

**Gold Standard**

## **SDG IMPACT TOOLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME:**

Promoting transparent and standardised quantification and reporting on sustainable development impacts in climate interventions



Version 1.0  
September 2018

**The challenge:** The Paris Agreement and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development strongly call for collaborative approaches and strategic partnerships to facilitate enhanced ambition and the delivery of changes needed to achieve climate security and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs however, were designed for national governments, hence the targets and indicators are often not applicable at the organisation, project or programme level.

**Our response:** Gold Standard and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat (UNFCCC) have a collaboration to develop tools for non-governmental stakeholders to assess and report transparently and independently the impact of their climate initiatives and their contributions towards the SDGs.

This **SDG Impact Tools programme** is aimed at developing impact quantification and reporting tools tailored for different climate actions, with specific indicators linked to the SDGs, relevant and applicable by project type and sector.

Quantifying and reporting SDGs can serve as a lever to catalyse more ambitious climate action, as this allows actors that are funding activities to mitigate climate change to transparently and credibly communicate to stakeholders about the benefits those actions bring to the global community.

We are inviting organisations to join this programme by:

- a) **Becoming a strategic partner** and co-fund Phase I of the programme, enabling participation in the development of the SDG Impact tool framework and blueprint, and/or
- b) **Becoming an implementation partner** in Phase II of the programme, for testing the SDG Impact tools and the co-development of modules of the tool for specific project types.

## WHAT SDG IMPACT TOOLS WILL ACHIEVE

The SDG Impact tools developed in this programme will enable non-state actors, including project developers, corporates, investors and funders to quantify and report transparently and independently the SDG impacts of their climate interventions.

The SDG Impact tools will be publicly available, allowing users to:

- Enhance credibility for SDG impact claims by using an independent, robust and standardised way to quantify and report these impacts

- Simplify the quantification by selecting relevant indicators and targets based on the specific project type or sector
- Enhance the communication of SDG impacts by having a transparent, standard and compelling way to visualise the impacts for each intervention
- Facilitate comparability and aggregation of SDG impacts for reporting at a portfolio level and comparability within sectors and in value chain interventions
- Have a new benchmark for the demonstration of SDG contributions at the intervention level in a credible, compelling way

The SDG Impact tools will be positioned to become the reference tools to quantify and report SDG impact of climate activities and interventions. Alignment is sought with existing SDG tools and frameworks (e.g. UNDP) and key civil society supporters (incl. UN SDSN) will be engaged throughout the process to ensure adequate recognition and/or formal endorsement.

## HOW SDG TOOLS WILL WORK

SDG Impact tools will guide users to 1) identify the potential impacts and contributions to the SDGs based on the sector and activity type; 2) provide options for relevant indicators to the activity; and 3) assess the level of contribution to a specific target or SDG (e.g. significant, positive, minor, neutral, negative).

The SDG Impact tools and modules developed will first be Excel based, with a view to digitise them in subsequent phases of the programme. The Certified SDG Impacts will be presented in a clear, transparent and standardised way.

Sustainable Development Goals	Activity Type							
	Afforestation / Reforestation		Improved Forest Management			Conservation		
SDG Goal	Timber Harvest	Conservation	Prevent loss of stocks	Increase stocks	Increase H&MP	Conservation	Restoration	
<b>SDG 1 - No Poverty</b> SDG Contribution Identified: Instigation or increase of smallholder income from forestry and forest products. Related SDG Target: 1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions								
<b>SDG 6 - Water and Sanitation</b> SDG Contribution Identified: Water filtration - improved water quality and quantity outputs from forested areas. Related SDG Target: 6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes								

1. intuitively select SDGs and targets relevant by intervention type
2. Guide the selection of indicators to monitor and report impacts
3. Communicate results in a clear, and standardised way

<b>Contribution to SDG 8:</b> Enhanced quantity and quality of employment in forests and supply chains	<b>Related SDG Target:</b> 8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.
<b>Monitoring Indicator:</b>	SDG Adopted Indicator 8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age group and persons with disabilities interpreted as: 1 - Change in Nr or % gain/loss employment in the forestry sector including comparison to national indicators
<b>Potential methodology:</b>	Census, local survey or ORKOY benefits information
<b>Suggested Monitoring Frequency:</b>	Annual if possible, minimum 2-3 years otherwise
<b>Other Notes:</b>	None

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

### Phase I: Development of the SDG Impact tool blueprint

Gold Standard and strategic partners will co-develop a blueprint for a new SDG assessment tool for climate actions, defining general structure, functionality, and features and expected outcomes of the tool.

Phase I will commence in Q3 2018 and will be concluded in December 2018 with the dissemination of the developed SDG tool blueprint, to be freely accessible to all.

### Phase II: Development of intervention-specific modules and testing

In Phase II, additional Implementation Partners will be invited to join Working Groups to: a) develop intervention-specific modules based on the SDG tool blueprint, defining tailored indicators and parameters for each of these project types; and b) test the SDG tool in specific project contexts.

The first working groups, to be launched in Q4 2018:

Working group	Modules	Initial activities covered (tentative)	Start date
WG 1	Community based projects	Improved cookstoves and household biogas	Q4 2018
WG 2	Energy	Renewable energy and waste management	Q1 2019
WG 3	Land Use	Afforestation/reforestation and sustainable agriculture	Q1 2019

*Note: Additional working groups and activities covered will be determined based on demand and interest from participants.*

### Phase III: Digitisation and dissemination of the tool

Phase III will seek to digitise the tools and identify existing (or develop a new) online platforms where the tools will be hosted and made available for wider adoption and for further improvements and updates. The view is to also link the tools with existing databases and host country-specific information to enable reporting towards the country's SDG priorities and targets and for aggregation of impacts. This phase is expected to start in H2 2019.

## HOW TO SIGN UP

For Phase I, we are looking for strategic partners that are able to co-fund the development of the tools and provide strategic and technical guidance in the SDG tool overall blueprint and in the development of intervention-specific modules in subsequent phases. Please contact Gold Standard by October 1 to register your interest and to find out more about the funding requirements.

For Phase II, we are looking to form working groups with Implementation Partners for each intervention-specific module of the tool. Participants will be able to contribute to the technical development of the tool and/or testing the modules in project specific contexts. The participation fee for each working group is €5,000 (Minimum 5 participants per working group). Besides participation, benefits for Implementation Partners will include profiling opportunities, joint communication activities, amongst others. Please contact Gold Standard by November 1 to register your interest in becoming an Implementation Partner.

For more information about joining Phase I or Phase II of this programme, or the Gold Standard Platform, please contact:

Bernardo Lazo,  
Director of Partnerships and Business Development  
<mailto:bernardo.lazo@goldstandard.org>