

VCS Methodology Idea Note

This template is for developing methodology idea notes for new or revised methodologies, modules and tools. The methodology idea note provides a high-level summary of the proposed new or revised methodology, tool or module, estimation of the climate change mitigation potential, contributions to sustainable development, and potential risks and how they can be mitigated. No technical details of the methodological approach are required at this stage.

The methodology idea note should be submitted as a Word document to [methodologies@verra.org](mailto:methodologies@verra.org).

Instructions for Completing the Template

A single methodology idea note should be completed for methodology frameworks (e.g., a methodology with an accompanying module).

Instructions for completing the methodology idea note are included in this template in *italics*. Verra may request complementary information if needed.

Complete all items in the box on the title page using Franklin Gothic Book 9.5 point, black, regular (non-italic) font. This box must appear on the first page of this document. Complete the other sections of the methodology idea note using Franklin Gothic Book 9.5 point, black, regular (non-italic) font.

The methodology idea note must be written clearly and concisely. Supporting information or references may be submitted as separate attachments or links. The maximum word count for each section must not be exceeded.

**Delete all instructions, including this introductory text, from the final document**.

Methodology idea notes that are not completed as per the instructions will be returned for correction before Verra review.

If the methodology idea note passes the completeness check, Verra may publish a summary of the submission and include non-confidential information on its website.



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| Title | *Title of the proposed methodology, module, or tool.*  *“Methodology for…”, “Revision to <GHG program, alpha-numeric methodology designation> to …”, “Tool for …”, OR “Module for…”.* |
| Date of Issue | *DD-Month-YYYY this version of the document issued* |
| Type | New:  Methodology  Tool  Module  Revision:  Methodology  Tool  Module |
| Sectoral Scope | Sectoral scope:Choose an item.  Secondary sectoral scope (if applicable):Choose an item. |
| Entity | *Name of the organization that submits the methodology idea note* |
| Contact Information | *Contact person, physical address of the organization, telephone number (including country code), email, website, two-letter ISO country code[[1]](#footnote-2)* |

# Summary

This section will be treated as non-confidential.

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| Summary of methodology idea | *New methodology: Describe the project activity to be covered. Explain how GHG emission reductions or removals are generated. Describe whether the methodology is broadly applicable to cover a range of potential technologies, processes, and geographical regions.*  *Example: The methodology will apply to project activities that avoid methane emissions by capturing and flaring landfill gas from the landfill site. A variety of capture and destruction technologies will be covered. The methodology will be globally applicable.*  *New module or tool: describe the methodological task or analysis to be performed and with which methodologies it is proposed to be used.*  *Revision of methodology, module or tool: include reference to the methodology, module or tool proposed to be revised. Describe at a high level the proposed revisions (e.g., expansion of the scope to include additional activities, development of a standardized method for an existing methodology, the inclusion of additional monitoring options, etc.). Justify why the revision is needed.*  *(maximum 200 words)* |
| Baseline scenario and GHG emission reductions or removals | *New methodology: Describe the baseline scenario for project activities. List the key emission sources of the baseline scenario that will be reduced or removed through the implementation of the project activity.*  *Example: Organic waste is disposed of in unmanaged landfills and methane is generated from anaerobic decomposition and emitted to the atmosphere. These methane emissions will be reduced or avoided by the implementation of the project activity.*  *Revision of methodology: Optional - include only if an expansion or change of the scope is proposed. Describe baseline scenario and how GHG benefits are achieved through the proposed new activities to be included.*  *New or revised module or tool: Optional – include content if relevant, or state “not applicable”*  *(maximum 200 words)* |
| Additionality | *New methodology: Describe why the project activities are additional and most likely would not be implemented without carbon finance (e.g., key barriers for project implementation, no revenues/savings are generated, higher cost than other alternatives). Also, summarize the prevailing practice in the relevant sector(s) and the current level of penetration of such activities.*  *Example: Blowing air into the wastewater treatment to induce aerobic conditions does not generate any revenues other than from carbon credits. The common practice in most developing countries is the treatment of wastewater in open lagoons with (semi-) anaerobic conditions. Studies show that less than 10% of wastewater treatment in industrial processes takes place under aerobic conditions.*  *Revisions, modules, or tools: Optional – include only if an expansion of the scope is proposed. Describe additionality, the need for carbon finance, prevailing practice and the current level of penetration of the proposed new activities to be included (similar to “New Methodology”).*  *(maximum 200 words)* |
| Review of similar existing methodologies, modules or tools - VCS Program or approved GHG Program | *New methodology, module or tool: List any similar methodologies, modules or tools that are either under development or available under the VCS Program or an approved GHG Program. Indicate ID and name of each.*  *Revision of methodology, module or tool: Not applicable* |

# Impact and Risks

This section will be treated as confidential.

