



# SUSTAINCERT

USER-CENTRIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Official certification body for



**Gold Standard<sup>®</sup>**  
for the Global Goals

## —OPTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

### —GHG EMISSIONS REDUCTION & SEQUESTRATION PRODUCT REQUIREMENTS

- Transition from CDM and other schemes to GS4GG
- CDM Transition Request Form

## —GOLD STANDARD TPDDTEC METHODOLOGY

### —APPLICATION OF TPDDTEC METHODOLOGY TO SAFE WATER SUPPLY PROJECTS

- Grace period
- Impact on existing and new project submissions

## —OTHER IMPORTANT RULE UPDATES/CLARIFICATIONS

- Validation to be completed within 2 years from date of listing
- List of deviations on the GS website
- COVID-19 interim measures v4.0

## —UPDATE ON ACCREDITATION

# OPTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

## **GHG EMISSIONS REDUCTION & SEQUESTRATION PRODUCT REQUIREMENTS**

Transition from CDM and other schemes to GS4GG  
CDM Transition Request Form

# ANNEX B – REQUIREMENTS & PROCEDURE TO TRANSITION PROJECTS FROM OTHER STANDARDS TO GS4GG

## —General Requirements

- The project or CPA is eligible for transition to GS4GG, if the project or CPA (regardless of the PoA start date)
  - is a GS4GG eligible project type
  - has a valid registration status with the other standard at the time of first submission (preliminary review)
  - has a crediting period start date with the other standard on or after 01 January 2016
  - has a crediting period start date with other standard before 01 January 2016, but can demonstrate, at the time of preliminary review
    - that project faces a serious risk of discontinuation without carbon revenue
    - how the project has been operational in the absence of carbon revenue, if carbon credits have not been issued to the project in recent years
- The transition project, PoA/CPAs shall claim emission reductions of a given vintage only once and under one standard only.
  - The project developer shall provide a declaration, in writing, in the monitoring report to state that the project developer has not or will not issue both a CER and a GSVER for the same vintage from a project that is registered under GS4GG.
- The transition project, PoA/CPAs shall provide GS specific project documentation or the project documentation provided under the other carbon certification scheme together with the Transition Request Form.

# ANNEX B – REQUIREMENTS & PROCEDURE TO TRANSITION PROJECTS FROM OTHER STANDARDS TO GS4GG

## –Deregistration from the other Standard

- A CDM project, PoA/CPAs including those that are already registered with GS4GG for CER labelling seeking to transition to GS4GG to issue GSVERs, are not required to deregister from CDM.
- Eligible CDM A/R projects are required to deregister from CDM to transition to GS4GG and issue GSVERs.
- A transition project, PoA/CPAs that is registered with a standard other than CDM will need to deregister the project and provide evidence to confirm deregistration to VVB before project submission for design review

# ANNEX B – REQUIREMENTS & PROCEDURE TO TRANSITION PROJECTS FROM OTHER STANDARDS TO GS4GG

- Financial additionality and Ongoing Financial Needs
- CDM, JI projects and PoA/CPAs are not required to carry out additional assessment for demonstration of additionality
- Transition project, PoAs/CPAs registered with standards other than CDM are required to undergo additionality revalidation to re-establish the validity of the underlying assumptions applied in the demonstration of additionality at the time of registration with the other standard.
- Once transitioned, projects/PoAs/CPAs shall demonstrate Ongoing Financial Need as per the GS4GG requirements, available at the time of renewal of their crediting period under GS4GG.

# ANNEX B – REQUIREMENTS & PROCEDURE TO TRANSITION PROJECTS FROM OTHER STANDARDS TO GS4GG

## —Methodology and Tool version

### —At the time of submission:

- Projects – version applied at the time of registration/renewal of crediting period with other standard, as applicable
- PoAs – version applied at the time registration/renewal of crediting period with other standard, as applicable
- CPAs – version applied for inclusion in the registered PoAs with other standard
- New CPAs/VPAs – latest version applied by the registered PoAs for inclusion of new VPAs after transition to GS4GG14

### —At the time of renewal of crediting period with GS4GG

- Projects – latest version available at the time of submission for validation of renewal of crediting period with GS4GG.
- PoAs – latest version available at the time of submission for validation of renewal of certification cycle with GS4GG
- CPAs/VPAs – latest version applied in the most recent version of PoA available at the time of submission for renewal of crediting period with GS4GG

# ANNEX B – REQUIREMENTS & PROCEDURE TO TRANSITION PROJECTS FROM OTHER STANDARDS TO GS4GG

## —Scale

- Transition project, PoA/CPAs shall not change their scale at the time of transition.
- CDM project shall maintain project scale as registered in accordance with CDM project standard
- When the scale of a project, PoA/CPA gets changed due to circumstances outside the control of the CME/PD, the Design Change Requirements shall be followed.

