



COLCX Guide for Reporting Contributions to the SDGs

Version 2.0



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ACRONYMS

UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
PDD	Project Design Document
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	The United Nations
VVB	Validation and Verification Bodies
GHGMP	Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Projects
PMR	Project Monitoring Report

1. INTRODUCTION

On September 25, 2015, 193 countries and world leaders adopted different goals to align together to improve the quality of life and protect the planet as part of a new development agenda, called Agenda 2030. This compendium marked a milestone in global efforts to build a just, inclusive and sustainable future. It sets out 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 specific targets that seek to address humanity's most pressing challenges, such as poverty, inequality, environmental degradation and climate change, as well as promoting well-being, peace and prosperity for all.

Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Projects (GHGMPs) are fundamental tools that comply with international climate commitments, such as the Paris Agreement, and generate co-benefits that directly impact the SDGs.

Climate change mitigation has a broad relationship with development goals 13) Climate Action, 7) Access to Affordable and Clean Energy, 8) Decent Work and Economic Growth, 12) Responsible Consumption and Production and 15) Life of Terrestrial Ecosystems. The scope is unlimited and depends on the objectives, achievements and characteristics of each initiative.

This guide provides a practical route for aligning the outcomes and impacts of a GHGMP with the SDGs. Through a structured approach, it explores strategies to maximize synergies between climate goals and the social, economic and environmental objectives that make up the 2030 Agenda. The alignment of the GCBMPs with the SDGs not only reveals the generation of co-benefits on-site but also contributes to accelerating the transition towards more resilient and sustainable development models. It also reinforces the commitment of organizations and communities to the global vision of a healthier and more equitable planet, highlighting how local and regional actions can drive significant changes on a global scale.

2. OBJECTIVES

- To guide the alignment of the GHGMPs with the relevant SDGs, considering the international and sectoral context in correspondence with the COLCX program.
- Establish impact indicators to measure the progress of the GHGMPs in terms of the SDGs and the contribution to the 2030 Agenda.
- Encourage regular monitoring of the contributions of the GHGMPs to the SDGs, maximizing their positive impact.
- Define monitoring and reporting guidelines that allow users to effectively communicate the progress made by the GHGMPs in relation to the SDGs.

3. SCOPE

This guide provides guidelines for the identification, monitoring, tracking and reporting of the SDGs during the design and implementation of GHGMPs. Its focus is to identify and assess the areas of potential impact of the GHGMP on the SDGs, allowing users to integrate the SDGs from their formulation. The proponent of the GHGMP can demonstrate contributions only if there was a change in the selected impact indicator with respect to the baseline scenario. The main aspects of the scope proposed by the guide are listed below:

1. Identification of contributions to the SDGs:

- Assist in the selection of the most relevant SDGs for the project, considering direct and indirect impacts for each verification period.
- Analyze synergies between the GHGMPs and specific SDG targets.

2. Design of strategies to maximize positive impacts:

- Incorporate key indicators to assess progress towards the SDG targets selected by the proponent of the GHGMP.

3. Measuring and monitoring impact on the SDGs:

- Provide a framework for collecting, analyzing and documenting relevant data to demonstrate the impact of GHGMP on the SDGs.

4. Communication and reporting:

- Facilitate the preparation of reports highlighting the project's contribution to the SDGs, aimed at all GHGMP stakeholders.

5. Adaptability in different contexts:

- This guide is applicable to all applicable activities of COLCX-approved GHGMPs.

The tool is designed for application at the scale of GHGMP, regardless of the host country where it is developed. The proponent must demonstrate only the gains of the project actions, no achievements of governmental or third-party entities should be reported, unless there is a relationship with the activities of the GHGMP.

4. IDENTIFICATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SDG

As part of the formulation and implementation of the GHGMP, the proponent must submit an analysis of contribution to the SDGs using the “*Tool for identification of contributions to the SDGs*” developed by the COLCX program, in its most updated version. This tool has been adapted considering the considerations defined by the UN for the fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda, where each of the 17 SDGs has monitoring

indicators at governmental level for nations to contribute effectively to Sustainable Development through the implementation of tangible actions in the territories.


In accordance with the above, the COLCX program carried out a process of adaptation of the indicators at the project scale, considering references such as the Global Reporting Initiative, the SDG Global Compass, the global database of SDG indicators and global trends of contribution at the scale of GHGMP. In this way, the proponent of the GHGMP has in this tool a solid foundation that allows it to ensure the alignment of project activities to the impact indicators proposed by COLCX to identify direct contributions resulting from the implementation of the initiative.

Accordingly, the tool is built providing traceability on the targets of each SDG, the indicator proposed by the UN, the adaptation to project scale proposed by COLCX and the reporting of data, communicating the unit of measurement, the frequency of monitoring, the situation in the baseline scenario, the result in the scenario with project and the evidence supporting the published result.

The GHGMP proponent must report its contributions during each certification period and demonstrate improvements over the project baseline. Finally, the GHGMP proponent must demonstrate a minimum contribution to SDGs 1, 6, 8, 13 and 15, without limiting contributions to the other SDGs. It must explicitly state which of the project activities contribute directly or indirectly.

SDG 1: NO POVERTY


Table 1. Proposed targets and indicators for demonstration of contributions to SDG 1.

SDG		Description	
		Reduce poverty in rural communities and families by making them participants in the income from the sale of carbon credit, or by investing part of the income from the sale of carbon credits in socially beneficial activities.	
Goal	Agenda indicator 2030	Monitoring Indicator (COLCX Adoption)	Unit of measure
1.1	1.1.1	Proportion of households involved with the project with an income of less than \$1.25 USD/day	%
1.2	1.2.1	Proportion of families involved with the project living below the national poverty line	%
1.3	1.3.1	Proportion of households with access to health services by gender, age group, and employment status	%

1.4	1.4.1	Proportion of families with access to basic services (housing, education, potable water, access to roads and electricity) within the project area	%
	1.4.2	Number of project participants with clearly defined land ownership	Number
1.5	1.5.4	Number of strategies adopted by the project to prevent, mitigate or avoid risk in accordance with national risk reduction plans	Number
1.a	1.a.2	The amount of money invested by the project for the provision of basic services (housing, education, drinking water, access to roads and electric power) annually	USD

SDG 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION


Table 2. Proposed targets and indicators for demonstration of contributions to SDG 6.

SDG		Description	
		Conserve and protect forests and ecosystems related to water ecosystem services.	
Goal	Agenda indicator 2030	Monitoring Indicator (COLCX Adoption)	Unit of measure
6.1	6.1.1	Percentage of families involved in the project that have access to safe water sources in terms of accessibility, availability, and quality	%
6.2	6.2.1	Proportion of families involved in the project that have access to safe and quality basic sanitation	%
		Proportion of households involved in the project with access to handwashing systems with soap and constant water flow	%
6.3	6.3.1	Amount of industrial or domestic wastewater treated in an adequate system avoiding direct discharge to ecosystems or water bodies	m3
		Percentage of water recycled, recirculated or reused by rainwater or other circularity systems	%

6.4	6.4.1	m3 of water consumed per production unit (ha, kg, head of livestock, etc.)	m3
6.5	6.5.1	Number of water management activities implemented in water-stressed zones	Number
6.6	6.6.1	Percentage change in the area covered by water-related ecosystems (wetlands, rivers, lakes, aquifers, mangroves, among others)	%
6.a	6.a.1	Investment made in water and sanitation management and maintenance	USD
6.b	6.b.1	Number of guidelines defined for water and sanitation management within the project area	Number

SDG 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH


Table 3. Proposed targets and indicators for demonstration of contributions to SDG 8.

