



The Gold Standard

Afforestation/Reforestation (A/R) Requirements



Eligible Projects

The Gold Standard **A/R Requirements** are for projects that include the planting of trees on land that does not meet the definition of a *forest*¹ at planting start.

Projects can apply all silvicultural systems:

- Conservation forests (no use of timber)
- Forests with selective harvesting
- Rotation forestry

All projects can include agriculture (agroforestry) or pasture (silvopasture) activities.

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Partnership

The Gold Standard and FSC are in partnership to promote environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable management of the world's forests. It will be possible for projects to obtain a *dual certification* (Gold Standard and FSC) in a parallel process. Projects seeking *dual certification* will need to comply with all the FSC requirements.

With respect to potential *dual certification* The Gold Standard recognises that FSC certification can replace the requirements of section '3. Sustainability' (except for chapter '3.5 Legal Rights') and chapter '7.4 Reporting' of the 'A/R Requirements'.

This will simplify the process of a *dual certification*. When applying a *dual certification*, the project owner shall provide the 'FSC Audit Report' instead of the template for 'Sustainability' and the 'FSC Annual Surveillance Report' instead of the template for 'Annual Report'.

For *dual certification*, FSC certification is required to be valid throughout the crediting period.

What you should know ...

Structure

The Gold Standard 'A/R Requirements' are structured as follows:



TEMPLATES

-  2.1 – Key Project Information
-  3.1 – Do-No-Harm Assessment
-  3.2 – Local Stakeholder Consultation (LSC)
-  3.3 – List of Inputs & Grievances
-  3.4 – Sustainability Monitoring Plan
-  3.5 – Terms & Conditions (LUF)
-  3.5 – Project Participants & Secured Titles
-  3.5 – Cover Letter
-  3.6 – Risk Register
-  4.1 – Additionality
-  4.1 – AR CDM Additionality Tool
-  5.1 – Applicability
-  5.4 – Other Emissions
-  5.5 – Baseline
-  5.6 – Leakage
-  5.7 – CO2-Fixation
-  6.1 – Carbon Performance
-  7.2 – Annual Report

 **ALL TEMPLATES**

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14. Project area I (Source: FSC, where the relevant term is 'Management Unit') The project area is a spatial area or areas submitted for certification with clearly defined boundaries managed to a set of explicit long term management objectives.

New areas can be added to an existing project area after its Initial Certification (see chapter '7.3 New Area Certification).

The project area can be made up of discrete parcels of land.





15. **Planting area** | The planting area is the part of the project area where tree planting activities take place.

16. **Eligible planting area** | The eligible planting area is the part of the planting area which meets the applicability conditions (chapter '5.1 Applicability').

17. **Non-eligible planting area** | The non-eligible planting area are areas which do not meet the applicability conditions (chapter '5.1 Applicability'), but are still part of the project area.

18. **Modelling Unit (MU)** | Modelling Units are distinct parts of the planting area where carbon stocks can be quantified based on applying a forest growth-model.

To meet the precision level for the carbon stocks estimation (see chapter '5.7 CO₂-Fixation'), MU areas normally have homogeneous characteristics in their growth patterns, silvicultural treatment and planting date.

19. **New area** | New areas are project areas that are added to an existing project after its 'Initial Certification'.

Certificates

20. **CO₂-certificate I** An issued CO₂-certificate is either a *validated CO₂-certificate*, or it is a *verified CO₂-certificate*.

A *validated CO₂-certificate* represents the expected sequestration of 1 metric ton CO₂-equivalent by a Gold Standard A/R project activity. To issue *validated CO₂-certificate* the 'A/R Guidelines - Validated CO₂-certificates' shall be followed. A *validated CO₂-certificate* represents an intervention in land-use change that is expected to lead to the sequestration of 1 metric ton of CO₂-equivalent. A *validated CO₂-certificate* does not represent the actual sequestration of 1 metric ton of CO₂-equivalent and cannot be retired. Instead, *validated CO₂-certificates* can be *assigned*¹ in the Gold Standard Registry. *Validated CO₂-certificates* that are assigned will be retired once they are *verified*.

A *verified CO₂-certificate* represents actual sequestration of 1 metric ton CO₂-equivalent by a Gold Standard A/R project activity and is stored by the different carbon pools of a forest (see chapter '5.2 Calculation of CO₂-certificates'). When a *verified CO₂-certificate* is issued, it replaces the corresponding *validated CO₂-certificate*. A *verified CO₂-certificate* can be retired.

The number of CO₂-certificates is determined based on the methodology outlined in chapter '5. Methodology'.

The vintage of a CO₂-certificate represents the expected (*validated CO₂-certificates*) or actual (*verified CO₂-certificates*) timing for the corresponding sequestration.