## —Crediting Period

- Transition project/CPA seeking issuance of GSVERs or conversion of GSCERs to GSVERs shall issue GSVERs for a maximum crediting period allowed as per relevant GS4GG activity requirements or crediting period with the other standard, whichever ends first.
  - Under no circumstance, can the crediting period registered with other standard be extended.
- Transition PoA duration shall not exceed 20 years or the crediting period of first CPA allowed as per GS4GG activity requirements plus 5 years, whichever is greater.
- The total duration of the crediting period shall not exceed the maximum crediting period allowed under relevant GS4GG activity requirements. It also includes the period that project or CPA has been issued emission reductions for under other standard.



# ANNEX B – REQUIREMENTS & PROCEDURE TO TRANSITION PROJECTS FROM OTHER STANDARDS TO GS4GG

## —Issuance for Retroactive Period

- The transition project or CPA may request issuance of GSVERs or convert issued GSCERs to GSVERs, for retroactive period - which starts with crediting period start date with other standard or maximum two years before the date of first submission (**submission for preliminary review**), whichever occurs later.
- A/R projects are eligible for retroactive crediting for maximum three years

## —Crediting cycle

- Transition project, PoA/CPAs shall follow GS4GG certification cycle for crediting period renewal (e.g. 5 years) in order to issue or convert issued emission reductions to GSVERs under GS4GG.
- The first crediting period renewal under GS4GG takes into account the crediting years that has already been issued with other standard.
  - For example, if a project crediting period start date with standard X is 1st Jan 2019, the project shall renew its crediting period with GS4GG on or before 1st Jan 2024, irrespective of date of transition approval with GS4GG
- Transition project, PoA/CPA may opt for early renewal of crediting period to follow GS4GG certification cycle.

# ANNEX B – REQUIREMENTS & PROCEDURE TO TRANSITION PROJECTS FROM OTHER STANDARDS TO GS4GG

## —Crediting cycle examples

- a. A Community Service Activity (CSA) project registered with  $7 \times 3 = 21$  year crediting period, and the start date of 1<sup>st</sup> crediting period is 01/01/2018, the first crediting cycle under GS4GG will end after 5yr and 2<sup>nd</sup> crediting period starts on 31/12/2022 and 3<sup>rd</sup> crediting period on 30/12/2027.
- b. A CSA project registered with 10-year fixed crediting period under CDM and the start date of crediting period is 01/01/2018. This project must convert to a renewable cycle under GS4GG; the first crediting cycle will end after 5yr and 2<sup>nd</sup> crediting period starts on 31/12/2022. The project will be able to claim a maximum crediting period of 10 years across both Standards.

*Under no circumstance, registered crediting with other standard can be extended or changed from fixed to renewable.*

# ANNEX B – REQUIREMENTS & PROCEDURE TO TRANSITION PROJECTS FROM OTHER STANDARDS TO GS4GG

- Transition Request Form (TRF)
- Template to submit transition request in a standardized manner
- To be required to be submitted by both GS CDM and CDM projects/PoAs/CPAs
- GS CDM projects shall fill the transition request form - section TRF. 1 (Eligibility check for transition), and TRF.2 (Transition project/PoA/CPA information).
  - Section TRF. 3 (Transition checklist) may be skipped along with Key Project Information and PDD sections of the forms blank as this information has already been captured in project documentation submitted for GS -CER design certification