SDG		Description	
		Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	
Goal	Agenda indicator 2030	Monitoring Indicator (COLCX Adoption)	Unit of measure
8.3	8.3.1	Number of people with non-formal employment not related to agricultural activities discriminated by sex	Number
8.5	8.5.1	Average increase in the annual salary of the people involved in the project	USD/year (average)
		Number of active people linked to the project in formal jobs with an average daily income above the current legal minimum salary	Number
		Percentage of people affiliated to the health system, voluntary savings for the retirement pension, ARL or compensation fund as result of the development and implementation of the project	%
	8.5.2	Number of new direct jobs generated because of project development and implementation	Number

		Number of new indirect jobs created because of the development and implementation of the project	Number
8.6	8.6.1	Percentage of adolescents (18 to 24 years old) in conditions of unemployment with respect to the total population evaluated	%
		Percentage of children and adolescents without access to education or training in relation to the total population evaluated	%
8.8	8.8.1	Number of accidents, injuries or occupational illnesses identified because of project development or implementation	Number
8.9	8.9.1	Number of sustainable tourism activities implemented after the development of the project	Number
	8.9.2	Number of direct jobs generated associated with sustainable tourism	Number
8.10	8.10.2	Proportion of project stakeholders with access to banking services (bank accounts or mobile banking services)	%
8.b	8.b.1	Number of activities where employment is linked to the youth population	Number
		Proportion of young people with labor ties out of the total youth population	%

SDG 13: CLIMATE ACTION


Table 4. Proposed targets and indicators for demonstration of contributions to SDG 13.

SDG		Description	
		Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts, contributing to the reduction of emissions or the removal of greenhouse gases	
Goal	Agenda indicator 2030	Monitoring Indicator (COLCX Adoption)	Unit of measure
13.2	13.2.1	Amount of tCO ₂ e removed within the project area during the monitoring period evaluated by reservoir	tCO ₂ e/ha
		Planted area	Hectares

		Area undergoing conservation	Hectares
	13.2.2	Amount of tCO ₂ e reduced in the project area during the monitoring period evaluated	tCO ₂ e/ha
13.3	13.3.1	Number of awareness-raising meetings focused on climate change mitigation, GHG mitigation projects or social and environmental safeguards	Number
		Number of participants per meeting focused on climate change mitigation, GHG mitigation projects or socio-environmental safeguards	Number
13.b	13.b.1	Number of administrative guidelines defined for the implementation of sustainable and low-carbon practices	Number

SDG 15: LIFE ON LAND

Table 5. Proposed targets and indicators for demonstration of contributions to SDG 15.

SDG		Description	
		Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	
Goal	Agenda indicator 2030	Monitoring Indicator (COLCX Adoption)	Unit of measure
15.1	15.1.1	Number of hectares of forest conserved within the project area	Hectares
	15.1.2	Areas declared as protected by project initiative	Hectares
15.2	15.2.1	Number of hectares of sustainably managed forest within the project area	Hectares
		Number of hectares in strategic ecosystems (mangroves, soils, moorlands, morichal forests, wetlands, etc.) managed in a sustainable manner	Hectares
		Aboveground and belowground woody biomass within the project area	Tons

		Total hectares forested, reforested, or restored	Hectares
		Soil organic carbon within project area	tCO ₂ e
15.3	15.3.1	Areas in a state of degradation within the project area	Hectares
15.4	15.4.2	Mountain area with vegetation cover	Hectares
15.5	15.5.1	Number of fauna and flora species defined as high conservation values within the project area	Number
		Number of endangered species within the project area	Number
15.7	15.7.1	Number of fauna and flora species protected from illegal trafficking	Number
		Number of strategies implemented related to the protection of fauna and flora	Number
15.8	15.8.1	Total hectares forested, reforested or restored with native species	Hectares
15.9	15.9.1	Wildlife conservation and preservation objectives achieved by the project	Number
15.a	15.a.1	Investment made for ecosystem and biodiversity management	USD
15.c	15.c.1	Individuals of fauna and flora seized for illicit trafficking operations	Number

