



COLCXX Standard for methodological adoption

Version 3.0



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® Canal Clima – COLCX

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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. CRITERIA FOR PROGRAM METHODOLOGIES

The adoption and/or implementation of new methodologies, as well as the management and review of existing ones, must additionally comply with the guidelines established in document CC-PYO-PL-01 COLCX Certification Program (Section 5: “Methodological Requirements”), specifically about: applicable methodologies, new methodological developments, and the periodic review of methodologies.

Additionally, they must meet, at a minimum, the following criteria:

Operational 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 shall constitute sufficient grounds for the program to deny authorization for its use until such discrepancy is resolved.
- Legality: The methodology must not contain elements that could lead the mitigation initiative or its stakeholders to breach the applicable national or international legal or regulatory framework.
- Ownership: The methodology must be expressly authorized by its owner for unrestricted public use and must be accessible for consultation by stakeholders. In the absence of such express authorization, its application within the program shall not be permitted until the corresponding right of use has been obtained.

- Validity: The methodology must correspond to the current version as established by its owner or rights holder. 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

- Scope of Application: The methodology must fall within the sectoral scopes defined by the program and comply with the stated GHG emission reduction and/or removal activities.
- Eligibility: The methodology must establish clear and precise criteria for assessing the eligibility of mitigation initiatives. Such criteria must not contradict or conflict with the criteria and requirements established by the program for certification. In the absence of eligibility criteria within the methodology, these may be specifically defined by the program.
- Additionality: The methodology must establish conditions for assessing and determining the additionality of mitigation initiatives. Such criteria must not contradict or conflict with the criteria and requirements established by the program for certification, and in all cases, the criteria defined by the COLCX program shall prevail. In the absence of conditions for determining additionality within the methodology, only those established by the program shall apply.
- Baseline: The methodology must establish guidelines for identifying and quantifying the baseline depending on the type of mitigation initiative. In the absence of such guidelines within the methodology, these may be specifically defined by the program; however, the methodology shall only be authorized for use once such definitions are clearly established.
- Crediting Period: The methodology must establish conditions for its application within a crediting period consistent with that defined by the COLCX program for certification of mitigation initiatives. In the absence of conditions related to the crediting period, those defined by the program shall apply.
- Monitoring: The methodology must establish guidelines for the preparation 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 within the methodology, these may be specifically defined by the program; however, the methodology shall only be authorized for use once this has been established.

3. NEW PROGRAM METHODOLOGIES

3.1. General Aspects

The COLCX program allows stakeholders and actors involved in climate change mitigation to propose new methodologies related to the program's technical core, considering national and international circumstances associated with innovative, relevant, and significant climate change mitigation initiatives for climate action.

Parties interested in developing new methodologies may participate by providing technical support for their structuring, financing their development, or coordinating directly with institutions of which they are members to achieve joint development. Any of the aforementioned forms of participation shall be subject to an agreement between the parties specifying aspects related to rights of use, authorship, information management, and the confidentiality of sensitive information. COLCX may halt the development of new methodologies when they pose a risk to the integrity of the program, fail to comply with international regulations, or do not generate climate impact and market incentive.

3.2. Process for the Implementation of a New Methodology

To submit a new methodology for evaluation and potential implementation within COLCX, it is necessary to follow the activities outlined in Figure 1. These activities involve the participation of both the methodology proponent and the COLCX program, particularly the Technical Committee. Each of the stages involved is described below.

