

TEMPLATE

KEY PROJECT INFORMATION & PROGRAMME DESIGN DOCUMENT (POA-DD)

PUBLICATION DATE **31.05.2022**

VERSION **2.1**

RELATED SUPPORT

[Programme of Activity requirements](#)

This document contains the following Sections

Key Project Information

0 – General description of PoA

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0 – Contact information of coordinating/managing entity and responsible person(s)/
entity(ies)

KEY PROJECT INFORMATION

GS ID of Programme	GS11857
Title of Programme:	Forest Trees and Sustainable Livelihoods
Type of PoA	<input type="checkbox"/> Non – Forestry and/or Non -AGR PoA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forestry and/or AGR PoA
VPAs scale included in the PoA <i>Note that same PoA can include VPAs of different scales. Please select all applicable.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Microscale <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Small scale <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Large scale
Start Date of POA	01/03/2022
Date of Design Certification	
Start date of crediting cycle of PoA	01/06/2022
Version number of the PoA-DD	01
Completion date of the PoA-DD	06/11/2022
Coordinating/managing entity	Society for the Upliftment of Villagers & Development of Himalayan Areas (SUVIDHA)
Project Participants and any communities involved	Individual farmers are involved
Host Country (ies)	India
Activity Requirements applied	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Services Activities <input type="checkbox"/> Renewable Energy Activities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Use and Forestry Activities/Risks & Capacities <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Other Requirements applied	i.GS4GG Programme of Activity Requirements and Procedures, Version 2.

Methodology (ies) applied and version number	i. Methodology for Afforestation/Reforestaion (A/R) GHGs Emission Reduction & Sequestration, Version 2. ii. LUF AR Methodology Soil Carbon Tool, Version 1.
Product Requirements applied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GHG Emissions Reductions & Sequestration <input type="checkbox"/> Renewable Energy Label <input type="checkbox"/> N/A

Real case VPAs (all real case VPAs included in the PoA)	
GS ID	Title: Forest Trees and Sustainable Livelihoods
GSxxxxx	Forest Trees and Sustainable Livelihoods VPA 01
GS0000	
GS0000	

SECTION A. General description of PoA

A.1. Purpose and general description of the PoA

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i. The policy/measure or stated goal that the PoA seeks to promote:

The Program of Activities (PoA) by SUVIDHA plans reforestation/afforestation of farmer lands and common land in rural areas with multipurpose tree species of fruit and fodder in India. These will be done by the CME SUVIDHA, an NGO or in association with other grassroot level NGOs and organizations working with farmers. Hence this is a country level PoA and will be implemented in several states of India in collaboration with local farmers and local organizations. Common and private land within village boundaries will be planted with multipurpose forest and fruit trees of native species based on farmers' preference. In each of the state, the community will be consulted for identification of appropriate species. The proposed interventions have the potential to address various issues prevalent in rural areas (ecological, environmental and economic) while also addressing climate change. The plantation will help in ecological restoration and will also contribute significantly towards climate change mitigation by sequestering significant amount of GHGs. Healthy trees hold soil together, provide a home for fauna, slow the flow of water through landscapes, and grow food and medicines, and more. The forestry plantation will also result into improved availability of fodder in the project villages and the plantation of fruit trees will contribute substantially to the farmers' income.

ii. A framework for the implementation of the PoA and inclusion of VPAs in the PoA:

Plantation activities addresses climate change and promotes ecological stability in the country. The proposed PoA aims to support the National Forest Policy of India. The main objective of the forest policy of 1988 is protection, conservation and development of forests. Its aims are i) Maintenance of environmental stability through preservation and restoration of ecological balance; ii) Conservation of natural heritage; iii) Checking soil erosion and denudation in catchment areas of rivers, lakes and reservoirs; iv) Checking extension of sand dunes in desert areas of Rajasthan and along coastal tracts; v) Substantially increasing forest/tree cover through massive afforestation and social forestry programmes; vi) Taking steps to meet requirements

of fuel, wood, fodder, minor forest produce, soil and timber of rural and tribal populations; vii) Increasing productivity of forests to meet the national needs; viii) Encouraging efficient utilisation of forest produce and optimum substitution of wood; and ix) taking steps to create massive people's movement with involvement of women to achieve the objectives and minimise pressure on existing forests.

India also has a national agroforestry policy¹ designed to improve agricultural livelihoods by maximizing agricultural productivity for mitigating climate change. The policy aims to improve productivity and environmental sustainability by integrating trees, crops, and livestock into the same plot of land. It was created to counteract limited agricultural productivity due to consistent decreases in the land-holding share of farmers, which was caused by rapid population growth and agricultural activity dependent on seasonal rainfall. The goals of the agroforestry policy is to raise the economic condition of small farmers by increasing productivity and exploiting agroforestry systems; preserve the environment and meet the increasing requirements of timber and other agroforestry products; and grow forest and tree cover in the country.

