Why revising the W+ Standard Guidance document is necessary?

• Ensuring W+ standard is up to date and assuring its integrity and ready for more uptake

• Specify pathway for W+ projects to be registered with other standards. First example is how VCU’s are certified with W+ (“W+ labeled” VCU’s) and process of joint certification for projects

• Provision of clear guidance on the validation and verification stages of the W+ Standard application

• Removing duplications and simplifying the document
Evolution of W+ labels

- Discussed in depth during the W+ Advisory Council on 19 May 2022; determined to use categories of ‘silver, gold and platinum’ depending on how many domains are used.

- Later determination that this is: 1. too complicated given that so many other labels (i.e. CCB, and its own gold, silver, platinum labels) were also being applied to VCUs, and 2. integrity would be at risk if projects with few women beneficiaries used W+ to label 100% of large amount of carbon.

- Need for solution that is simple to understand and yet maintaining integrity.
Main changes

Guidance on **W+ Certified VCUs** and projects registered under other GHG standards

- Percent of VCUs that can be “labeled” with W+ to be determined based on % of women stakeholders impacted by activities
- The total number of women stakeholders in the project will be reported during the PIN and PDD stages and will need to be monitored during each verification.
- % of VCUs labelled with W+= Number of women beneficiaries impacted divided by the Number of total women beneficiaries in the project

**Additional evidence: Inclusion of Women’s Empowerment Plan (WEP) to show evidence of Intentionality.** This should a minimum of at least any **two** of the following:

- gender policy
- targeted budget for gender/WE
- M&E indicators for gender/WE
- level of internal capacity for gender/women’s empowerment
Main changes

Clarity on **validation** and **verification**

• The **validation** of the Project Design Document (PDD) aims to ensure that the on-ground implementation of the project adheres to the W+ Standard. It is undertaken by an independent gender expert (TEG), approved by the W+ Standard.

• After the application of W+ Standard, project results are independently **verified** by an accredited Verifier.

• New templates for Verification, etc. that are being referenced in the new guidance document

• After the Public Consultation period, there may be additional changes to the Guidance Document and to the W+ Standard.
Questions for public consultation

1. **W+ Standard Guidance Document V2.0**
   - How do stakeholders feel about the requirement of a Women’s Empowerment Plan? (Poll vote)
   - Do stakeholders see any gaps in the W+ Standard, which will impact the integrity of the Standard?
   - Is the Standard document clear and concise for use?
   - Would you like to see any other requirement included in this version?

2. **Guidance on W+ Certified VCU and GHG registered projects**
   - Do you see a potential problem with the above-said approach to use % women stakeholders to determine % of VCU that can be W+ labelled?
   - Should the “labels” be divided further by domains, or the approach be kept simple, i.e., labeling the % of VCU with all the W+ domains, the said project is claiming?
   - How will the buyers approach these labels? Would they be willing to pay a premium for VCU labeled with W+ Vs non-labeled VCU?
   - Is there any other approach that could help streamline the labeling of VCU with W+ domain labels?
Next steps

- **20 June**
  - Guidance Document on the W+ Standard Verification process will be provided by the accredited verifier

- **26 June**
  - Deadline for suggestions of additional questions to be included in the public consultation document

- **30 June**
  - The W+ Standard Guidance document V2.0 will be out for public consultation for 30 days with assistance from W+AC members to reach broad audience

- **30 August**
  - All comments and suggestions will be consolidated and the final Standard and Guidance Documents 2.0 will be available

- **15 September**
  - A webinar will be organized to present the changes in the W+ Standard and the Guidance Document 2.0 to raise awareness among key stakeholders
Questions/Comments?

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