

# PoA Rules and Guidance – Annex F

Geneva, 23 November 2009

This document replaces Annex F of the GSv2.1 Toolkit.

## 1 PoA eligibility

Where a group of project activities is submitted together for Gold Standard registration within a PoA, each of these activities must be in compliance with the Gold Standard eligibility criteria. Micro-scale project activities applying for the Gold Standard VER micro-scale scheme cannot apply within a Voluntary PoA at the same time.

## 2 PoA boundary

Definition of the boundary for the PoA is the geographical area (e.g. municipality, region within a country, country or several countries) within which all CPAs/ VPAs included in the PoA will be implemented, taking into consideration all applicable national and/or sectoral policies and regulations of each host country within that chosen boundary.

## 3 PoA timeframe

### 3.1 Define PoA and CPAs/ VPAs crediting period

The duration of the PoA, shall not exceed 28 years. The duration of the PoA shall be defined by the entity at the time of request for registration of the PoA. Any CPA/ VPA can be added to the PoA at any time during the duration of the PoA by the coordinating/ managing entity. The duration of the crediting period of any CPA/ VPA shall be limited to the end date of the PoA regardless of when the CPA/ VPA was added.

### 3.2 Retroactive registration and retroactive crediting for CDM PoAs and their respective CPAs

#### 3.2.1 *Retroactive registration*

If some of the CPAs are already operational or under construction or implementation at the time of first submission (see definition in the Requirements document) to the Gold Standard, the CDM PoA needs to be submitted through the retroactive registration cycle together with all CPAs already operational or under construction or implementation. The CDM PoA is eligible if the outcome of a pre-feasibility assessment (see T2.5) is positive.

### 3.2.2 *Retroactive crediting*

If a CDM PoA is registered with the Gold Standard under the regular project cycle after it has been registered with the UNFCCC, some of the CPAs may become operational before it is registered with the Gold Standard. In such a case, CERs generated since the date of registration with the UNFCCC or generated for a period of up to two years prior to Gold Standard registration, whichever occurs later, can be labelled Gold Standard retroactively.

A CDM PoA submitted for Gold Standard registration under the retroactive project cycle is potentially eligible for receiving labels for CERs generated since the date of registration with the UNFCCC or generated for a maximum of two years prior to Gold Standard registration, whichever occurs later.

## **3.3 Retroactive registration and retroactive crediting for Voluntary PoAs and their respective VPAs**

### 3.3.1 *Retroactive registration*

If some VPAs are already operational or under construction or implementation at the time of first submission (see definition in the Requirements document) to the Gold Standard, the Voluntary PoA needs to be submitted through the retroactive registration cycle together with all VPAs already operational or under construction or implementation. The Voluntary PoA is eligible if the outcome of a pre-feasibility assessment (see T2.5) is positive.

### 3.3.2 *Retroactive crediting*

A Voluntary PoA submitted for Gold Standard registration under the regular project cycle is potentially eligible for receiving credits for realised emission reductions from VPAs that become operational prior to Gold Standard registration for a maximum of two years.

A Voluntary PoA submitted for Gold Standard registration under the retroactive project cycle is potentially eligible for receiving credits for realised emission reductions prior to Gold Standard registration for a maximum period of two years.

## **4 Additionality**

A PoA is additional if it can be demonstrated that in the absence of carbon finance (i) the proposed voluntary measure would not be implemented, or (ii) the mandatory policy/ regulation would be systematically not enforced and that noncompliance with those requirements is widespread in the country/region, or (iii) that the PoA will lead to a greater level of enforcement of the existing mandatory policy /regulation or to a greater level of adoption of an existing voluntary scheme. This shall constitute the demonstration of additionality of the PoA as a whole.

Additionality should be demonstrated both at the PoA level and at the CPA/ VPA level using an

approved UNFCCC or Gold Standard additionality tool unless the coordinating/ managing entity provides convincing argumentation validated by a DOE and approved by the Gold Standard as to why this is only required at the PoA level.