However, there are several barriers including financial barriers to implement such projects. The objective of the PoA is to set a framework for afforestation/reforestation activities in agroforestry and common lands through access to carbon finance and overcome the barriers. The CME itself will implement the Voluntary Project Activities (VPAs) or will be in partnership with other organizations after fulfilling certain set of criteria. The CME will approve the inclusion of the VPAs into the PoA after it fulfills the inclusion criteria as outlined in this PoA is section F. The CME shall verify and confirm that the VPA and its corresponding project areas are not already included in another existing PoA or under this PoA. The CME and VPA implementer will sign an agreement which will include responsibilities of each the VPA Implementer and CME and the legal ownership of carbon credits generated under the VPAs.

iii. A confirmation that the PoA is a voluntary action by the CME: The proposed PoA is a voluntary action undertaken by SUVIDHA, the NGO and the Coordinating and

¹ [National Agroforestry Policy 2014.pdf \(agricoop.nic.in\)](#)

Managing Entity (CME). There are no local regulations or laws that mandates the CME to implement the proposed activity within India and is a voluntary action by the CME.

A.2. Physical/ Geographical boundary of the PoA

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Country: INDIA

States: All States of India.

Districts: All districts of India.

Geographic reference:

Latitude – North 6.75 degree to North 37.10 degree

Longitude – East 68.03 degree to East 97.40 degree ².

The plantation area will be in the host country, India.



Fig 1: Geographical location of the PoA and associated VPAs

² Source: http://www.mapsofworld.com/lat_long/india-lat-long.html.

A.3. Technologies/measures and eligibility under Gold Standard

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The Program of Activities (PoA) by SUVIDHA plans reforestation/afforestation of the farmer lands and common land in rural areas with multipurpose tree species of fruit and fodder in India. These will be done by the CME SUVIDHA, an NGO or in association with other grassroot level NGOs and organizations working with farmers. Hence this is a country level PoA and will be implemented in several states of India in collaboration with local farmers and local organizations. In each of the state, the community will be consulted for identification of appropriate local species. The proposed interventions have the potential to address various issues prevalent in rural areas (ecological, environmental and economic) while also addressing climate change. The plantation will help in ecological restoration and will also contribute significantly towards climate change mitigation by sequestering significant amount of carbon from the atmosphere. Healthy trees hold soil together, provide a home for wildlife, regulate temperatures, slow the flow of water through landscapes, and grow vital foods and medicines, and more. The forestry plantation will also result into improved availability of fodder in the project villages and the plantation of fruit trees will contribute substantially to the farmers' income.

GS4GG General Eligibility Criteria according to section 3.1.1 of GS4GG Principles and Requirements		
Eligibility Criteria	Requirement	Description
a) Types of project	Eligible projects shall include physical action/ implementation on the ground. Pre-identified eligible project types are identified in the Eligibility Principles and Requirements section.	Afforestation & Reforestation project is identified as eligible ³
b) Location of Project	Projects may be located in any part of the world.	The PoA and its VPA will be located in India
c) Project Area, Project Boundary and Scale	<p>The Project Area and Project Boundary shall be defined.</p> <p>Projects may be developed at any scale.</p> <p>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).</p>	<p>The project area and project boundary will be described in the VPAs and will all be in India.</p> <p>The VPAs will be largely small-scale. However, VPAs of large scale, small scale or microscale can also be included, if required.</p> <p>The VPA Implementer will provide in writing that there is no double counting.</p>

³ [OPTIONAL REQUIREMENT - GHG Emissions Reduction & Sequestration Product Requirements v.2.1 \(goldstandard.org\)](#) – Page 6.

d) Host Country Requirements	Projects shall be in compliance with applicable Host Country's legal, environmental, ecological and social regulations.	The project is in compliance with India's National Environment Policy ⁴ which includes the legal, environmental, ecological and social regulations.
e) Contact Details	As part of the Project Documentation the Project Developer shall provide (i) name and (ii) contact details of all Project Participants; AND in case of an organization (iii) the legal registration details and (iv) documentation by the governing jurisdiction that proves that the entity is in good standing (defined as being a legal or other appropriate entity registered in or allowed to operate within the required jurisdiction and with no evidence of insolvency or legal/criminal notices placed against it or any of its Directors). Gold Standard retains the right (at its own discretion) to refuse use of the Standard where reputational concerns are highlighted.	<p>Contact details of CME are provided in Appendix 1 and can also be seen at SUVIDHA website⁵.</p> <p>The Details of the VPA Implementer will be provided in VPA-DDs.</p>
f) Legal Ownership	Full and uncontested legal ownership of any Products that are generated under Gold Standard Certification, (for example carbon credits) shall be demonstrated. Where such ownership is transferred from project	The full and uncontested legal ownership of carbon credits will be provided through end user agreements between the project beneficiaries and the

⁴ https://ibkp.dbtindia.gov.in/DBT_Content_Test/CMS/Guidelines/20190411103521431_National%20Environment%20Policy,%202006.pdf

