



Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy,  
the Environment and Water



Global Forest  
Observations Initiative

Plenary  
9-11 May 2023

# Methods and Guidance Documentation Component

## Update and Priorities

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# A (very) Brief History of the MGD

2013

## **The GFOI community thought this would be a great idea!**

Everyone agreed that there was a gap in 'official' guidelines that could be used to implement REDD+ activities.

Australia put its hand up to lead a new component to address that.

2014

## **Version 1**

A document was produced by collating inputs from experts from all partners and all corners of the globe.

2015

## **The Paris Agreement changed (some of) the rules of the game**

As the MGD's purpose is to enable countries to meet international reporting requirements, this was a trigger for us to update the document



**2016**

**Version 2 published**

Unfortunately, Version 2 was drafted long before the Paris Agreement was ratified, so work had to begin almost immediately on Version 3. Although, this version was a significant improvement.

**2019**

**IPCC refinement**

The IPCC made many direct references to the MGD v2 in their refinement as the GFOI document did fill many known gaps - given the previous good practice was over a decade old – and the technology had advanced significantly through years of implementation

**2020**

**Version 3 published – as part of REDDcompass**

We went digital – think of all the trees worth of paper this saved!  
And of course, the content was endorsed by the IPCC as being fully compliant with the refined GPGs.

**2023**

**The GFOI Family of Resources**

MGD is now a proud part of the GFoR – facilitating faster and easier access to relevant information and linking to more relevant resources - to save everyone even more time in finding the best next step in the journey



# Who is the MGD?

## Everyone!

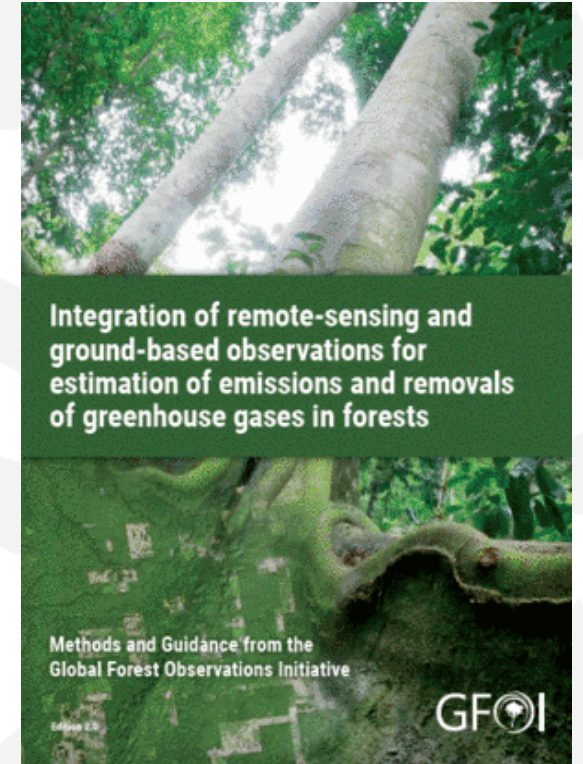
The MGD is at the heart of the GFOI and relies on the entire community to compile, endorse, update and use these resources.

The outputs of this component are available to everyone through the GFOI Family of Resources

The development of each new product is achieved by authors and reviewers who are supported by all GFOI partners

The operations of the MGD Component are now centrally focused on the Advisory Group and its role in reviewing proposals for either new modules or submissions to GFOI family of resources

The MGD Advisory Group is continuing to set the priorities and endorse new content, which is then actioned by the GFOI content Manager



# MGD Priorities

While the MGD v3 is specifically designed to describe how to implement operational systems to complete the MRV of REDD+ activities, those systems are subject to continuous improvements.

The MGD Advisory Group has identified that the highest priority gaps in MGD advice relate to::

**Uncertainty:** New MGD Module on calculating uncertainty of spatial Activity Data

**GST:** Support countries to better understand the Global Stocktake (GST) process and differences from national GHG estimates

**Biomass Maps:** Consider how the MGD can support the community to have a better understanding of biomass maps and how they can be used by countries for MRV purposes

**Accounting v Estimation:** Consider developing an MGD product that outlines the differences between the two

**Legacy emissions:** Explore opportunities for the MGD to develop improved guidance on monitoring legacy emissions



# MGD Interactions

Most of the MGD activities are either in response to or for use by other components/partners

## **IPCC Inventory Software**

Work with IPCC technical support unit to develop Instructional material related to the new “wall to wall AddOn” and consider linking this as a GFOI Tool.

