

CDM-2019VC-INFO01

Regular report

United Nations platform for voluntary
cancellation of certified emission reductions

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, requested regular reports on progress made in specific areas.
2. This report covers the United Nations online platform for voluntary cancellation of certified emission reductions (CERs) (hereinafter referred to as the VC platform) and is provided on a biannual basis. The reporting period for this report is **1 January 2019 to 30 June 2019**. The report provides a comprehensive view of the usage of the VC platform with respect to CERs cancelled by purchaser type, country, host party of the CDM activities, and sectoral scopes.
3. A comparison with previous periods has been included to help illustrate activity on the VC platform since September 2015.

2. Report

4. In the reporting period, the number of orders placed and successfully completed by the users of the VC platform (hereinafter referred to as cancellations) increased with respect to the previous period¹. At the same time, the total CERs cancelled decreased, reflecting a decrease in the average number of CERs per cancellation.

Table 1. Number of completed cancellations and CERs cancelled on the VC platform by period

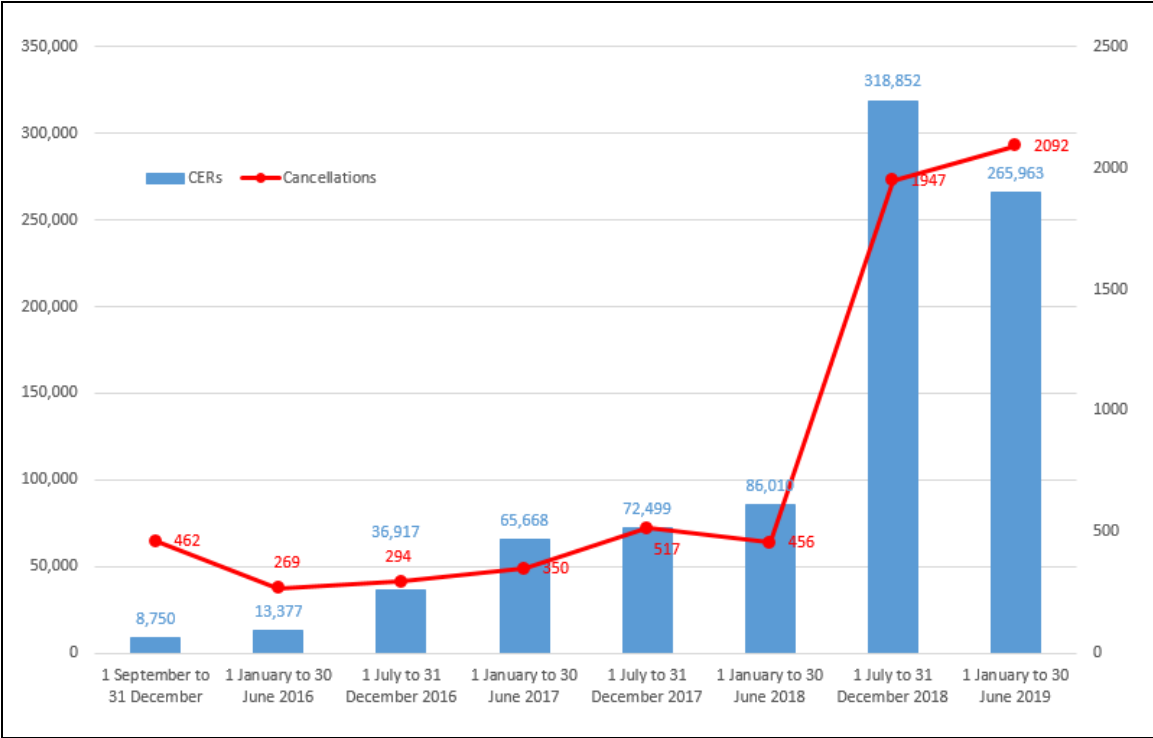
Reporting period	Cancellations	CERs cancelled	Variation (CERs cancelled)
1 September to 31 December 2015	462	8 750	–
1 January to 30 June 2016	269	13 377	53%
1 July to 31 December 2016	294	36 917	176%
1 January to 30 June 2017	350	65 668	78%
1 July to 31 December 2017	517	72 499	10%
1 January to 30 June 2018 ^a	456	86 010	19%
1 July to 31 December 2018	1 947	318 852	271%
1 January to 30 June 2019	2 092	265 963	-17%
Total	6 387	868 036	

(a) In addition to the CERs cancelled in the period, 63,267 CERs were identified and negotiated for

¹ Cancellations are reported based on the time of confirmation of the underlying purchase orders. The number of cancellations (as well as CERs cancelled) may change between reporting periods as a result of the time spent by the users in completing the payments for their orders (bank transfers, in particular, may take up to 90 days).

cancellation through the VC platform. However, due to administrative constraints on the purchaser’s side, the secretariat assisted with processing the cancellation through the regular track.

