COLCX Standard for methodological adoption

Version 2.0

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Content

Acronyms and abbreviations

UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
PDD	Project Design Document
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
GWP	Global Warming Potential
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
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 certification program is an initiative led by Canal Clima, which seeks to dynamize environmental markets and low-carbon development, contributing in turn to the achievement of the SDGs of the United Nations. The COLCX Standard for methodological adoption (hereinafter COLCX Standard) defines the criteria and mechanisms that the program has considered to accept the application of methodologies for the quantification and monitoring of GHG emissions reduction and/or removal activities implemented by mitigation initiatives at national and international level, which want to qualify for recognition of their results by the program.

The COLCX Standard has been developed considering the quantification and monitoring methodologies of the COLCX program, as well as the various guidelines established in the program documentation. This approach recognizes the need to articulate the processes that facilitate the development and certification of mitigation initiatives.

2. ADOPTION OF METHODS BY THE PROGRAM

2.1. General aspects

On a periodic basis and based on the needs raised by proponents of current and future mitigation initiatives, the COLCX Technical Committee will review the list of methodologies whose use is allowed by the program, to simplify, streamline, expand and/or improve the availability of existing methodologies for use in different sectors.

The update of the list of methodologies whose use is allowed by the program will be indicated on the COLCX Program website no later than 20 days after the review made by the committee or before depending on the complexity of the evaluation of the methodology and the different processes that must be carried out for its publication.

2.2. Criteria for the adoption of methodologies

The adoption of methodologies other than those developed by the COLCX Program, which will be evaluated, must meet at least the following criteria:

Operating criteria

- *Coherence:* The methodology must not contradict or conflict with the criteria and requirements established by the program for the certification of mitigation initiatives and their results. Any discrepancy or contradiction between the methodology and the program rules will be sufficient cause for the use of the

methodology not to be authorized by the program, until the cause of the discordance is resolved.

- *Legality:* The methodology should not contain aspects that could lead the mitigation initiative or stakeholders to breach the applicable national or international regulatory framework or regulation.

- *Ownership:* The methodology must be expressly authorized by its owner for public use without any restriction or limitation; additionally, it must be accessible for consultation by interested parties. In case of not having the express authorization, its application within the program will not be allowed until the corresponding right to use it is obtained.

- *Validity:* The methodology must have the current version as established by its owner. Once a methodology has been adopted by the program, any subsequent update shall again be subject to review and approval by the Technical Committee.

Technical criteria

- *Application:* The methodology must be framed within the sectoral scopes defined by the program, complying with the GHG emission reduction and/or removal activities defined by the program.

- *Eligibility:* The methodology must have clear and precise criteria for evaluating the eligibility of mitigation initiatives; such criteria must not contradict or conflict with the criteria and requirements established by the program for the certification of mitigation initiatives. In the absence of eligibility criteria in the methodology, these may be specifically defined by the program.

- *Additionality:* The methodology shall establish conditions to evaluate and determine the additionality of mitigation initiatives; such criteria shall not contradict or conflict with the criteria and requirements established by the program for the certification of mitigation initiatives, being in any case the criteria defined by the COLCX program the ones that take precedence. In the absence of conditions for determining additionality by the methodology, only those established by the program should be applied.

- *Baseline:* The methodology must establish guidelines for the identification and quantification of the baseline depending on the type of mitigation initiative. In the absence of such guidelines in the methodology, these may be specifically defined by the program, however, only until this is clearly defined will the use of the methodology be authorized.

- *Period:* The methodology must establish conditions for its application within an accreditation period in accordance with that defined by the COLCX program for the

certification of mitigation initiatives. In the absence of conditions associated with the accreditation period, those defined by the program shall apply.

- *Monitoring:* The methodology must establish guidelines for the development and implementation of monitoring and follow-up plans during the implementation of the mitigation initiative, considering the type of initiative. In the absence of such guidelines by the methodology, these may be specifically defined by the program, however, only until this occurs will the use of the methodology be authorized.

