COLCX Certification Program

Version 2.0

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Acronyms and abbreviations

UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
PDD	Project Design Document
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
IAF	International Accreditation Forum
ISO	International Standardization Organization
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
VVB	Validation and Verification Bodies
PMR	Project Monitoring Report

1. INTRODUCTION

The COLCX carbon certification program is a voluntary initiative of Canal Clima, a company specialized in climate services, mitigation solutions and environmental monitoring. In turn, Canal Clima is a subsidiary of the RFC Group, a corporate holding of companies focused on sustainable development, environmental markets and technological innovation.

COLCX as a business line of Canal Clima promotes the Carbon Certification Program, whose purpose is to dynamize the environmental markets and promote low-carbon development, contributing to the climate goals of the countries, the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations and the respect of the Socio-Environmental Safeguards.

Within this framework, the COLCX Program contemplates the certification of climate change mitigation initiatives, structured in the form of programs and projects that promote the reduction and/or removal of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions at the international level.

For the development of the COLCX Program, the definition of the operational and administrative scheme required for the certification of GHG mitigation initiatives, and the registration of results has been considered, based on a documentary and procedural structure to guide project proponents.

The COLCX Program has been developed ensuring the transparency and participation of all stakeholders, the institutionality required for the registration of high quality mitigation initiatives, as well as the appropriate processes for the certification of GHG reductions and removals, resulting in the issuance of COLCERs, supported by a robust and reliable carbon registry system that ensures effective tracking and traceability of mitigation initiatives and their results, with self-management of all market roles.

2. GENERAL PROGRAM CONSIDERATIONS

2.1. Objective

Support stakeholders in mobilizing climate action to achieve carbon neutrality, mitigation objectives, contribute to NDCs, and climate finance. Transversely, it contributes to meeting the objective defined in the Paris Agreement to limit the global increase this century to 2°C, and to make further efforts to ensure that it does not exceed 1.5°C.

The climate action promoted by the COLCX Program is based exclusively on the design and development of guidelines for the formulation, certification and registration of mitigation initiatives, ensuring that they meet international standards. The work of COLCX will be to evaluate and certify compliance with these standards, including the evaluation of GHG emission reductions or removals and the issuance of the corresponding carbon credits.

Thus, the COLCX Program provides tools and guidelines that allow interested organizations and individuals to autonomously develop voluntary actions to reduce or remove GHG emissions, conserve natural resources, contribute to sustainable development and support the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2.2. Scope

The COLCX Program establishes guidelines for the certification and registration of GHG mitigation initiatives, applicable to projects in sectors such as energy, land use, agriculture, forestry and waste. Its scope covers the process of evaluation, validation, verification and issuance of carbon credit within the framework of recognized standards and regulations.

This program is applicable to initiatives that seek to demonstrate emission reductions or removals under principles of transparency, independence and integrity. It also defines the role of the actors involved, including project holders and proponents, and Validation and Verification Bodies (VVBs), ensuring the traceability and credibility of the credits issued.

2.3. Normative References

The following is the regulatory baseline of the COLCX Program for the certification of mitigation initiatives and the recording of their mitigation results:

1. ISO 14064-2:2019, Greenhouse gases - Part 2: Specification with guidance, at the project level, for the quantification, monitoring and reporting of emission reductions or enhancements in removals of greenhouse gases
2. ISO 14064-3:2019, Greenhouse gases - Part 3: Specification with guidance for validation and verification of greenhouse gas declarations
3. ISO 14065:2020, General principles and requirements for bodies performing validation and verification of environmental information
4. Methodological documents and tools of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)

5. ISO/IEC 17029:2019, Conformity assessment - General principles and requirements for validation and verification bodies.

2.4. Documentary Structure

The document structure of the COLCX Program defines the applicable hierarchy, differentiating between documents with compliance requirements, the guiding procedures for certification of a mitigation initiative and its results, and complementary guidelines; formats and templates for the formulation of mitigation initiatives, reporting of results and validation and verification statement, among others, are also considered. Given the environment of the COLCX Program, the documentary structure is continuously adjusted to the conditions of the governing bodies of the applicable standards, the competent authorities and the carbon market.