¹ Assign Assigning is the activity with which an account holder of The Gold Standard Registry can mark a validated CO₂-certificate with a message. Such message should include the name of the receiving organization.

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21. **Crediting period** | The crediting period is the time span in which the fixation of CO₂ can be accounted for and is subject to monitoring.

The crediting period shall be minimum 30 years and maximum 50 years. The project owner selects the crediting period based on the characteristics of the project.

The crediting period starts with the planting start and may be up to 2 years prior to the date the project reaches the 'registration' status (see chapter '7.1 Certification Process').

Certification

Corrective Action Request (CAR)

Forward Action Request (FAR)

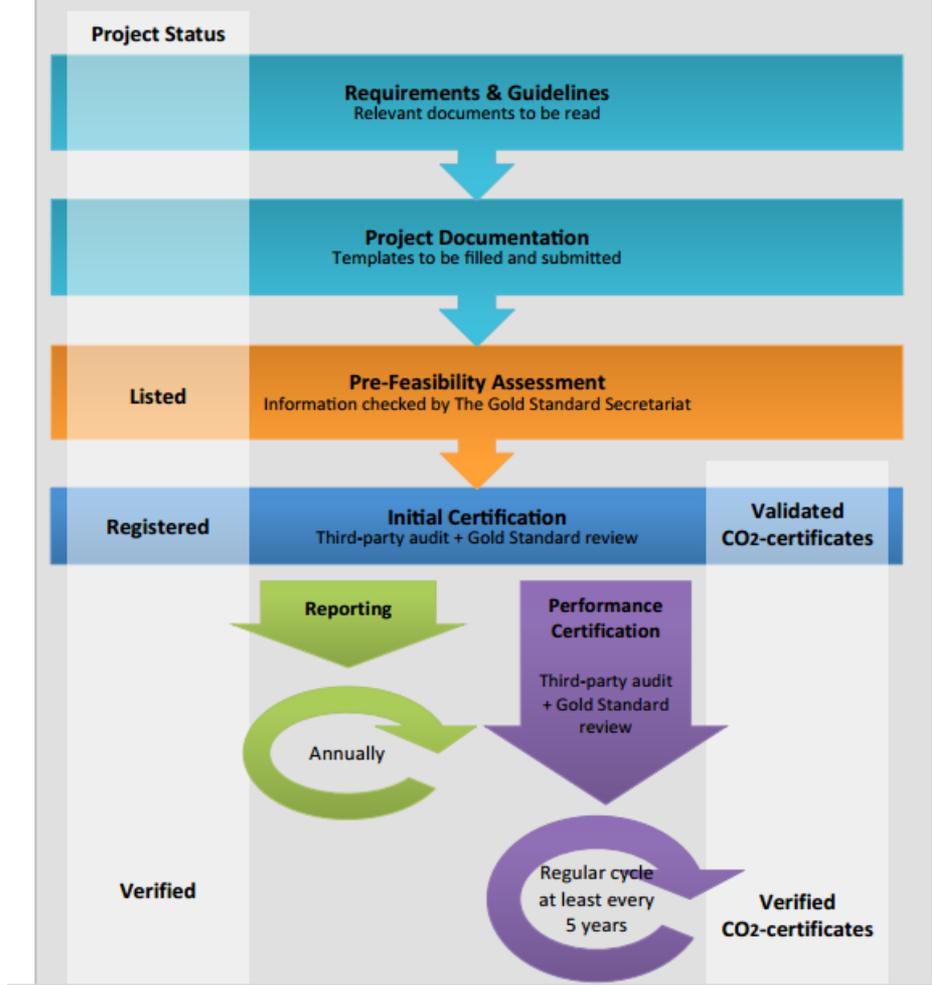
Observation (OBS)

Non-Compliance (NC)

- Pre-Feasibility Assessment
- Initial Certification
- Performance Certification
- Audit
- Review

Certification Process

The following graph provides an overview of the different steps in The Gold Standard process along with the sequence of activities for project registration and the issuance of CO₂-certificates:



7.1 Certification Process

1. A Pre-Feasibility Assessment is conducted only once by The Gold Standard Secretariat at the beginning of the project.
2. The Pre-Feasibility Assessment is followed by the Initial Certification, which includes an audit by an accredited auditor together with a review.
3. A Performance Certification shall follow the Initial Certification. Performance Certification shall occur at least every 5 years until the end of the crediting period.

5. The Pre-Feasibility Assessment starts when the project owner has
- (a) signed and submitted the template 'Cover Letter' and 'General Terms and Conditions', AND
 - (b) submitted the template 'Project Participants & Secured Titles', AND
 - (c) submitted the first documents of the project information through The Gold Standard Registry, AND
 - (d) paid the *fee*¹ for the Pre-Feasibility Assessment.

