

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

# DIGITISING GOLD STANDARD'S SDG IMPACT TOOL

*Date* 21 April 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 90 countries worldwide.

Sustainable development sits at the heart of Gold Standard's work. All projects certified by Gold Standard must make a verified contribution to at least three of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and Gold Standard [has been recognized](#) as having market-leading provisions to promote sustainable development benefits and safeguard against negative impacts. In December 2021, [Gold Standard launched](#) a new [excel-based SDG Impact Tool](#), to streamline and standardize the process for project developers to measure sustainable development impacts. Gold Standard is

currently working with [Perspectives Climate Group](#) to develop a methodology for further enhancing this Tool, to support its use under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

## **Overview and Purpose of the Assignment**

Gold Standard is seeking an implementing partner to digitize its SDG Impact Tool, turning the current excel-based tool into a fully digital tool based on accounting software. This assignment is part of a [programme funded by the Swedish Energy Agency](#), related to the implementation of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

The primary intended purposes of this assignment are to further streamline the monitoring and verification process for Gold Standard's project developers and verification/validation bodies; to convey the differentiation of Gold Standard's SDG impacts within the carbon market; to enable the aggregation of SDG impacts; and to enable the integration of SDG impacts into the Gold Standard Impact Registry and website. This is part of Gold Standard's broader objectives to simplify procedures for project developers, adopt digital solutions to streamline and improve its services, and continue to drive impact towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The digitized tool must be user-friendly, comprehensive, and equipped with data protection features, allowing full traceability of operations and usable in multiple computer environments. It is essential that the tool is interoperable with the Gold Standard Impact Registry, to ensure consistency and enable integration.

The implementing partner should, through this assignment, achieve at least the following objectives:

1. Retain the existing structure and logic of the Gold Standard SDG Impact Tool, as well as the structure and logic of new elements being developed to support the tool's use under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.
2. Enable project developers to input and record data digitally on the impact of their project(s), in a secure, simple, and efficient way.
3. Enable Gold Standard and any relevant certification and verification bodies to access data recorded for projects, as part of the verification and certification process.

4. Integrate through API with the Gold Standard Impact Registry and Gold Standard website and enable SDG impacts to be reported and visualized (via embedded Data Visualizations / Snippets) on both platforms.
5. Enable information on the SDG impacts of projects to be generated in a visually appealing way (for example using charts libraries as d3.js or highcharts.js) that follows Gold Standard's brand and design guidelines, to support effective communication for a variety of audiences.
6. Enable information on the SDG impacts of projects across the Gold Standard portfolio to be more easily analyzed and aggregated, for instance for specific countries or portfolios of projects.

### **Description of the Assignment**

Gold Standard is open to prospective implementing partners proposing different approaches, but expects the assignment to have four main phases:

1. **Phase I - Scoping:** The implementing partner will work with Gold Standard, Cosmos (its registry developer), Perspectives Climate Group and other relevant parties to understand the scope of the task, the design of the existing excel-based SDG Impact Tool, the new methodological elements being developed by Perspectives Climate Group, and requirements for integration with the Gold Standard Impact Registry and website.
2. **Phase II - Design:** The implementing partner will provide a detailed design overview to Gold Standard for consideration, outlining the planned design, features and functionality of the digitized SDG Impact Tool. It is expected that this may be an iterative process, with several rounds of design before a final design proposal is agreed.
3. **Phase III – Development:** The implementing partner will build the digitized SDG Impact Tool on the basis of the agreed design, resulting in a finalized tool that is ready to be adopted by Gold Standard, used by project developers and integrated into the Gold Standard Impact Registry. This should include consultation, testing and validation of the digitized tool. It is expected that the implementing partner will involve end-users, in particular project developers, in this consultation and testing, and potentially in earlier phases of work.
4. **Phase IV – Maintenance:** The implementing partner should be available to provide further maintenance of the software as required following its launch. It is expected that prospective implementing partners will describe in their proposal how this would be supported, and over what duration.

## Anticipated outputs and indicative timeline

Output	Start date	End date
Identify and contract implementing partner	21 <sup>st</sup> April 2022	1 <sup>st</sup> June 2022
Phase 1: Scoping of requirements	1 <sup>st</sup> June 2022	30 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
Phase 2: Design of Tool	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2022	31 <sup>st</sup> August 2022
Phase 3: Development of Tool	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2022	30 <sup>th</sup> November 2022
Phase 4: Maintenance	1 <sup>st</sup> December 2022	-

## Methodology and Work Plan

Applicants should submit proposals relevant to the purpose and description of the assignment including all elements outlined below. Proposals should not be more than ten pages.

- (1) Overview of the organization(s), highlighting relevant experience and evidence of related projects
- (2) A high-level work plan for the assignment taking account of key touchpoints, including:
  - a. How data will be secured and protected
  - b. How integration with the Gold Standard Impact Registry and the Gold Standard website would be managed and enabled
  - c. How the implementing partner would engage stakeholders prior to and during the development of the digitized tool
  - d. How the implementing partner would support maintenance of the tool following its development
- (3) A budget, broken down between the phases outlined above, considering:
  - a. The proposed budget must include day rates and the total price of the assignment as well as payment terms
  - b. All figures should be presented in EUR
- (4) Profiles of the participating consultant(s) demonstrating suitable qualifications and experience (which may be annexed and in addition to the allowed ten pages).

## 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 (the Swedish Energy Agency) 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 [hugh.salway@goldstandard.org](mailto:hugh.salway@goldstandard.org) no later than **11<sup>th</sup> May 2022, 18:00 CEST**.

<b>Indicative timeline</b>	<b>Due date</b>
Release of the Request for Proposals	21 <sup>th</sup> April 2022
Closing date of the application process	11 <sup>th</sup> May 2022
Indicative date for award of a contract	1 <sup>st</sup> June 2022