

Global Coffee Platform

Project description

Revision Equivalence Mechanism

November 2021 (Updated March 2022)



Introduction

The Equivalence Mechanism (EM) is a GCP tool to assess equivalence of sustainability schemes (public, private and voluntary codes, standards and initiatives) against the Coffee Sustainability Reference Code (previously known as Baseline Coffee Code) and a set of Operational Criteria (covering system implementation). Schemes that meet both the Code and the Operational Criteria are recognized as “equivalent” by GCP. The recent revision of the Equivalence Mechanism (Version 1.2) in early 2020 highlighted areas that required further refinement to consider the changing sustainability landscape and evolving approaches such as private-led sustainability schemes. With the upcoming publication of the revised Coffee Sustainability Reference Code, the EM needs to be updated to reflect the changes in the Code, as well as consider system aspects that needed further consultation from the last revision, e.g. standard setting and governance.

Objectives:

- To review and revise the Operational Criteria to reflect current good practice and users’ expectations of credible schemes.
- Update and align the Sustainability Criteria in the EM tool with the Coffee Sustainability Reference Code.
- Develop, test and refine tools and further guidance for the assessment of sustainability schemes.
- Develop guidance on operability of the EM for schemes that work closely with National Sustainability Curricula.
- Coordination with the International Trade Centre (ITC) to
 - assess feasibility of current criteria in Standards Map and any needed modifications.
- Define EM 2.0 assessment process and roles.
- Development of a business model for the handling of the EM 2.0, to ensure costs are covered, with distinctive terms for members and non-members of GCP. The purpose will be to ensure financial sustainability.

Out of scope: Changes to Sustainability Criteria (i.e. changes to the Coffee Sustainability Reference Code).

Process: To ensure that the EM is fit for purpose, stakeholder outreach with the different scheme owners of sustainability schemes that have been recognized or have expressed interest in the equivalence process will be carried out. Learnings from the previous implementation of the EM will be taken into consideration, as well as from relevant similar processes and ITC.

Deliverables and timelines



What	When
Research and Assessment of options	November - December 2021
Development of a draft	Mid- January – February 2022
Stakeholder outreach / consultation	Mid-March- Mid-April 2022
Development of final draft	May 2022
Board approval	June/July 2022
Publication	After Board approval
Implementation (e.g. Hand-over to ITC of assessment activities)	Q3/Q4 2022

Roles and responsibilities

The Technical Committee (TC) has been mandated by the Board to deliver the EM revision and is responsible for submitting a draft EM for the Board for approval.

The Advisory Task Force provides input and advice to EM revision in support of Technical Committee.

The GCP Secretariat facilitates and supports the work of the Technical Committee, the Advisory Task Force and the Board.

The Technical Committee (TC) is a multi-stakeholder committee of the Board. The members of the Technical Committee are: Cesar Candiano (Independent consultant, Brazil), Gustavo Bacchi (4C Services, Germany), John Schluter/Chair (Café Africa, UK), Jonathan Clark (Dakman Processing and Export J.V Company, Vietnam), Juan Ramos, (Federación Nacional de Cafeteros de Colombia -FNC), Colombia), Karugu Wa Macharia (Independent consultant, Kenya), Miguel Gamboa (Rainforest Alliance, Guatemala).

The Advisory Task Force that was set up for the revision of the Coffee Sustainability Reference Code is invited to work with the Technical Committee. It brings additional perspectives especially regarding downstream supply chain actors and different geographies. The members of the Advisory Task Force are: Mario Cerruti (Lavazza, Italy), Matthew Broscio (Peet's Coffee), Ricardo Faucon (Melitta, Brazil), Rajan Bhopal (PAN UK, UK), Rick Peyser (Lutheran World Relief, USA), Stefan Canz (Nestlé, Switzerland), Whitney Kakos (KDrP, USA).

Decision making

The GCP Board will make the final decision for the approval and adoption on the revised EM after this has been submitted by the Technical Committee. The Board follows a participatory decision-making process and strives to achieve consensus. The by-laws of the Board can be found [here](#). The list of the Board members is available [here](#).

Contact

For any questions/comments about the Equivalence Mechanism revision please contact Gelkha Buitrago, Director Programs and Corporate Partnerships buitrago@globalcoffeepatform.org