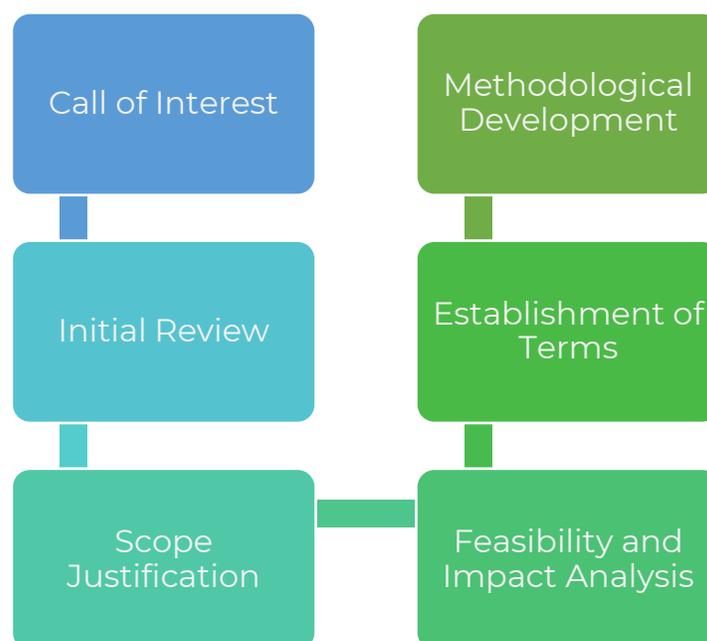


Figure 1. Process for the Implementation of a Methodology

- **Call of Interest:** The proponent of a methodology for COLCX shall formally submit their interest in developing it via the following email addresses: solicitudes.colcx@canalclima.com and gerenciatecnica.colcx@canalclima.com, indicating:
 - Suggested title for the methodology
 - Sectoral scope
 - Scope and objectives of the methodology
 - Relationship with COLCX activities
 - General information about the interested organization
 - The proposing organization's experience in the proposed sector
 - Expected impact of the proposed methodology
 - Type of cooperation to be applied in its development
- **Initial Review by the Program:** Based on the information provided above, the COLCX Technical Committee shall hold a working session to determine whether the stated elements align with the program's needs, objectives, and the interests of the countries in which it operates. As a result of this session, the Committee shall issue a formal communication to the methodology proponent indicating any additional requirements or the approval of the proposal to proceed to the next stage of evaluation.
- **Scope Justification:** At the request of the COLCX Technical Committee, the methodology proponent shall prepare a scope justification. Building on the information submitted in the expression of interest, the proponent must consolidate the following elements and present them during a technical session before the COLCX Committee:
 - Applicable activities of the methodology
 - Estimated area of direct influence of the methodology at the regional and international levels
 - Credit generation potential demonstrated through a success case related to measurable carbon reductions and removals, supported by studies, research, pilot projects, among others
 - Specific experience in the sector, subject area, or reservoirs involved in the methodology
 - Experience in cooperation, integration, or consortium mechanisms for work related to methodological development
 - Documentation evidencing legal representation and valid legal existence appropriate to the needs of the proposed methodology
 - SWOT analysis of the methodology

The above information shall be submitted through the same communication channel established at the initial stage. Any changes to the communication process shall be previously notified by COLCX.

- **Feasibility and Impact Analysis:** At this stage, the Technical Committee may request support from experts or from the program's Advisory Board in order to guide its decision regarding market impact and the GHG mitigation needs of different sectors and countries. Accordingly, the methodology proponent must

be prepared to present and substantiate the submitted information before the technical session, providing sufficient detail to support deliberation.

The technical session shall deliberate whether, based on the information provided by the proponent, there is a tangible possibility of implementing the methodology, investing resources, and establishing agreements for its development, ensuring that the outcome generates climate change mitigation impact and contributes to identifying solutions appropriate to the context in which it will be implemented. A formal communication shall be issued whereby the Committee authorizes the proponent to execute the relevant COLCX agreements and formally initiate the relationship for the proposed methodological development. Likewise, COLCX shall notify the proponent in the event of rejection, including the grounds for such decision.

- **Establishment of Terms:** This corresponds to the administrative phase of the process, during which the proponent formally registers with COLCX as an affiliated third party and must submit documentation evidencing legal representation and valid legal existence to the organization's compliance area. During this process, additional requirements may arise and must be addressed by the proponent prior to the execution of the cooperation agreement. As a result of this stage, the proponent shall enter into a collaboration agreement (or the applicable legal instrument according to the nature of its participation) with Canal Clima.
- **Methodological Development:** Once formally engaged, the proponent, together with the COLCX Technical Committee, shall establish the work plan, objectives, and milestones for the consolidation of the proposed methodology, in accordance with the terms agreed upon in the contract executed between the parties

3.3. Consultation Process for New Methodology

Methodologies developed by the program undergo two consultation processes once the work plan has been completed. The first stage, which remains part of the methodological development phase, involves consultation with experts for a period of thirty (30) calendar days. These experts are selected based on their performance in the relevant sectoral field, their track record in mitigation initiatives, and the absence of conflicts of interest. The purpose of this consultation is to refine the methodology prior to its release to the general public.