⁵ [SUVIDHA | Creating Sustainable Livelihood \(suvidha-india.org\)](https://suvidha-india.org/)

	beneficiaries this must be demonstrated transparently and with full, prior and informed consent (FPIC). Note that for certain Project types there is a requirement for full and uncontested legal land title/tenure to be demonstrated. These are contained within specific Activity or Product Requirements. All projects shall immediately report to Gold Standard any land title/tenure disputes arising.	CME/VPA Implementer.
g) Other Rights	As well as legal title and ownership, the Project Developer shall also demonstrate where required uncontested legal rights and/or permissions concerning changes in use of other resources required to service the Project (for example, access rights, water rights etc.). Any known disputes or contested rights must be declared immediately to Gold Standard by the Project Developer and resolved prior to further project implementation in affected areas.	Uncontested legal rights and/or permissions will also be demonstrated through end user agreements between the project beneficiaries and the CME/VPA Implementer.
h) ODA Declaration	All Project Developers applying for project activities located in a country named by the OECD Development Assistance Committee's ODA recipient list and seeking Gold Standard Certification for carbon credits shall declare the Official Development Assistance (ODA) support.	No ODA is involved in the PoA, as confirmed by the CME. The signed ODA declaration will be uploaded to the Registry.
Section 2.2.1., General Requirements as per GS4GG Land Use and Forestry Activity Requirements		
a) Eligible project type	Eligible project types are Afforestation & Reforestation Projects (A/R) and Agriculture Projects (AGR).	The project type is Afforestation & Reforestation (A/R)
b) No deforestation	The eligible area shall not meet the definition of forest	The eligibility of the planting area will be

<p>In the case when the eligible area has been deforested during the last 10 years prior to project start date, the eligibility of the project shall be determined by Gold Standard as part of the Preliminary Review.</p>	<p>10 years before project start date and at project start date.</p> <p>The Project Developer shall provide evidence that the deforestation activity has not taken place with an intention to implement project activities that generate Gold Standard Certified SDG Impact Statements and/or Products, such as GSVERs.</p>	<p>demonstrated by following the guidelines of Annex C – Guidelines to conduct a spatial forest/non-forest assessment of GS4GG LUF Activity Requirements, Version 1.2.1 or latest the guideline by GS4GG.</p> <p>The evidence of unintentional deforestation for a carbon project shall be provided at VPA level, if required, through verifiable evidences.</p>
<p>c) Double Counting</p>	<p>Projects issuing GSVERs with a vintage of 2021 or later and which are used</p> <p>i) towards an NDC or domestic climate mitigation target other than that of the Host Country;</p> <p>ii) under CORSIA</p> <p>shall conform to the GHG Emissions Reduction and Sequestration Product Requirements - Annex A. Annex A requirements are not applicable for projects generating GS VERs which do not fall under the abovementioned uses.</p>	<p>Full compliance with the double counting requirements of the Gold Standard as per GHG Emissions Reduction & Sequestration Product Requirements, Annex A will be proven in case that GS VERs are used towards an NDC or domestic climate mitigation target other than that of the Host Country or under CORSIA. A Letter of Authorization is not needed in case the GS VERs are not used for one of the abovementioned purposes.</p>
<p>d) Eligible A/R Projects</p>	<p>Can include planting trees</p> <p>Can include single-species plantations</p> <p>Can apply all silvicultural systems, e.g. conservation forests (no use of timber); forests with selective harvesting; rotation forestry</p>	<p>The details of the planting trees and system will be provided at the VPA level based on land category and appropriate species for the land type.</p>

	All projects can include agriculture (agroforestry) or pasture (silvopasture) activities	The planting system will be one or more of the follows: i.conservation forests (no use of timber); ii.forests with selective harvesting; iii.rotation forestry or iv.agroforestry or v.pasture (silvopasture) activities
e) FSC dual certification	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
f) Secured Titles	For all project participants, the following information and evidence shall be provided: (a) Name and contact details (b) Each entity's legal registration number and documentation by the governing jurisdiction that proves that the entity is in good standing. AND (c) For the duration of the crediting period the Project Developer: i. must own the CO2 user rights or carbon sequestration rights for the project area, AND ii. hold an uncontested legal land title for the Project Area, AND iii. own the rights for timber and non-timber forest products for the project area, AND iv. hold all necessary permits to implement the project (planting permits, infrastructure permits, harvesting permits, etc.), AND v. participate in the financing of the project.	The details of the project participants will be provided through end user agreements for every parcel of land of the project activity, which will also include the carbon rights and secured titles of land and products.
g) Safeguarding principles and requirements	The Project Developer shall conduct the Safeguarding Principles assessment following Safeguarding Principles & Requirements and Risks & Capacities Guideline assessed for the Project Area, taking into account likely issues in the context of the Project Region.	The safeguarding principles assessment will be conducted and submitted for the VPAs and updated as required for design certification and performance certification.