TEMPLATES

- | | |
|---|---|
|  2.1 – Key Project Information |  4.1 – Additionality |
|  3.1 – Do-No-Harm Assessment |  4.1 – AR CDM Additionality Tool |
|  3.2 – Local Stakeholder Consultation (LSC) |  5.1 – Applicability |
|  3.3 – List of Inputs & Grievances |  5.4 – Other Emissions |
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 ALL TEMPLATES

COSTS

Description	Fee (USD)
Issuance fee	\$0.30 per CO2-certificate issued
Gold Standard review of an 'Audit Report'	\$1500
'Pre-Feasibility Assessment'	\$3500 (not mandatory for all projects)

Cuál es el fee del VCS y el fee del CCBS?

Audits

8. An audit is the assessment by an auditor to confirm the project's compliance with the requirements. It shall include, but is not limited to:
- (a) Audit planning, AND
 - (b) *Desk review*, AND
 - (c) Field visit (field observations and interviews with workers and stakeholders), AND
 - (d) Reporting.
9. The *desk review* shall take into account:
- (a) the submitted project information (*project documentation* and *supporting documents*), AND
 - (b) the 'Annual Reports' since the last certification, AND
 - (c) the audit report and review report of the last certification.

Review

12. During the review period The Gold Standard Secretariat, Gold Standard NGO Supporters and the Technical Advisory Committee may open new CARs or FARs on the project and the successful audit report.

If any new CARs or FARs are opened, these shall be addressed by either the project owner or the auditor. The Gold Standard Secretariat will document this in a review report.

13. The review period ends

- (a) after 8 weeks for the Initial Certification or after 3 weeks for a Performance Certification, AND
- (b) when no more CARs are pending.

14. When the review period has ended, the project will obtain 'registered' or 'verified' status ('registered' in case of the Initial Certification). This means that:

- (a) the updated project information is made publically available, AND
- (b) the project owner can promote the project according the 'A/R Guidelines - Brand and Communications'.

Issuance

15. After the review period the *validated* and *verified CO₂-certificates* are *issued* into the project owner's Gold Standard Registry account.

16. 20% of the issued *validated* and *verified CO₂-certificates* shall be transferred into The *Gold Standard Compliance Buffer*. The transfer is distributed pro rata according to the vintage years. The project owner may transfer CO₂-certificates from other Gold Standard certified projects to the *Gold Standard Compliance Buffer* in lieu of the CO₂-certificates from the project.

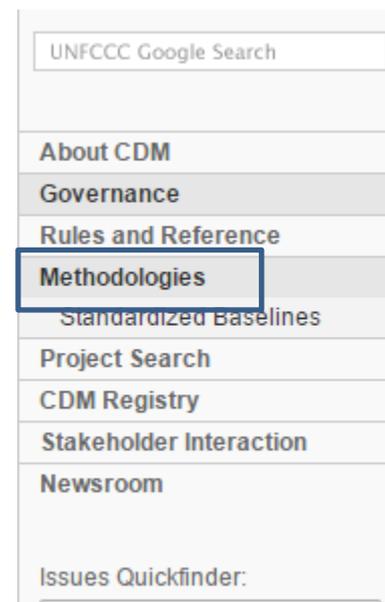
Metodologías usadas para proyectos AR en el VCS

CDM: CDM-Home

<https://cdm.unfccc.int/> ▼ Traducir esta página

The CDM. Under the Clean Development Mechanism, emission-reduction projects in developing countries can earn certified emission reduction credits.

[Methodologies](#) - [Reference](#) / [Documentation](#) - [About CDM](#) - [CDM Registry](#)



Large scale afforestation and reforestation methodologies



- + **Approved large scale afforestation and reforestation methodologies**
- + **Proposed new A/R methodologies** [Pending | Finalized]

Requests for:

- + Clarification of approved A/R methodologies [Pending | Finalized]
- + Revision of approved A/R methodologies [Pending | Finalized]
- + Clarification on application of approved A/R methodological tools [Pending | Finalized]
- + Revision of approved A/R methodological tools [Pending | Finalized]

Small scale afforestation and reforestation methodologies



- + **Approved small scale afforestation and reforestation methodologies**

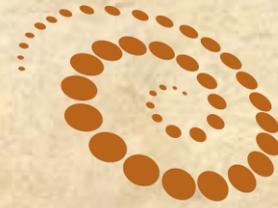
Requests for:

- + Clarification and revision of approved small-scale A/R methodologies [Pending | Finalized]

Vamos a compararlas



MUCHAS GRACIAS



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