

Agenda item 4.1 (a).

Paragraph 19 of the annotated agenda, Annex 4

Improving clarity and consistency of methodological products

CDM EB 111

Virtual meeting

30 August–1 September and 7–9 September 2021



Procedural background

- EB 110 identified a scope for **further improving the editorial quality, clarity and consistency** of draft methodologies, methodological tools and other methodological standards recommended for its consideration.
- **Secretariat** was requested to prepare a concept note **proposing measures and options** for addressing this issue, for consideration by the Board



Purpose

- Regarding clarity and consistency of methodological products:
 - a) Identify issues based on past feedback by the Board
 - b) Identify root causes
- Propose options for making improvements for the consideration of the Board



Key issues: General observations by EB on **Areas for improvement**

- **Improved editorial quality** (e.g., avoiding typos, incomplete sentences and grammatical errors);
- **Treatment of emission sources** (under applicability, baseline, project and leakage);
- **Structure** (e.g., sequencing of baseline, project/leakage emissions);
- **Cross-referencing** within and to other methodologies;
- **Use of can/may/should/shall terminology** to convey requirements, recommendations and possibilities.



Key issues: Areas for improvement

- **Revisions:** A better flow of information keeping in mind they need to be comprehensible to qualified people who have not participated in their preparation;
- **Equations:** distinct equations vs redundancies, notations and terminology inconsistencies (e.g., different definitions for the same parameter, different notations for the same parameter);
- **Monitoring tables in the methodologies:** data sources, measurement methods and calibration requirements, QA/QC
 - a) requirements differently worded in different methodologies (e.g., distributed activities covering residential applications).



Key issues: Areas for improvement (contd)

- **Cover notes to methodological products:** Rationale for choices (e.g., baseline per para 48 of the CDM M & P), vintage and source of data, default values, and choice of tools;
- **Holistic approach:** Related products are not always harmonized as a package to facilitate the consideration of overall impact;
- **Conservativeness:** Default values in comparison to published literature (e.g., the fraction of non-renewable biomass under the cookstove methodologies);
- **Mandate requests for the top-down development:** detailed justifications (stakeholder needs, gaps in the current methodologies, risks and opportunities, and timelines).



Key Issues: Analysis

- **Root cause:** Board was satisfied with many meth products (e.g., transport methodologies at EB 110) which share common traits:
 - a) Work began well in advance of the MP meeting;
 - b) MP members and secretariat fully engaged from early stages both for editorial clarity and consistency besides substantive issues
 - c) Securing competent and timely external expertise
- Proposed solutions build on good practices for continued implementation
- **Literature review:** Measures by other standard-setters (e.g., practices/guidelines from ISO, ISEAL assessed keeping in mind that their context is not the same as that of the CDM)



Key Issues and proposed solutions

- Additional checks by the MP, secretariat and external experts;
- Ensuring sufficient time for processing
 - a) more disciplined implementation of established deadlines

