

## LESSON 1:

# INTRODUCTION TO THE GOLD STANDARD FOR THE GLOBAL GOALS CERTIFICATION PROCESS

# OBJECTIVE & KEY LEARNINGS

## THE MAIN GOAL OF THIS LESSON IS:

- ✓ **To provide** relevant background information on the GS4GG certification process.

## AT THE END OF THE TRAINING, PARTICIPANTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO:

- ✓ **Recall** and identify the key steps of the GS4GG certification process.
- ✓ **Summarize** who are the key actors involved in the GS4GG certification process.
- ✓ **Exemplify** how are the Sustainable Development Goals incorporated into the GS4GG certification process.
- ✓ **Recall** the main principles governing the GS4GG standard.
- ✓ **Map** the GS4GG timeline and important certification milestones



# WHAT IS GOLD STANDARD FOR GLOBAL GOALS?

**The Gold Standard for the Global Goals (“GS4GG”)** is a standard that certifies the positive effects of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in results-based finance. It covers a range of advantages including water, renewable energy, health, and gender equality. This certification enables project developers to quantify the value of their project's impacts in monetary terms and provides project funders with the highest level of confidence that the intended results have been achieved.

Gold Standard projects registered under the previous versions are required to update to Gold Standard for the Global Goals, with the date of upgrading depending on the project context. To upgrade, an annex demonstrating how a project meets the GS4GG’s new requirements must be prepared. The updated Standard is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and introduces new safeguarding principles for some project types amongst other things.

The Gold Standard Foundation became an ISEAL (ISEAL is the global association for credible sustainability standards) associate member in 2016 and developed Gold Standard for the Global Goals (“GS4GG”) in line with ISEAL requirements in July 2017.

**SustainCERT is an official certification body for Gold Standard for the Global Goals (GS4GG).**

# KEY ACTOR: THE GOLD STANDARD FOUNDATION (GSF)

## THE GOLD STANDARD FOUNDATION (GSF)

The Gold Standard is a foundation established in 2003 by World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) and other international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) that operates an offset standard focusing on environmental and social benefits. It can also be applied as an add-on quality label to Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) activities. Eligible sectors are Renewable Energy (RE), waste, land use and forests (LUF) (afforestation/reforestation, agriculture, and soil organic carbon) and water (supply, purification and conservation). Under this standard, more than 550 registered projects have achieved emission reductions of about 78 million tCO<sub>2</sub>eq in the period 2008-2017. The foundation has launched a new generation of standards with the dual objective of pursuing climate action and the fulfilment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), Gold Standard for the Global Goals (GS4GG) in 2017.

# KEY ACTOR: SUSTAINCERT (SC)

## OUR STORY

SustainCERT is a for-profit, mission-driven company, with the goal to invest in technology to bring down barriers using best practice impact verification for climate and sustainable development. SustainCERT was created in 2018 in order to independently and impartially certify Gold Standard projects and with the ambition to mainstream credible climate and SDG impact accounting. We started with Gold Standard, but are not limited to Gold Standard, because we're independent, and we believe that we need to support best practices wherever they are. Our primary mandate is to bring technology to Gold Standard users, so we manage the Gold Standard portfolio from a verification perspective. But we are also expanding beyond Gold Standards with the goal of leveraging our technology and software platform, to make it easier, simple, and affordable for users to go through the Gold Standards verification process or through other standards processes as required.

We help project developers and corporates quantify and verify carbon emissions accurately and certify carbon credits and corporate claims with international frameworks such as Gold Standard for the Global Goals, the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, VERRA and the Sustainable Development Goals.

We are in the development stage of an impact emissions factor software that helps accurately account, allocate and report Scope 3 emissions among value chain players. This software will simplify processes for data collection, calculation, and verification.

We have also expanded into value chain emissions where it is one of the founding partners of the Value Change Initiative – a pre-competitive collaboration platform for corporates and civil society to co-develop and implement value chain emissions accounting rules. This initiative has over 60 organisations, 8 sectors, and more than 130 technical representatives and partners participating since 2018.