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| Expected emission reductions or removals (ERRs) | *New methodology: Provide the following estimates:*   1. ***Planned projects*** *– list all planned projects you know that intend to apply the new methodology. Include both projects from your and other organizations. Include the country, implementation stage (including expected start date) and estimated ERRs (in tCO2e) annually and cumulatively until 2030 for each project.* 2. ***Market uptake*** *– provide a brief analysis and conservative estimate of the realistic market uptake in terms of the number of projects and ERRs until 2030. Reference relevant studies and reports as evidence, providing weblinks where possible.* 3. ***Maximum global potential*** *– provide a brief analysis regarding the global magnitude of the relevant emission source and the theoretical maximum annual ERR potential* *of the methodology (expressed in tCO2e). Reference relevant studies and reports as evidence.*   *Revision of methodology: same as “new methodology”, but only include projects and ERRs that are not covered by the existing methodology version.*  *Modules and tools: describe the impact of the new or revised module or tool and whether the development will result in further uptake of projects and/or generation of associated ERRs.*  *(maximum 300 words)* |
| Sustainable development contributions | *Describe how the activity covered by the proposed new methodology or revision contributes to sustainable development and reference the relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). [[2]](#footnote-3)*  *(maximum 200 words)* |
| Risks and mitigation | *For each category below, list the potential risks and how each one may be mitigated.*  *Stakeholder and Reputational– Describe whether there are any entities or stakeholders who may be opposed to the development of the methodology or the crediting of the activities in question. Explain why.*  *Social - Describe any potential risks to safety, livelihoods, or welfare of the communities that may be impacted by the project activities.*  *Environmental – Describe any potential risks the project activity may have to the environment, including impacts to air quality, groundwater, soil, waste generation, carbon lock-in, etc.*  *Legal – Describe any past, outstanding, active, or reasonably foreseeable court cases or legal challenges involving the project activity. Describe any other potential legal or regulatory barriers to the activity, such as lack of clarity of project ownership or management of long-term liability regarding the project activity.*  *Regulatory – Describe any developing policy or regulations that may impact the additionality of the project activity.*  *(maximum 300 words)* |
| Permanence | *Describe the risk of reversal of CO2 emission reductions or removals and how they can be mitigated and/or accounted for.*  *(maximum 200 words)* |
| Implementation Feasibility | *Describe whether the project activities proposed align with current VCS program rules and requirements.*  *For new technologies, describe the technology readiness level and whether the technology has completed successful field or pilot testing with quantification of GHG impacts and is ready for commercial implementation.*  *For new activities or methods that are dependent on emerging scientific research, list any pending studies and expected timelines for completion.*  *(maximum 300 words)* |

# Methodology Development

This section will be treated as confidential.

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| Qualifications and Funding | Are you interested in leading (i.e., managing and funding) the methodology development or revision?  Yes  No  Do you have the capacity, expertise, and resources available (e.g., existing staff and management expertise and capacity, financial resources to cover Verra fees and any needed consultants, etc.) to properly and expeditiously develop the methodology or revision?  Yes  No  *If you are interested in leading the development, please provide the following information:*   1. *Consultant you will hire to develop the methodology (if applicable)* 2. *List the relevant experience of your organization in developing or revising methodologies, modules or tools under different carbon standards (including also the experience of the consultant, if applicable)* 3. *Provide a list of key staff who would be involved in developing the methodology, including their relevant experience and availability. Limit to the core developer you are aware of team and two to four key staff members.*   *(maximum 300 words)* |
| Other stakeholders | *List any key stakeholders that have expressed interest in the proposed new or revised methodology, tool or module. Also, describe the kinds of market participants and project developers expected to use the proposed new or revised methodology, tool or module.*  *What measures do you plan to implement to promote the uptake of the proposed GHG removing or reducing activity amongst potential end users (if applicable)?*  *(maximum 200 words)* |
| References to similar activities outside the VCS Program | *List any similar methodologies, initiatives, GHG accounting frameworks, or policies that are already occurring or under development and may be helpful resources to inform development of the methodology, module or tool.*  *(maximum 200 words)* |

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1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO\_3166-1\_alpha-2 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. https://sdgs.un.org/goals [↑](#footnote-ref-3)