



Publication Date:
14/11/2023

Version:
V1.0

Contact:
Ecosystem Restoration Standard
25 Rue de Frémicourt
75015 Paris, FRANCE
info@ers.org

PROGRAMME

Standard Revision Procedure

SUMMARY

The Standard Revision Procedure ensures that any modification to the Standard is the result of a transparent and informed decision-making process. In this process, decisions of the Technical Advisory Board (TAB) are sovereign and cannot be challenged or opposed formally or informally by any ERS Agent.



Table of *Content*

Table of Content	1
Introduction	2
SCOPE	2
NORMATIVE REFERENCES	2
REQUIREMENTS	2
Revision Procedure	4
1. Submission Phase	4
2. Review Phase	5
3. Approval Phase	7
4. Grievance Procedure	8
5. Record Keeping and Transparency	8
Appendix 1	9
STANDARD REVISION PROCEDURE:	9
1. Submission Phase	9
2. Review Phase	10
3. Approval Phase	10



Introduction

SCOPE

The [Technical Advisory Board](#) (TAB) is independent of ERS and represents the Standard's governing body. Its purpose is to offer scientific and technical insights, and to guarantee the accuracy and robustness of ERS' tools and methodologies.

The objective of a Standard Revision Procedure is to enhance the Standard and its related processes.

NORMATIVE REFERENCES

This document was elaborated and must be read in conjunction with:

- [ERS Programme](#)
- [ERS Governance](#)
- [Code of Ethics and Business Conduct](#)
- [Technical Advisory Board](#)

REQUIREMENTS

- 1.1. This Standard Revision Procedure process applies to all TAB Members and Secretariat Agents.
- 1.2. The purpose of this document is to provide a clear governance structure for all amendments to the Ecosystem Restoration Standard.
- 1.3. The TAB is independent of ERS, as detailed in the [Technical Advisory Board](#) documentation.



- 1.4. The TAB is responsible for advising the Secretariat on all matters related to the ERS Programme and Methodologies, and has authority over any changes to the Standard. Standard Revisions cannot be made without the approval of the TAB.



Revision *Procedure*

1. Submission Phase

Each Standard Revision is assigned a Standard Revision ID corresponding to the order of submission. The Standard Revision Procedure can be triggered in five different situations:

- 1.1. **Standard Revision Requests.** Based on the feedback collected from ERS Entities, the Secretariat may submit a Standard Revision Request to the TAB. If the TAB approves the Standard Revision Request, the Secretariat is authorised to draft a Standard Revision Proposition and submit it to the TAB. The TAB must answer Standard Revision Requests within 30 consecutive days. If not, they shall be considered as rejected.
- 1.2. **Standard Revision Mandate.** The TAB mandates the Secretariat to draft a Standard Revision Proposition. The mandate must come with the following guidelines:
 - The identification number of the Revision;
 - The aim and logic of the amendment;
 - The scope of the amendment;
 - A provisional timeline for the Standard Revision Procedure;
 - The expected risks associated with the Revision Procedure;
 - The scope and duration of the expected Public Comment Period, if applicable.
- 1.3. **Direct Revisions.** This procedure allows the Secretariat to directly modify Standard documents to adapt to market changes swiftly without overloading the TAB. Direct Revisions are not subjected to TAB approval



nor Public Comment Periods. A Direct Revision is strictly restricted to the topic that justifies it. They can only be justified in the following instances:

- 1.3.1. **Accreditation bodies.** An effort to comply with international standards and accreditation bodies (e.g. ICROA, CORSIA, IC-VCM).
- 1.3.2. **Legal and regulatory framework.** An effort to adapt to a sudden change in the applicable legal and regulatory framework.
- 1.3.3. **Minor changes.** For matters that do not significantly alter the intent or implications of existing Standard documents.
- 1.4. **Regular updates.** All Standard's documentation shall be reviewed at least every two years, or as requested by the TAB. The revisions can be specific to a document or the entire Programme or Methodology, as deemed appropriate by the TAB.
- 1.5. **Withdrawal.** Outdated methodologies or methodologies which have been identified as overestimating GHG emission removals can be withdrawn through the Standard Revision Procedure. Should any significant issues or "red flags" concerning conservativeness or additionality arise during this review, the said methodology will be promptly withdrawn.

2. Review Phase

- 2.1. **Standard Revision Proposition.** The Secretariat is in charge of drafting a Standard Revision Proposition, exhaustively detailing all the changes that should be implemented to the Standard and its affiliated documents. The Standard Revision Proposition is then submitted to the TAB for review.
- 2.2. **Decision.** The TAB can:
 - Accept the Standard Revision Proposition.