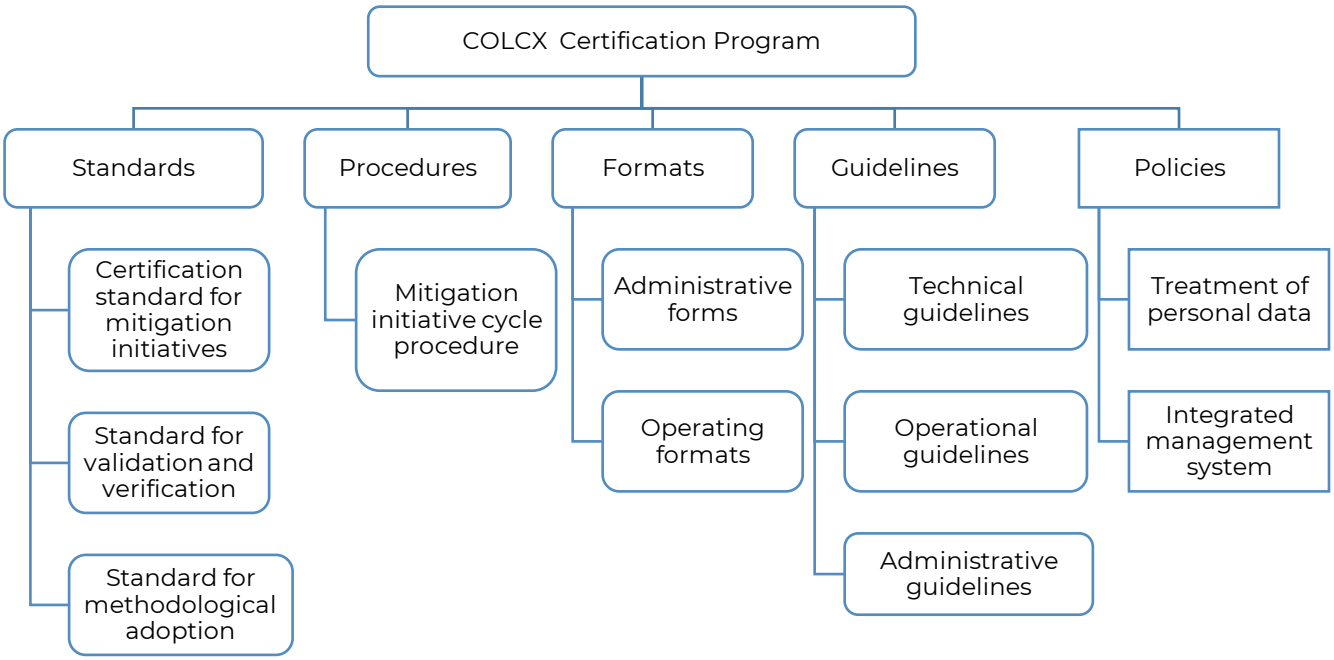

Illustration 1 Documentary structure of the COLCX program.

2.5. Document drafting and review process

The COLCX Program has a process for drafting, reviewing and updating its documents, aligned with the principles of transparency, integrity and efficiency. In turn, this process seeks to ensure the evolution of the program according to the context and dynamics of the carbon market, regulatory changes, operational needs and regulatory and international accreditation recommendations. The steps that constitute this process are described below:

2.5.1 Identification of updating needs

The technical committee detects the need to modify or include new guidelines in the program, based on the following:

- National and international regulatory and normative changes
- Observations from accreditation bodies
- Feedback from stakeholders such as holders, proponents, validation and verification bodies (VVBs) and external consultants
- Recommendations from collaborators, affiliated companies or internal committees
- Internal evaluations on the program's operability

To ensure continuous updating and improvement of the program, this identification of needs will be carried out in the first quarter of each year, without prejudice to additional revisions that may arise in response to specific and relevant operational changes or needs.

2.5.2 Definition of the scope and planning of the upgrade

Depending on the proposed change, it is determined whether the update requires a work plan for implementation or can be applied immediately.

If the change is simple (e.g., wording, technical clarifications with no impact on processes, typographical errors, updating of normative references with no impact on processes or adjustments to the terminology used), proceed with the activities listed below.

If the change is significant (e.g., structural modifications of methodologies, inclusion of new procedures or regulatory, administrative or legal requirements), prior to implementation, a work plan is prepared that includes:

- Activities and people responsible for execution
- Estimated times for each phase of the update
- Strategies for transition and mitigation of impacts on stakeholders
- Resources required for the correct implementation of the changes.

2.5.3 Internal review and consultation

Once the change is implemented and prior to the global consultation, the change is reviewed by the COLCX technical committee, where it is verified:

- Consistence of the proposal with the current normative framework
- The technical and operational feasibility of implementing the change
- The projects and activities that will be compromised with their implementation

Once the change is approved by the committee it is possible to move forward in the global consultation, otherwise, corresponding adjustments must be applied until approval.

2.5.4 Global Document and Methodology Consultation

The COLCX Program submits for global consultation documents and methodologies related to the development of Mitigation Initiatives, provided they are either new or include significant changes, in accordance with section 2.5.2 of this document. For specific methodological updates, refer to section 5.3 on Periodic Review of Methodologies. This applies to standards, procedures, programs, and methodologies developed directly by COLCX, as well as those proposed by other interested stakeholders for potential inclusion in the program.

For further clarity on the criteria that determine the applicability of global consultation, as well as the specific guidelines for methodological updates and general changes, refer to the *Guidance for the Transition to the COLCX Program* and the *Standard for Methodological Adoption*.

The methodologies and documents will be available for global consultation for a minimum period of 30 calendar days. Stakeholders will be able to access the documents for consultation on the official COLCX website[1]. Comments received will be reviewed, considered and processed prior to the issuance of the document for public use. Comments and actions taken will be published in the same section of the website.

The COLCX Program guarantees that comments received during global consultations are rigorously analyzed. Relevant submissions are incorporated into updates of the program documents, methodologies and standards, ensuring that they reflect best practices and stakeholder needs.

