GS4GG Project Certification Process and Workflow
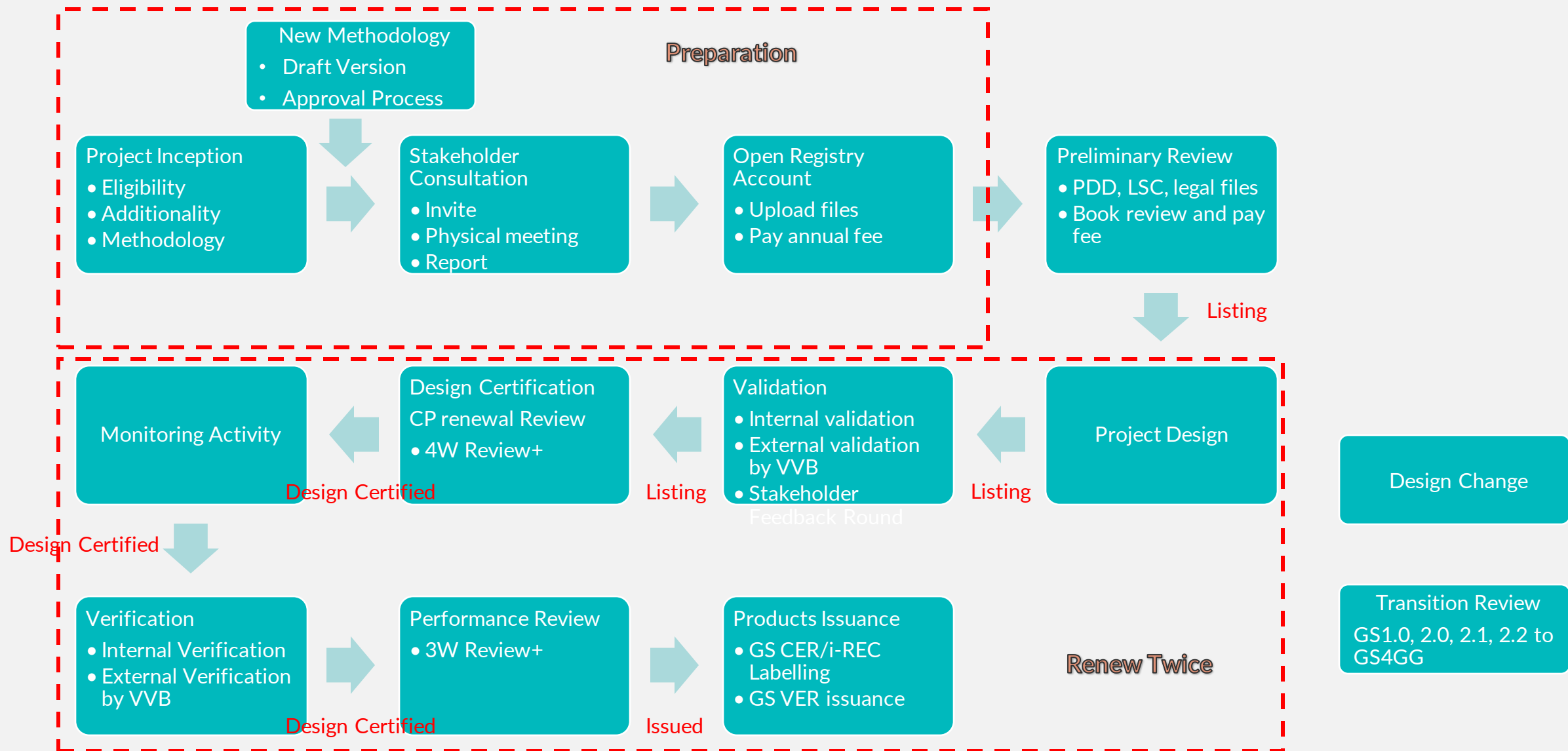
15 Apr 2021

Project Eligibility

- **Project type**

    - Renewable energy

    - End-use energy efficiency

    - Waste handling and treatment

    - Forestry and land use

    Additional guidance on specific project type (hydro, biomass, biogas etc.) eligibility

    Methodology Tool

- **Project gases** eligible for credits: CO2, CH4 and N2O

- **Project location** Projects may be located in any host country

    However, **GS VER projects** located in **host countries or states with caps** on GHG emissions shall only be eligible if the Project Developer has provided **satisfactory assurances that an equivalent amount of allowances will be retired to back-up the GS VERs issued** (any AAUs may be retired for this purpose)

- **Applicable Methodology** only CDM or GS approved methodologies allowed

Project Eligibility

- **Project Crediting Period**

  ➢ 5 years renewal twice or once

  ➢ Under 1 or more other Voluntary carbon standards: the total crediting period under all schemes combined shall not exceed the GS crediting period when all carbon credits sought by project representatives under GS and under other standard or schemes are aggregated.

