

CDM-2019RCC-INFO01

Regular report

Regional Collaboration Centres

Version 01.0



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change

1. Introduction

1. The Executive Board of the clean development mechanism (CDM) (hereinafter referred to as the Board), through the CDM Executive Board workplan 2019,¹ requested regular reports on progress made in specific areas.
2. This report covers the regional support provided by Regional Collaboration Centres (RCCs) for CDM project activities, programmes of activities (PoAs) and the development of standardized baselines (SBs). The report also includes information on the promotion of the CDM, capacity-building and inter-agency partnerships of RCCs. The first RCC was established in Lomé, Togo in 2013, followed by RCCs in Kampala, Uganda, St. George's, Grenada, Bogotá, Colombia, and Bangkok, Thailand. RCC Bogotá, which has been in operation since August 2013, was moved to Panama City, Panama in March 2017. These RCCs focus on supporting the implementation of the CDM in their regions. In February 2019, a new RCC for Middle East and North Africa and South Asia, based in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, was established in collaboration with the World Green Economy Organization. RCC Dubai is expected to start operation in the fourth quarter of 2019.
3. The current reporting period covers 1 January to 30 June 2019. Cumulative figures covering the beginning of RCC operations until 30 June 2019 are also presented in this report to reflect the support provided to projects and programmes of activities and the development of SBs.²

2. Regional support

2.1. Project and programme of activities support

4. From 1 January to 30 June 2019, the RCCs have provided direct technical support to 151 CDM project activities and PoAs, of which approximately 56 per cent were located in countries underrepresented in the CDM.³ The support resulted in nine CDM project activities and PoAs progressing at least one step forward in the CDM project cycle. In addition, RCCs responded to 74 queries received from stakeholders which were primarily related to: (i) post-registration changes, including renewal of crediting period; (ii) request for clarification on CDM rules (e.g. prior consideration of the CDM, applicability of methodologies); (iii) share of proceeds; and (iv) interest/participation in the CDM.
5. From the beginning of their operations until 30 June 2019, the RCCs have provided direct support to 1,167 CDM project activities and PoAs, contributing to 230 activities progressing at least one step forward in the CDM project cycle. In addition, through the provision of technical advice and capacity-building, 109 new CDM project activities and PoAs were identified and their notification of CDM prior consideration submitted.

¹ The CDM Executive Board workplan 2019 is available at https://cdm.unfccc.int/sunsetcms/storage/contents/stored-file-20190329120523112/info_note82.pdf.

² Previous reports are available on the UNFCCC CDM website at <https://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/report/>.

³ The list of countries with 10 or fewer registered CDM projects as of 31 December 2010 is available at https://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/standard_base/cdmprojects.pdf.

2.2. Support in the development of standardized baselines

6. The RCCs have also provided direct technical assistance to designated national authorities (DNAs) for the development of SBs. From 1 January to 30 June 2019, the RCCs supported the development of 37 bottom-up SBs (7 were new and 30 were continuations from the previous reporting period), of which approximately 70 per cent originated from DNAs of underrepresented countries. As a result of the support provided by RCCs in the previous years, three proposed SBs (PSB0048, PSB0049 and PSB0050) were successfully submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat, and the Board approved one SB (ASB0042-2019: Standardized baseline - Honduran Grid Emission Factor (version 01.0)). In addition, the RCCs continued to support the work on five top-down SBs during the reporting period (continuation from the previous reporting period).
7. From the beginning of their operations until 30 June 2019, the development of 143 SBs was directly supported by the RCCs, of which 42 were approved by the Board.

2.3. Promotion of the clean development mechanism and capacity-building

8. The RCCs supported the work “Financing and use of the CDM by international finance institutions” pertaining to goal 2 of the CDM two-year business and management plan 2018-2019⁴ (“Nurture policies to broaden demand for, and participation in, the CDM”) and under objectives 2b (“Enhance the use of the CDM for voluntary purposes”) and 2c (“Further develop the CDM as a tool for monitoring, reporting and verifying the outcomes of mitigation finance”).
9. Events supported, organized or co-organized by RCCs in this reporting period to promote the CDM and to build CDM capacity in key regional and national institutions include:
 - (a) Africa region:
 - (i) Workshop: Capacity-building for DNAs from the Francophone Cluster on SB Development, held in Dakar, Senegal, from 4 to 8 February 2019;
 - (ii) African Climate Week, held in Accra, Ghana, from 18 to 22 March 2019: (1) Carbon Pricing in Action: A look at Ongoing Carbon Pricing Initiatives, where RCC Kampala presented an overview of registered CDM project activities and PoAs in Africa; (2) Piloting Article 6 – Opportunities and Experiences in Africa, where the former Chair of the CDM Executive Board, Mr. Arthur Rolle, highlighted the importance of the CDM; and (3) The CDM Loan Scheme 2012–2018: Piloting an Innovative Approach – What Can Be Learned, where an overview of CDM Loan Scheme statistics and experience, its unique pilot character, adaptive approach and technical/market challenges were highlighted. In addition, there was a UNFCCC-RCC booth, where the RCCs promoted the voluntary cancellation platform and provided project support to project participants attending the Climate Week; DNAs active in the region also participated in the Climate Week;

⁴ The CDM two-year business and management plan 2018-019 is available at https://cdm.unfccc.int/sunsetcms/storage/contents/stored-file-20171103151522992/Info_note73.pdf.