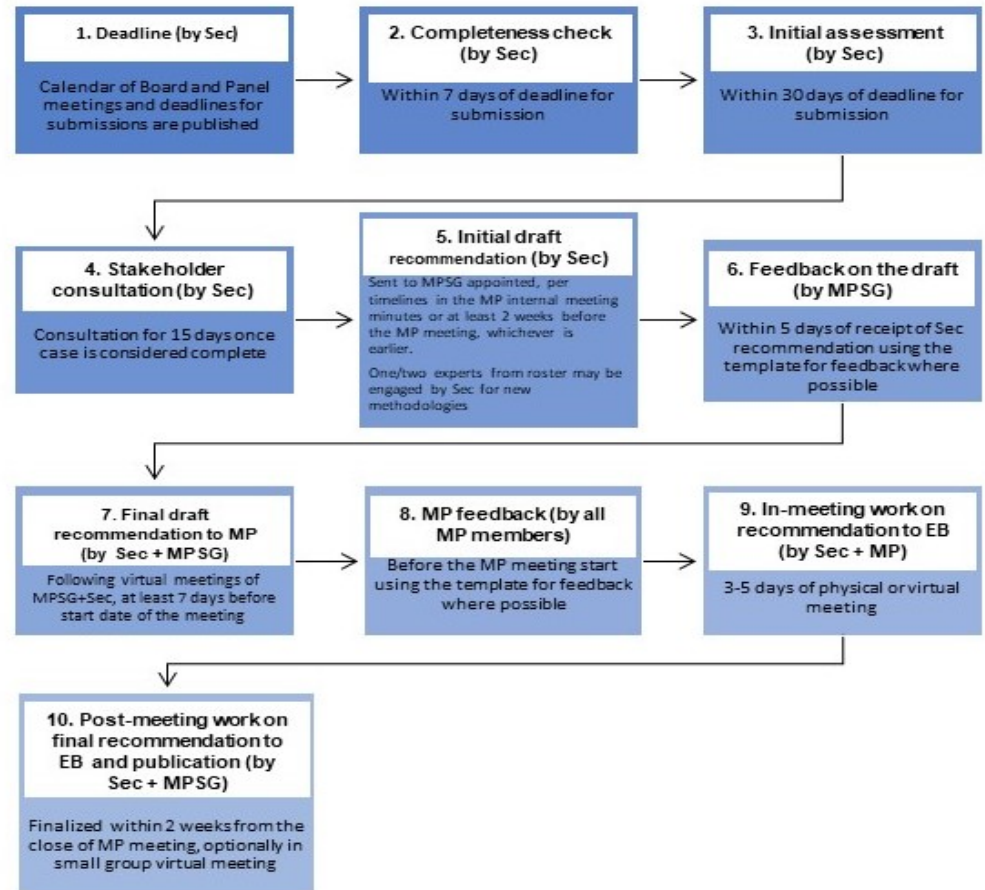


Figure 1: Proposed processing cycle for methodological products



Key issues and proposed solutions

- **Template for commenting:**

MP xx	Line No/Section/ Paragraph/ Figure/Table	Type of Comment (Editorial, Substantive)	Comments	Proposed Change or additional analysis identified	Observations of the drafting team (Sec + MPSG)

Table 1: Proposed commenting template for methodological products

- **Monitoring tables:** database of data/parameters for standardizing descriptions, definitions, data units, notations, monitoring frequency, QA/QC/calibration and source of data
 - a) Avoidance of duplication and unnecessary deviations



- Secretariat to **strengthen the existing practices/process** such as:
 - **Internal checks and signoffs** at each milestones for traceability
 - Methodology **drafting templates**
 - **Cover notes outlines**
 - **Outline** for seeking of mandates



Additional Methodological issues and solutions

- **Consistency checks with published literature** for timely action (i.e., scan recent related literature annually or every alternate year and present issues for EB consideration)
- **Assess default factors in methodologies** applied in registered projects and that have not been assessed/updated in the last five years
 - a) Future products include under “document information” any need for update of default values



- Proposed revisions will:
 - a) Improve** the editorial quality, clarity and consistency of methodologies, methodological tools and other methodology standards
 - b) Improve** the conservativeness and accuracy of the methodological products
 - c) Contribute** to achieving improved efficiency for the approval process of methodological products



Recommendations to the Board

- Secretariat recommends the Board to consider the concept note and **provide further guidance**



Subsequent work and timelines

- **Measures to strengthen operational aspects** of existing provisions to ensure compliance with timelines and product delivery
- **Measures to ensure responsibilities** for sign-off on MP products are more inclusive
- **Editorial improvement** of methodological products by professional editors
- Subject to guidance from the Board:
 - a) **Creation of a repository** of “data/parameters” tables that methodologies and tools can site
 - b) **Update of default values** in applied methodologies found to be not conservative according to latest science
 - c) **Process to identify improvements** to methodological products based on published literature