Certification outcome	Certification stage*	Option 1** Normal certification pathway	Option 2*** Combined Preliminary review + Validation + Design review	Option 3 Combined validation + verification followed by combined design + performance review
Listing	Preliminary review	SustainCERT		SustainCERT
Certified Design = Registration	Validation	VVB	SustainCERT	VVB
	Design review	SustainCERT		SustainCERT
Certified project = Issuance	Verification	VVB	VVB	VVB
	Performance review	SustainCERT	SustainCERT	SustainCERT
SustainCERT minimum timelines (excludes VVB timelines)		11 weeks	8 weeks	10 weeks
		<p>Project shall go through preliminary review by SustainCERT (4 weeks)</p> <p>Design review (minimum 4 weeks) is conducted after Validation by VVB and is concluded when all CARs/CLs are successfully closed.</p> <p>Performance review (minimum 3 weeks) is conducted after Verification by VVB and is concluded when all CARs/CLs are successfully closed.</p>	<p>Project may combine preliminary review with validation and design review. All these steps can be combined and completed by SustainCERT.</p> <p>VVB shall complete the verification.</p> <p>Performance review (minimum 3 weeks) is conducted after verification by VVB and is concluded when all CARs/CLs are successfully closed</p>	<p>Project shall go through preliminary review by SustainCERT (4 weeks)</p> <p>Project Developers may combine Design Certification with first Verification and Performance Review.</p> <p>VVB may combine site visits and VVB submits positive Validation and Verification Reports at the same time</p> <p>Concurrent Design Review and Performance Review (minimum 6 weeks) is conducted after submission of validation and verification reports by VVB and is concluded when all CARs/CLs are successfully closed.</p>

# ANNEX B – REQUIREMENTS & PROCEDURE TO TRANSITION PROJECTS FROM OTHER STANDARDS TO GS4GG

—SustainCERT CDM Transition Landing Page

# ANNEX B – REQUIREMENTS & PROCEDURE TO TRANSITION PROJECTS FROM OTHER STANDARDS TO GS4GG

## –GSCERs to GSVERs Conversion Procedure

- CDM project and CPAs for conversion of issued CERs to GSVERs, shall, upon completing the procedure (Option # 1, Option # 2 or Option # 3)
- Project, CPAs transfers the issued CERs, to the Gold Standard Swiss CDM Registry Account
- Gold Standard retires the transferred CERs and the associated labels
- Gold Standard issues an equivalent number of GSVERs to the project in the Impact Registry, after payment of the relevant fee and retirement of the CERs

# GOLD STANDARD IMPACT QUANTIFICATION METHODOLOGY

## APPLICATION OF TPDDTEC METHODOLOGY TO SAFE WATER SUPPLY PROJECTS

# APPLICATION OF TPDDTEC METHODOLOGY TO SAFE WATER SUPPLY PROJECTS

- The new methodology ‘Methodology for emission reductions from safe drinking water supply v.1.0’, has been released on 03.05.2021
- It replaces Annex 3 of TPDDTEC methodology and will come into effect on 02.08.2021 (Annex 3 of TPDDTEC methodology will remain in effect until 02.08.2021)

## Registration with Annex 3 of TPDDTEC

- No new projects/VPAs can be submitted for preliminary review after on or after 03.05.2021 applying Annex 3 of TPDDTEC
- A project/PoA/VPA applying Annex 3 of TPDDTEC that has already submitted or has completed preliminary review needs to submit for design review no later than 02.08.2021
- A registered PoA applying Annex 3 of TPDDTEC (any version) shall not submit a request for inclusion of a new VPA after 02.08.2021.
- A registered PoA shall request design change to update the methodology to “Methodology for emission reductions from safe drinking water supply” before the inclusion of new VPAs involving eligible safe water supply technology.



# APPLICATION OF TPDDTEC METHODOLOGY TO SAFE WATER SUPPLY PROJECTS

## Issuance with Annex 3 of TPDDTEC

- A registered project or VPA shall apply the values for parameter (Wb,y) as below for issuances submitted after 01.07.2020 (including monitoring period before this date).
- Option 1: Default Value
  - Apply the default values, i.e., woody biomass: 0.4 kg/l; charcoal 0.1 kg/l and for other fuel on woody biomass equivalent terms.
- Option 2: Field Test
  - Fuel consumption (kg/l) determined by conducting field tests with 5 liters of water following Water Boiling Test protocol guidelines.
  - If the result of the tests presents a higher value for fuel requirement, the project developer shall cap the values applied for emission reduction calculation - for woody biomass at 0.5 kg/l; charcoal at 0.125 kg/l; and other fuel as woody biomass equivalent terms.

# APPLICATION OF TPDDTEC METHODOLOGY TO SAFE WATER SUPPLY PROJECTS

## Renewal of crediting period

- Registered project applying Annex 3 of TPDDTEC methodology (all versions) shall apply the latest version of Methodology for emission reductions from safe drinking water supply v.1.0 when requesting renewal of crediting period.

## Design change

- Registered project/PoA/VPA which applied Annex 3 of TPDDTEC methodology (all versions) shall not change the registered project boundary i.e., physical and geographical boundary to include new units or installations.
- Registered project/PoA/VPA shall request design change to update the methodology to Methodology for emission reductions from safe drinking water supply v.1.0 to make a change to the registered project boundary or change the registered boundary with or after the renewal of the crediting period of the activity.