h) Protected areas	A minimum of 10% of the total Project Area shall be identified and used to protect or enhance the biological diversity following High Conservation Value (HCV) approach.	Depending on the land type, the protected area of 10% will be identified and followed with exception of agroforestry.
i) Buffer zones for water bodies	The Project Developer shall maintain a buffer zone of 15 meters for water bodies on both sides of any permanent or temporary water bodies such as lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands, etc. Irrigation channels are excluded from this requirement.	In buffer zones for water bodies except irrigation channels, (a) All existing native trees shall be kept, AND (b) No fertilizer and pesticides shall be used, AND (c) No logging activities shall take place, AND (d) No heavy machinery shall be used, AND (e) No cropping is allowed, AND (f) In case trees are being planted, these will to be native tree species.
j) Stakeholder inclusivity	The Stakeholder Consultation shall be conducted prior to the project start date. The Project Developer shall refer to Stakeholder Consultation Engagement Requirements for further details.	The stakeholder consultation report shall be submitted for preliminary review.
k) Crediting period	The crediting period shall be a minimum of 30 years and maximum 50 years. The crediting period starts either with the Project Start Date or three years prior to the date of Project Design Certification, whichever occurs later.	The crediting period shall be 50 years for the PoA and 30 years for the VPAs.
l) Verification and issuance	Verification shall be completed at least every 5 years until the end of the crediting period.	Verification shall be completed at least every 5 years for each of the VPA.
m) Additionality	Any VPA shall demonstrate additionality as per the Principles & Requirements, or	Additionality shall be proven with satisfactory information and

	GHG Emissions Reduction and Sequestration Product Requirements, as applicable.	evidence provided. The project shall apply one of the following options to demonstrate project additionality: Option 1 – CDM tool: the latest version of the A/R CDM 'Combined tool to identify the baseline scenario and demonstrate additionality in A/R CDM project activities'. The CDM specific terms of the A/R CDM additionality tool (tCERs, A/R CDM project, etc.) shall be interpreted in the context of Gold Standard. The 'Guideline on the assessment of investment analysis' and the 'Guidelines for objective demonstration and assessment of barriers' can be used. Option 2 – Positive List: the project shall meet the requirements of the list as per AR_LUF-Activity Requirements paragraph 3.1.16 section (b) i.
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A.4. Target/Indicator for each of the minimum three SDGs targeted by the PoA

SDGs assessment is conducted at the VPA level. CME shall provide the information in the VPA DD and may also summarize the outcome in the Table below.

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Sustainable Development Goals Targeted	Most relevant SDG Target	SDG Impact
		Indicator (Selected in SDG tool)

13 Climate Action (mandatory)	13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning	GHG Removals through A/R activities (tCO ₂ /year)
1 No Poverty	Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions	% contribution from communities and subsidy for the project activity
4 Quality Education	4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship	Number of awareness and training programs conducted
15 Life on Land	15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally	Number of project beneficiaries Area under planting Number of species and seedlings planted
8 Decent Work and Economic Growth	8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and	Number of employees

men, including for young people
and persons with disabilities,
and equal pay for work of equal
value.

A.5. Coordinating/managing entity

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Society for the Upliftment of Villagers & Development of Himalayan Areas (SUVIDHA), an NGO headquartered in Haldwani, Uttarakhand is the Coordinating/managing entity (CME).

A.6. Funding sources of PoA

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The PoA and its VPA will be funded by private sources provided by SUVIDHA and/or private investors. No public funding or ODA will be involved in the PoA and its VPA. The CME, SUVIDHA has provided a ODA Declaration Form.