If such an approach is followed, then additionality at the CPA/ VPA level has to be defined as part of the eligibility criteria for the inclusion of a project activity as a CPA/ VPA under the PoA. These criteria shall include criteria for the demonstration of the additionality of a CPA/ VPA as well as the type and/ or extent of information (e.g. criteria, indicators, variables, parameters or measurements) that shall be provided by each CPA/ VPA in order to ensure its eligibility.

## 5 Use of Gold Standard registry

To develop a PoA under the Gold Standard, an account must be opened in the Gold Standard Registry. The PoA and its corresponding CPAs/ VPAs will be managed via this account as follows:

- The coordinating/ managing entity of the PoA opens an account in their name in the Gold Standard registry;
- A PoA entry is created under this account with a unique GS ID. All relevant documents required at the registration step will be uploaded (PoA-DD, PoA Passport, CPA-DD template) to this GS ID;
- An entry per CPA/ VPA is created (apart from the template CPA), each with its own unique GS ID, in the Coordinator account or in the project proponents accounts depending on what has been agreed with regards to the issuance of the labels/credits. All relevant documents to a CPA/ VPA (CPA/VPA-DD, CPA/VPA Passport, CPA/VPA LSC report) will be uploaded to its registry entry; and
- The name of each CPA/ VPA **MUST** have a prefix that links it to the relevant PoA.

*Example: A hydro PoA in Mongolia comprised of two project activities will have the following three entries on the Gold Standard registry:*

<b>GS ID</b>	<b>Project Name</b>
GSXXX	GSXXX ABC hydropower PoA in Mongolia
GSYYY	GSXXX ABC hydropower PoA- Choybalsan hydropower plant in Mongolia
GSZZZ	GSXXX ABC hydropower PoA- Dzuunmod hydropower plant in Mongolia

## 6 Stakeholder consultation

Stakeholder consultation must happen at both the PoA level (generic consultation) and the CPA/ VPA level (specific consultations) unless convincing argumentation validated by a DOE and approved by the Gold Standard is provided as to why this should not be required for the particular PoA.

A single stakeholder consultation can be organised for a group of CPAs/ VPAs as long as convincing argumentation (e.g. close enough to each other location wise and time wise, identical activity, etc.), validated by a DOE and approved by the Gold Standard, is provided as to why a meeting for each CPA/VPA should not be required for the particular PoA, and as long as a Local Stakeholder Consultation report is produced for each one of the CPAs/ VPAs. Gold Standard stakeholder consultation for PoAs is comprised of two consultations (Local Stakeholder Consultation and Stakeholder Feedback Round) similar to the requirement for regular project activities.

## **7 Sustainability assessment**

### **7.1 'Do No Harm' assessment**

Coordinating entities submitting a PoA for Gold Standard registration shall conduct the 'Do No Harm' Assessment at the CPA/ VPA equivalent level, unless convincing argumentation validated by a DOE and approved by the Gold Standard is provided as to why this should not be required for the particular PoA.

### **7.2 Detailed impact assessment- sustainable development matrix**

Coordinating entities submitting a PoA for Gold Standard registration shall conduct the *Detailed Impact Assessment* at the CPA/ VPA equivalent level, unless convincing argumentation validated by a DOE and approved by the Gold Standard is provided as to why this should not be required for the particular PoA.

## **8 Selection of a baseline and monitoring methodology**

The Gold Standard allows Voluntary PoAs to use more than one methodology without prior approval. All methodologies must be introduced in the PoA-DD together with a justification of their use.

## **9 De-bundling provisions**

De-bundling provisions in EB36 Report Annex 27 do not apply for Voluntary PoAs.

## **10 Gold Standard Passport and project design documents**

In case of a CDM PoA, a CPA-DD and a CPA-Passport are required for each CPA in addition to the CDM-POA-DD and CDM-POA-Passport, unless approvals have been obtained otherwise as per Section 6 and 7 above. Similarly, for a Voluntary PoA, a VPA-DD and a VPA-Passport are required for each VPA in addition to the Voluntary-POA-DD and Voluntary-POA-Passport.