# KEY ACTOR: SUSTAINCERT (SC)

## OUR MARKETS INCLUDE:

- ✓ Environmental Markets (we also call them carbon markets)
- ✓ Corporate Reporting (we also call it Scope 3 or Value Change)

## HOW DID SUSTAINCERT START?

To best respond to the International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labelling Alliance (ISEAL Alliance) requirements for independent and impartial certification Gold Standard spin-off its certification services from the standards body to SustainCERT. SustainCERT is currently the official certification body for GS4GG, but this is not our only business. Next to helping project developers and corporates quantify and verify carbon emissions accurately as well as certify carbon credits and corporate claims with GS4GG, we have also expanded into value chain emissions and are developing innovative software that simplifies processes for data collection, calculation and verification, reimagining a future where issuance of carbon credits and other impact claims becomes scalable.

**SustainCERT is a spin-off from the Gold Standard Foundation and was created in 2018 with one ambition: to mainstream credible climate and SDG impact accounting and certification.**

Read about SustainCERT ([here](#)), our manifesto, story, mission, vision, and markets.

# KEY ACTOR: VALIDATION & VERIFICATION BODIES (VVB)

## VALIDATION AND VERIFICATION BODIES

Validation and Verification bodies (VVBs), play a vital role in upholding the integrity and credibility of registered projects. Their responsibility lies in conducting third-party assessments independently to verify that projects meet the requirements set by the Gold Standard. Operating within the Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) framework, VVBs ensure impartiality and serve as guardians of project quality and compliance.

\*Impartiality can be defined as the characteristic or condition of being unbiased, fair, and neutral when making judgments or decisions. It entails treating all individuals or parties without favoritism or prejudice and making assessments based on objective criteria rather than personal opinions or preferences.

\*More information on VVBs in lesson 3

# MAIN PRINCIPLES OF GS4GG STANDARD

**PRINCIPLE 1      CONTRIBUTION TO CLIMATE SECURITY & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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**PRINCIPLE 2      SAFEGUARDING PRINCIPLES**

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**PRINCIPLE 3      STAKEHOLDER INCLUSIVITY**

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**PRINCIPLE 4      DEMONSTRATION OF REAL OUTCOMES**

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**PRINCIPLE 5      FINANCIAL ADDITIONALITY & ONGOING FINANCIAL NEED**



# MAIN PRINCIPLES OF GS4GG: CSA, RE, LUF / AR

## PRINCIPLE 1 CONTRIBUTION TO CLIMATE SECURITY & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Projects must fall under pre-identified eligible types or undergo a review by the Gold Standard to determine their eligibility, are required to define their Baseline Scenario and Project Scenario and should have a positive contribution to both Climate Security and Sustainable Development, with these impacts evaluated in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As part of the certification process, projects must make contributions to SDG 13 (Climate Action) along with minimum two additional SDGs.

\***Baseline Scenario:** A conservative scenario representing the conditions that would prevail if the project were not implemented.

\***Project Scenario:** The scenario that will be in place after the Project is fully implemented and operational.

## PRINCIPLE 2 SAFEGUARDING PRINCIPLES

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Project developers are required to perform a Safeguarding Principles Assessment and adhere to the Safeguarding Principles & Requirements and Project also shows how it fulfils all relevant Requirements. These elements, are then incorporated into the Project Design Document, along with the Monitoring & Reporting Plan.

# MAIN PRINCIPLES OF GS4GG: CSA, RE, LUF / AR

## PRINCIPLE 3 STAKEHOLDER INCLUSIVITY

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Projects are required to recognize and involve Relevant Stakeholders, and if necessary, obtain input from Expert Stakeholders during the design, planning, and implementation phases. The project design must consider the perspectives and contributions of stakeholders, and continuous feedback should be solicited, documented, and acted upon throughout the Project's duration.