2.5.5 Approval and formalization

After the global consultation, the final document is submitted to the Technical Committee for approval. At this stage:

[1] https://colcx.com/Queries

- The Technical Manager approves the final proposal and issues the authorization for its implementation
- The effective date of the applied changes has been established
- The document is officially published on the program's official channels
- Specific transition plans are established to ensure gradual implementation aligned with the operating conditions of the projects underway

2.5.6 Dissemination and Training

To ensure the correct application of the changes, communication and training strategies are implemented for stakeholders. These may include:

- Training workshops on the changes
- Newsletters and informative circulars[2]
- Informative sessions and explanatory videos, accessible through COLCX's official networks[3]

This drafting, review and dissemination procedure keeps the regulatory, technical and operational framework of the COLCX Program up to date, ensuring that the provisions established are clear, applicable and consistent with the principles of quality, transparency and continuous improvement.

On the other hand, the COLCX Program has complementary documents that detail aspects of its governance and operation. To ensure consistency in the application of guidelines and procedures, it is important to consider the interrelation of the following documents:

- **COLCX Governance Model**: Contains the structure of establishment and operation of the committees in charge of the review and decision making within the program
- **Development and approval of methodologies**: The creation and updating of methodologies is governed by the processes described in section 5 “Methodological Requirements” of this document
- **PCC Procedure**: The mechanism for receiving, analyzing and resolving complaints and claims is detailed in CC-PYO-PR-06 *Procedure for Management of Petitions, Complaints and Claims COLCX*, ensuring adequate attention to concerns by program stakeholders.

[2] See https://colcx.com/Documentation#comunicados
[3] https://www.youtube.com/@colcx3155 and https://www.linkedin.com/company/colcx

2.6. Definitions and applicable terms

The COLCX Program establishes the terms and definitions that are applicable to the certification process of mitigation initiatives, as well as the certification of their results, without prejudice to the adoption of other terms and definitions established in the related normative or other documents applicable in the specific context of these. The extension of the terms and definitions applied can be made in the *Guide of Terms and Definitions COLCX*, valid for all the documents of the program.

2.7. Program governance

The COLCX Program operates under a governance structure formalized in its *COLCX Program Governance Model*[4], which defines the bodies in charge of its direction, supervision and control, as well as their respective roles, responsibilities and operational guidelines.

This structure is designed to ensure efficient, transparent management that is consistent with the program's strategic objectives. The governing bodies act with full autonomy and independence, allowing them to analyze, evaluate and make decisions objectively and without external interference or conflicts of interest.

The model also establishes the procedures for decision making, as well as the criteria for the selection and evaluation of personnel linked to the program, ensuring high standards of integrity, efficiency and results orientation.

3 SPECIFICATIONS FOR MITIGATION INITIATIVES

3.1 Greenhouse gases covered

The COLCX Program allows the certification of mitigation initiatives, considering the quantification of the following greenhouse gases:

a. Carbon dioxide (CO_2)
b. Methane (CH_4)
c. Nitrous oxide (N_2O)
d. Hydrofluorocarbons (HFC)
e. Perfluorocarbons (PFC)
f. Sulfur hexafluoride (SF_6)
g. Nitrogen trifluoride (NF_3)

[4] https://colcx.com/Documentation

The proponent must use GHG emission factors, global warming potential or unit conversion data from the refinements and updates made by the IPCC over its 100-year horizon.

3.2 Sectoral scopes

The COLCX Program establishes the sectoral scopes in Table 1, defined according to the activities eligible for the certification of mitigation initiatives and the registration of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reductions or removals. These sectors are based on the guidelines of document IAF-MD14, issued by the International Accreditation *Forum* (IAF), applicable to ISO 14065:2020.

Table 1 Sectoral scopes applicable in COLCX.

N°	Sector	Included Activities
1	Energy Industries (renewable/non-renewable sources)	- Thermal energy generation from solar energy. - Renewable energy generation.
2	Energy Distribution	- Electricity distribution. - Heat distribution.
3	Energy Demand	- Energy demand.
7	Transportation	- Transportation.
13	Waste Management and Disposal	- Waste handling and disposal. - Animal waste management.
14	Forestation and Reforestation	- Forestation, Reforestation and Revegetation - Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) - Sustainable forest management. - Increase in carbon stocks.
15	Agriculture, forestry and other land uses	- Agricultural activities, permanent crops, agroforestry systems - Regenerative agriculture - Sustainable livestock farming - Other sustainable practices in rural soils

Note: REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Avoided Degradation) type projects may be included in other accreditation schemes as a separate sector. However, the COLCX Program incorporates them into the *Forestation and Reforestation* sector, depending on the characteristics of the project and its implementation framework.

3.3 Eligibility Criteria

Within the COLCX Program, the eligibility criteria defined in the *COLCX Standard for the Certification of Mitigation Initiatives* apply. These criteria shall be considered by the proponent during the design and formulation of the GHG emission reduction or removal activity.

The specific eligibility criteria applicable to each type of mitigation initiative will be those defined by the baseline and monitoring methodologies applicable within the program.