Figure 1. Number of cancellations and CERs cancelled on the VC platform by period



5. Table 2 shows the activities of the two main groups of users since the beginning of the platform’s operations.

Table 2. Number of cancellations and CERs cancelled on the VC platform by type of purchaser

Type of purchaser	Cancellations	CERs cancelled
Companies and organizations	1 660	627 209
Individuals	4 727	240 827
Total	6 387	868 036

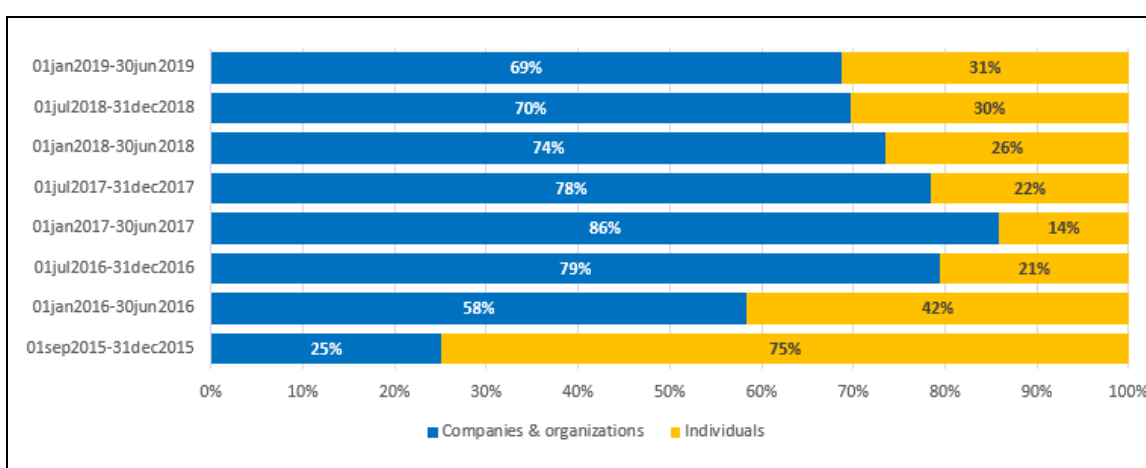
6. The number of CERs cancelled by companies and organizations increased by 188 per cent compared to the same period of the previous year. The number of CERs cancelled by individuals increased 165 per cent compared to the same period of the previous year.

Table 3. Number of cancellations and CERs cancelled by companies and organizations and by individuals, by period

Reporting period	Companies and organizations		Individuals	
	Cancellations	CERs cancelled	Cancellations	CERs cancelled
1 September to 31 December 2015	136	2 199	326	6 551
1 January to 30 June 2016	71	7 809	198	5 568
1 July to 31 December 2016	109	29 319	185	7 598
1 January to 30 June 2017	91	56 391	259	9 277
1 July to 31 December 2017	186	56 900	331	15 599
1 January to 30 June 2018	174	63 252	282	22 758
1 July to 31 December 2018	361	228 639	1 586	90 213
1 January to 30 June 2019	532	182 700	1 560	83 263
Total	1 660	627 209	3 163	240 827

7. The proportion of CERs cancelled by individuals has been growing over the last five reporting periods thanks to different social media campaigns and better search-results positioning on Google.