**Gold Standard** Gold Standard [LOGIN](#)

[Home](#) [Solutions](#)

Enter your search term here... [+ New Support Ticket](#) [+ Check Ticket Status](#)

[Solution home](#)

## SAFE WATER SUPPLY METHODOLOGY

### Why a change in methodology? (4)

- What are the drivers for making these changes?
- This new methodology may significantly reduc...
- Why is the scope of the new methodology red...
- Does Gold Standard approve projects applying...

### MRV (5)

- What are the key criteria to assess distance (1 ...
- When using satellite imagery, how do I ensure ...
- What satellite imagery or GPS techniques do y...
- What is the rationale for including both a wate...
- What is considered a recent and valid literatur...

### Already registered projects (4)

- What is the grace period for safe water project...
- What changes or flexibilities have been provid...
- For already registered projects/VPA's what is th...
- Do the new default/cap values regarding the cl...

### Other SWS FAQs (3)

- Why can't projects claim against SDG 6.1.1 "Pr...
- Does the new methodology enable suppress...
- If a Project Area National Water Policy contradi...

# OTHER IMPORTANT RULES/UPDATES/CLARIFICATIONS

# I. GS VALIDATION COMPLETION TIMEFRAME

## Paragraph 5.1.16 of Principles & Requirements V1.2 (23.10.2019)

- The Project shall complete Validation within two years of successful listing of the project.
  - Completion of validation is defined as the date of submission of validation report by VVB
  - Applies to both GS CDM and VER projects
  - Applicable on all scale projects

## II. LIST OF DEVIATIONS ON GOLD STANDARD WEBSITE

- All deviations and associated documents submitted for approval will be made publicly available.
  - The project developer may request to retract any confidential information at the time of submission of a request.
- The deviation decisions will be made public using one of the following platforms, as applicable:
  - Project level deviations – These deviation forms will be uploaded on a project page in the SustainCERT application
  - Project level deviations that result in a precedent – the deviation form will be made publicly available on the Gold Standard website

## —Access to approved deviations

Reference number	GSID	Title of deviation	Status	Date submitted	Date of decision	Applicable to other projects
------------------	------	--------------------	--------	----------------	------------------	------------------------------

DEV_150	N/A	EcoAct Multi-country Improved Cooking and Safe Water programme	Approved	07.08.2020	09.09.2020	No
---------	-----	--	----------	------------	------------	----

### ▼ Deviation details

Project Name	N/A
Deviation:	<a href="#">EcoAct Multi-country Improved Cooking and Safe Water programme</a>
Decision:	Approved

DEV_158	GS1075	Solar Cooking in Chad	Approved	09.09.2020	17.11.2020	Yes
---------	--------	-----------------------	----------	------------	------------	-----

### ▼ Deviation details

Project Name	<a href="#">GS1075</a>
Deviation:	<a href="#">Solar cooking in Chad</a>
Decision:	Approved

### III. COVID-19 INTERIM MEASURES v4

- Interim measures have been extended from 30/06/2021 to 31/12/2021
- For deviations already approved with earlier COVID-19 interim measures, the end-dates are automatically allowed to be extended to 31/12/2021
- Stakeholder consultations:
  - physical stakeholder consultation meetings and the Stakeholder Feedback Round (SFR) for Gold Standard project/POA/VPAs can be postponed until the COVID-19 situation eases.
  - The postponed physical stakeholder consultation and SFR shall be carried out in line with the Gold Standard Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements (Version 1.2 dated October 2019).
- Annex 1: Validation/verification techniques for Validation/Verification Bodies



# ACCREDITATION UPDATE

# Accreditation Update

- We aim to achieve accredited status by end of Q2 2022, which is an ambitious; over the next few weeks we will be implementing some changes to our internal validation and verification process.
- 4 stages in the ISO audit process
  - 1.Pre-Engagement – new form will be sent to collect info about your project/details of your audit team will be sent by email/contract will be sent upon booking a review
  - 2.Audit Planning – you will receive a plan of the audit/ standard timelines should not change
  - 3.Audit – internal val/ver feedback form will change/ you will receive a full report detailing the whole process
  - 4.Independent Review – a completely independent team member will review the output of the audit team (4 eyes approach)

# Q & A



# SUSTAINCERT

USER-CENTRIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Official certification body for



**Gold Standard<sup>®</sup>**  
for the Global Goals