3.4 Specifications for the formulation of mitigation initiatives

The guidelines required for the formulation of mitigation initiatives within the COLCX Program are contained in the most recent version of the *COLCX Standard for the Certification of Mitigation Initiatives*. The procedures required for the certification of mitigation initiatives and the recording of their results are contained in the most recent version of the *COLCX Procedure for the Mitigation Initiatives Cycle*.

3.5 Specifications for validation and verification

The guidelines required for conducting the review and evaluation of mitigation initiatives by VVBs within the COLCX Program are contained in the most recent version of the *COLCX Standard for Validation and Verification Bodies.*

4 APPROVAL OF VALIDATION AND VERIFICATION BODIES

Under the COLCX Program, VVBs correspond to an external and independent third party responsible for assessing the compliance of mitigation initiatives, as well as the GHG emission reductions and removals achieved by the initiative.

As a result of the external and independent assessment, the VVBs shall provide an opinion of compliance with the program requirements in the form of a statement,

which shall be a constituent part of a report, either validation or verification of the GHG emission reductions or removals achieved, as applicable.

VVBs must be approved by the COLCX Program on an individual basis, within the approved GHG sector scopes, demonstrating their suitability and experience.

4.1. Requirements for the Validation and Verification Bodies

The assessment of the mitigation initiative documentation by an approved VVB is a prerequisite for the registration of the initiative in the program's registry system, as well as for the certification of GHG reductions and removals resulting in the issuance of carbon credits under the COLCX Program. To ensure the best assessment conditions, the COLCX Program considers the acceptance of competent VVBs, by applying the criteria for the selection and approval of an VVB defined in the *COLCX Standard for Validation and Verification Bodies*.

In the COLCX Program, the validation of mitigation initiatives, as well as the verification of GHG reductions and removals achieved, shall be performed by a VVB taking as reference the criteria defined in the *COLCX Standard for the Certification of Mitigation Initiatives*, the *COLCX Standard for Validation and Verification Bodies*, the ISO 14064-2: 2019, ISO 14064-3:2019, ISO 14065:2020 and ISO/IEC 17029:2019, the baseline and monitoring methodologies applied, and the other provisions, standards or technical decisions established by the program, for the design, formulation, implementation, and monitoring of mitigation initiatives.

5 METHODOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS

5.1. Applicable methodologies

The COLCX Program considers valid the formulation of mitigation initiatives using quantification and monitoring methodologies that comply with the following characteristics and/or conditions:

1. Be a methodology developed and approved under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) or another mechanism of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and be publicly available for use
2. Be a methodology developed under a carbon standard or program recognized by the COLCX Program, as long as it is publicly available and authorized for use outside of the source scheme.
3. COLCX considers eligible those methodologies for public use that come from programs with national or international recognition such as the International Carbon Reduction and Offset Alliance (ICROA), Integrity Council for the

Voluntary Carbon Market (ICVCM), or those linked to the Core Carbon Principles (CCPs), as well as other frameworks aligned with the best practices of the voluntary carbon market.

4. Any methodology, whether developed by a third party or proposed as new to the COLCX Program, shall comply with the guidelines set forth in the *COLCX Standard for Methodological Adoption*.
5. Methodologies from programs recognized by COLCX will be subject to a technical review process to verify their quality, applicability and consistency with the principles of the program. In the case of new methodologies, developed specifically for application in COLCX, these shall be submitted for global consultation and evaluated by the technical committee, according to the criteria defined in the COLCX Standard for Methodological Adoption.

Mitigation initiatives whose certification and registration were approved by the COLCX Program using a methodology that subsequently becomes invalid, migrate to a new version of the methodology or its successor, in accordance with its transition and implementation plan.

5.2. New methodological developments

The approval of new methodological developments is based on the review performed by the COLCX Technical Committee of the methodologies and of the complementary tools that are proposed, and which concludes the notification of acceptance for their use in the COLCX Program. Likewise, this review may also consider the relevance or application of specific methodological aspects, which would lead to their partial approval, a condition that will be communicated by the COLCX Program. The criteria and requirements for the approval of methodological aspects are established in the *COLCX Standard for Methodological Adoption* document.

Any new methodological development, in addition to having the approval of the COLCX Technical Committee, will be subject to global consultation with interested parties, through publication on the COLCX website for a minimum period of 30 calendar days, prior to final approval.

5.3. Periodic review of methodologies

Methodologies accepted by the COLCX Program will be subject to structured review to ensure compatibility with international practices, ethical and technical standards, and the requirements of carbon markets. The review categories are described below:

1. **General Review (Every 5 Years):**

- o All COLCX owned methodologies will be subject to a general review at least every five (5) years or earlier if deemed necessary. This review excludes methodologies from the CDM or its successor mechanism, as well as approved methodologies for use from other programs.
- This review includes verification of their alignment with best practices, the validity of their technical basis, and their compliance with international carbon guidelines
- When updates affect relevant aspects such as scope, applicability conditions, baseline scenarios, additionality or monitoring and quantification methods, the new versions will be evaluated by technical experts in the sector prior to approval

Global Consultation: The general revisions will be open to global public consultation for a period of 30 calendar days on the COLCX[5] website.