*\*If needed, projects should also seek input from experts. Specific stakeholder consultation requirements are in place for hydropower, renewable biomass, and MSW incineration projects.*

## PRINCIPLE 4 DEMONSTRATION OF REAL OUTCOMES

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Projects must:

- Create and develop an initial Project Design Document (PDD) that includes a comprehensive Monitoring & Reporting Plan.
- Go through the Preliminary Review, Project Design Certification, and Performance Certification stages, adhering to the Principles & Requirements - Obtain Design Certification (involving Validation and Design Review).
- Implement monitoring in accordance with the Monitoring & Reporting Plan and produce both Annual Reports and Monitoring Reports.
- Obtain Performance Certification (comprising Verification and Performance Review) to attain the status of a Gold Standard Certified Project. This allows for issuing Gold Standard Certified Impact Statements and Gold Standard Certified Products, if desired
- Renew the Gold Standard Design Certification periodically to maintain the Certified Project status and continue seeking Gold Standard Certified Products and Impact Statements, if desired.

# MAIN PRINCIPLES OF GS4GG: CSA, RE, LUF / AR

## **PRINCIPLE 5      FINANCIAL ADDITIONALITY & ONGOING FINANCIAL NEED**

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All Projects are obligated to exhibit impacts that exceed those of their baseline scenario, meaning the benefits go beyond what would be expected under a business-as-usual situation, as outlined in Principle 1 before. Moreover, for Projects pursuing specific certification pathways (e.g., seeking financing or issuing market products through Gold Standard Certified Products or Impact Statements), they must also demonstrate Financial Additionality and an Ongoing Financial Need.

# ADDITIONALITY

The voluntary carbon market seeks to solve a market failure as without the financial funding from carbon credits or other relevant Certified Impact Statements and/or Products, projects that “contribute to climate security and sustainable development” (principle 1) will not be able to take place.

Thus, a key principle (number 5) requires projects to demonstrate “Financial Additionality and Ongoing Financial Need”.

✓ To qualify as a genuine carbon offset, the reductions achieved by a project need to be “**additional**” to what would have happened if the project had not been carried out (e.g., continued as business-as-usual).

## PRINCIPLE 5: FINANCIAL ADDITIONALITY & ONGOING FINANCIAL NEED

✓ “All Projects must demonstrate impacts that are additional as compared to their baseline scenario (i.e., the benefits of the Project are beyond a business-as-usual scenario) as covered in Principle 1...”

✓ “... Projects following certain certification pathways (i.e., those seeking to use certification to attract finance or issue market products through the issuance of Gold Standard Certified Products or Impact Statements) shall demonstrate Financial Additionality and Ongoing Financial Need.”

### NOTE:

✓ Regular VER projects if submitted within one year of its start date do not have to demonstrate additionality.

✓ Registered CDM projects also do not have to demonstrate additionality.

# ADDITIONALITY FOR \*RENEWABLE ENERGY ONLY

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR AN ADDITIONAL MICROSCALE PROJECT:

### LOCATED IN:

- Least Developed Country (LDC)
- Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
- Land Locked Developing Country (LLDC)
- Special Underdeveloped Zone (SUZ) of Host Country

### IF IN A DIFFERENT REGION:

- Demonstrate significant benefits to poor communities
- Obtain approval from the Gold Standard with detailed description

### SUPPLIES ELECTRICITY TO REGIONAL OR NATIONAL GRID:

- Substantially enhances access for local communities, households or SMEs
- Supported by compelling evidence

### INVOLVES INSTALLATION OF:

- Solar Photovoltaic and Solar Thermal electricity generation
- Off-shore wind, marine technology
- Household rooftop wind turbines up to 100 kW
- Biomass integrated gasification combined cycle

*Utilizes other renewable energy technologies or measures recommended by the host country and adopted by the CDM EB:  
Validity end date should be before first submission to the Gold Standard or approved as part of the Positive list.*

# HOW ARE SDGS INCORPORATED INTO THE GS4GG CERTIFICATION PROCESS

The United Nations adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, in 2015. These goals serve as a universal call to action, aiming to eradicate poverty, safeguard the environment, and ensure peace and prosperity for all individuals by 2030. Comprising 17 interconnected objectives, the SDGs acknowledge that actions taken in one domain will have consequences in others, emphasizing the need for development that balances social, economic, and environmental sustainability. Nations have pledged to prioritize advancements for those who are the most marginalized. The SDGs are specifically designed to address issues such as poverty, hunger, AIDS, and gender discrimination, with the goal of eliminating these challenges. Accomplishing the SDGs requires the collective involvement of society, drawing upon creativity, expertise, technology, and financial resources from all sectors in every context.