5. IDENTIFICATION AND REPORTING OF THE SDG

The project proponent must develop an analysis that allows it to understand the local development context and align its efforts to formulate activities that are conducive to a real demonstration of contributions to the SDGs. To do this, it should use the tool developed by COLCX, which is available on the website¹. The use of this resource allows the developer to adapt the indicators proposed by the 2030 Agenda and the UN to the project scale so that their contributions are tangible and traceable, it should be noted that these activities must be clearly described in the PDD and in each PMR so that the VVB can check the degree of implementation of the activities and the alignment to the contributions defined by the proponent of the GHGMP.

¹ <https://colcx.com/Documentation>

To demonstrate effective contributions to the SDGs due to the implementation of the mitigation initiative, the GHGMP must:

1. Diagnostic Phase

Characterize the local baseline conditions with respect to the selected indicators to demonstrate contributions to the SDGs. For this, the following aspects should be described in the PDD:

- Characterization of the local context of the communities, stakeholders and the territory where the GHGMP is being developed.
- Identification of values attributable to each indicator in the GHGMP baseline scenario.
- Identification of co-benefits related to GHGMP activities.

2. Implementation Phase

The proponent must identify how the GHGMP activities contribute to the SDGs. For this, the following aspects should be considered:

- Identify how the benefits generated by the implementation of the initiative are aligned with the goals set out in the 2030 Agenda for the contribution to the SDGs.
- Prioritize indicators to measure the initiative's contribution to the achievement of the SDGs, according to those adapted by COLCX in the *SDG contribution tool*.
- The document in the PMR shows how the activities implemented by the project contribute to the selected SDGs.

3. Monitoring and Reporting

The GHGMP proponent should consider the following:

- Formulate a monitoring, reporting and follow-up plan that minimally delimits the frequency of monitoring, as well as the variables to be measured and/or evaluated.
- Report in the PMR for each certification period the activities that contribute to the SDGs, the specific target, the indicator and objective evidence that supports the contribution to each SDG, according to the matrix described in Table 6.
- For each SDG selected, fill in the cells for unit of measurement, monitoring frequency, situation in the baseline scenario, results obtained in the scenario with project and provide documentary support to verify the traceability of the information reported.

Table 6. Matrix for reporting contributions to the SDGs

13 CLIMATE ACTION			
Goals	Project activities that contribute	Indicator	Support and/or objective evidence
13.2.1.C Reduction of total greenhouse gas emissions	Ranger Program	500.000 tCO ₂ e	Ex-post calculations Satellite Monitoring

It is important to mention that the proponent of the GHGMP must formulate a continuous monitoring plan to follow up on the contributions to the SDGs applicable to the initiative in the PDD and follow up on them throughout the MRs respectively, according to the phase it is in. the implementation of the guide and the Excel Tool are essential parts of the GHGMP formulation process, therefore, the project developer must keep information available for the validation and verification process of the VVB according to the guidelines provided by the COLCX program for this purpose.

6. INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE USE OF THE SDG CONTRIBUTION TOOL

The proponent of the GHGMP must use the updated version of the *Excel tool for demonstration of contributions to the SDGs*. Below are the instructions for using the tool, where it is clarified that the gray cells in each tab must be filled in according to the prioritized SDGs and to which the GHGMP can report information

Table 7. Instructions for using the “Excel Tool for Demonstrating Contributions to the SDGs”.

Instructions for use					
Step 1	The proponent of the GHGMP must fill in the gray cells in the “Instructions for use” tab of the tool, to characterize the initiative on which it will report contributions to the SDGs.				
	Characterization of the GHGMP				
	Project name	Guasca-CUN	Type of project	AFOLU	Project ID
	Project activity	Soil and pasture management	Project stage	Verification	Metodology
	Monitoring period	Start date	01/03/2020	Final date	01/02/2024

Instructions for use

Step 2

The project proponent must fill in the gray cells in each of the SDGs for which it wishes to demonstrate contribution.

