

GOLD STANDARD PROCEDURES FOR THE RENEWAL OF A CREDITING PERIOD

The following procedure is applicable for the renewal of the crediting period of a registered Gold Standard (GS) project activity.

I. Applying for the renewal of the crediting period

The following documents shall be submitted by project developers together with a formal request for renewal of the crediting period of a registered Gold Standard project activity:

- i. For Version 1.0 project activities:
 - a. Revised PDD and/or revised Gold Standard Annex highlighting the changes in the project activity in track-change mode.
 - b. GS Validation Report for renewal, and for GS CDM activities, CDM validation Report for renewal
- ii. For Version 2.0 and onwards:
 - a. Revised PDD and/or revised Gold Standard Annex highlighting the changes in the project activity in track-change mode.
 - b. Revised GS Passport
 - c. GS Validation Report for renewal, and for GS CDM activities, CDM validation Report for renewal

The Gold Standard then initiates a review period of 4 weeks.

Review comments are provided at the end of the review period. Any raised issues need to be addressed in a satisfactory manner for the Gold Standard to grant approval to the application for a renewal of the crediting period.

The start date of the renewed crediting period is defined as the first day after the ending date of the previous crediting period.

II. Preparation of the revised project documentation

Project participants shall update all sections of the project documentation which are related to the baseline, the evaluation of emission reductions and the monitoring plan using an approved baseline and monitoring methodology as follows:

- i. The latest approved version of a baseline and monitoring methodology, applied in the original PDD of the registered GS project activity shall be used¹.

¹ The version applicable at the time of application of renewal of crediting period to Gold Standard.

- ii. In case of the withdrawal of a baseline and monitoring methodology applied in the original GS registered PDD and replacement by a consolidated methodology, the latest approved version of the respective consolidated methodology shall be used.
- iii. If the registered GS project activity does not meet the criteria specified under (i) or (ii) above because the methodology has been revised or the baseline for the project has been updated, the project proponent can either select another applicable approved methodology or request for a deviation from the existing approved methodology in order to apply for the renewal of the crediting period².

Project participants shall also submit a revised documentation (Passport or PDD/GS Annex), which must include the following:

i. Stakeholder consultation: Project proponents shall discuss if and why there is or not a need to conduct a complementary stakeholder consultation for the renewal of the crediting period. Project proponents can choose to invite relevant stakeholders for comments electronically or over a physical meeting, but will be required to justify the same. To the extent possible, project proponents shall conduct the complementary consultation prior to the submission of the request for a renewal of crediting period.

ii. Sustainable Development Assessment: The Sustainable Development Assessment shall be conducted with respect to the validity of the updated baseline. Project proponents shall discuss any necessary revision in the scores of the 12 Sustainable Development (SD) indicators³ following a possible change of the baseline. For GSv2 project activities, the same should be done with respect to level of risk associated with the 11 Safeguarding Principles of the Do-No Harm Assessment.

iii. Sustainable Development Monitoring Plan: Project proponents shall discuss whether there is a need to prepare a revised sustainable development monitoring plan to accommodate any changes and/or comments from the local stakeholders. This can potentially include new mitigation measures as per new comments by stakeholders. Changes in the scores of the SD indicators due to the new baseline can also lead to a revision of the sustainable development-monitoring plan. The changes in the scores of the SD indicators shall be assessed as per the sustainable development assessment guidance discussed above.

The SD monitoring plan might include additional parameters if the mitigation plan has to be revised to address comments received during the complementary local stakeholder meeting, or if new non-neutral indicators are identified in the revised SD matrix or new mitigation measures have been introduced due to medium or high risk identified from DNHA with respect to some of the safeguarding principles.

² In such a case, the project proponent needs to justify how the project is no longer applicable under the latest version of the baseline and monitoring methodology due to methodological revisions or due to update in the baseline of the project activity. The same should be a part of the validation report by the DOE also. For registered CDM project activities, the request has to be made to the CDM EB via the DOE and for registered GS VER project activities, the request has to be made to the GS Secretariat.

³ Project proponents are not required to conduct a blind scoring of SD matrix again; the changed score(s) will be the result of a self-assessment taking into account feedback from the stakeholder consultation.

III. Preparation of a Validation Report

The validation DOE shall assess the following issues:

- i. Validity of the original baseline or its update through an assessment carried out as per the latest version of the “Tool to assess the validity of the original/current baseline and to update the baseline at the renewal of a crediting period”, Annex 1 to Procedures for renewal of crediting period of registered CDM project activity.
- ii. Correctness of the application of an approved baseline methodology for the determination of the continued validity of the baseline or its update, and the estimation of emission reductions for the applicable crediting period.
- iii. Local stakeholder consultation process and its outcome.
- iv. SD assessment including SD matrix and DNHA.
- v. Revised SD monitoring plan.