

## Application of the Oeko-Institut/WWF-US/ EDF methodology for assessing the quality of carbon credits

This document presents results from the application of version 3.0 of a methodology, developed by Oeko-Institut, World Wildlife Fund (WWF-US) and Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), for assessing the quality of carbon credits. The methodology is applied by Oeko-Institut with support by Carbon Limits, Greenhouse Gas Management Institute (GHGMI), INFRAS, Stockholm Environment Institute, and individual carbon market experts. This document evaluates one specific criterion or sub-criterion with respect to a specific carbon crediting program, project type, quantification methodology and/or host country, as specified in the below table. Please note that the CCQI website [Site terms and Privacy Policy](#) apply with respect to any use of the information provided in this document. Further information on the project and the methodology can be found here: [www.carboncreditquality.org](http://www.carboncreditquality.org)

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| Sub-criterion:  | <a href="#">2.2.1: Avoiding double issuance due to double registration</a> |
| Carbon crediting program:   | <a href="#">Gold Standard</a>  |
| Assessment based on carbon crediting program documents valid as of: | <a href="#">30 June 2021</a>   |
| Date of final assessment:   | <a href="#">20 May 2022</a>  |
| Score:  | <a href="#">5</a>  |

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## Assessment

### Indicator 2.2.1.1

#### Relevant scoring methodology provisions

“The program has basic provisions in place which manage the transition of projects from one to another program and either avoids registration of the same project under two programs or, if double registration is permitted, has basic provisions in place to ensure that carbon credits for the same emission reductions or removals cannot be issued under the same program or must be cancelled under one program before they can be issued under another.”

#### Information sources considered

- 1 Principles & Requirements Version 1.2 (October 2019), available at <https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/101-par-principles-requirements/>
- 2 GHG emissions reduction & sequestration product requirements, version 2.0 (April 2021), available at [https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/standards/501\\_V2.0\\_PR\\_GHG-Emissions-Reductions-Sequestration.pdf](https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/standards/501_V2.0_PR_GHG-Emissions-Reductions-Sequestration.pdf)

#### Relevant carbon crediting program provisions

- Provision 1 Source 1, section 3.1.1.c: “In order to avoid double counting the Project shall not be included in any other voluntary or compliance standards programme unless approved by Gold Standard (for example through dual certification). Also, if the Project Area overlaps with that of another Gold Standard or other voluntary or compliance standard programme of a similar nature, the project shall demonstrate that there is no double counting of impacts at design and performance certification (for example use of similar technology or practices through which the potential arises for double counting or misestimation of impacts amongst projects).”
- Provision 2 Source 2, Annex B, section 1.1.1: “Annex B – Requirements & procedures to transition projects from other standards to Gold Standard for the Global Goals [...] This annex provides the requirements and procedures for projects currently registered with other standards (e.g. CDM) to transition to GS4GG and to issue GSVERs or to convert emission reductions to GSVERs.”
- Provision 2 Source 2, section 2.1.3: “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.”
- Provision 3 Source 2, section 2.2: “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.”

### Assessment outcome

Yes (2 Points).

### Justification of assessment

The above documentation specifies that the indicator is fulfilled.

## Indicator 2.2.1.2

### Relevant scoring methodology provisions

“The program also requires legal attestations from project owners which confirm that they have not and will not request issuance of carbon credits for emission reductions or removals from more than one program.”

### Information sources considered

- 1 Terms and Conditions (April 2019), available at [https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/standards/T-PreReview\\_V1.1-Terms\\_and\\_Conditions.pdf](https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/standards/T-PreReview_V1.1-Terms_and_Conditions.pdf)
- 2 Principles & Requirements Version 1.2 (October 2019), available at <https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/101-par-principles-requirements/>
- 3 The Gold Standard Foundation – Registry Terms of Use (last updated November 2013) and Gold Standard Terms & Conditions (last updated May 2014), available at [https://www.goldstandard.org/sites/default/files/gold-standard-registry\\_tou\\_tcs.pdf](https://www.goldstandard.org/sites/default/files/gold-standard-registry_tou_tcs.pdf)
- 4 GHG emissions reduction & sequestration product requirements, version 2.0 (April 2021), available at [https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/standards/501\\_V2.0\\_PR\\_GHG-Emissions-Reductions-Sequestration.pdf](https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/standards/501_V2.0_PR_GHG-Emissions-Reductions-Sequestration.pdf)

### Relevant carbon crediting program provisions

- Provision 1 Source 1, section 2: “The following documents (together, the “Rules”) are hereby incorporated by reference into these Terms and Conditions, as each may be updated from time to time in our sole discretion: 1. Gold Standard for the Global Goals Requirements [...].”
- Provision 2 Source 2, section 3.1.1.c: “In order to avoid double counting the Project shall not be included in any other voluntary or compliance standards programme unless approved by Gold Standard (for example through dual certification). Also, if the Project Area overlaps with that of another Gold Standard or other voluntary or compliance standard programme of a similar nature, the project shall demonstrate that there is no double counting of impacts at design and performance certification (for example use of similar

technology or practices through which the potential arises for double counting or misestimation of impacts amongst projects).”