IDENTIFICATION TOOL OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ODS								
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	Project name	Guasca-CUN	Project ID	COLCX 14-0001	Project stage	Verification		
	Project type	AFOLU	Project activity	Soil and pasture management	Methodology	Soil and pasture management v1.0		
	Verification period	From	01/03/2020	Until	01/02/2024			
SDG 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION								
Goal	Indicator proposed by the 2030 Agenda	Monitoring indicator (COLCX Adaptation)	Indicator description	Unit of measure	Frequency of monitoring	Baseline	With project	Documentary support
6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all	6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services	Percentage of families involved in the project that have access to safe water sources in terms of accessibility, availability, and quality.		%	Annual			

Step 3

The project proponent must enter the indicator result in the baseline scenario in order to ensure positive contributions generated after project implementation, following the principle of comparability in terms of units.

IDENTIFICATION TOOL OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ODS								
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	Project name	Guasca-CUN	Project ID	COLCX 14-0001	Project stage	Verification		
	Project type	AFOLU	Project activity	Soil and pasture management	Methodology	Soil and pasture management v1.0		
	Verification period	From	01/03/2020	Until	01/02/2024			
SDG 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION								
Goal	Indicator proposed by the 2030 Agenda	Monitoring indicator (COLCX Adaptation)	Indicator description	Unit of measure	Frequency of monitoring	Baseline	With project	Documentary support
6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all	6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services	Percentage of families involved in the project that have access to safe water sources in terms of accessibility, availability, and quality.		%	Annual	10%		

Step 4



The project proponent must define the monitoring frequency and report the corresponding results in the “With project” cell at the end of the monitoring period.

IDENTIFICATION TOOL OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ODS								
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	Project name	Guasca-CUN	Project ID	COLCX 14-0001	Project stage	Verification		
	Project type	AFOLU	Project activity	Soil and pasture management	Methodology	Soil and pasture management v1.0		
	Verification period	From	01/03/2020	Until	01/02/2024			
SDG 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION								
Goal	Indicator proposed by the 2030 Agenda	Monitoring indicator (COLCX Adaptation)	Indicator description	Unit of measure	Frequency of monitoring	Baseline	With project	Documentary support
6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all	6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services	Percentage of families involved in the project that have access to safe water sources in terms of accessibility, availability, and quality.		%	Annual	10%	20%	

Step 5

The project proponent must attach a document or link for consultation to demonstrate the traceability of the information contained in the tool through objective and demonstrable evidence.

Instructions for use

		IDENTIFICATION TOOL OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ODS							
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 	Project name		Gusca-CUN		Project ID		COLCX 14-0001	Project stage	Verification
	Project type		AFOLU		Project activity		Soil and pasture management	Metodology	Soil and pasture management v1.0
	Verification period		From		01/03/2020		Until	01/02/2024	
SDG 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION									
Goal	Indicator proposed by the 2030 Agenda	Monitoring indicator (COLCX Adaptation)	Indicator description	Unit of measure	Frequency of monitoring	Baseline	With project	Documentary support	
6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all	6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services	Percentage of families involved in the project that have access to safe water sources in terms of accessibility, availability, and quality.		%	Annual	10%	20%	Invoices supporting the implementation of rainwater harvesting systems.	

Step 6

The project proponent must report the last result obtained in the “With Project” cell, according to the monitoring frequency selected in each of the GHGMP verification periods.

Step 6

The project proponent must report the last result obtained in the “With Project” cell, according to the monitoring frequency selected in each of the GHGMP verification periods.

7. HISTORY OF THE DOCUMENT

Version	Date	Description
1.0	13/07/2023	Initial version.
2.0	30/04/2025	Update of Version 1.0