Figure 2. Percentage of CERs cancelled on the VC platform by type of purchaser



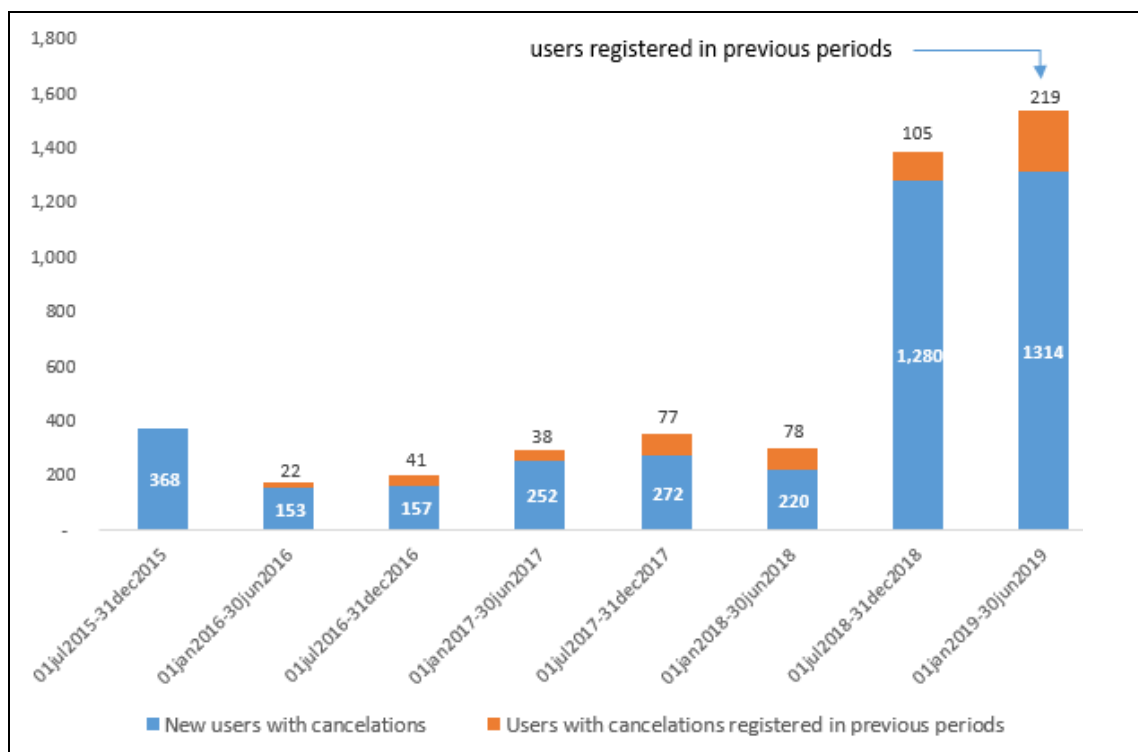
8. To date, 4,021 purchasers have cancelled CERs on the VC platform. For the reporting period, of a total of 1,533 purchasers, 1,314 (or 85 per cent) were new purchasers. This is only a slight increase in the proportion of new purchasers in comparison to the previous period but almost six times more than in the same period of the previous year. Of the new purchasers in the reporting period, the individuals were 1,064 and the companies and institutions were 250, which maintains the previous trend in the mix of users. The number

of recurrent users who had purchased in previous six-month periods increased by 108 per cent compared to the previous reporting period (Jul - Dec 2018).

Table 4. Number of new purchasers and returning purchasers

Reporting period	New purchasers	Returning purchasers
1 September to 31 December 2015	368	
1 January to 30 June 2016	153	22
1 July to 31 December 2016	157	41
1 January to 30 June 2017	252	38
1 July to 31 December 2017	272	77
1 January to 30 June 2018	220	78
1 July to 31 December 2018	1 285	105
1 January to 30 June 2019	1 314	219
Total	4 021	--

Figure 3. Number of new purchasers and returning purchasers by period



9. Purchasers from 57 countries cancelled CERs during the reporting period. Purchasers from 91 countries cancelled CERs on the VC platform since September 2015. Purchasers from the top five countries – United States of America, Switzerland, Sweden, Germany and Sri Lanka – represent 57 per cent of the CERs cancelled. The website has been visited by users from 187 countries since 1 September 2015.

Table 5. Countries with purchasers who completed cancellations by period

Reporting period	Countries with cancellations
1 September to 31 December 2015	44
1 January to 30 June 2016	31
1 July to 31 December 2016	36
1 January to 30 June 2017	40
1 July to 31 December 2017	54
1 January to 30 June 2018	39
1 July to 31 December 2018	59
1 January to 30 June 2019	57
Total	91 ^a

(a) The total of 91 countries applies to the entire period of operations of the VC platform.

Table 6. Top 10 countries by number of CERs cancelled

Countries	Total		Last 6 months (1 July to 31 December 2018)	
	Cancellations	CERs cancelled	Cancellations	CERs cancelled
United States	2 232	193 966	708	91 279
Switzerland	119	108 667	27	4 160
Sweden	281	80 120	118	48 130
Germany	466	65 162	112	18 256
Sri Lanka	18	48 670	7	7 678
Australia	390	40 340	126	5 847
United Kingdom	692	39 217	362	15 176
Spain	64	27 583	25	17 084
Denmark	177	25 116	54	6 160

	Total		Last 6 months (1 July to 31 December 2018)	
Other countries	1,948	239 195	553	52 193
Total	6 387	868 036	2 092	265 963