- (iii) Workshop: Capacity-building for the DNA of Cameroon on SB Development, held in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 21 to 22 May 2019;
- (iv) Workshop: Climate Finance Instruments and Implementation of Nationally Determined Contribution, held in Dakar, Senegal, from 21 to 23 May 2019;
- (b) Asia-Pacific region:
 - (i) Workshop: Asian Knowledge-sharing on International Market Mechanisms and Transparency under the Paris Agreement, held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 28 to 30 January 2019;
 - (ii) Promotion of the Voluntary Cancellation of Certified Emission Reductions at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 27 to 29 March 2019;
 - (iii) Workshop: Capacity-building for the DNAs of Cambodia and Lao People's Democratic Republic on SB Development, held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 4 April 2019;
 - (iv) Workshop: Validation of the draft sub-regional Climate Finance Strategy, held from 10 to 11 April 2019, in Port Vila, Vanuatu. The four Melanesian island States of Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu developed the draft strategy in a process supported by UNFCCC through its needs-based climate finance project. RCC Bangkok was engaged in the process and provided regional coordination, intelligence and administrative support in the execution of this project;
 - (v) Presentation on the role of SBs at Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) Workshop, held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 10 to 12 April 2019;
 - (vi) Presentation on the registered CDM project activities and PoAs in the Asia-Pacific region at the Regional Ministerial Conferences on Green Economy, held in Thailand Bangkok, from 10 to 12 June 2019;
- (c) Latin America and the Caribbean region:
 - (i) Presentation on the registered CDM project activities and PoAs in the Latin America and Caribbean region at the Second Edition of the Youth Leadership Academy on Climate Change, held in Panama City, Panama, from 15 to 16 May 2019;
 - (ii) Workshop and Public Consultation on Developing SB for the Transport Sector in St. Vincent and Grenadines, held in Kingstown, St. Vincent and Grenadines, from 27 to 28 May 2019;
 - (iii) Workshop and Public Consultation on Developing SB for the Transport Sector in Belize, held in Belmopan, Belize, from 28 May to 1 June 2019;
 - (iv) Workshop and Public Consultation on Developing SB for Energy Efficiency in the Water Supply and Power Sectors in Jamaica, held in Kingston, Jamaica, from 3 to 4 June 2019;
 - (v) Presentation on the CDM at the Executive Development Program in Implementation of Climate Change Policies, held in Panama City, Panama, from 10 to 14 June 2019.

10. In this reporting period, the RCCs published four newsletters on their individual websites:⁵ two for the Africa region and two for the Asia-Pacific region. These newsletters provide technical advice, inform readers on relevant events, facilitate cooperation and promote opportunities for project funding. The newsletters have received positive feedback from the CDM stakeholders.

2.4. Inter-agency partnerships

11. Inter-agency partnerships forged and maintained in this reporting period to nurture the CDM and its tools include:

(a) Africa region:

- (i) RCC Lomé continued its partnerships with the Global Support Programme (GSP) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Economic Community of West African States Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency for capacity-building activities on CDM project development and the development of SBs. RCC Lomé's partnership with UNDP resulted in the establishment of the West African South-South Collaboration Network on MRV, which delivered several workshops on SB development;
- (ii) Under a new partnership with the East African Development Bank (EADB), RCC Kampala is supporting EADB in its mission of carbon neutrality. EADB identified that 66 per cent of its carbon emissions originate from electricity consumption, and therefore EADB will investigate ways to reduce its electricity consumption or switch to renewable energy in 2019. EADB will offset its remaining emissions by purchasing certified emission reductions (CERs). EADB has tried to invest in projects from all its Member States, where possible, and plans to buy CERs from the Kenya Cook Stove Project, the DelAgua Health "Tubeho Neza" Programme in Rwanda, and the Bujagali Hydropower Project in Uganda;

(b) Asia-Pacific region:

- (i) RCC Bangkok started a new partnership with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) Thailand. GIZ Thailand is working with Thailand Greenhouse Gas Management Organization and the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (DNA and National Focal Point) on the waste sector under the German-Thai Climate programme. To measure the impact of mitigation action in the waste sector, GIZ Thailand is collaborating with RCC Bangkok in developing waste sector emission factors. GIZ Thailand, together with Pollution Control Department (under Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment), will start data-gathering in provinces. RCC Bangkok will support the SB development;

(c) Latin America and the Caribbean region:

- (i) RCC Panama continued its partnerships with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to support the development of a grid emission

⁵ Accessible at <https://unfccc.int/about-us/regional-collaboration-centres/rcc-bangkok>, <https://unfccc.int/about-us/regional-collaboration-centres/rcc-kampala>, and <https://unfccc.int/about-us/regional-collaboration-centres/rcc-lome>.

factor SB in Honduras. IDB has financed activities during the past years, including an SB capacity-building workshop and the SB validation activity by a designated operational entity. The partnership resulted in an SB that was approved by the Board in May 2019 (referred to in paragraph 6 above). The approved grid emission factor for Honduras will be used to estimate the emission reductions of the project “Rehabilitation of the Hydropower Plant Rio Lindo and Canaveral” and other renewable energy projects financed by IDB;

- (ii) RCC St. George’s continued its partnerships with: (1) UNDP through its Japanese-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership for the development of five top-down SBs; and (2) the Greenhouse Gas Management Institute and the GSP to establish a Caribbean MRV Hub.

12. In this reporting period, a total of 16 RCC host partner staff members worked together with 6 UNFCCC staff members in the RCCs. The staffing ratio of RCC host partner staff to UNFCCC staff in the RCCs is as follows:

- (a) Africa region:
 - (i) West African Development Bank to UNFCCC is 5:1;
 - (ii) EADB to UNFCCC is 3:1;
- (b) Asia-Pacific region:
 - (i) Institute for Global Environmental Strategies to UNFCCC is 4:1;
- (c) Latin America and the Caribbean region:
 - (i) Development Bank of Latin America to UNFCCC is 1:2;
 - (ii) Windward Islands Research and Education Foundation to UNFCCC is 3:1.

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