

Agenda item 3.4

Paragraph 25 of the annotated agenda, Annex 5 to MEP016 meeting report

Draft methodological tool: Sampling and surveys

Article 6.4 Supervisory Body – 23rd meeting

Bonn, Germany, 5 to 9 October 2026



Procedural background

- At MEP012 and MEP013, the Panel worked on the draft “Methodological tool: Sampling and surveys”, based on the revision of the CDM “Standard: Sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and programmes of activities” and revision of the CDM “Guidelines: Sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and programmes of activities”
- At MEP014, the Panel agreed to launch a call for public input from 3 to 24 July 2026. Two stakeholders provided comments.
- At MEP016, the Panel took into account the input received and agreed to recommend that the Supervisory Body adopt the methodological tool.



Purpose

- The purpose of this methodological tool is to provide requirements and procedures for undertaking sampling and surveys to determine parameter values used in the calculation of greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions or net removals under the Article 6.4 mechanism.
- The tool specifies the minimum reliability requirements, describes appropriate sampling methods and defines minimum requirements for the development of sampling plans. The requirements apply to both Article 6.4 projects and PoAs, unless otherwise specified in the applicable mechanism methodology.
- The tool also provides best practice guidance for sampling design and implementation, including illustrative examples for different sampling methods in appendices, and guidance on addressing random errors associated with sampling and surveys.



Key issues and proposed solutions

- The tool applies to both Article 6.4 projects and PoAs where the applicable mechanism methodology references it.
- The tool provides requirements and guidance on:
 - Minimum reliability requirement of 95 per cent confidence and ± 10 per cent precision;
 - Development of sampling plans;
 - Application of appropriate sampling methods (simple random sampling, stratified random sampling, systematic sampling, and cluster sampling);
 - Sample size determination, supported by a sample size calculator and best-practice examples in the appendices to the Tool.
- The referencing methodology specifies the parameters to be determined through sampling, the nature and the approach for addressing uncertainty, including when the reliability requirements are not met.



In developing this draft tool, the MEP undertook the following:

- Restructured and streamlined the tool to enhance usability and align with the Article 6.4 document hierarchy;
- Undertook major editorial revision to align with the internal Style Guide, removing duplication and enhancing the clarity;
- Updated sample size equations and provided uniform reliability provisions;
- Enhanced the examples for the different sampling approaches, including examples for systematic, cluster and multi-stage sampling;
- Strengthened provisions on common PoA/CP-level sampling, and on addressing non-responses or failure to achieve the reliability requirements;
- Expert review and internal peer review processes;
- Call for public input.



The inputs received from the two stakeholders can be summarized as follows:

- Inquire on whether a common sampline plan may be used across different Article 6.4 activities with similar technology, fuel and target populations. (MEP included clarifying text has been added to the tool based on objective parameters to define homogeneity);
- Whether cluster and multi-stage sampling could be availed to cookstoves without any restrictions (MEP agreed that cluster sampling may be permitted by the applicable methodology, provided it ensures representative sampling, mitigate biased cluster selection and prevent overestimation of emission reductions or net GHG removals);
- The treament of physical surveys, remote self-reported surveys and digital measurements, including whether SUMs data may be accpeted without a supporting survey (MEP included clear distinctions between survey methods and other data collection / measurement methods and clarified the requirements for a supporting survey);



- Whether KPT should be recognized as preferred physical measurement method for fuel consumption in a cookstove activities (MEP agreed that the Tool is generic and where KPTs are required, this should be specified in the applicable methodology);
- Clarification on the use of relative and absolute precisions and recommendation for a thorough review of the equations, worked examples and the sample size calculator (A technical review of the equations and sample size calculator was undertaken);
- Dropping use of telephones, email, post and sms as data collection methods (MEP clarified that such methods may only be used where explicitly permitted by the applicable methodology).



- Improved statistical robustness and reproducibility of sampling and survey applications;
- Supports consistent application of reliability requirements by Article 6.4 activities;
- Avoids penalties where reliability is not met, by requiring uncertainty treatment to be specified at methodology level;
- Better supports modern data collection, including sensors and SUMs;
- Consolidation of the CDM Standard and Guidelines improves usability and supports scalable and efficient application of A6.4 mechanism.



Recommendations to the Supervisory Body

The MEP agreed to recommend that the Supervisory Body adopt the “Draft methodological tool: Sampling and surveys”.



Subsequent work and timelines

No further work is envisaged.