10. The total number of online sessions since September 2015, including sessions not resulting in cancellations, reached 216,169 (71,020 in the first half of 2019 and 149,005 in the last 12 months). More than 45 per cent of the sessions were redirected from the Climate Neutral Now and UNFCCC websites.² BBC (15%), Twitter (10%) and Facebook (10%) were also important drivers in this period.
11. To date, 71 CDM activities have started the process of opening an account on the VC platform. Geographically, these projects represent 13 host parties (Brazil, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Fiji, Honduras, India, Kenya, Malawi, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand).
12. The CERs cancelled by project participant, host party and sectoral scopes of the CDM activities are shown in tables 7 and 8 below.

Table 7. Cancellations by host party of CDM activities to date

Host party	CDM activities	Cancellations	CERs cancelled
India	41	692 178	3 941
Brazil	8	50 790	321
Thailand	3	48 313	405
Chile	9	29 706	731
Pakistan	1	14 490	108
China	1	14 130	203
Malawi	1	9 098	410
Kenya	1	7 666	162
Costa Rica	2	1 135	79
Sri Lanka	1	242	10
Fiji	1	137	8
Republic of Korea	1	89	8
Honduras	1	62	1

² <www.climateutralnow.org> and <<https://unfccc.int/climate-action/climate-neutral-now>>.