  ➢ PP can claim realized ERs maximumly two years prior to GS design certification date.

- **Renewable Energy Rule (24 Jan 2020)**

➢ New GS VER or GS CER Renewable Energy projects connected to national or a regional electricity grid must be located in a LDC, SIDS or a LLDC or Low Income and Low Middle-income country where the penetration level of the proposed Renewable Energy Technology type is less than 5% of the total grid installed capacity, at the time of the first submission to preliminary review

- **Other scheme transition**

➢ Eligible project/CPA registered with other schemes that have a crediting period start date **with original carbon crediting scheme on or after 01 January 2016** are allowed to transition to Gold Standard for the Global Goals.

➢ Eligible project/CPA registered with other schemes that have a crediting period start date **with original carbon crediting scheme before 01 January 2016** shall 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

These projects shall be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

GS Certification Timeline

➢ The invitation for the consultation meeting shall be given at least **30 days before the meeting takes place**.

➢ Retroactive projects shall submit the required documents for preliminary review (time of first submission) within **one year of the project start date.** A project with a Certified Design requesting to include a new technology/measures shall submit the request for approval of design change to Gold Standard **within one year of the start date of the proposed technology/measures (design change component).**

➢ The Stakeholder Feedback Round remains open for **a minimum of 60 days.**

➢ Projects may then seek Gold Standard Certified Design status by successfully completing Validation (**within two years of the date of Listing**) and a subsequent Design Review.

➢ The number of Performance Certifications in a five-year certification cycle is not limited although it must take place **at least once, no later than two years after Project implementation or Design Certification**, whichever is later.

➢ Gold Standard for the Global Goals Project Certification is based on **a five year renewable certification cycle.** To maintain Gold Standard Certified Project status beyond five years, a Project must undergo Design Certification Renewal. This process shall begin (defined by the submission of a Renewal opinion by a VVB for Design Review to Gold Standard) **no later than the last date of current certification cycle.**