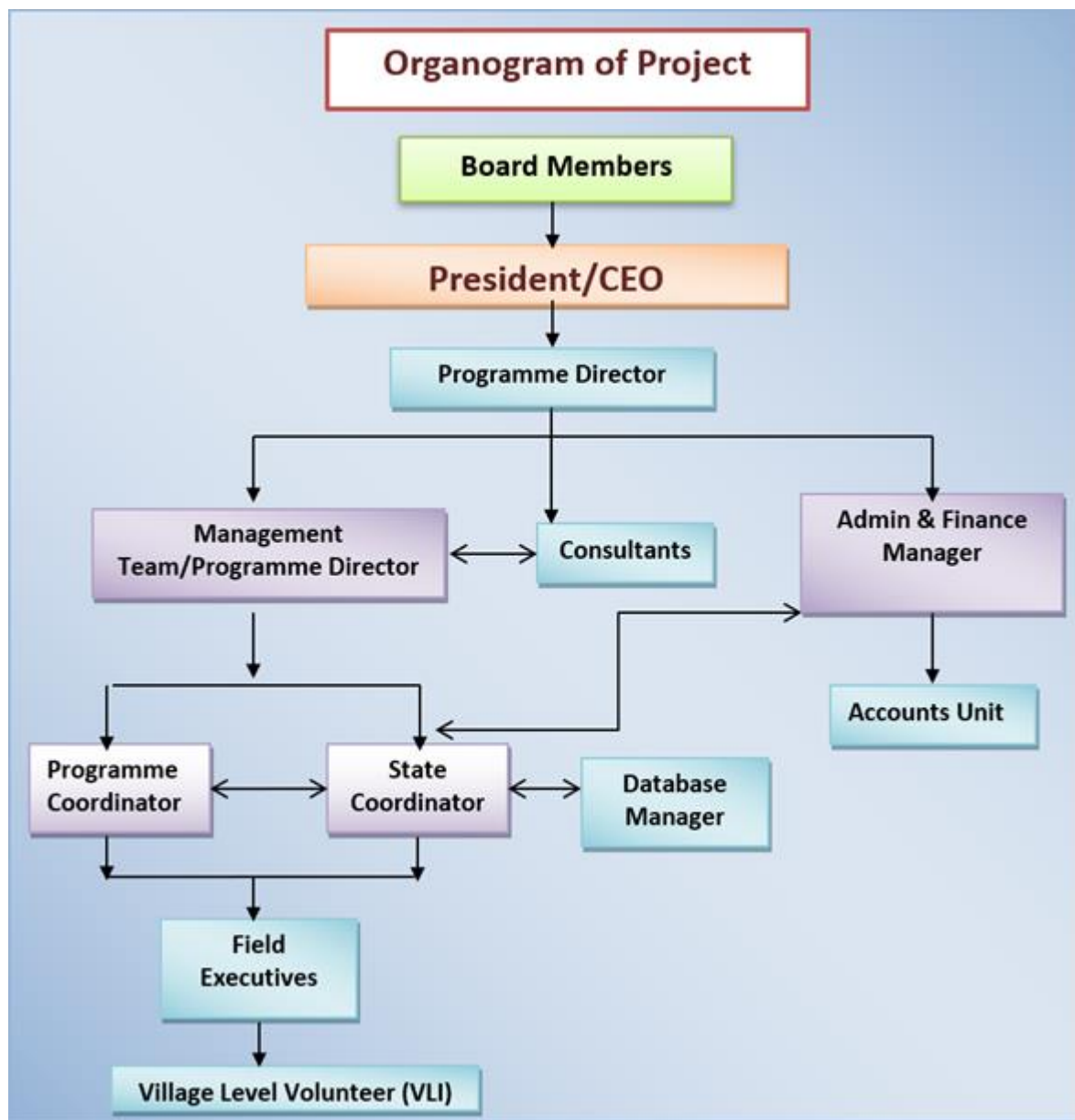
SECTION B. MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND INCLUSION CRITERIA

B.1. Management System

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SUVIDHA is the CME for this PoA and will be responsible for the overall operation, management, coordination and monitoring of the PoA.

Roles and Responsibilities



Board of Directors: The Board overlooks organization, its programmes and operations in consultation with President, Programme & Finance Directors and project management teams. The board will review the project progress and strategy annually.

President: The president in consultation with Director Programme, Project Management and finance team overlooks progress under the project and drives implementation and financial strategies towards project fulfilling projects goals. The president will review the project progress and implementation strategy monthly.

Director Programme: Programme Director will ensure timely deliverables by Project Management Team and drives monthly work plans and strategies. Programme Director will review the project progress and implementation strategy fortnightly.

Project Manager: Project Manager is overall accountable for project implementation. The manager will device weekly work plans in consultation with project coordinator/ finance team. Project Manager will conduct monthly visits on field to ensure functionality of technologies with ensures and audit reports of the filed executives and village level volunteers.

Programme Coordinator and State Coordinator: Project coordinator and state coordinators along with project manager will ensures timely implementation of project activities. They will coordinate daily activities of field executives and report daily updates on field visits and technologies on field. They will also crosscheck the field data and ensure correct and timely reporting to data analyst/ project manager.

Field Executives: Field executives will be in charge of the planting activities. They will communicate with the project beneficiaries and organize the planting activities at the plot level. The field executives are also monitor the species and number of planted seedlings and its survival for the initial three years.

Each authorised VPA implementer under this PoA will sign a standard contractual agreement with the CME to participate in the PoA as a VPA implementer in which the VPA implementer will commit itself to the following requirements:

- Those operating the VPA are aware of and have agreed that their activity is being subscribed to the PoA.
- The VPA implementer shall not assign a new VPA that has been already registered either as a CDM/VER project activity or as a CPA/VPA of another PoA.
- For a new VPA to be included in the PoA it will be verified at all stages. Starting from project conception, stakeholder consultation meetings, validation and installation of new units, a VPA will be supervised by the CME.

SUVIDHA being a grassroot level NGO and having national presence, can also be the VPA Implementer for many of the VPAs.

SUVIDHA as the managing entity will ensure that each VPA will maintain standard records, will archive the monitoring data in a secure database and will keep the records during the entire crediting period and two years after for each VPA. Data (paper & electronic) will be transmitted regularly to SUVIDHA who is responsible for the record keeping relating to production of the Monitoring Reports. SUVIDHA will conduct a data audit for compliance with the Monitoring Plan at least once a year for each VPA.