Read more about the Sustainable Development Goals ([here](#)).

# HOW ARE SDGS INCORPORATED INTO THE GS4GG CERTIFICATION PROCESS: PROJECT TYPES

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

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- Renewable energy connected to mini-grid or off grid solutions.
- End-use energy efficiency
- Waste management + handling
- Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

## RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

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- Projects must generate and deliver energy services using non-fossil fuel and renewable energy sources.
- Projects must use renewable energy generation units such as solar photovoltaic, tidal/wave, wind, hydro, geothermal, waste to energy, and renewable biomass that are either supplying energy to a national or regional grid or supplying energy to a specific consumer facility via the national/regional grid through a contractual agreement.

## AFFORESTATION/REFORESTATION (A/R) PROJECTS

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- A/R: Planting trees, single-species plantations, and various silvicultural systems, such as conservation forests, selective harvesting forests, and rotation forestry.
- AGR: Methane reduction by adjusted water management practice in rice cultivation.
- SOC: Increasing Soil Carbon through improved tillage practices, or application of improvers from paper and mill sludges.

# HOW ARE SDGS INCORPORATED INTO THE GS4GG CERTIFICATION PROCESS: SDGS CLAIMED BY COMMON PROJECT TYPES



Emission reductions signify the avoidance of one metric tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) from being released into the atmosphere. These reductions, commonly referred to as carbon credits, are utilized for carbon offsetting purposes. The Gold Standard offers carbon credits in the following categories:

- 1. VERIFIED EMISSION REDUCTIONS (VERS) FOR VOLUNTARY CLIMATE ACTION.**
- 2. LABELS FOR CERTIFIED EMISSION REDUCTIONS (CERS).**

## **WHAT IS ELIGIBLE FOR CLAIMING?** **SDG 13: CLIMATE ACTION**

✓ By contributing to the Paris Climate Agreement and SDG 13, companies can enhance their credibility. To ensure credibility, it is recommended that companies initially commit to ambitious internal emission reduction targets, with the Gold Standard suggesting the establishment of Science Based Targets. The purchase of emission reductions can then be utilized to fulfill claims of being 'carbon neutral,' 'climate neutral,' and even 'climate positive.'



# HOW ARE SDGS INCORPORATED INTO THE GS4GG CERTIFICATION PROCESS: SDGS CLAIMED BY COMMON PROJECT TYPES



The **Gold Standard Renewable Energy Label** certifies the generation and delivery of one megawatt-hour (MWh) of electricity from a renewable source to the electricity grid. This label guarantees that the buyer's purchase leads to tangible emissions reductions in the real world and contributes to the expansion of renewable energy capacity in the grid. Moreover, the labeled energy comes from a project that has been verified to deliver sustainable development benefits.

At present, Gold Standard Renewable Energy Labels are issued in addition to International Renewable Energy Certificates (I-RECs) from the International REC Standard. Typical project types which claim this SDG are Energy Efficiency projects such as improved cook stoves, biogas, safe water access, etc.

## WHAT IS ELIGIBLE FOR CLAIMING? SDG 7: AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY BY 2030

- ✓ **Target 7.1:** Ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services
- ✓ **Target 7.2:** Increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix
- ✓ **Target 7.3:** Double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency

# HOW ARE SDGS INCORPORATED INTO THE GS4GG CERTIFICATION PROCESS: SDGS CLAIMED BY COMMON PROJECT TYPES



A **Water Benefit Certificate** signifies the sustainable supply, purification, or conservation of a specific volume of water. The volume assigned to each certificate varies based on the type of project, considering factors such as size and the extent of the provided impacts.