2. **Continuous review:**
   - A continuous review is performed to evaluate specific changes derived from new regulations, scientific advances or stakeholder feedback
   - A permanent official communication channel is maintained to receive comments from developers, VVB and other interested parties
   - All inputs received will be analyzed and, if necessary, extraordinary revisions will be activated or adjustments will be integrated into the scheduled revisions
   - This revision maintains the validity of the methodologies without the need to wait for the general revision.

Global consultation: The continuing review may be subject to a global public consultation only in cases where significant adjustments are made according to the criteria established in the general review, this will be 30 calendar days prior to implementation. Changes that are not considered significant are not subject to global consultation but are reported in the document history.

3. **Special review:**

   - These reviews are triggered in response to specific situations, such as:
     - Significant regulatory and policy changes
     - Scientific findings of great relevance and impact
     - Identification of critical errors in current methodologies
     - Requests from international and national entities

   - Extraordinary reviews are a priority and are carried out immediately, communicating the results in a timely manner to the stakeholders.

[5] https://colcx.com/Queries

All decisions regarding updates, changes or discontinuation of the use of methodologies will be posted on the COLCX Program website. These decisions will also be formally notified to developers, licensees and VVBs to ensure understanding and implementation of changes under appropriate transition periods. COLCX records revisions made to documents in its integrated management system through the master listing.

In the case of CDM methodologies and tools or the mechanism that replaces them, the Program will implement monitoring to evaluate each new version. This monitoring will be complemented with biannual technical, functional and operational reviews to ensure that the adopted methodologies are aligned with the current regulatory frameworks.

The criteria and requirements for COLCX Program approval of methodological aspects are set forth in the *COLCX Standard for Methodological Adoption* document.

6 SPECIFICATIONS FOR STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

The COLCX Program highlights the importance of conducting stakeholder consultation processes based on the following considerations:

6.1 Consultation with local stakeholders

This requirement applies to all mitigation initiatives wishing to apply to the program. In particular, for initiatives that are subject to environmental licensing or similar, according to host country regulations or that have any other binding legal requirement (e.g. permits or concessions), they must begin to carry out the required consultation processes following the guidelines and requirements established by the corresponding authority or regulations. Likewise, given the need to provide stakeholders with the necessary information on a mitigation initiative and receive their feedback, for mitigation initiatives that are not subject to environmental licensing or similar, at least one consultation process must always be carried out with stakeholders to reveal their consent to take part, before applying for certification and registration with the COLCX Program, both its implementation and results shall be subject to evaluation by a VVB during the validation process.

For the program, any stakeholder consultation process should consider the guidance provided in the most recent version of the *COLCX Stakeholder Consultation Guide*.

6.2 Consultation for Mitigation Initiatives

All mitigation initiatives applying for certification and registration under the COLCX Program will be subject to global consultation. This consultation will be open to interested parties and will be carried out by publishing the initiative through the registration system for a minimum period of 30 calendar days.

Comments and observations received during the process will be reviewed and addressed before the mitigation initiative is approved by the COLCX program. Responsibility for responding to comments and making any necessary modifications will be the responsibility of the holder and/or proponent of the initiative, and subject to evaluation by the VVB. These responses and adjustments will be published at the end of the consultation period and will remain available in the global consultation menu of the registry system[6].

For additional information on the publication of initiatives in global consultation, please refer to the current version of the *COLCX Procedure of the Mitigation Initiatives Cycle*.

7 REGISTRATION SYSTEM

COLCX Registry is the registration system of the COLCX Program, designed to comprehensively manage greenhouse gas mitigation projects, whose operator is XM. This platform is an important basis for the management of project information, from pre-registration to certification and issuance of carbon credits (COLCERs). Its design ensures traceability, transparency and reliability at all stages of the project life cycle, complying with high quality and regulatory standards.

XM is a Colombian company recognized for its expertise in real-time system management, wholesale energy market administration and the development of advanced technological solutions. Its role in the operation of the COLCX Registry guarantees efficient and secure management of information related to mitigation projects and system operation.

The partnership between COLCX and XM reinforces the commitment of both organizations to climate action, integrating XM's technical capacity with COLCX's strategic vision. The COLCX Registry is a registry system that effectively connects carbon market actors, including proponents, operators, traders, Validation and Verification Bodies (VVBs), and certifiers, allowing the management and monitoring of projects to be carried out in a secure, transparent and efficient manner.

[6] https://www.colcxregistry.com/global-consultation

XM has no influence on the decisions and results of the certification process. The COLCX Registry platform is exclusively in charge of storing and managing user accounts, the information they provide, communications between participants, as well as the results obtained in the different stages of the certification cycle. It also manages the information related to credits and carbon stocks issued, ensuring that the entire process remains transparent and free from external interference.

7.1. Registration specifications

The COLCX Program is designed to comprehensively manage greenhouse gas mitigation initiatives, from pre-registration to the issuance of COLCERs. Through the COLCX Registry, a detailed record of these initiatives is kept, ensuring traceability and transparency at all stages, from the beginning of the process to certification, issuance and accounting of the credits generated by the initiatives.