Digital Monitoring Solution of SUVIDHA for all VPAs

SUVIDHA has adopted digital monitoring solution, which will be implemented by all the VPA Implementers. Each plot of the VPA will be georeferenced and a unique unit identification number attested for each parcel of land. Real Time updates are made in the monitoring solution and progress of all units installed is maintained. Various steps undertaken for Monitoring & Evaluation are:

- A)** In the first stage, End User Agreement is created, in which the date of planting, species, number of seedlings, the name of the project beneficiary, Village, Taluka/Block, District where the project beneficiary is residing are noted, to irrefutably identify the user.
- B)** Each project beneficiary has an identification number which is also noted in the End User Agreement. The information from the End User Agreement is also recorded in the monitoring database designed for monitoring of the project activity. This is maintained by SUVIDHA throughout the crediting period.
- C)** Monitoring will be done to check for survival rates by the VPA Implementer.
- D)** SUVIDHA will maintain a toll-free number where the end users can directly call and provide their input/grievance. The same is entered in the monitoring solution and field worker is assigned to assess and resolve the issue.

Source of Data & Responsibility:

- The database entries are made by the field coordinators. These entries will be supervised by the project Coordinator.
- The database records and copies of the End User Agreement are maintained at the head office.
- The project Coordinator checks on the End User Agreements. In case of inconsistencies, appropriate corrective actions will be undertaken.

The CME will be responsible for the following:

i.) Training and Capacity building: The CME will conduct training and capacity building programs for the VPA Implementer to implement the project. These can take place as part of periodic calls.

ii.) Auditing: Liaison with GHG auditors for Validation and Verification of PoA and VPAs added to the PoA. Verification of VPAs for issuance of Carbon Credits (VERs) by the Gold Standard.

iii.) Certification: In-Charge of submission of all relevant documents (PoA-DDs, VPA-DDs, legal documents, etc.) for Certification to Gold Standard for projects and issuance of VERs.

VPA Implementing Entity: The implementing entity on ground would be responsible for the achievement of physical targets defined. Their mandate, in collaboration with the CME includes:

- (i) **Managerial role:** This would entail monitoring the human resource constituting the project management team, their performance and achievement of targets outlined in the VPA
- (ii) **Monitoring of the technology implementation:** This would include monitoring the process of said technology(ies) utilizing the IT-based solution to be deployed by the CME based on technical advisory provided by the CME to record data.
- (iii) **Recruitment of project management team:** This entails the recruitment/coordination of personnel at the VPA level in program implementation

- (iv) **Training and Capacity Building:** This would include training and capacity building of recruited project management team as well as local institutions involved in implementation
- (v) **Record Keeping:** The VPA Implementing Entity will keep a record for each VPA in the central database where the following information is stored:
 - a. Name of the VPA
 - b. Name of the end user
 - c. Geographic details of the end user – Country, State, District, Municipality, Ward, Village, etc.
 - d. Species/number of seedlings distributed
 - e. Planting Date
 - f. Unique Identification number of the project beneficiary

Every individual VPA will maintain a record keeping system as in applied Baseline and Monitoring Methodology and detailed below.

The CME and the VPA implementers will have a robust record keeping procedure. All the parameters monitored of the project activity will be entered by the VPA Implementers that can be accessed by the CME.

The VPA database will be used to:

- Record the State, District, Ward, Municipality and Villages/towns where the GS VER project is implemented
- Enter End User Details of the family
- Unique ID of the Project Beneficiary
- Phone number of the family, if available
- Date of planting

System/procedure to avoid double accounting

Only project beneficiaries and their plots that have been named as part of the VPA will be included in the Programme. Based on the VPA database it is possible to unambiguously identify the VPAs of the program. Prior to including a new VPA within the proposed PoA, the CME will check the UNFCCC CDM and GS project database to verify that the proposed VPA has not been already registered as a CDM/VER project activity or as an CPA/VPA of another PoA/VPoA.

Further, all beneficiaries of a VPA will have to sign an agreement with the CME stating all required information about the carbon money and about the rights of carbon savings have to be handed over to the CME.

PoA subscription

The CME is responsible for identifying, conducting technical review of inclusion of VPAs, registering and managing all VPAs included in the proposed PoA. This means that those operating the VPA are aware and have agreed that their activity is subscribed to the proposed PoA.

Prior to the inclusion of a VPA in the proposed PoA, agreements for VER ownership will be signed between SUVIDHA and each VPA project participant. The individual VPA will also issue an authorization letter to SUVIDHA informing that they are aware of and have agreed that their activity is being subscribed to this proposed PoA and to confirm that they are not registered either as a CDM project activity or as a VPA of another PoA. A model End User agreement between PIP and beneficiary regarding the ownership of VERs is included in VPA-DD.

Continuous improvement to the PoA Management will be made to ensure functioning of the program, which could include restructuring of functions/posts without disrupting the functioning of the program.

B.2. Application of methodologies

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The VPAs to be included under the PoA apply the following methodologies, being the latest versions

- Methodology for Afforestation/Reforestation (A/R) GHGs Emission Reduction & Sequestration, Version 2.
- 403_V1.0_0.7_LUF_AR Methodology_Soil Carbon Tool.xlsm

B.2.1. Multiple technologies/measures

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There are no multiple technologies/measures are applied under the PoA.

