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# APPROVING METHODOLOGIES

Article 6 encourages host countries to approve methodologies with countries to tailor approaches based on national priorities<sup>1</sup>, including alignment with their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS), and sustainable development plans. This information note first outlines flexibility elements for host countries regarding methodologies under Article 6.2 and then describes the PACM-level requirements and procedures for methodology submission and approval by the Supervisory Body (SBM).

## Methodological flexibility under Article 6.2 cooperative approaches

Under Article 6.2, countries determine the methodological approach for carbon crediting activities, as long as these approaches meet the requirements set out by the Article 6.2 guidelines. Several commonly recognised crediting programmes can serve as a starting point for the selection of methodologies under Article 6.2 cooperative approaches, including:

- **Existing methodologies** such as Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), the Joint Implementation (JI), and the Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM) methodologies (*i.e.* methodologies developed by voluntary carbon crediting programmes such as the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) and the Gold Standard can be used under Article 6.2). These may require updates to align with the Article 6.2 requirements.
- **Article 6.4 (PACM) approved methodology** see below for more information.
- **Self-determined approaches** where countries define methodologies in line with national circumstances.

Host countries have the discretion to implement additional requirements in their methodological approach, ensuring alignment with their climate policies.

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<sup>1</sup> This strategic orientation is further detailed the Information Note *Determining strategic objectives on the Article 6 page How to engage strategically?*



## Methodology approval process under the Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism (PACM)

Under the PACM [methodologies may be developed by activity participants, host countries, or the Supervisory Body \(SB\) either in a top-down or bottom-up process.](#)

- **Top-down process:** SBM (*at any time*), MEP or UNFCCC Secretariat to propose to the SBM (*at any time*)
  - There is an ongoing revision of numerous CDM methodologies and methodological tools. The Methodological Expert Panel (MEP) is tasked with revising these methodologies and recommending draft mechanisms to the Supervisory Body (SBM). Some of these revisions were completed by the end of 2025.
- **Bottom-up process:** Activity participants, CME, host Party, a DOE or any other stakeholder may propose new methodology or tool (considered at the next MEP meeting) by submitting the following forms:
  - ❖ [Form: New baseline and monitoring methodology or methodological tool proposal](#)
  - ❖ [Form: Proposed new methodology or methodological tool](#)
  - ❖ [PDD](#) or [PoA-DD](#)
  - The MEP has started to consider some submitted methodologies at the end of 2025, with the first approvals expected by the second quarter of 2026.
  - For a detailed list of submitted methodologies under consideration, please visit the dedicated section on the [PACM website](#).

All proposed methodologies must be approved by the SB, ensuring they meet the specific requirements of the PACM. The host country retains authority to establish additional requirements covering the following aspects:

- **Baseline approaches and other methodological requirements** (including additionality under the SB's supervision, with compatibility explanations of the requirements with the host country's NDC and LT-LEDS)
- **Crediting periods and their renewability**, ensuring alignment with the national and international carbon markets.
- **More ambitious baseline approaches levels** than the one outlined in the [Baseline standard](#), adopted in May 2025.

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