- Reject the Standard Revision Proposition and return it to the Secretariat for further revisions. A Standard Revision Proposition can be rejected up to five times.
- 2.3. **Justification.** In each case, the TAB must provide a written justification for its decision. The TAB must provide technical propositions to increase the accuracy and robustness of the Standard and its affiliated documents.
- 2.4. **Public Comment Period.**
- 2.4.1. Depending on the subject of the revision, a Public Comment Period might be required to account for Stakeholders' and market feedback. Direct Revisions do not undergo Public Comment Periods.
- 2.4.2. The TAB must require a Public Comment Period if the Standard Revision Proposition modifies one or more of the following elements of the Standard and its affiliated documents:
- **Methodology.** All methodology principles and methods, particularly documents regarding the qualification and quantification of GHG emission removals.
 - **Governance.** All documents regarding the internal rules and organisation of ERS, as well as its relation to Third Parties, especially regarding conflicts of interest, anti-corruption and anti-fraud.
- 2.5. **Call for Public Comment.** If a Public Comment Period is necessary, the Secretariat must organise and launch a Public Comment Period for at least thirty consecutive days.
- 2.5.1. The Call for Public Comment will be published on the [ERS website](#) and social media.



- 2.5.2. The Secretariat must proactively reach out to identified key Stakeholders, including local stakeholders where Projects are certified.
- 2.5.3. ERS must strive to include diverse views from ecologists, carbon market experts, and community experts.
- 2.6. **Consultation Digest.** The Secretariat assesses all contributions received during the consultation and summarises them in a Consultation Digest, which must include:
 - A structured review of all suggestions, with the Secretariat's response on whether or not these suggestions will be implemented;
 - A justification for each suggestion that is rejected or accepted.
- 2.7. **Timeline.** The Secretariat must publish the Consultation Digest no more than 75 consecutive days from the closing date of the Call for Public Comment on the [ERS website](#) and social media. ERS must issue a public justification if this delay is exceeded.

3. Approval Phase

- 3.1. **Final Standard Revision.** If no Public Comment Period was required, the Secretariat directly submits the Final Standard Revision to the TAB. If a Public Comment Period was required, the Secretariat must integrate its feedback into the Final Standard Revision and send it to the TAB along with the corresponding Consultation Digest.
- 3.2. **Final Standard Revision.** The TAB can:
 - 3.2.1. Accept the Final Standard Revision.
 - 3.2.2. Deem the Final Standard Revision incomplete and send it back to the Secretariat for further revisions. This can be done an unlimited



number of times. If a Public Comment Period was required, the TAB can deem its feedback was not properly integrated.

- 3.3. **Public disclosure.** The Secretariat then publishes the final version of the Standard and/or its affiliated documents on ERS' website.

4. **Grievance Procedure**

All allegations, grievances and complaints regarding the Standard Revision Procedure shall be addressed through the [Grievance Mechanism](#).

5. **Record Keeping and Transparency**

- 5.1. **Record keeping.** The Secretariat is responsible for keeping a permanent record of:

5.1.1. All elements and versions of the Programme and Methodologies;

5.1.2. Every version of each Standard Revision Procedure document, namely:

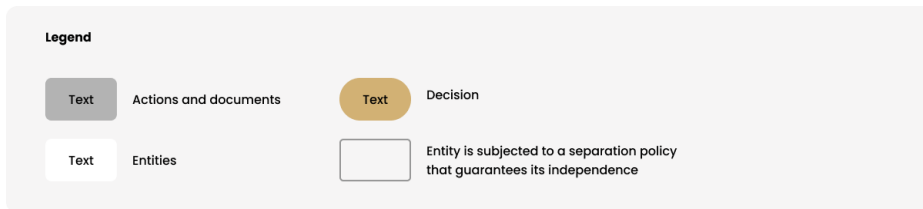
- [Standard Revision Mandate](#);
- [Standard Revision Request](#);
- [Standard Revision Proposition](#);
- [Call for Public Comment Period](#);
- [Public Comment Digest](#);
- [Final Revision Proposition](#);

- 5.2. **Transparency.** The Secretariat is also responsible for publicly disclosing the above documents on the [ERS website](#), and for guaranteeing that Stakeholders have equal access to them.

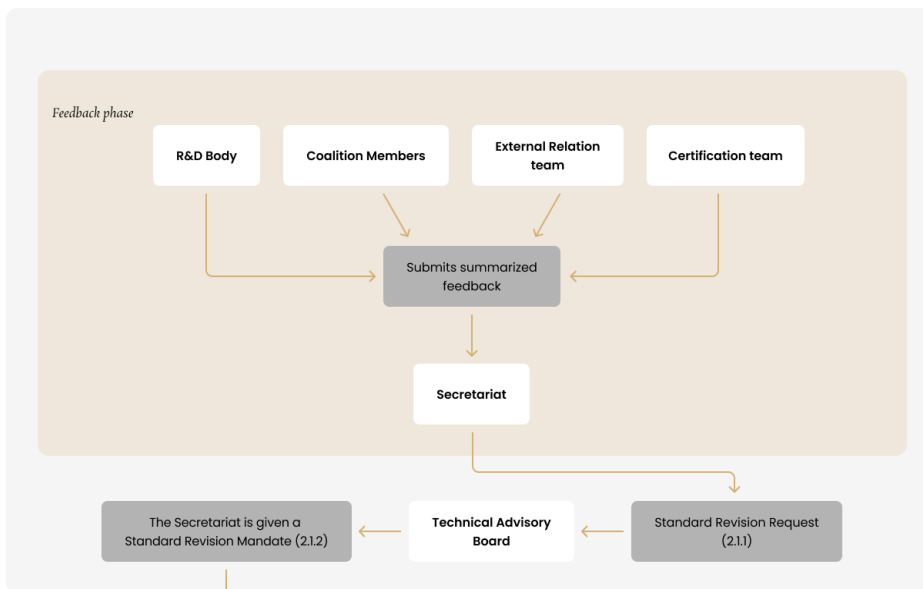


Appendix 1

STANDARD REVISION PROCEDURE:

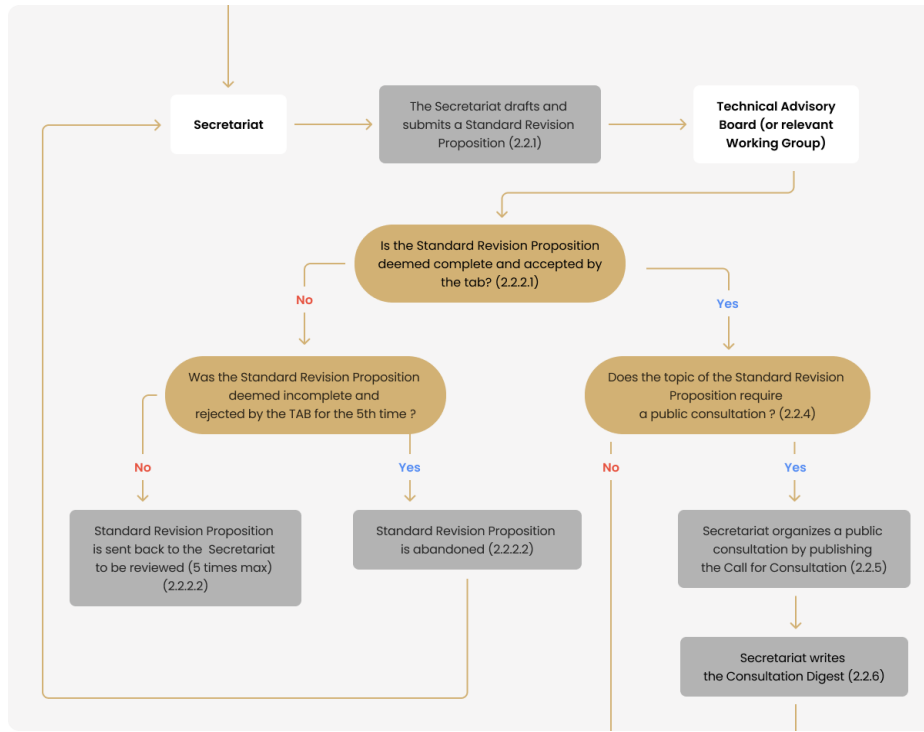


1. Submission Phase

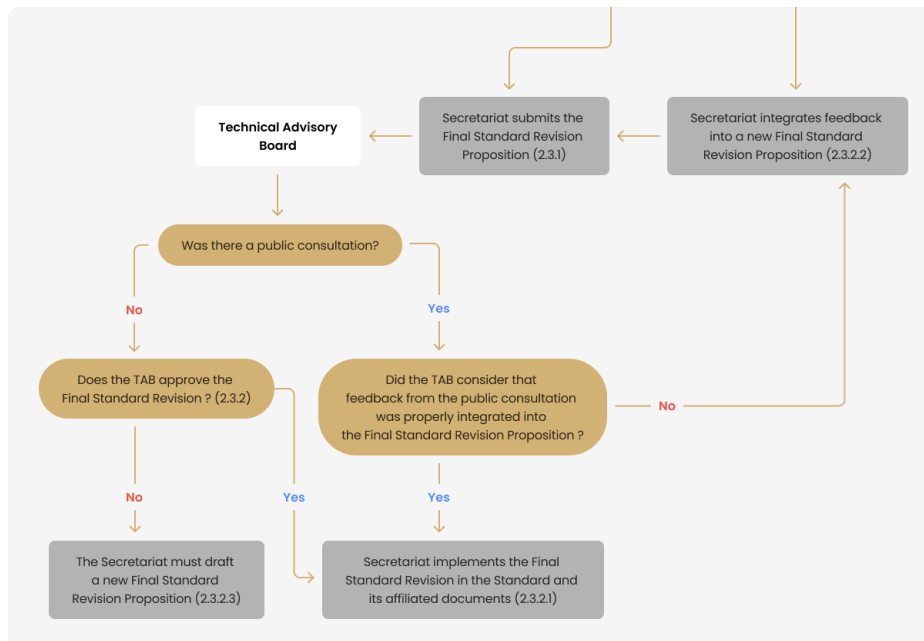




2. Review Phase



3. Approval Phase





Ecosystem Restoration Standard

info@ers.org | www.ers.org