B.3. Eligibility criteria for inclusion of a VPA in the PoA

Any VPA to be included in the PoA will fulfill the criteria mentioned in A.3:

- Eligibility criteria as per section 3.1.1 of GS4GG Principles & Requirements
- General eligibility criteria as per section 2.1.1 of GS4GG Land Use & Forests Requirements.

In addition, VPAs should comply with the following eligibility criteria as per section 4.12.1 of the PoA Requirements and procedures, Version 2 and template guidelines:

No.	Eligibility Criterion	Description/ Required condition	Means of Verification/Supporting evidence for inclusion
1	<i>a. Geographical boundaries of the VPA consistent with that of the PoA</i>	The geographic boundary of the VPA shall be India	The details of State, district and villages provided in the VPA shall be within India
2	<i>b. Conditions to avoid double counting of GHG emission reductions or net anthropogenic GHG removals, such as unique identifications of product and end user locations</i>	The VPA shall not previously be registered as a project activity or included as a VPA in any other registered PoA or deregistered as a VPA of a PoA.	The CME/VPA Implementer shall provide the database of all the farmers that are part of the VPA. They shall not be part of any other VPA or PoA or standalone project activity within GS and other standards.
3	<i>c. Conditions to check the start dates of VPA through documentary evidence</i>	The start date of the VPA shall be on or after the start date of the PoA	The project start date is confirmed through the end user agreement and signed declaration by the project implementing entity of the start date of the VPA.
4	<i>d. Conditions to ensure compliance with the applicability of the applied methodologies, the applied standardised baselines and the other applied methodological regulatory documents</i>	The only methodology used for VPAs under the PoA is "LUF_AR-Methodology-GHGs-emission-reduction-and-Sequestration-Methodology, Version 2". The tool "LUF AR Methodology Soil Carbon Tool" is used in order to calculate the Soil Organic Carbon	Compliance with the methodology applicability criteria will be demonstrated in section B.2. of the VPA-DD.
5	<i>e. Conditions to ensure that VPA meet the</i>	For demonstration of additionality, one of the	Section B.5. of the VPA shall describe the chosen

	<i>requirements for demonstration of additionality</i>	<p>two options will be applied: Option 1: Latest version of A/R Methodological tool "Combined tool to identify the baseline scenario and demonstrate additionality in A/R CDM project activities Option 2: Latest version of Positive list (as per 3.1.16, (b) of the Land Use & Forests Activity Requirements)</p>	option and steps toward the determination of additionality.
6	<i>f. Condition to ensure that the real case VPA and its regular VPAs meet the applicability criteria of selected methodology of combination of methodologies</i>	<p>The only methodology used for VPAs under the PoA is "LUF_AR-Methodology-GHGs-emission-reduction-and-Sequestration-Methodology Version 2". The tool "LUF AR Methodology Soil Carbon Tool" is used in order to calculate the Soil Organic Carbon</p>	Compliance with the methodology applicability criteria will be demonstrated at VPA level.
7	<i>g. Conditions to ensure that real case and its regular VPAs systematically demonstrate additionality in accordance with Principles & Requirements.</i>	<p>For demonstration of additionality, one of the two options will be applied: Option 1: Latest version of A/R Methodological tool "Combined tool to identify the baseline scenario and demonstrate additionality in A/R CDM project activities Option 2: Latest version of Positive list (as per 3.1.16, (b) of the Land Use & Forests Activity Requirements)</p>	The VPA will describe the chosen option and steps toward the determination of additionality.
8.	<i>h. Target group</i>	<p>The target group would be rural/urban regions of India and will be with project beneficiaries of farmers, organizations, companies, etc. that have</p>	The VPA shall include the details of the target group.

	legal ownership of the land.	
9.	<i>i. Conditions related to sampling requirements for the PoA</i>	Sampling in accordance with the sampling plan in the corresponding real case Forestry will be described.
10.	<i>j. Conditions to ensure that CPAs that will be included meet the small-scale or microscale thresholds and remain within those thresholds throughout the crediting period</i>	The conditions of the GS4GG LUF Activity Requirements for small-scale or microscale thresholds will be applied depending on the VPA scale that will be included The small scale will be 16,000 tCO ₂ removals/year and for microscale it will be 10,000 tCO ₂ /year
11.	<i>k. Conditions to be met for retroactive VPAs</i>	The start date shall be after the start date of the PoA and retroactive VPAs shall submit the required documents to Gold Standard within five years of its start date (time of first submission) according to the GS4GG LUF Activity Requirements and prove that carbon credits were considered for the activity. The proof of the start date and the consideration of carbon credits will be submitted for retroactive e VPAs.
12.	<i>l. Conditions to be met for CER Labelling</i>	Not applicable, as it is a VER project Not Applicable
13.	<i>m. Conditions to be met in multi-country PoAs</i>	No applicable, as it is a single country, India Not applicable

SECTION C. DEMONSTRATION OF ADDITIONALITY

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According to the GS4GG PoA Procedures and Guidelines, the CME shall demonstrate additionality at PoA level by establishing that in the absence of Gold Standard Certification related finance:

a. the proposed VPAs would not be implemented.