## 11 PoA validation

Coordinating entities shall submit to a DOE the following documentation for validation:

- A completed CDM-POA-DD or Voluntary-POA-DD as applicable, prior to registration review. Generic information on baseline and monitoring must be provided for each one of the different methodologies (or combination of methodologies) considered.
- A completed CPA-DD or VPA-DD based on the application of the PoA to one real case, for each one of the different methodologies (or combination of methodologies) considered, and prior to registration.
- A Gold Standard Passport for each one of the CPAs or VPAs (unless approvals have been obtained otherwise as per Section 6 and 7 above). All retroactive CPAs or VPAs must be submitted prior to registration review.

## 12 Gold Standard registration

### 12.1 CDM PoAs

The Gold Standard registration process takes place at the PoA level. However, for CDM PoAs, under special circumstances such as when the PoA Coordinating Entity is not willing to act as the Gold Standard Coordinator, registration at the CPA level can be allowed, following an evaluation that will be performed on a case-by-case basis.

In the case that registration takes place at the CPA level, the following conditions must be satisfied:

1. The serial numbers associated with the CERs issued by the UNFCCC to the relevant CDM PoA must allow for a clear differentiation among the various CPAs;
2. The CDM PoA-DD and the different CPA-DDs will have to be provided to GS for review;
3. A GS PoA-DD and a GS PoA Passport must be submitted to GS for approval, which will contain all the information necessary to allow the DOE to perform a GS compliance check for the subsequent CPAs. It will be submitted together with a first CPA-DD; and
4. GS CPA project documentation, i.e., the CPA-DD and the CPA-Passport must be delivered for each one of the GS applicant CPAs.

### 12.2 Voluntary PoAs

The Gold Standard registration process takes place at the PoA level therefore both the Voluntary PoA and all its VPAs have to be registered with the Gold Standard.

## 13 PoAs and liability

For Voluntary PoAs, whenever a validated VPA is found to be erroneously included in the Voluntary PoA, the Project Proponent shall within sixty (60) calendar days after receiving notification of non-compliance:

- Compensate issued Gold Standard credits with Gold Standard credits from other projects of its portfolio; or
- Compensate issued Gold Standard credits with Gold Standard credits bought from other Gold Standard projects.

For Voluntary PoAs, whenever a verified VPA is found not to deliver according to the registered Voluntary PoA (e.g. VPA no longer operating), but credits have already been issued to that VPA, the Project Proponent shall within sixty (60) calendar days after receiving notification of non-compliance:

- Compensate issued Gold Standard credits with Gold Standard credits from other projects of its portfolio; or
- Compensate issued Gold Standard credits with Gold Standard credits bought from other Gold Standard projects.

## **14 Registration, Issuance fees and Share of proceeds**

### **14.1 Registration and Issuance Fees**

For PoAs applying for registration under the regular cycle, the registration and issuance fees (for GSv2.0 PoAs) will be based on the first CPA/ VPA.

For PoAs applying for registration under the retroactive cycle, the registration and issuance fees (for GSv2.0 PoAs) will be based on all retroactive CPAs/ VPAs.

### **14.2 Share of Proceeds**

For GSv2.1 PoAs, share of proceeds shall apply to all GS CPAs/ VPAs.

## **15 List of Acronyms**

The following acronyms are applicable:

PoA	Programme of Activities
CPA(s)	CDM Programme Activity(ies)
VPA(s)	Voluntary Programme Activity(ies)
CDM PoA	PoA applying for CDM registration
Voluntary PoA	PoA applying for Gold Standard registration
CDM-POA-DD	Design document for a Programme of Activities applying for CDM registration
CPA-DD	Design document for a CDM Programme of Activity
Voluntary-POA-DD	Design document for a Programme of Activities applying for Gold Standard registration
VPA-DD	Design document for a Voluntary Programme of Activity