The system assigns each COLCER a unique serial number, which allows tracking its life cycle from issuance to transfer, use or cancellation. The entire flow is backed by blockchain technology, which guarantees the security, transparency and reliability of the transactions carried out on the platform. This technology works as a distributed digital record, where each action is verified and linked to a previous block, forming a chain of unalterable records. This prevents replicas, copies or double counting, strengthening confidence in the management of carbon credits.

The COLCX registry facilitates the tracking of carbon credits and the management of mitigation project information. It allows users to interact with different stakeholders at all stages of the process, from validation and registration to certification and administration of COLCERs, including transfers, retirements and cancellations.

The terms and conditions that establish the provisions for the operation of the registration system are available for consultation by interested parties on the COLCX Program website in the *COLCX Registration System User Guide*.

7.2. Charging structure

The COLCX Program fee schedule for mitigation initiatives to cover the costs of administration and operation of the program and the registration system are defined in the *COLCX Program Charging Guide*.

Fees will be updated on an annual basis in consideration of aspects and improvements to the COLCX Program over time.

8 RELATION WITH OTHER CARBON PROGRAMS

The COLCX Program recognizes as valid the developments and results achieved in other carbon standards and programs, therefore, those mitigation initiatives that have already been certified and registered by other carbon standards and programs, may be transferred to the COLCX Program, for which the proponent must demonstrate compliance with the criteria and requirements of the Program, following the indications described in the most recent version of the *COLCX Procedure of the Mitigation Initiatives Cycle*.

The authorization to transfer to the COLCX Program a mitigation initiative certified and registered in another carbon standard or program, corresponds only to the administration and control bodies of the COLCX Program, and whose evaluation and approval process shall be made in accordance with the process described in the most recent version of the *COLCX Procedure of the Mitigation Initiatives Cycle*.

8.1. Valid programs and standards

The COLCX Program considers valid national or international carbon standards and programs, whose review and approval structure for both mitigation initiatives and their results is based on UNFCCC mechanisms such as the CDM, within the standards ISO 14064-2:2019, ISO 14064-3:2019, ISO 14065:2020 and ISO/IEC 17029:2019.

Carbon standards and programs that are accepted by the COLCX Program will be updated periodically to ensure compatibility. Any change in the acceptance status of a carbon standard or program within the COLCX Program will be communicated to the interested parties, including the decision to suspend or terminate such status, with the corresponding justification.

Projects registered by other carbon standards or programs, whose transfer was approved by the COLCX Program prior to a decision to suspend or terminate approval by the standard or program, will not be affected.

8.2. Interaction with other programs

The interaction of the COLCX Program with other carbon standards and programs is given in the terms of recognizing:

- The technical documents of the mitigation initiatives that have been prepared in application of the Project Design Document (PDD) and Project Monitoring Report (PMR) formats defined by other carbon standards and programs. The information required by the COLCX Program that is not contained in such formats, must be

provided by the proponent using the COLCX Program formats, as a prerequisite to achieve the certification and registration of the initiative, or the issuance of the COLCER as applicable. The COLCX Program reserves the right to establish grace periods for the migration to the established formats.

- Baseline and monitoring methodologies approved by other carbon standards and programs, subject to approval by the COLCX Technical Committee. Approved methodologies and their treatment are defined in accordance with the most recent version of the *COLCX Standard for Methodological Adoption*.
- The results achieved by the VVBs within other carbon standards and programs, for the same sectoral scopes of validation and verification. For this purpose, the VVBs shall previously sign the respective work agreement with the COLCX Program using the *COLCX Validation and Verification Agreement Format*.
- Carbon credits issued by other carbon standards and programs. To do so, they must have been previously cancelled or transferred from the standard or program of origin in favor of the COLCX Program. The cancelled or transferred units will be converted into COLCER within the registry system, with the character of having been issued from the COLCX Program.

9 PROGRAM SAFEGUARDS

The COLCX Program considers the application of the most rigorous safeguards in mitigation initiatives to avoid problems that could affect environmental integrity or generate social conflict in the territory; to this end, the program adopts mandatory monitoring mechanisms.

9.1 GHG reductions or removals greater than estimated

Given the possibility of having actual emission reductions different from those estimated in the initiative, which represents a difficulty for the consistency of the initiative and its stakeholders, the following safeguards are considered:

a. Baseline and project emissions are made in a conservative and robust manner, always following the forecasts of the approved methodologies.
b. Mitigation initiative documentation is always subjected to rigorous review by a COLCX Program-approved VVB.
c. The occurrence of actual emission reductions different from the estimated values shall be documented and justified during the assessment by the VVB.
d. Provisions should be included in the monitoring report and verification report to address and mitigate the risk of excess emissions.