Host party	CDM activities	Cancellations	CERs cancelled
Total	71	6 387	868 036

Figure 4. Percentage of CERs cancelled by host party of CDM activities to date

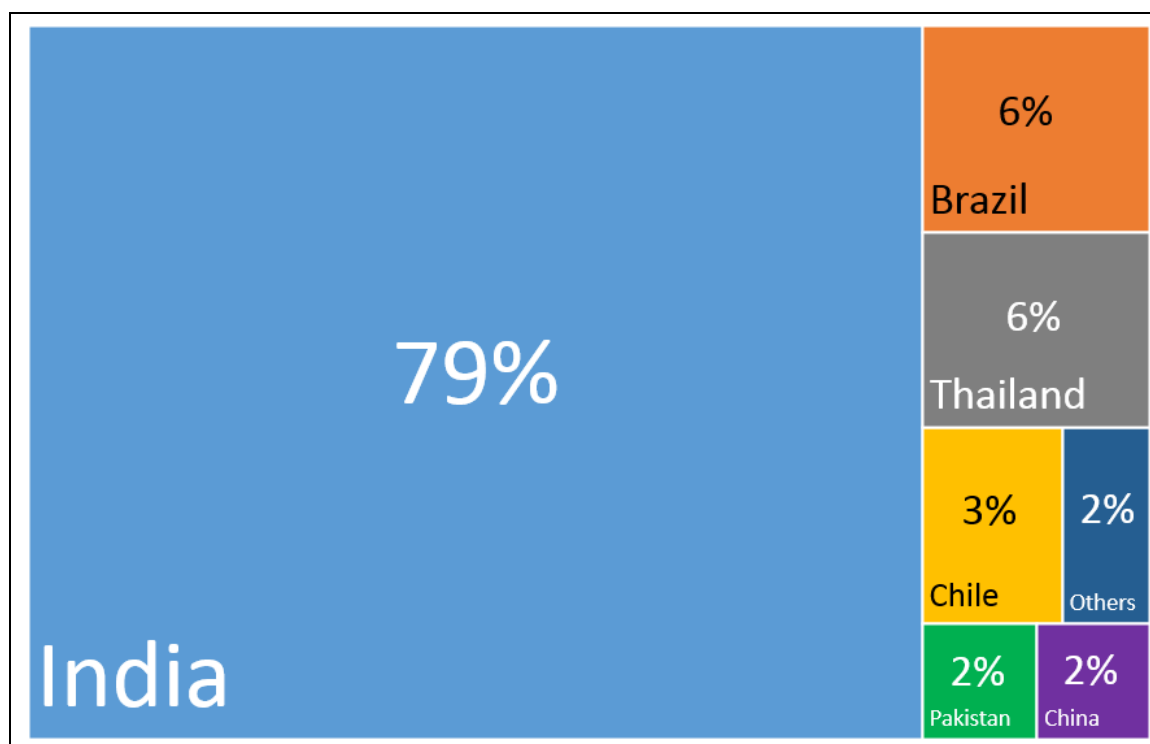
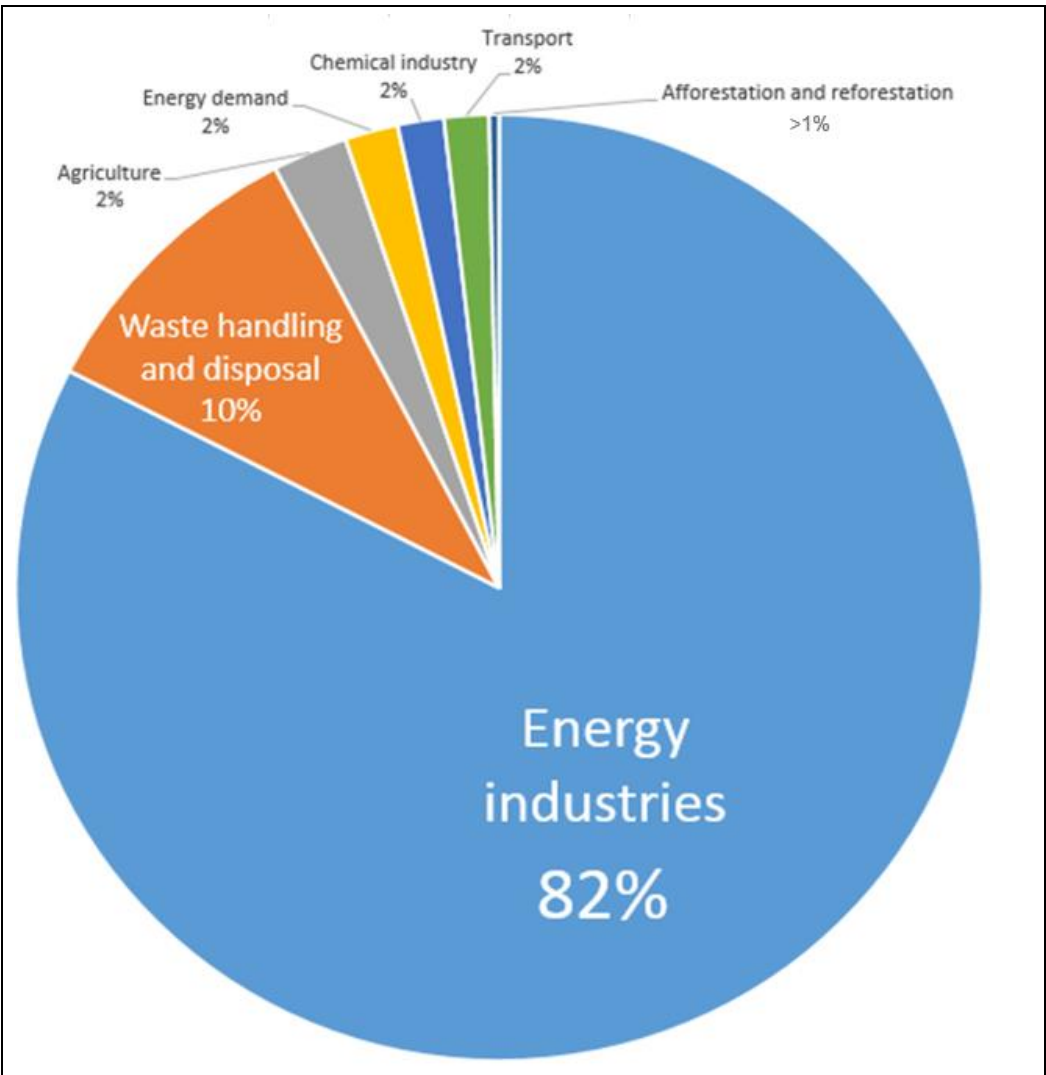


Table 8. Cancellations by sectoral scope of CDM activities to date

Sectoral scope	CDM activities	Cancellations	CERs cancelled
Energy industries	55	4 120	727 880
Energy industries; Waste handling and disposal	5	574	48 027
Waste handling and disposal; Agriculture	1	475	23 397
Waste handling and disposal	4	210	20 073
Energy demand	2	572	16 764
Chemical industry	1	108	14 490
Transport	1	203	14 130
Afforestation and reforestation	1	115	3 033

Sectoral scope	CDM activities	Cancellations	CERs cancelled
Energy industries; Waste handling and disposal; Agriculture	1	10	242
Total	71	6 387	868 036

Figure 5. Percentage of CERs cancelled by unique sectoral scope of CDM activities to date



Document information

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
01.0	25 July 2019	Initial publication

Decision Class: Operational
Document Type: Information note
Business Function: Governance
Keywords: CERs, EB, cancellation of CERs, reporting procedures, voluntary cancellation
