

## Collaboration Scope of Work

# **UN Climate Change Secretariat and Gold Standard** Accelerating Progress Towards Sustainable Development Goals

April 2017

## Context of the collaboration

The Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development strongly call upon collaborative approaches and strategic partnerships to facilitate enhanced ambition and the delivery of changes needed to achieve climate security and the Sustainable Development Goals.

With more than 12,000 climate action commitments by companies, cities, subnational regions, investors, and civil society organizations registered on the NAZCA platform today, the momentum initiated in Lima has grown beyond expectations. It culminated in Paris where it was instrumental to the success of the Paris Agreement; and was reaffirmed in Marrakech with the launch of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action.

Cities and corporates are by far the two leading stakeholder groups with respectively 5,421 and 5,074 registered climate action commitments on the NAZCA platform. More than a third of the 2,000 largest companies, with aggregate revenues totaling \$32.5 trillion, are taking action. The majority of commitments from corporates are individual pledges (3,804), with 33 business-lead initiatives representing about 3,300 participants.<sup>1</sup>

The actions registered all have the potential to make significant contributions to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## Objectives of the collaboration

Corporates and city authorities share the same need to communicate the sustainable development benefits of their sustainability strategies when addressing specific stakeholder groups. The ability to use, make decisions, and report reliable data related to the sustainable development impacts of their activities is imperative for gaining stakeholder trust and support. As such, there is an urgent need to provide cities and corporates with scalable, affordable, and easy to use tools to quantify and report on both the climate impacts and the sustainable development impacts of actions.

Recognizing the importance to provide adequate support to corporates and city authorities in formulating and in delivering sustainable development impacts, both organisations have decided to join forces to develop appropriate guidance and tools to foster action.

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<sup>1</sup> UNGC 2016, Business Contribution to Global Climate Action

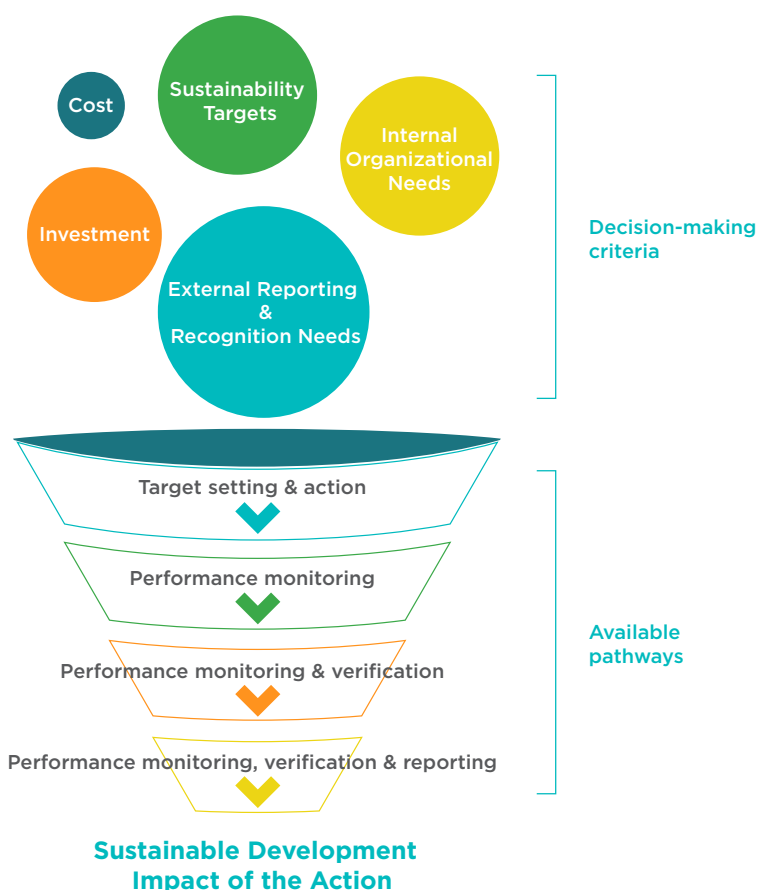
## Specifically, the collaboration will seek to deliver the following outputs:

- » A decision-making tool for corporate sustainability impact assessments. The tool will include recommended approaches for the formulation of targets and decision-making pathways based on the individual needs of an organization to measure and report on the impacts achieved\*;
- » Methodologies and approaches to quantify and report on the impacts of sustainable development actions, including methodologies for use in the context of large scale interventions such as supply chain and city scale interventions; and
- » Technology solutions to reduce the barriers to measuring, quantifying and certifying impacts (including IT based platforms and blockchain based solutions).

The methodologies developed will cover GHG emission reduction and sustainable development benefits as well as vulnerability assessment and adaptive capacity.

More concretely, the methodologies and tools will help corporates and cities seeking to quantify in a cost-effective way the impacts of large scale initiatives starting with agriculture based supply chain investments (with a focus on impact areas such as: avoided emissions, sequestration, adaptation, water, food security) and city level water treatment and waste management interventions.

\* The decision making tool works like a funnel. It takes in a whole range of options that are available and helps the decision maker to assess, evaluate and form a most desirable pathway to SD impact assessment.



## Program of Work

The program of work includes four workstreams covering the development of an overarching decision making tool and user guide, new impact tools and quantification methodologies for sustainability actions, and IT based solutions. Also included is an extensive and robust stakeholder outreach and consultation approach to create buy-in and support for the products.

**Workstream 1** – Development and testing of a decision-making tool and user guide to support the proponents of sustainability actions (focus on corporates and cities) through the selection of appropriate impact assessment and reporting methods.

**Workstream 2** – Development and testing of 3-4 high impact activity types within agriculture based corporate supply chains and city level water treatment and waste management interventions, including an activity specific web-based SDG 'compass' tool to simply and effectively report on SDG impacts.

The tools/methods will be developed in the form of modules, such that they can either be used in isolation or in a combined way.

**Workstream 3** – Development of IT based solutions to reduce barriers to impact quantification, reporting and certification. An initial assessment phase will outline specific users' needs and identify potential technology solutions including a detailed evaluation of the potential and relevance of the blockchain technology in this context. Following the initial assessment, specific technology solutions will be developed, answering needs identified and supporting the uptake of the products from workstream 1 and 2.

**Workstream 4** – Engagement and communications activities to ensure solutions developed are fit for purpose and widely taken up by targeted stakeholders groups. Targeted stakeholder consultations will inform the design of methodologies and solutions developed. Reports, case studies and knowledge products will be developed to support the engagement strategy and ensure wide uptake of the solutions.

## Timeline

The collaboration will initially run until December 2020 and may be renewed upon mutual agreement.

**Phase 1 (Jan-June 2017)** – Planning phase, including fundraising and initial stakeholder consultations aimed at developing a detailed workplan including a schedule of resources needed. Expressions of interest from funders will be received and fundraising negotiations initiated. Several planning workshops will be held between the partners and at least two external events will be organised, one in Bonn (inter-sessions) and one in Barcelona (Innovate4Climate).

**Phase 2 (June 2017 – Dec 2020)** – Development phase

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