The PoA is a purely voluntary action implemented by the CME and is only possible because of carbon finance. It is therefore stated that in the absence of Gold Standard

Certification related finance, none of the VPA that will be implemented under the PoA and within the proposed PoA boundaries would occur.

b. the mandatory policy/regulation would systematically not be enforced and that noncompliance with those requirements is widespread in the country/region, or c. Mandatory policy/regulation or to a greater level of adoption of an existing voluntary scheme.

There are no mandatory policy/regulations that farmers need to plant trees on their land or NGOs/organizations need to plant trees.

Most farmers are reluctant to embrace this ecologically and socially sound practice to plant trees on their lands due to lack of policy support. The practice of agroforestry declined at the expense of intensive agriculture promoted during the green revolution in the 1970s. The potential to expand is enormous, especially for the 80% of small-holders farmers in the country with two hectares of land or less. According to the Restoration Opportunities Atlas, India has 87 million hectares of land that could benefit from agroforestry⁶. There are several challenges that impede implementation, such as lack of quality planting material; technical capacity and knowledge gaps; market and finance gaps; and inadequate attention to issues around land and tree tenure, gender, and social inclusion⁷.

The PoA will promote the adoption of the existing voluntary scheme of National Agroforestry Policy, 2014.

⁶ [restoration-opportunities-atlas-of-india .pdf \(wri.org\)](https://restoration-opportunities-atlas-of-india.pdf)

⁷ https://files.wri.org/d8/s3fs-public/2022-03/roadmap-scaling-trees-outside-forests-india.pdf?VersionId=6dR4jQJT.TF_70rCP7EQ00jhznFyxAVc

SECTION D. DURATION OF PoA

D.1. Date of first submission of PoA to Gold Standard

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05/11/2022

D.2. Duration of the PoA

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50 Years for the PoA – 01/07/2022 to 30/06/2072

30 Years for the VPAs

SECTION E. OUTCOME OF PoA LEVEL STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

E.1. Summary of stakeholder consultation at PoA Level

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The CME conducted the PoA design consultation digitally to obtain feedback from governments, relevant national authorities, NGO communities, and other stakeholders and Gold Standard representative and relevant international Gold Standard NGO Supporters. The design consultation email, which included the (i) Non-technical Summary and (ii) Design Consultation feedback form in English and Hindi was sent out on 30th August 2022 and was open to sending their feedback for a month till 30th September 2022. Reminder to send their feedback was sent on 27th August 2022 through email.

There were no comments received during the consultation period. Please see Design Consultation Report for more details.

The stakeholder consultation will be conducted for a group of VPAs.

E.2. Consideration of stakeholder comments received

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There were no comments received during the design consultation at the PoA level. VPA level stakeholder consultations will also be held to get feedback.

E.3. Final Continuous Input / Grievance Mechanism at PoA Level

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Method	Include all details of Chosen Method (s) so that they may be understood and, where relevant, used by readers.
Continuous Input / Grievance Expression Process Book (mandatory)	The process book shall be placed at the local office of CME/VPA Implementer
GS Contact (mandatory)	help@goldstandard.org
Other	The local staff of CME/VPA Implementer can also be contacted to provide their input or air their grievance.

APPENDIX 1 - CONTACT INFORMATION OF COORDINATING/MANAGING ENTITY AND RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)/ ENTITY(IES)

CME and/or responsible person/ entity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CME <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Responsible person/ entity for application of the selected methodology(ies) and, where applicable, the selected standardized baseline(s) to the PoA
Organization	Society for the Upliftment of Villagers & Development of Himalayan Areas (SUVIDHA)
Street/P.O. Box	Madhav Puram, Udayalpur,
Building	Near Shivalik International School, RTO Road, PO- Aanandpur,
City	Haldwani
State/Region	Nainital District, Uttarakhand
Postcode	263139
Country	India
Telephone	+91 976-150-1472
E-mail	ceo@suvidha.org.in
Website	https://suvidha-india.org/
Contact person	
Title	CEO
Salutation	Mr.
Last name	Pandey
Middle name	
First name	Deepak

Revision History

Version	Date	Remarks
2.1	31 May 2022	Editorial changes and revisions
2.0	04 May 2022	<p>Key Project Information table revised to cater for the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scale of PoA - Title and GS ID of all real case VPAs included in the PoA <p>A new Management System section included Safeguarding Principles Assessment section removed Outcome of PoA Level Stakeholder Consultation section revised in the following manner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Justification for Stakeholder Consultation at PoA Level Only section removed <p>A new Consideration of Stakeholder Comments Received section added</p>
1.1	14 October 2020	<p>Hyperlinked section summary to enable quick access to key sections Improved clarity on Key Project Information Inclusion criteria table added Clarification on POA level LSC and Safeguard Principles Assessment Improved Clarity on SDG contribution/SDG Impact term used throughout Clarity on Stakeholder Consultation information required Provision of an accompanying Guide to help the user understand detailed rules and requirements</p>
1.0	10 July 2017	Initial adoption