GS Certification Timeline

GUIDELINES ON THE TIMELINES FOR GOLD STANDARD PROJECT REVIEWS (Effective on all new project submissions from 7th October 2013)
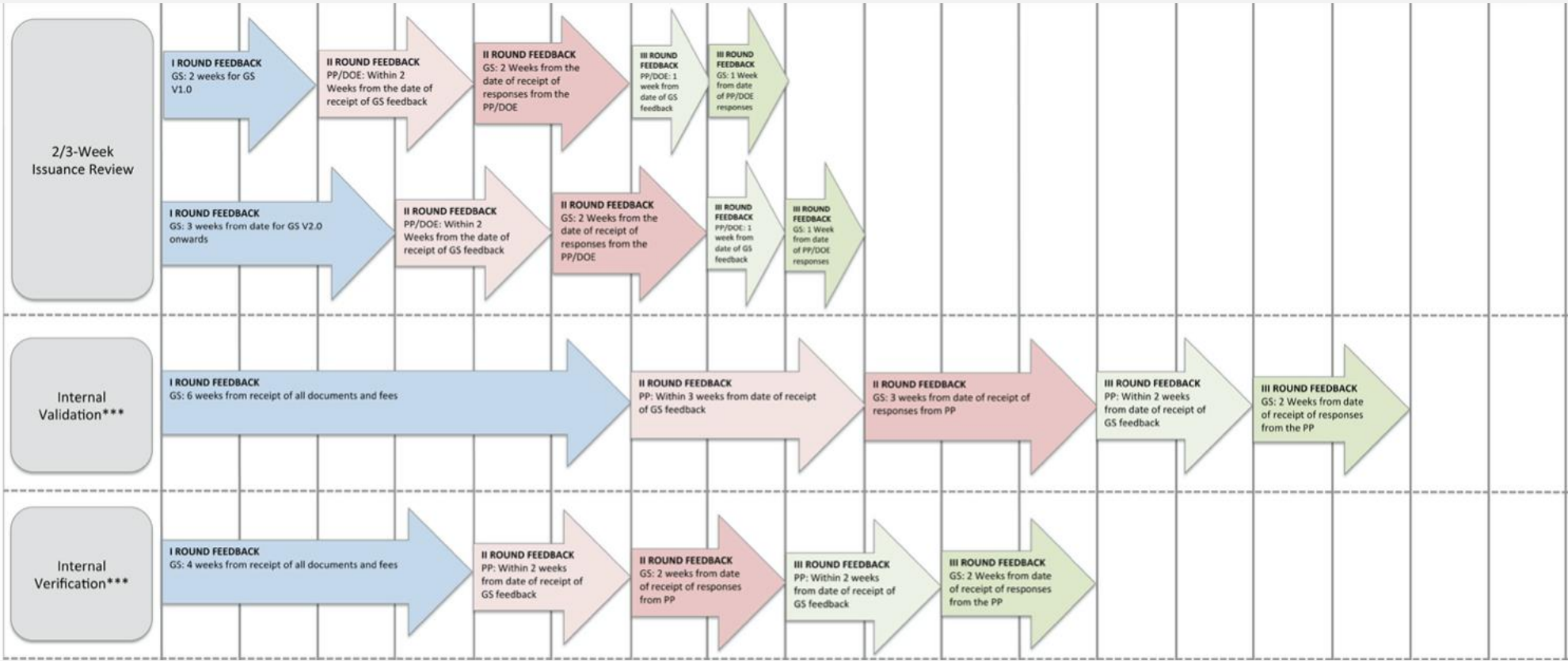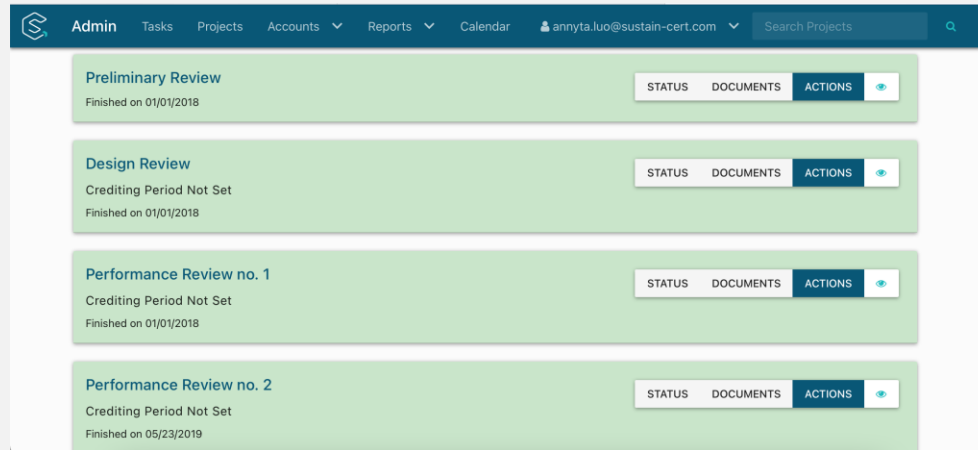
GS Certification Fee

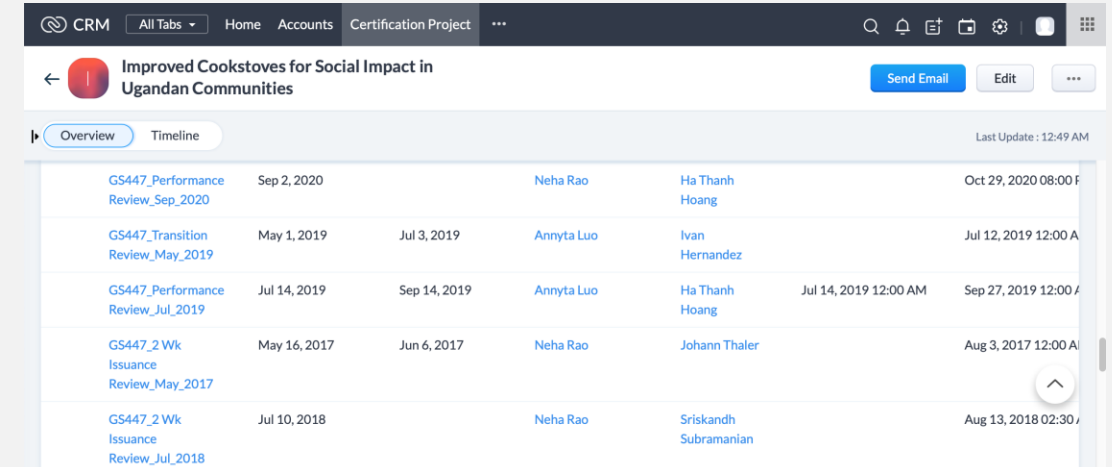| Certification Step	Fee Schedule
Project Inception	To consultant
New Meth	to GS
Stakeholder Consultation	To consultant
Open Registry Account	USD1000/a, to GS
Project Development	To consultant