2.3.   Methodology review process

The adoption of a methodology by the COLCX Program must be previously approved by the COLCX Technical Committee. Considering the above, the Technical Committee must review the methodology to be adopted by the program, considering whether it corresponds to a new or existing methodology in another carbon standard or program. The submission of a methodology to be included in the COLCX program must be made by an interested party, be it a proponent, a VVB or a third party with an interest in the program. Such a need for adoption may be brought to the attention of the program by any means of written communication and will be sufficient reason for the review of the methodology(ies) in question to be scheduled at the next regularly scheduled Technical Committee meeting.

Within the framework of the methodological review carried out by the COLCX Technical Committee, the request will be analyzed, establishing how the adoption of the indicated methodology meets a specific need, without affecting the terms and definitions adopted by the program, as well as the conditions of eligibility, additionality, among others. Likewise, it will be established if the adoption of the analyzed methodology generates changes and adjustments to:

- The conditions and criteria of the program
- The quantification of the GHG reductions and/or removals foreseen in the program
- Established monitoring requirements and guidance, or
- The additionality guidelines
- The principles defined by the program

Depending on the scope of the required revision, the COLCX Technical Committee may consult external experts so that, from their sectorial knowledge and acquired experience, they may provide the necessary inputs to determine whether to accept the new methodology. In any case, any revision of a postulated methodology will always be based on technical guidelines provided by the Committee.

Once the COLCX Technical Committee has the required technical inputs, it may establish the relevance or not of adopting the analyzed methodology(ies) considering the guidelines for the approval of a methodology in the program.

2.4.   Consultation process for new methodologies

The adoption of a new methodology by the COLCX Program must initially undergo a global consultation process to receive feedback from stakeholders regarding its use. This requirement will only apply to the development of new methodologies to be considered under the COLCX Program.

During the global consultation, the proposed methodology will be published on the COLCX Program website or through the carbon registry system for a minimum period of 30 calendar days, during which time comments will be received, which must be addressed by the submitter of the methodology to the program, prior to its review by the COLCX Technical Committee.

2.5.   Approval of methodologies by the program

As a result of the technical review by the COLCX Technical Committee, a recommendation will be issued as to whether the program will adopt the new methodology.

The methodologies that are adopted by the COLCX Program will be identified with the respective version number of the methodology. On the other hand, the methodologies developed by COLCX will have a version number that will start at 1.0, and will be incremented by a whole number, each time an update process is performed. When adjustments to the COLCX program's own methodologies are of an editorial nature, they will not require the approval of the COLCX Technical Committee, in which case the version number of the methodology will be incremented by 0.1.

2.6.   Use of new methodologies adopted by the program

Once the COLCX Technical Committee approves the adoption of a methodology by the program, and it is communicated on the program's website or registration system, the current version of the methodology may be used by a proponent for the formulation, development, implementation and monitoring of its mitigation initiative.

When a methodology is updated and changes version, there will be a 90-day transition period between methodology versions. Once the 90-day transition period has passed, the use of the most recent version of the methodology in the COLCX Program will be mandatory.

The proponent that is in the process of formulating a mitigation initiative may use the previous version of a methodology for a period of up to 90 calendar days, counted from the date on which the new version has been adopted and communicated on the program's website or registration system. During this period, the proponent must perform the validation of its mitigation initiative, the use of that version will be recognized only until the methodology is updated again, so the initiatives must

advance the respective certifications with the most updated version of the approved methodology.

If after 90 days of transition between the versions of the methodology, the proponent is not able to conclude the validation of its mitigation initiative, it must update the documentation of its initiative applying the most recent version of the methodology.

3. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

3.1. General considerations

All documents and information related to a methodology adopted by the COLCX Program, whether proprietary or derived from another carbon standard or program, shall always be publicly available for review and use by proponents of mitigation initiatives, VVBs or the COLCX Program itself when required.

History of the document

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