Recommendations for Gold Standard Carbon Credit Compliance

TrueSight DAO SunMint Initiative Tree Planting Project

July 25, 2025

To align our tree planting project with Gold Standard carbon credit issuance requirements, we propose the following improvements to ensure compliance over time. These enhancements address key gaps in additionality, permanence, quantification, uniqueness, verification, stakeholder engagement, leakage, and documentation. Estimated timelines are provided to guide implementation as the project rolls out.

1 Recommendations

1. **Document Additionality**
    - Add frontend fields to collect land use data (e.g., prior land condition: degraded, agricultural).
    - Conduct baseline studies to prove plantings are additional.
    - *Timeline*: 3–6 months (requires research and frontend updates).
2. **Track Tree Survival**
    - Create a follow-up submission page for users to report tree health (e.g., at 1, 3, 5 years).
    - Add a Google Sheet column for survival status and generate monitoring reports.
    - *Timeline*: 4–6 months (new frontend and backend updates).
3. **Enable Carbon Calculations**
    - Allow species selection in the frontend and integrate Gold Standard growth models for cacao and other trees.
    - Collect tree size and soil data for accurate sequestration estimates.
    - *Timeline*: 6–9 months (requires methodology integration).
4. **Prevent Double Counting**
    - Implement automated duplicate detection (e.g., flag submissions within 1-meter radius).
    - Add a field for number of trees per submission to handle dense plantings.
    - *Timeline*: 2–4 months (backend logic updates).
5. **Formalize Verification**
    - Develop a process for third-party audits, generating standardized reports from the Google Sheet.
    - Formalize Telegram community review with moderator roles.
    - *Timeline*: 6–12 months (requires audit integration).
6. **Enhance Community Involvement**
    - Collect data on co-benefits (e.g., biodiversity, jobs) via frontend.

- Document stakeholder consultations for Gold Standard requirements.
- *Timeline*: 4–6 months (frontend and documentation updates).

7. **Assess Leakage**
    - Add frontend questions about land use changes (e.g., displacement of activities).
    - Conduct a leakage assessment for the project design.
    - *Timeline*: 6–9 months (requires research and frontend updates).
8. **Improve Documentation**
    - Develop a Project Design Document (PDD) with methodology, baseline, and monitoring plans.
    - Migrate to a database for scalable data management.
    - *Timeline*: 9–12 months (requires documentation and system migration).

2 Next Steps

Share your feedback in our Telegram group (https://t.me/TrueSightDAO) or WhatsApp community. We aim to implement these improvements over the next 12–18 months to achieve Gold Standard compliance, ensuring our project delivers credible carbon credits and community benefits.