

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

# STRATEGIC RESULTS FRAMEWORK AND MONITORING & EVALUATION PLAN

*Date*

9<sup>th</sup> June 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.

## Overview and Purpose of the Assignment

Gold Standard is seeking a consultant to help achieve the following outcomes:

1. Independent external evaluation of the outcome and impact of the [Gold Standard for the Global Goals](#) (and previous versions of the standard)
2. Updated methodology and assessment based on the [Shared Value Calculation](#)
3. Have a framework to:
  - a. Monitor performance, outcome and impact effectively, including secondary and unintended impacts of Gold Standard's programs and initiatives including influence and advocacy work
  - b. Define data quality, assurance and management needs
  - c. Define M&E processes, and learning framework
4. Comply with ISEAL requirements
5. Communicate effectively about the value and impact of Gold Standard

In particular, the consultant is expected to provide:

1. Evaluation of outcomes and impacts, on the basis of the current Impacts Monitoring and Evaluation Manual and access to available data/documents:
  - a. Conduct an outcome & impact evaluation based on current indicators and ISEAL Impacts Code
  - b. Evaluate influence and advocacy work based on newly defined indicators/methodology
  - c. Update the GS Shared Value Calculation
2. Recommendations for operationalizing Gold Standard's strategic framework, in particular:
  - a. Recommendations on refining the proposed indicators to derive more operational and communication value from them
  - b. Recommendations on defining a robust approach to monitor impact (M&E framework, data needs, data quality, methodology, resource needs, etc.)

Current M&E framework	Shared Value Calculation	New Strategic Results Framework
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Review</li> <li>•Add indicators for influence/advocacy</li> <li>•Evaluate GS outcome and impact</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update figures</li> <li>• Add 3 more project types</li> <li>• Assess potential to evaluate second order impact</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Review framework</li> <li>•Refine indicators</li> <li>•Provide recommendations on operationalization</li> </ul>

OBJ

## Description of the Assignment

### 1. Independent external evaluation of the outcome and impact of GS4GG

- a. Gold Standard will provide access to the existing Impacts M&E Manual, performance reports, and to any available data and documents containing relevant to the consultant. Please note that some of the relevant data (e.g. on SDG impacts) is contained in pdf files and is not digitized.
- b. The Consultant shall review Gold Standard's influence and advocacy work and define viable indicators and methodology for assessing its outcome and impact.
- c. The Consultant shall conduct an Outcome and Impact evaluation of the Gold Standard for the Global Goals certification program and Gold Standard influence and advocacy work. The independent external evaluation shall be designed and conducted in compliance with the [ISEAL Impacts Code of Good Practice](#), especially Section 8. The Outcome and Impact Evaluation shall be well documented (ICGP 8.6) and designed:
  - i. To determine:
    1. whether it is possible to attribute observed changes to GS4GG (and previous versions of the standard) (ICGP 8.5)
    2. if GS4GG is producing desired and intended sustainability outcomes and impacts (ICGP 8.5)
    3. what unintended effects (positive or negative) resulted from GS4GG (ICGP 8.5), considering also the Gold Standard [Safeguarding Principles and Requirements](#)
    4. To what extent it is possible to attribute the observed effects to GS4GG (and previous versions of the standard) using the methodology applied in the evaluation (ICGP 8.5)
    5. What factors could have influenced the results (ICGP 8.5)
  - ii. To produce accurate, reliable and relevant findings (ICGP 8.6)

- iii. To contain, in its final report (ICGP 8.7):
  1. The purpose of the evaluation
  2. Names of people involved in conducting the evaluation, their qualifications, and their connection to the entity or system being evaluated
  3. Methodology (e.g. what data was collected, specific methods used to gather data, thresholds employed, sampling, data manipulation, how data was analysed and conclusions drawn)
  4. Findings and conclusions, including both positive and negative effects
  5. Any limitations of the evaluation (including limitations or uncertainties in the data, and assumptions)
  6. How the context (e.g. internal and external factors) might have affected the results of the intervention
  7. Recommendations
- d. The consultant shall update the Gold Standard [Shared Value Calculations](#) including:
  - i. Re-evaluate the co-benefit figures for the same project types included in the current Shared Value Calculation to reflect current values (e.g. social cost of carbon, poverty reduction, etc.)
  - ii. Expand to the following additional project types:
    1. Solar (grid-connected, rooftop, other)
    2. Waste management
    3. Industrial biogas
  - iii. Evaluate potential for assessing the value of second order impacts of our portfolio (e.g. positive impact of water quality from improved land use; positive impact on cookstove distribution due to carbon project activity)

## **2. Recommendations for operationalizing Gold Standard's strategic framework**

Taking into account Gold Standard's recent release of our [SDG Impact Tool](#); the consultant is required to review and make recommendations on improving our Strategic Results Framework and current indicators (Annex 1) to enable:

- a. The collection of relevant M&E data
- b. The establishment of relevant data quality assurance, control, and management processes
- c. The reporting of a broader array of impacts than we are currently capable of
- d. Compliance with the [ISEAL Codes of Good Practice](#) (especially the Impacts and Assurance codes).
- e. Ways to qualitatively and/or quantitatively measure Gold Standard's outcome and impact:

- i. influence and advocacy activities (e.g. reflection of Gold Standard policy positions in Article 6; adoption of Gold Standard principles by other standards or protocols)
  - ii. Fund certification and other sustainable finance initiatives
  - iii. Corporate engagement initiatives
- f. Assessing the efficiency of impact through different GS strategic initiatives.

The consultant is expected to:

- a. Recommendations on refining the proposed indicators to derive more operational and communication value from them
- b. Recommendations on defining a robust approach to monitor impact (M&E framework, data needs, data quality, methodology, resource needs, etc.)

## Anticipated outputs and timeline

Output	Start date	End date
<b>Task 1: Independent External outcome and impact evaluation</b>		
a. Scoping study: list of indicators and methodology	1 <sup>st</sup> August 2022	1st September 2022
b. Define indicators for influence and advocacy work	1 <sup>st</sup> August 2022	1st September 2022
c. Outcome and Impact evaluation	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2022	31 <sup>st</sup> January 2023
d. Updated Shared Value Calculations	1 <sup>st</sup> August 2022	28 <sup>th</sup> February 2023
<b>Task 2: Recommendations for operationalizing Gold Standard's strategic framework</b>		
a. Strategic Results Framework & KPI review and recommendations	1 <sup>st</sup> August 2022	16 <sup>th</sup> September 2022
b. Recommendations on operationalizing the Strategic Results Framework	1 <sup>st</sup> November 2022	28 <sup>th</sup> February 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, 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 successful delivery of all tasks including proposed outputs.
- (4) A preliminary budget, broken down between the tasks outlined above.
- (5) Confidentiality, conflict of interest, and ethics guidelines

The proposed budget must include day rates and the total price of the assignment as well as payment terms. All figures should be presented in US Dollars.

Please note that whilst our maximum budget is \$70,000, 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 [matthew.thomas@goldstandard.org](mailto:matthew.thomas@goldstandard.org) no later than **30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 by 18:00 CET**.

Indicative timeline	Due date
Release of the Request for Proposals	9 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
Closing date of the application process	30 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
Indicative date for award of a contract	22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2022



Annex 1 Strategic Results Framework
Gold Standard's objective
Accelerate progress toward the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals by increasing the quantity and quality of climate and sustainable development action.

ENVIRONMENTAL MARKETS	
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	Improve the value equation for project developers and buyers in environmental markets and raise ambition in international climate policy with strong environmental integrity and sustainable development provisions
STRATEGIC OUTCOME	SO1. Environmental markets are strengthened with more high-impact assets resulting in greater and higher quality supply and demand.
OUTCOME INDICATORS	1.1. Gold Standard certified GHG emissions reduced/sequestered (measured in VERs/labels issued) disaggregated by market, geography and sector
	1.2. SDG Impacts achieved as reported via SDG Impact Tools and/or sample reporting (note tracking process to be developed)
OUTPUTS	Demand for Gold Standard credits and labels is built through alignment with and recognition of GS4GG in international and domestic schemes (VCM, CORSIA, national carbon schemes and 6.2/6.4)
	Demand for Gold Standard credits is built through 2020-appropriate demand-side claims such as credible/-civil society endorsed carbon neutrality and net zero claims
	Supply of Gold Standard projects/credits is increased through focused customer relationship management, simplifications, efficiency improvements and marketing efforts
	GS4GG framework supports most impactful action post-2020 through its relevance in priority sectors of future growth
OUTPUT INDICATORS	1.1.1. Methodological coverage of identified priority sectors (% or number of methodologies total)
	1.1.2. Customer feedback received jointly with SC, disaggregated by GS and SC elements (ratings/score)
VALUE PROPOSITION	Deliver greater progress toward the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals and create more value for stakeholders

CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY	
Provide organisations (companies, private funds and suppliers) with efficient, scalable tools to reduce barriers to action and to be incentivised to credibly report impact against climate and sustainability targets	
SO2. Organisations increasingly invest in interventions within and beyond their value chains that deliver credible climate impacts and safeguard and improve environmental and social outcomes	
2.1.	Number of organisations 'enabled' to take action via Gold Standard corporate working groups, pilot projects and engagement in guidance development
	2.2. Gold Standard certified GHG emissions reduced/sequestered (measured via SC certification reports or new tracking approaches tbd)
Corporate action is increased by removing barriers through guidance/benchmarking tools that are developed and adopted by corporates to introduce value chain interventions at scale to meet priority targets	
Corporate action is increased and improved through capacity building and enabling of collective action working groups	
Demand for credible, Paris-aligned commodities is increased through systems that enable companies to track the sustainability profile of priority commodities	
Suppliers are protected through robust GS4GG safeguards and SD which align with the incentives for buyers to invest in their commodities	
2.2.1 Number of corporate accounting approaches recognised by Gold Standard (number of recognised approaches published by Gold Standard)	
Enable companies to meet sustainability targets simply with credible claims	

CLIMATE + DEVELOPMENT FINANCE	
Mainstream GS4GG principles for climate + development in large-scale public / development finance projects and programmes to support developed and developing countries with capacity and credibility in support of the goals of countries towards Paris Agreement and the SDGs	
SO3. Increased climate finance is mobilised and impact maximised for national/subnational climate action	
3.1.	Number of countries 'enabled' to take action via Gold Standard pathway development, capacity building programmes and certification pathways
	3.2. Gold Standard certified GHG emissions reduced/sequestered (measured via SC certification reports or new tracking approaches tbd)
Demonstrate equivalence (and exceedance) of Gold Standard to key international, donor country and fund requirements for climate integrity and sustainable development (safeguards, inclusivity, SDG impacts)	
Apply GS4GG Principles and Requirements to development aid and public and private funds towards achieving the goals of host country NDCs and the Paris Agreement	
Develop market readiness programmes to assist countries design and apply voluntary and compliance market mechanisms in support of their NDCs	
3.1.1. Number of countries formally engaged with Gold Standard (total countries)	
3.1.2. Total investment size of X USD assessed using GS4GG principles	
3.1.3. Capacity built (need to come up with indicator to measure)	
De-risk investment and create value with credible impact assessment and claims	