Typical project types which claim this SDG are **Safe Water Supply (SWS)**, such as boreholes, water filters. etc.

## WHAT IS ELIGIBLE FOR CLAIMING? SDG 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION BY 2030

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- ✓ **Target 6.1:** Achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
- ✓ **Target 6.2:** Achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations
- ✓ **Target 6.3:** Improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally
- ✓ **Target 6.4:** Substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity
- ✓ **Target 6.5:** Implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate

# HOW ARE SDGS INCORPORATED INTO THE GS4GG CERTIFICATION PROCESS: SDGS CLAIMED BY COMMON PROJECT TYPES



Promoting the empowerment of women and girls is recognized as a highly impactful approach to combatting climate change. By closing the gender gap, progress can be accelerated across numerous other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Gold Standard for the Global Goals prioritizes gender equality by implementing enhanced safeguards, ensuring that all Gold Standard projects are "Gender Sensitive." Furthermore, projects could actively evaluate and certify their contributions to SDG 5 by adhering to the "Gender Responsive" Framework provided by the Gold Standard.

Typical project types which claim this SDG are **biogas, improved cook stoves, access to clean water, etc.**

## WHAT IS ELIGIBLE FOR CLAIMING? SDG 5: GENDER EQUALITY

- ✓ **SDG Target 5.1:** Ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls worldwide.
- ✓ **SDG Target 5.4:** Recognizing and valuing unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure, social protection policies, and promoting shared responsibility within households and families as appropriate on a national level.
- ✓ **SDG Target 5.5:** Ensuring women's full and effective participation, as well as equal opportunities for leadership, at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life.

# HOW ARE SDGS INCORPORATED INTO THE GS4GG CERTIFICATION PROCESS: SDGS CLAIMED BY COMMON PROJECT TYPES

Supporting the funding of Gold Standard certified Averted Disability Adjusted Life Years (ADALYs) enables organizations to uphold their commitments to promoting good health. By financing projects that lead to certified ADALYs through the Gold Standard, organizations can contribute directly to these health-related goals and targets.

**Note:** ADALYs are not required to be quantified for SDG 3. A project without ADALYs can also claim a positive contribution to SDG 3. GS4GG impact quantification methodology for [ADALYS](#) is an option.

Typical project types which claim this SDG are **biogas, improved cook stoves, water filters, etc.**



## WHAT IS ELIGIBLE FOR CLAIMING? SDG 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

- ✓ **SDG 3:** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- ✓ **SDG Target 3.9:** Substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses caused by hazardous chemicals, as well as air, water, and soil pollution and contamination.
  - **SDG Target 3.9.1:** Decrease the mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution.

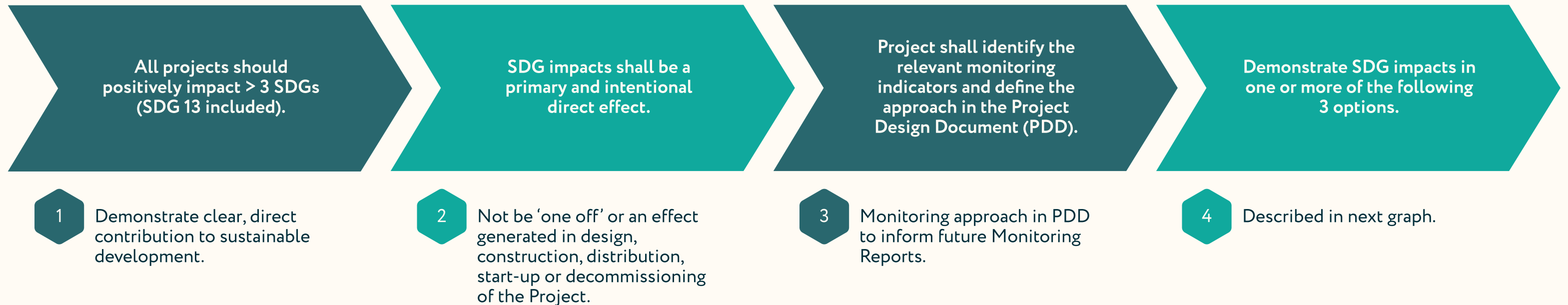
# HOW ARE SDGS INCORPORATED INTO THE GS4GG CERTIFICATION PROCESS: SDGS PER PROJECT TYPES

An SDG Impact Tool is provided by the Gold Standard Foundation to help in the calculation of these impacts.