Once the methodological version has been refined, a first draft is prepared and submitted to a global consultation process in order to receive feedback from stakeholders regarding its application. During the global consultation, the proposed methodology shall be published on the COLCX Program website for a minimum period of thirty (30) calendar days. During this time, comments may be submitted and shall be addressed by the methodology's technical team, both internal and external, prior to issuing the final version.

3.4. Approval of New Methodologies and Their Versions

Methodologies developed by COLCX shall be assigned a version number starting at 1.0, which shall increase by a whole number each time an update process is carried out.

Where adjustments to methodologies developed by the COLCX program are editorial in nature, a global consultation process shall not be required. In such cases, the methodology's version number shall be incremented by 0.1.

4. ADOPTION OF METHODOLOGIES BY THE PROGRAM

4.1 General Aspects

With the development of new methodologies, COLCX enables the review and adoption of methodologies originating from international frameworks and open certification standards that allow the use of their methodologies. Accordingly, involved actors and stakeholders may submit for consideration by the program the adoption of new methodological frameworks.

On a periodic basis, and in response to the needs identified by mitigation initiative proponents and the international carbon market, COLCX shall review methodologies whose use is permitted for adoption, to facilitate, expand, and/or improve the availability of existing frameworks for application across different sectors. The list of approved methodologies is available on the COLCX Program website under the "Methodologies" section.

4.2 Suggestion for the Adoption of a Methodology

The submission of a methodology proposed for inclusion in the COLCX program must be made by an interested party, whether a project proponent, a Validation and Verification Body (VVB), or a third party with an interest in the program.

Such a request for adoption shall be formally submitted through the following email addresses: solicitudes.colcx@canalclima.com and gerenciatecnica.colcx@canalclima.com, indicating:

- Title and source of the methodology
- Sectoral scope
- Scope and objectives of the methodology
- Relationship with COLCX activities
- General information about the interested organization
- Expected impact of the proposed methodology

4.3 Approval of Adopted Methodologies

The adoption of a methodology by COLCX requires the approval of the Technical Committee, which shall conduct a review of the methodology proposed for adoption. This review includes analyzing the submitted request and determining how the adoption of the indicated methodology addresses a specific need without affecting the program's own terms and definitions. The Committee shall also determine whether adoption of the methodology entails changes or adjustments to:

- The conditions and criteria of the program and certification standard
- The quantification of GHG emission reductions and/or removals contemplated by the program
- The established monitoring requirements and guidance; and/or
- The integrity of the carbon market in the countries where the program operates

The Technical Committee may consult external experts who, based on their sectoral knowledge and experience, will assess the advisability of adopting the proposed methodology. Direct consultation with the owner of the suggested methodology may also be considered to prevent conflicts related to its evaluation, adoption, or use.

In all cases, the review of any submitted methodology shall be based on technical guidelines provided by the Committee. Once the required technical inputs have been obtained, the Committee shall determine whether it is appropriate to adopt the analyzed methodology(ies), taking into consideration the program's methodology approval guidelines.

Finally, a formal communication shall be issued to the proponent of the methodology proposed for adoption, either requesting additional requirements or approving the proposal for integration into the program.

4.4 Use of Newly Adopted Methodologies

Once the Technical Committee approves the adoption of a methodology by the program, this shall be communicated through the program's official channels (website, social media, and email). From that moment onward, the current version of the adopted methodology may be used by a project proponent for the design, monitoring, and implementation of its mitigation initiative.

5. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

All documents and information related to a methodology adopted by the COLCX Program—whether developed internally or originating from another carbon standard or program—shall at all times be publicly available for review and use by mitigation initiative proponents, Validation and Verification Bodies (VVBs), or the COLCX Program itself, when required.

A proponent currently developing a mitigation initiative may use the previous version of a methodology for up to one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date on which the new version has been adopted and published on the program’s website or registry system. During this transition period, the proponent must complete the validation and/or verification of the mitigation initiative.

If, after the 180-day transition period between methodology versions, the proponent has not completed the validation of the mitigation initiative, the proponent shall update the initiative’s documentation by applying the most recent version of the methodology.

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
3.0	09/12/2025	Distinction Between the Process for New Methodologies and Adopted Methodologies