In the event of GHG emission reductions different from the estimated values during the certification and registration of the mitigation initiative, the causes must be

determined in order to apply the corresponding corrective measures, if the event occurs due to:

a. **Changes in operating conditions that were not foreseen during the registration process and are not under the control of the holder or proponent:** If the changes in operating conditions are duly justified and do not lead to deviations above 15% of the amount estimated in the registered PDD, the issuance of COLCERS is approved; if the deviation is greater than 25%, the issuance of COLCERS will be limited to a maximum of 25% difference of the amount of emission reductions indicated in the registered PDD.
b. **Changes in the design of the mitigation initiative after registration in the COLCX Program that were not reported and included:** If the changes in the design of the initiative are duly justified, the holder shall update the documentation of the initiative registered during the registration, considering the impact of these changes in the parameters evaluated during the validation and verification, demonstrating that compliance with the criteria and requirements of the COLCX Program is not affected. Until such changes are approved by the VVB and the program, the corresponding COLCERs will not be issued.

9.2 Avoidance of double counting

To maintain environmental integrity and ensure the uniqueness of COLCERs between different projects registered in both the COLCX program and other carbon certification programs, no double counting should be generated. This includes double quantification, issuance, claiming, sale and/or use of carbon credits. This section establishes requirements to prevent these situations and guarantee the transparency and credibility of the COLCX program and the COLCERs from the different registered projects

9.2.1 Roles and Responsibilities

Continuous verification processes are essential to ensure that COLCERs that are or will be certified in the different projects according to the COLCX program guidelines do not incur double counting. Given the above and considering the nature of the projects, the COLCX program's system of evaluation and monitoring of the no-double counting

principle is based on non-hierarchical and constant interaction between the different actors involved in all stages of the project, each with specific roles and responsibilities

Actor	Responsibilities
Project proponent	1. Report and certify by means of the information it considers relevant that the project complies with the principle of no double counting. This includes providing information on participation in other climate finance mechanisms and ensuring that GHG emission reductions and/or removals are not being simultaneously certified, issued, used and/or accounted for in other registries, carbon certification programs and/or Nationally Determined Contributions by the host country, for the same project area and/or activity. 2. Identify and report to the COLCX program possible double-counting events that may occur during the development and implementation of the project and continuously follow up on these events. 3. In case of double counting events the proponent must report to the different actors involved, proponents of other projects, VVB and the COLCX program, according to the stage of the occurrence of double counting (see 9.2.2.2.2 Project proponent). 4. Implement corrective actions in the short, medium and long term to ensure compliance with the principle of no double counting of the project.
VVB	1. Conduct exhaustive analysis of the documentation submitted by project proponents and ensure the principle of no double counting. This implies, for example, verifying that there are no COLCERs at risk of being issued or traded in duplicate, both in the short and long term and/or ensuring that no two carbon projects are registered in the same area with the same temporality, among other aspects. 2. Evaluate reports of possible double-counting events made by interested third parties and determine whether double-counting is present in projects that are in the validation, verification or certification stages. 3. Evaluate the monitoring plans for non-duplication compliance throughout the different project certifications. The purpose of these monitoring plans will be to ensure that the project implements continuous and appropriate actions that certify compliance with the no double counting principle. 4. If a project incurs in double counting, the VVB must evaluate such an event and ensure that the project proponent establishes and implements traceable and verifiable action plans and measures that comply with the principle of no double counting in the short, medium and long term, if necessary.
Stakeholder	Report to the project proponent and the COLCX certification program the possible existence of double counting in a project. This includes the submission of traceable and verifiable information contained in different registry systems of existing carbon certification programs and/or national or international climate finance mechanisms, among other sources of information deemed relevant and that demonstrate the existence of double counting.

Actor	Responsibilities
COLCX	1. Identify and report possible cases of double counting between two or more projects registered under the COLCX program, other climate finance mechanisms and/or with other certification programs. 2. Evaluate reports of possible double counting events made by interested third parties and determine if double counting is present if necessary. 3. Establish public registry systems and/or platforms for the issuance and withdrawal of COLCERs from the different projects registered in the COLCX program. 4. To guarantee from the COLCX Registry system that the COLCERs do not present double accounting for issuance and/or claim. 5. Implement corrective measures in the COLCX Registry system for projects with double counting events. This may include the removal of projects from the registration platform or the cancellation of COLCERs that do not comply with the principle of no double counting.

Compliance with the different functions mentioned above must be based on mechanisms that provide clear, verifiable and updated evidence, evidencing compliance with the principle of no double accounting.

9.2.2 Mechanisms for double-counting monitoring

9.2.2.1 COLCX

Understanding the scope of the no double counting principle and the roles delimited above, the COLCX program through the Technical Committee will follow up on possible double counting events reported by the different parties throughout the respective project certifications (See **¡Error! No se encuentra el origen de la referencia. ¡Error! No se encuentra el origen de la referencia.**).

If double counting events are evidenced within a project, the Technical Committee will be responsible for taking steps in the registration platform to implement corrective measures.

Furthermore, it guarantees the different project stakeholders a recording system that comprehensively addresses compliance with the principle of no double counting.

a. Project Registration System

COLCX has a centralized, blockchain-based platform[7], designed to ensure public access to relevant information related to each project. Within this, there are the different geospatial files that allow the detection of possible cases of spatial overlaps between two or more projects in the same geographical area. The information

[7] https://www.colcxregistry.com/

associated with each project will be continuously updated, according to the phases or certification periods in which they are in, considering the information provided by the proponent.