Provision 3 Source 3, section 14.1.a: “Where relevant, the Account Holder warrants and represents that, from the date it enters The Gold Standard Registry or agrees to these Terms of Use (whichever is earlier): it has, and continues to have, (or if acting in the capacity as an Agent, the person or entity it represents has and continues to have) full legal and beneficial title to any Units listed by User in accordance with these Terms of Use and the underlying Environmental Benefits corresponding to such Units and it has not sold, transferred, assigned, licensed, disposed of, granted or otherwise created any interest or encumbrance in or agreed to sell, assign, license, dispose of, grant or otherwise create any interest or encumbrance in the Units or the underlying Environmental Benefits corresponding to such Units other than as contemplated under these Terms of Use.”

Provision 4 Source 4, section 2.1.3: “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.”

### Assessment outcome

Yes (1 Point).

### Justification of assessment

Project developers are required to sign the Terms and Conditions when submitting a project proposal. By signing this document, they also oblige themselves to follow the rules contained in Gold Standard’s document on principles and requirements (Provision 1). The principles and requirements include the obligation not to include a project submitted under Gold standard in any other crediting program unless approved by Gold Standard (Provision 2). Furthermore, project developers need to hold an account with the registry of the program. With opening an account, account holders need to accept the Registry Terms of Use which includes the obligation not to make use of the issued credits under any other carbon crediting program (Provision 3). Additionally, project developers are required to provide a declaration in their monitoring report stating that they have not or will not request issuance of carbon credits for emission reductions or removals from other programs for transition projects (Provision 4).

## Indicator 2.2.1.3

### Relevant scoring methodology provisions

“The program also conducts checks, or requires validation and verification entities to verify, that already registered projects have not, and will not, be issued carbon credits in any other programs for emission reductions or removals for which the program is also issuing carbon credits (unless the credits have been cancelled under other programs prior to reissuance under the current program).”

### Information sources considered

- 1 Safeguarding principles & requirements, version 1.2 (October 2019), available at [https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/standards/103\\_V1.2\\_PAR\\_Safeguarding-Principles-Requirements.pdf](https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/standards/103_V1.2_PAR_Safeguarding-Principles-Requirements.pdf)
- 2 Transition request form for projects, version 1.0 (2021), available at [https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/standards/T-PreReview\\_V1.0-Transition-request-form-project.docx](https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/standards/T-PreReview_V1.0-Transition-request-form-project.docx)
- 3 Principles & Requirements Version 1.2 (October 2019), available at <https://globalgoals.goldstandard.org/101-par-principles-requirements/>

### Relevant carbon crediting program provisions

- Provision 1 Source 1, section 2.1.3: “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.”
- Provision 2 Source 2: Declaration in transition request form: “The project Developer/Representative hereby acknowledges that project developer is aware that for a given vintage, a registered Gold Standard project can request the issuance of the emission reductions under only one standard/certification scheme. (applicable to all projects); [...] confirms that the project developer/representative will make a declaration, in writing, in the monitoring report submitted to Gold Standard that (applicable to CDM PoA/CPAs) project will/has not issue both a CER/other compliance units under Paris Agreement and a GSVER for the same vintage.”
- Provision 4 Source 3, section 5.1.14: “Validation includes a site visit by a VVB who assesses the up-front design and monitoring plan for a Project against applicable Requirements. This includes Validation of: (a) The Project Documentation including the Project Design Document and Monitoring & Reporting Plan, including any updates to the Key Project Information after Listed Status has achieved. (b) Any supporting document and evidence to demonstrate conformity to all applicable Gold Standard Requirements.”
- Provision 5 Source 3, section 3.1.1: “In order to avoid double counting the Project shall not be included in any other voluntary or compliance standards programme unless approved by Gold Standard (for example through dual certification).”

### Assessment outcome

Yes (1 Point).

### Justification of assessment

The program requires project developers of transition projects to declare that they are not requesting issuance of credits for the same project under other programs (Provisions 1 and 2). The transition request template (Source 2) specifies the approval procedure for transition of a project to Gold

Standard. This procedure involves a review of the information provided in the transition request template by the VVB and/or SustainCERT before the project can finally be registered.

Additionally, section 5.1.14 of the Principles & Requirements requires validation of “Any supporting document and evidence to demonstrate conformity to all applicable Gold Standard Requirements” (Provision 4). Since avoidance of double registration is part of the general eligibility criteria (“...the Project shall not be included in any other voluntary or compliance standards programme unless approved by Gold Standard...”) this is cross-checked by VVB at the validation of a project as well. Provision 5 more generally states that any project registered under Gold Standard shall not be included under any other program. The indicator is therefore fulfilled.

## Scoring results

According to the above assessment, the carbon crediting program fulfills all indicators and thus receives 4 out of 4 achievable points. Applying the scoring approach of the methodology, this results in a score of 5.