Project Type	SDG				
	13 Climate Action	7 Affordable & Clean Energy	6 Clean Water & Sanitation	5 Gender Equality	3 Good Health & Well-being
Community Service	■	■	■	■	■
Renewable Energy	■	■		■	
Afforestation/Reforestation (A/R)	■		■	■	■

# HOW ARE SDGS INCORPORATED INTO THE GS4GG CERTIFICATION PROCESS: HOW ARE SDGS SELECTED

There are 4 main points to selecting the Sustainable Development Goals for a Project:



# HOW ARE SDGS INCORPORATED INTO THE GS4GG CERTIFICATION PROCESS: HOW ARE SDGS SELECTED



# HOW ARE SDGS INCORPORATED INTO THE GS4GG CERTIFICATION PROCESS: GS SDG IMPACT TOOL

Starting from March 13, 2022, the SDG Impact Tool has been released for public utilization and is now a mandatory element in the project development cycle. This tool, presented in an Excel format, provides a standardized template that simplifies the transparent monitoring of SDG impact and carbon reduction efforts. By streamlining the process and reducing associated costs with Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV), the tool facilitates consistent and valuable contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Its implementation guarantees clarity and consistency in tracking SDG impact, while simultaneously promoting cost-effectiveness in the MRV process.

## [SDG Impact Tool - Gold Standard for the Global Goals](#)



### HOW TO USE THE TOOL

<b>STEP 0</b>	Enter project ID and current project status.
<b>STEP 1</b>	Select project type from default list. The inbuilt drop list of project types that are covered in this tool.
<b>STEP 2</b>	Select the method i.e., <b>Impact Area / Category</b> or <b>Sustainable Development Goal</b> from dropdown list that user would like to follow for monitoring indicator selection.  Select <b>Impact Area / Category</b> or <b>Sustainable Development Goal</b> of interest from dropdown list to assess sustainable development contribution assessment of the project.  The user must follow the same selection method i.e. <b>Impact Area / Category</b> or <b>Sustainable Development Goal</b> for all monitoring indicators.





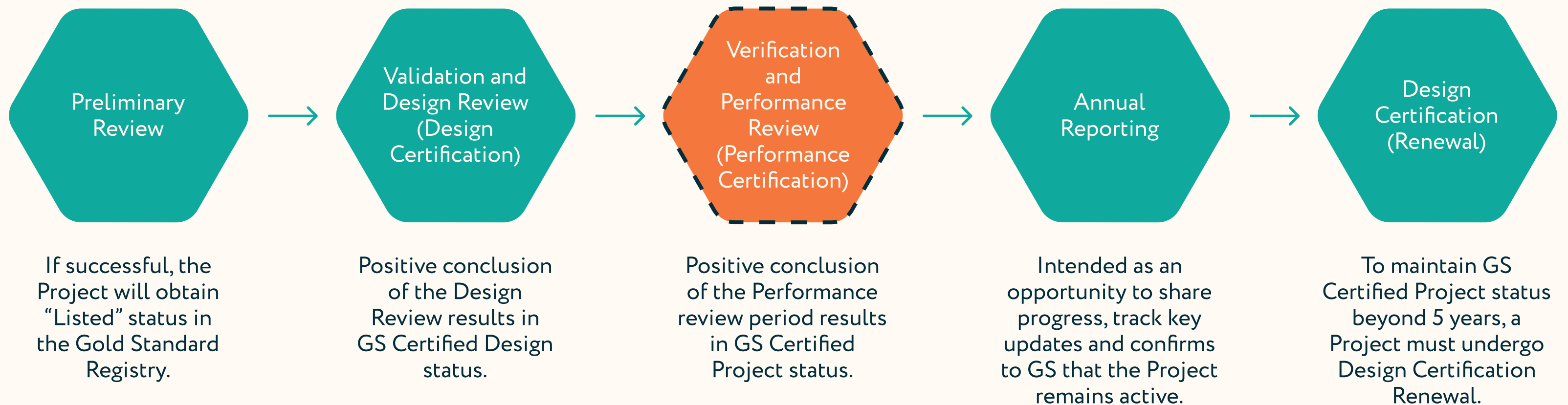
# WHY CERTIFY A PROJECT WITH GS4GG?

- ✓ GREATER IMPACT AND VALUE
- ✓ STREAMLINED PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS
- ✓ BRAND REPUTATION



# GS4GG CERTIFICATION PROCESS: PROJECT CYCLE

According to the [GS4GG Principles & Requirements \(PAR\) v1.2](#), the Project Cycle is organized as follows:



# GS4GG CERTIFICATION PROCESS: PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

## THE GS4GG INCLUDES PROCEDURES TO CERTIFY A STAND-ALONE PROJECT AND/OR A PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES.

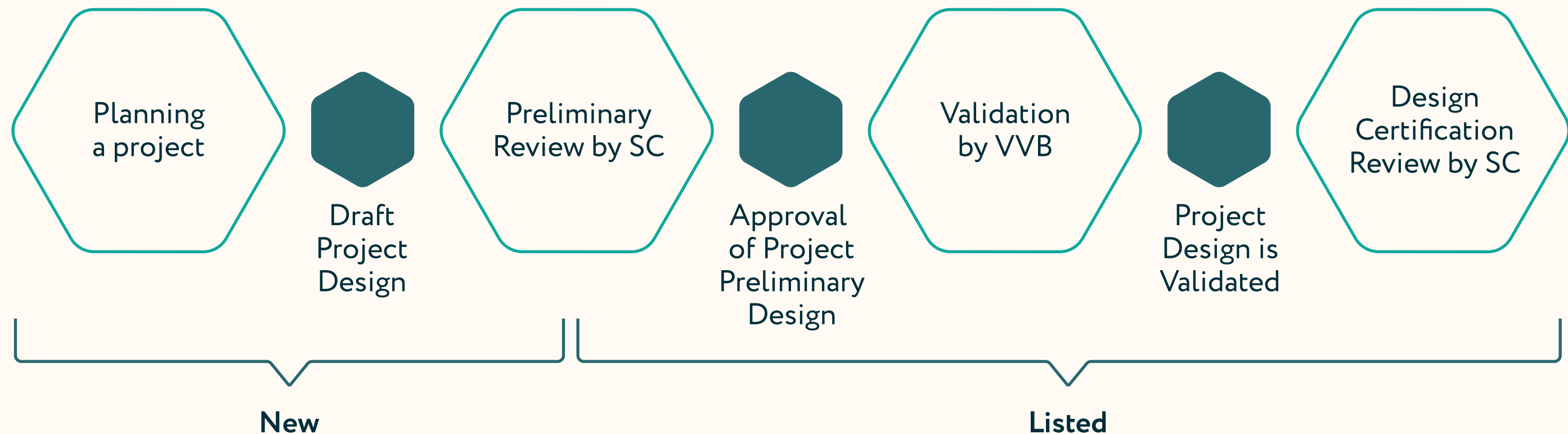
### What is a Programme of Activities (PoA):

A Programme of Activity (PoA) is a set of related activities with a common objective. PoAs enable replicable projects access to carbon finance through coordinated implementation. This document provides minimum requirements and procedures to Coordinating/managing entities (CMEs) and/or Voluntary Project Activity (VPA) implementers for designing, implementing, monitoring, and seeking issuance of Gold Standard Certified Impact Statements or Products and related actions under a PoA.

The PoA Requirements and Procedures follows a similar process as a stand-alone Project. Please refer to this corresponding documentation in Programme of Activity: Requirements and Procedures ([version 2.0, 05.05.2022](#))

**This course will focus on the process for certifying a stand-alone project** and will be updated in the future to include the PoA process.

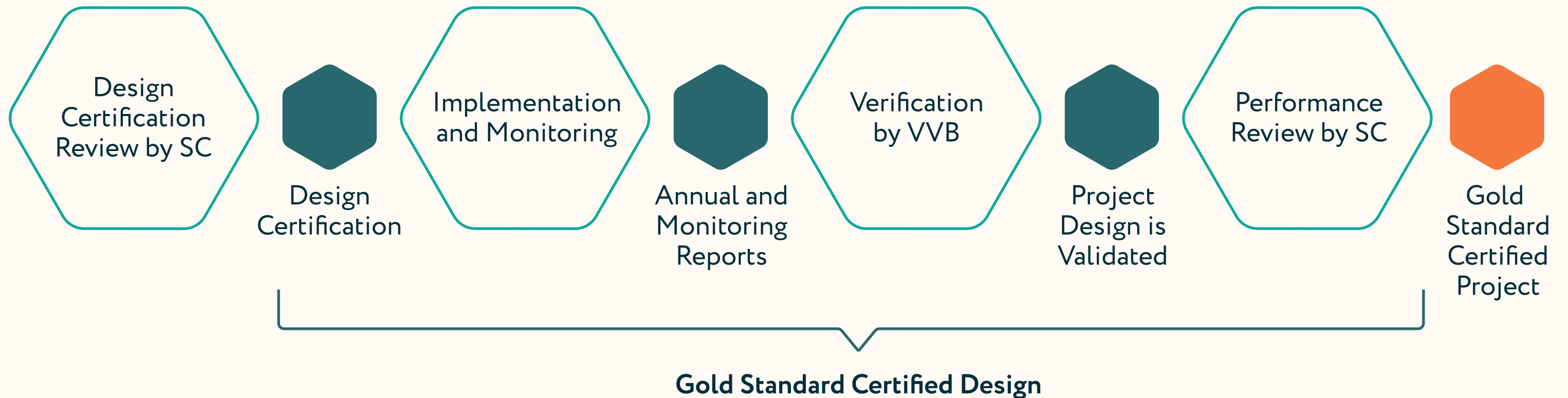
# GS4GG CERTIFICATION PROCESS: IMPORTANT MILESTONES IN CERTIFICATION PROCESS “NEW” & “LISTED” STATUS



Stage/Process Milestone Status

(\*) This will be further covered in Lesson 3

# GS4GG CERTIFICATION PROCESS: IMPORTANT MILESTONES IN CERTIFICATION PROCESS “DESIGN CERTIFIED” STATUS



Stage/Process    Milestone    Status

# GS4GG CERTIFICATION PROCESS: IMPORTANT MILESTONES IN CERTIFICATION PROCESS

## PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATION

Gold Standard for the Global Goals Project Certification is based on a **five-year renewable certification cycle**.

- There can be an unlimited number of GS Performance Certifications, minimum once in 5-year cycle.
- This can depend on Project Type
- Certification cycle can be renewed through a **Design Certification Renewal process**.

## ANNUAL REPORTING

Annual update reports must be provided for Projects that have achieved the Project Design Certification stage or have successfully transitioned to the GS4GG and made publicly .and made publicly accessible for each monitoring year for which verification is not completed (even if verification is still in progress but not yet finished, an annual report must still be submitted by the end of the calendar year). Failure to submit the required annual reports will lead to the decertification of the Project.

### NOTE:

Annual Reporting **does not** constitute Certification, nor does it involve any decision-making or agreement by Gold Standard regarding design changes. The goal is to share progress, track key updates, and confirm that the Project is still active. Any changes in approach will be implemented only after a formal review of conformity to Requirements during Performance Certification.