The COLCX Technical Committee shall periodically evaluate, in accordance with the *COLCX Procedure for the mitigation initiative cycle*, the absence of spatial and/or temporal overlaps between different projects. This will be done considering the information available in the COLCX registry platform and the different official registry systems of mitigation initiatives of each host country. In case of any type of overlapping, the different project proponents will be informed to make the respective adjustments.

b. COLCERs Withdrawal Registration System

The COLCX Registry's COLCER Withdrawal Registry System is a tool designed to manage the withdrawal of COLCERs, ensuring that they are not used more than once for different purposes (e.g., inclusion in the Nationally Determined Contributions of the host country of the project and reporting in another country for its goals). This system guarantees the transparency of each of the COLCERs transactions carried out by each project, as well as the volumes and the different actors involved in each of these operations.

The main features of this system are:

- **Unique Identifier of each COLCER:** It identifies each COLCER with a unique alphanumeric code which allows its unequivocal identification in the system. The unique identifier is composed of the sector of the initiative, the unique ID of the project available in the COLCX Registry and the sequential sequence of certificates issued.

- **Registration:** Documents each COLCERs withdrawal, including the unique identifier, the date of withdrawal and the actors involved in the transactions made.

- **Blocking of withdrawn COLCERs:** Once withdrawn, COLCERs are assigned the label “withdrawn” in the system, preventing their further use.

- **Transparency:** Provides a complete history of each COLCER, allowing independent verifications by any interested actor. Each COLCER withdrawn has a certificate that guarantees that it cannot be used in the accounting of the non-determined contributions of a different country where the project is developed, except for the existence of international agreements.

9.2.2.2 Project proponent

The project proponent must establish a continuous monitoring plan, with actions to define how compliance with the principle of no double counting is evidenced and additionally, if double counting events occur, how they are managed, reported and solved. This plan must include at least the following key elements:

1. **Detection of double counting.** The project proponent must establish procedures for a systematic review of the records of the different carbon certification programs, existing climate finance mechanisms and official registry systems for mitigation initiatives in the host country where the project is being developed, ensuring that the project does not present double counting in any category (quantification, emission and/or reclamation).

   As a result of this section, the project proponent must complete all the documents required by the COLCX program in each certification period. In the corresponding sections, he/she must demonstrate the procedures used, as well as the non-existence of double accounting and list the files and support evaluated to support this conclusion.

2. **Resolution of possible double-counting events:** The project proponent must establish procedures that allow an immediate response to double-counting events. Initially considering an analysis of the origin of the double-counting, where the probable cause, its impact and scope are established. Additionally, actions must be defined to guarantee the resolution of these events.

   To ensure market integrity and avoid negative impacts on the project, the proponent must implement the following corrective actions as appropriate:
   - Cancel duplicate COLCERs.
   - Adjust the documents associated with the project, ensuring that the information correctly reflects the allocation of COLCERs.
   - Coordinate with registration systems, proponents of other projects and institutions involved in double counting events for the unilateral resolution of these, as well as for the implementation of the necessary measures and adjustments.

3. **Continuous Monitoring:** The project proponent must ensure continuous improvement of the review of the mitigation initiative registration platforms, and the different procedures established to reduce the risk of double counting.

9.2.2.3 Validation and Verification Bodies (VVB)

The VVB must carry out exhaustive review processes, through cross analysis to verify the validity and traceability of the documentation submitted by the project. If the incidence of double counting is detected, the VVB must notify the project proponent of this development initially, to provide the respective clarifications and/or additional documentation that it considers pertinent and allows clarification of these events. To this end, VVB may use the mechanisms it deems necessary to prevent the recurrence of double counting and ensure the present and future integrity of the project.

Finally, all the procedures and corresponding results of the evaluation of the no double counting principle must be reported in the different documents according to the stage of the project.

9.2.2.4 Interested Third Parties

Considering the public information available in the different registries of each of the certification programs and the official registry systems of mitigation initiatives in each host country, interested third parties can identify double counting events. In the event that a case of double counting is identified, the interested third party should send a report to solicitudes.colcx@canalclima.com with a copy to gerenciatecnica.colcx@canalclima.com, including the unique identifiers of the project(s) involved in the double counting events, as well as the evidence considered relevant and suggesting double counting. Based on this, the Technical Committee will evaluate the information submitted and will issue the result of the evaluation to the proponent(s) of the project(s) involved so that they can clarify the situation or take the necessary measures to solve the double-counting event.

10 SANCTIONING REGIME

In the event of non-compliance with the provisions of the program or actions that jeopardize environmental integrity or generate social conflict in the area of influence of the project, the COLCX Program will be autonomous to take the necessary actions to avoid, limit, minimize or remedy the damage caused, having the authority to determine the suspension of a mitigation initiative within the program or even invalidate the recognition given to the COLCERs issued.

The decision to suspend a certified mitigation initiative and the invalidation of the recognition of the results achieved by it is the sole responsibility of the management and control bodies of the COLCX Program, which shall follow the provisions set forth in the most recent version of the *COLCX Procedure of the Mitigation Initiatives Cycle*.

History of the document

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