Micro	Fee Schedule	Small/Large	Fee Schedule	PoA	Fee Schedule
Preliminary review	USD500	Preliminary review	USD900	PoA Design Consultation	No fee
Internal validation	USD5000(standalone) or USD20,000 (PoA) + USD2500 (VPA)	External Validation	to VVB		
Design Certification	USD0.15/t (VER) or USD0.05/t (CER)	Design Certification	USD0.15/t (VER) or USD0.05/t (CER)		
Internal verification No.1	USD2500/a (standalone) or USD1500/a (VPA)	External Verification	to VVB		
Performance Review No.1	USD650	Performance Review No.1	USD1000		
Issuance	to GS	Issuance	to GS		
Internal verification No.2	USD2500/a or USD1500/a	External Verification	to VVB		
Performance Review No.2	USD650	Performance Review No.2	USD1000		
Issuance	to GS	Issuance	to GS		

GS Certification Platforms

Sustain-cert Application (SC App)
- Interface between SC, PDs, Experts, GS
- Documents Store/View

CRM (Zoho)
Certification Review Management

GS Registry
- PD Account
- Products Issuance

Certification Workflow

Step	Action	Entity	Responsible SC Person
Booking			
1	log in SC App and book a review (time lag set)	PP	
2	Log in Admin, confirm/reschedule the booking and trigger invoice	SC	Annyta
3	Invoice generation	SC	Jatin
Status:	Review is booked; PP receive auto notification, prepare payment and documents		

Certification Workflow

Step	Action	Entity	Responsible SC Person
Initiation			
4	Log in SC App, upload complete documents, pay review fee	PP	
5	Confirm invoice pay	SC	Jatin
6	Click submit button	PP	
7	Log in Admin, check if the review is ready (YES/NO)	SC	Annyta/Arshi
8	No, re schedule the booking and email PP the booking postpone or cancel	SC	Annyta/Arshi
	Yes, initiate the review	SC	Annyta/Arshi
9	allocate expert and QA on SC App in order that expert can access the documents	SC	Annyta/Arshi
10	Make requested documents publicly available for GS NGO/TAC	SC	Annyta/Arshi
11	Create project page/review page/feedback page in CRM; fill feedback round, expert name, officer name, the planned start date, planned end date to expert & PP & NGO/TAC, actual start date	SC	Annyta/Arshi
12	Expert confirm his/her availability and No COI by email	RoE	
	In case not available or COI, re allocate the review (repeat action 9-11)	SC	Annyta/Arshi
Status:	Review feedback round is initiated; RoE, PP receive the notification about due date		

Certification Workflow

Step	Action	Entity	Responsible SC Person
Detail Review			
13	Expert conduct detailed first round review and share review form by email	RoE	
14	Confirm receipt of RoE review form, share with QA, fill expert actual end date in CRM	SC	Annyta
15	QA check and internal officer upload review form onto SC App, fill the actual end date in CRM, click update button	SC	Annyta/Arshi/Anurag/Neha/Tanvi
a	if GS TAC/NGO comment, follow SoP	GS	Annyta/Arshi/Anurag/Neha/Tanvi/Richard
b	If GS QA/QC, follow SoP	GS	Annyta/Arshi/Anurag/Neha/Tanvi/Richard
c	If question on rules/non compliance, discuss in tech call	SC	Annyta/Arshi/Anurag/Neha/Tanvi/Richard
d	Clarification on rules/deviation approval	GS	Richard
Status:	Expert and QA conduct the technical review in each round as per fixed timeline		

Certification Workflow

Step	Action	Entity	Responsible SC Person
Review Closure			
16	Repeat Step 11-15 till review closing (review rounds)		
17	Review Closure Actions	SC	Annyta/Arshi/Anurag/Neha/Tanvi
a	upload final review form onto SC App		
b	approve the review on SC App		
c	correct all project information on SC App		
d	score RoE & VVB performance in CRM		
e	fill the actual end date of review & feedback round in CRM		
f	make final version documents public available		
g	In case issuance/performance review closing, email Deepika final review form and invoice request		
19	Generate issuance invoice	GS	Deepika/Keith
20	Credits issuance upon fee pay	GS	Deepika/Keith
Status:	Review is closed and project status is updated on SC App		

SUSTAINCERT

USER-CENTRIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT