

Gold Standard®

SDG IMPACT TOOLS: *Credibility + comparability in SDG claims*



GOLD STANDARD PLATFORM PROGRAMME - CALL FOR DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

DEADLINE **14th June 2019**

BACKGROUND

The success of sustainable development taking root in the voluntary carbon market has presented both tremendous opportunity and an important risk. To ensure market mechanisms effectively channel finance to high-impact projects and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a meaningful way, while also stemming the emergence of “SDG washing”, Gold Standard believes that quantification and claims of sustainable development outcomes must be rigorous, credible and yet simple to achieve.

We are therefore launching an SDG Impact Tools programme to develop the next generation of impact quantification and reporting for climate protection projects that will:

- › Ensure SDG impact claims made by projects are accurate and credible
- › Standardise impact indicators and quantification approaches to allow for clear comparison of project performance

- › Celebrate multiple SDG impacts while minimising the extra burden of MRV (by linking wherever possible to existing methodological proxies)
- › Provide a user-friendly interface for monitoring, quantification and reporting

As part of this work, Gold Standard has co-developed guidance to inform impact and indicator identification and tool development. This guidance was supported by myclimate, Climate Seed, the Swedish Energy Agency, and in review with UN-SDSN. The guidance documents will be published shortly, before convening working groups for activity-specific SDG Impact Tools.

Upon completion, each activity-specific SDG Impact Tool will become the default requirement for all projects of that type under Gold Standard for the Global Goals (transition details for existing projects will be shared in due course).

CALL FOR DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Gold Standard seeks partners to sponsor and co-develop tools/groups of tools by activity type. Each will cost circa 35k Euros to develop, including expert input by independent reviewers. The minimum sponsorship sought is 5k Euros (i.e. up to 7 partners per tool/group) though it is possible to exclusively sponsor a tool for a specific activity type, if desired.

Sponsors receive the following benefits:

- › Participating in the development group for the tool and helping to shape the identification of impacts and indicators, in line with expert advice
- › Recognition of sponsorship on the Gold Standard website and within the tool

Expressions of interest should indicate which tools (See table below) are of most interest and should be submitted to platform@goldstandard.org by **14th June 2019**, with the intention to commence work (subject to completeness of funding) during Q3 2019 and beyond.

The development process for each tool will last (indicatively) 3-6 months and will follow a pre-set process for efficiency. To manage resource the tool development will be staggered over a period of 1 year to 18 months, as necessary.

TABLE: TOOLS PER ACTIVITY TYPE

GROUP / ACTIVITY TYPE	SPECIFIC PROJECT TYPES INCLUDED	COMMENTS
COMMUNITY SERVICES	Cookstoves, biogas, safe water supply & sanitation, lighting	TBC – 1-2 working groups to form
RENEWABLE ENERGY	Grid connected, off-grid, others TBC	Likely 1 group for grid connected, 1 for off grid (or 1 combined reviewing 2 tools)
WASTE MANAGEMENT	MSW composting, landfill gas captured/ utilisation, wastewater treatment	1 group
FORESTRY	Afforestation/Reforestation, others TBC	1 group for A/R
AGRICULTURE	Energy processes (livestock etc), soil carbon/cropping process	Likely 2 separate groups TBC