



United Nations Office for Project Services

Certified Emission Reductions programme:
Experience and opportunities

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Overview

1. UNOPS commitment to sustainability
2. Joint multi-agency CERs procurement process
3. Key challenges and lessons learned
4. Main achievements and outlook



1. Our mission, mandate and role



Equitable economic growth

- Ensuring optimum economic value
- Supporting livelihoods
- Considering the total cost of ownership, transparency and accountability

Social justice and inclusion

- Facilitating a rights-based approach
- Engaging local communities and ensuring equitable access to benefits
- Protecting the most vulnerable
- Facilitating access to food, water, sanitation, energy, health, education, justice and security
- Mainstreaming gender equality in all activities

Environmental impact

- Mitigating adverse impacts on the environment, improving biodiversity and ecological resilience
- Using renewable resources
- Increasing resilience to natural disasters

1. UNOPS climate neutrality commitment

- UNOPS is an active member of the UN internal coordination bodies on environmental issues
- UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination commitment:
 - 1) measure 2) reduce 3) **offset**
 1. Since 2009, actively engaged in GHG emission reporting – now covering 50 offices and 3,500+ personnel
 2. ISO 14001 certified for infrastructure projects; currently developing its facilities EMS
 3. In 2012 UNOPS launches its offsets procurement process – fully climate neutral for 2011 and 2012 operations



2. Joint multi-agency procurement process

- Joint UN procurement initiative:
 - Three rounds of procurement to date; UNOPS now sees it as a regular yearly process
 - UNOPS partners so far include IMF, UNEP, WB, UNFPA, UNWTO
 - Increasing volume of transactions, normally around 200,000 credits yearly
 - Annual tender launched around August – for year on year climate neutrality



2. Joint multi-agency procurement process

- Benefits of a centralized CER procurement through UNOPS:
 - Lean streamlined process, in full respect of UN procurement rules & regulations
 - Alignment with agreed UN guidance on quality of selected offsets
 - Economies of scale and efficiencies by avoiding to replicate identical processes
 - ToR tailored to agency needs: regular CERs, Gold Standard, Least Developed Countries



2. UNOPS minimum requirements

- Diverse lots with specific requirements depending on UN Agencies needs
- Minimum specifications:
 - Only HFC destruction projects not eligible
 - External verification of compliance with WCD guidelines for large hydropower projects
 - Projects based on fossil coal not eligible
 - 3 years vintage



3. Key challenges and lessons learned

- The notion of offsetting is still challenged and its sustainable development benefits not clearly perceived
- The offsets concept and market are still new to the procurement community, e.g. understanding price set-up
- Low CERs prices currently create good opportunities for buyers
- But at the same time higher volatility and difficulties in securing offers
- Difficult to obtain offers of LDCs projects and from project developers directly



4. Main achievements and outlook

- ITB attracted several technically compliant, quality offers
- We obtained a variety of quality projects from CDM:
 - Hydro power in Vietnam
 - Energy-efficient cooking stoves in Nepal
 - Landfill gas management in Colombia
 - Wind power in China
- UNOPS fully climate neutral for its operations since 2012
- Responded satisfactorily to UNOPS partners' needs and requirements
- Just completed the 2015 CERs procurement round



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