses and coaches, and trains) | Other |  |  |
| Kilometers of road, bicycle path, sidewalk and pedestrian path per 100,000 population (km) | Other |  |  |
| Percentage of buildings adhering to National/International Green Building Standard | Other |  |  |
| Percentage of people within [0.5]km of public transit running at least every [20] minutes | SDG-11 | 9 |  |
| Sustainable development strategy for each urban agglomeration above [250,000] | SDG-11 | 17 |  |
| Environmental safeguards | Precautionary approach to environmental challenges | SPs |  |  |
| Conversion or degradation of critical natural habitats | SPs |  |  |
| Social | Human rights | Human rights abuses | SPs |  |  |
| Involuntary settlement | SPs |  |  |
| Damage on critical cultural heritage | SPs |  |  |
| Labour standards | Freedom of association and right to collective bargaining | SPs |  |  |
| Safe working environment | SPs |  |  |
| Forced or compulsory labour | SPs |  |  |
| Child labour | SPs |  |  |
| Discrimination based on gender, race, religion, sexual orientation or any other basis | SPs |  |  |
| Access to affordable and clean energy sources | Share of the population with access to modern cooking solutions, by urban/rural | SDG-7 | 1, 3, 5, 9, 11, 12 |  |
| Share of the population with access to reliable electricity, by urban/rural | SDG-7 | 1, 3, 5, 9, 11, 12 |  |
| Rate of primary energy intensity improvement | SDG-7 |  |  |
| Primary energy by type | SDG-7 | 13 |  |
| Percentage share amongst four key sources (coal, oil, gas, renewables) in total generation or consumption at city level | Other |  |  |
| Support/incentive mechanism for promotion of renewable energy | Other |  |  |
| Qualityof employment | Training events for health and safety at work place | Other |  |  |
| Type of jobs generated i.e., high or low skill jobs, Temporary or Permanent etc | Other |  |  |
| Share of informal employment in total employment | SDG-8 |  |  |
| Livelihood of poor | Percentage of urban population living in slums or informal | SDG-11 | 1 |  |
| settlements (MDG Indicator) | SDG-1 | 2, 6, 11, 13 |  |
| Percentage of the population living below (urban) poverty line | SDG-1 | 11 |  |
| Road traffic deaths per 100,000 population | SDG-3 | 9, 11 |  |
| Incidence rate of diarrheal disease in Children under five years | SDG-3 |  |  |
| Percentage of urban population living in slums or informal settlements (MDG Indicator) | SDG-11 | 1 |  |
| Percentage of women and men in urban areas with security of tenure, measured by (i) percentage with documented rights to housing | SDG-1 | 2, 5, 10 |  |
| Percentage of population using basic sanitation services, by urban/rural (modified MDG Indicator) | SDG-6 | 1, 2, 3, 5, 9,11 |  |
| Percentage of households with toilet facility | Other |  |  |
| Continuity of water services (hours per day of continuous water supply) | Other |  |  |
| Economic and Technical Development | Quantitative employment and income generation | Number of jobs created | Other |  |  |
| Local employment for skilled/unskilled and permanent jobs | Other |  |  |
| Access to investment | Amount of domestic investment | Other |  |  |
| Amount of foreign direct investment | Other |  |  |
| Technology transfer and technology self reliance | Number of workshop, seminars, and training related activities for capacity-building | Other |  |  |
| Amount of financial resources provided for the capacity building for development and transfer of technology | Other |  |  |
| Number of participants/experts in training programmes on the development and transfer of technologies, | Other |  |  |
| Total volume (number and dollar value) of joint R&D opportunities for environmentally sound technologies (ESTs) | Other |  |  |
| Governance | Governance safeguard | Corruption | SPs | Core |  |
| Participation and civic engagement | Requirement of stakeholder involvement in decision making and implementing of urban policies/strategies | Other |  |  |
| Institutional capacity | Integration of climate change/adaptation measures in the city, including sector, planning etc. | Other |  |  |
| Evidence of strengthened capacity and coordination mechanism to mainstream the climate resilience | Other |  |  |
| Capacity building and awareness | No of training events for capacity buildings and awareness | Other |  |  |
| SPs | Safeguarding Principles | | | | |
| SDGs | Sustainable Development Goals | | | | |
| Assessment Approach | SPs | These are "core" indicators. Each activity shall be objectively (Yes/No/Not relevant) evaluated for its relevance. All indicators, that are assessed as "yes" shall be included in the Sustainability Monitoring Plan. | | | |
| SDGs and other | Each activity shall be assessed for its impact on each indicators (positive, negative or netrual). All non-neutral indicators shall be included in the Sustainability Monitoring Plan. | | | |

Governance [[1] "The traditions, institutions and processes that determine how power is exercised, how citizens are given a voice, and how decisions are made on issues of public concern” Institute on Governance, 2005](" \l "RANGE!A66)

**Additonal Comments (if any)**

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1. For more information on Gold Standard governance: http://www.goldstandard.org/about-us/governance [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. "The traditions, institutions and processes that determine how power is exercised, how citizens are given a voice, and how decisions are made on issues of public concern” Institute on Governance, 2005 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. http://www.ghgprotocol.org/city-accounting [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. http://www.ghgprotocol.org/mitigation-goal-standard [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. http://www.ghgprotocol.org/policy-and-action-standard [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. http://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/public/2006gl/ [↑](#footnote-ref-6)