## **Common issues from country reference levels submission**

Work with the UNFCCC Secretariat to compile list of common challenges and consider developing targeted MGD products to help navigate these challenges in future. (E.g. processes to ensure the consistent representation of lands across multiple land uses through time)

## **GFOI Family of Resources**

Continued development of the GFOI Family of Resources (GFoR) and update with new content – including all relevant interlinking



# What's next?

## Listening to the rest of the Plenary

### County Led Planning

MGD will respond to needs identified by our partners through the upcoming Country led Planning process, which will be discussed during the first side event session

### Enhanced Transparency Framework

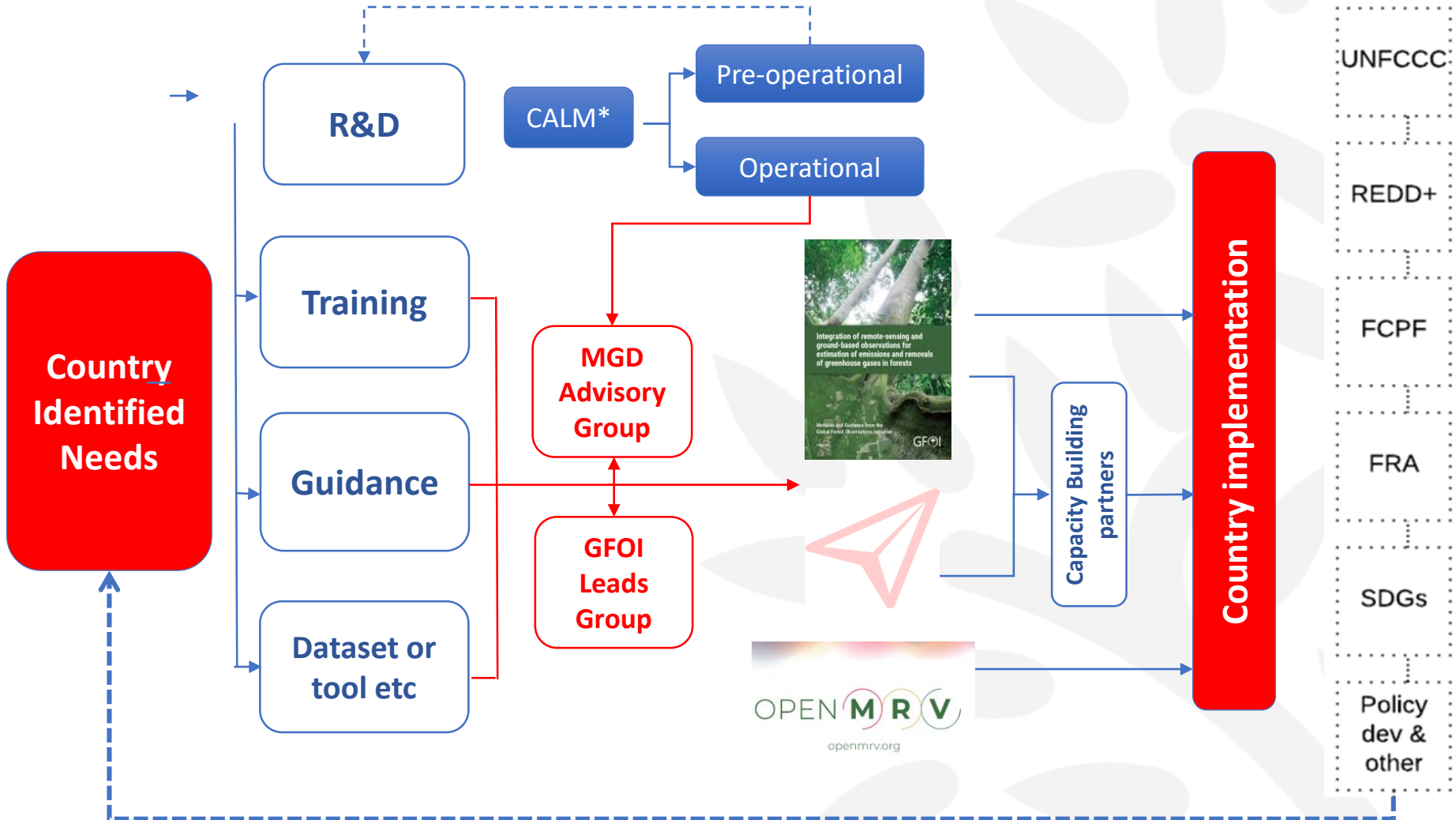
There may be opportunities to develop specific advice on the new UNFCCC Biennial Transparency Reports

### Blue Carbon

The Blue Carbon session will highlight new opportunities to prioritise expanding the MGD to cover additional land uses, while maintaining consistency



# The GFOI ecosystem



*\*Criteria for consistently Assessing Levels of Maturity (CALM)*





**La Fine,  
Grazie**

