

CDM-2019RCC-INFO02

Regular report

Regional Collaboration Centres

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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 the development and implementation of CDM project activities and programmes of activities (PoAs) and the development of standardized baselines in the respective regions. 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 the 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 started its operations in October 2019.
3. The current reporting period covers 1 July to 31 December 2019. Cumulative figures covering from the beginning of RCC operations in 2013 until 31 December 2019 are also presented in this report to reflect the support provided for the development and implementation of CDM project activities and PoAs and the development of standardized baselines.²

2. Regional support

2.1. Project activities and programme of activities support

4. From 1 July to 31 December 2019, the RCCs provided direct technical support to 124 CDM project activities and PoAs, of which approximately 65 per cent were in countries underrepresented in the CDM.³ The support resulted in four CDM project activities and PoAs progressing at least one step forward in the CDM project cycle. In addition, RCCs responded to 169 queries received from stakeholders, which were primarily related to: (i) requests for clarification of CDM rules (e.g. prior consideration of the CDM, applicability of methodologies/standardized baselines/tools, post-registration changes); (ii) renewal of crediting period; (iii) share of proceeds; and (iv) participation in the CDM.
5. From the beginning of their operations until 31 December 2019, the RCCs have provided direct support to 1,291 CDM project activities and PoAs, contributing to 234 CDM project activities and PoAs progressing at least one step forward in the CDM project cycle. In addition, through the provision of technical advice and capacity-building, 115 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 standardized baselines. From 1 July to 31 December 2019, the RCCs supported the development of 29 bottom-up standardized baselines (3 were new and 26 were continuations from the previous reporting period), of which approximately 86 per cent originated from DNAs of underrepresented countries. As a result of the support provided by RCCs in the previous years, four proposed standardized baselines (PSB0051, PSB0052, PSB0053 and PSB0054) were successfully submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat, and the Board approved four standardized baselines (ASB0043-2019, ASB0044-2019, ASB0045-2019 and ASB0046-2019). In addition, the RCCs continued to support the work on five top-down standardized baselines during the reporting period (continuation from the previous reporting period).
7. From the beginning of their operations until 31 December 2019, the RCCs directly supported the development of 205 standardized baselines, of which 46 were approved by the Board.

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

8. The RCCs supported the work relating to financing and use of the CDM by international finance institutions” under goal 2 of the CDM two-year business and management plan 2018–2019⁴ (“Nurture the demand for, and participation in, the CDM”), 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: CDM Project Identification and Structuration, held in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, from 9 to 10 July 2019;
 - (ii) Workshop: Capacity-building for DNA Burundi on CDM and Standardized Baseline Development, held in Gitega, Burundi, from 1 to 2 August 2019;
 - (iii) Workshop: Needs-based Finance for the Southern Africa Region to Facilitate a Regional Approach to Mobilization and Access of Climate Finance, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 4 to 5 November 2019;
 - (b) Asia-Pacific region:
 - (i) Conference: special session with national governments, international and regional organizations, and the private sector, which shared their perspective on how to make the transition to a green economy a reality, held during the Regional Ministerial Conference on Green Economy in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, from 8 to 10 July 2019;

⁴ The CDM two-year business and management plan 2018-2019 is available at <https://cdm.unfccc.int/sunsetcms/storage/contents/stored-file-20171103151522992/Info_note73.pdf>.

- (ii) Asia-Pacific Climate Week side event: Climate Action in Waste Sector – Standardized Baseline Development, held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 2 to 6 September 2019. The side event highlighted the opportunities offered by standardized baselines to scale up and replicate mitigation projects, contributing to the achievement of the countries’ nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and the use of the NDCs for different purposes, such as nationally appropriate mitigation actions, climate finance, results-based finance, etc. In addition, there was a UNFCCC-RCC booth, where the voluntary cancellation platform was promoted, and project support was provided to project participants attending the Climate Week. The CDM Executive Board Chair and Vice-Chair and DNAs active in the region were invited to participate and contribute in the Climate Week;
 - (iii) Workshop: Need-based Finance for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to Facilitate a Regional Approach to Mobilization and Access of Climate Finance, held in Quezon City, the Philippines, from 29 to 30 October 2019;
 - (iv) Conference: Delivering Fashion of the Future: What Roles should Government, Brands & Suppliers Play towards Ambitious Climate Action? at the Annual Sustainable Apparel Forum, held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, from 4 to 5 November 2019. This conference facilitated the sharing of insights on the global collaborative momentum of efforts to shift the fashion industry onto an increasingly sustainable path;
- (c) Latin America and the Caribbean region:
- (i) Workshop: Overcoming the Obstacles and Seizing Opportunities for Implementing Carbon Market and Non-Market Mechanisms at the 4th Gathering of the Parliamentary Network on Climate Change, held in Paramaribo, Suriname, from 8 to 9 August 2019, to examine how parliaments can support the creation, management and oversight of carbon market and non-market mechanisms in their respective countries;
 - (ii) Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week side event: Carbon-pricing Instruments and the Clean Development Mechanism as Approaches for Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Developing Countries, held in Salvador, Brazil, from 19 to 23 August 2019. The side event was organized to highlight how certified emission reductions through CDM in the region have been used for the development of carbon pricing strategies in the region and for forming expectations for future developments. In addition, there was a UNFCCC-RCC booth, where the voluntary cancellation platform was promoted, and project support was provided to project participants attending the Climate Week. The CDM Executive Board member/alternate member from the region and DNAs active in the region were invited to participate and contribute in the Climate Week;
 - (iii) Site visit: On-the-ground CDM technical support was provided on the margins of the Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week for CDM project activity entitled “Salvador da Bahia Landfill Gas Management Project”. The visit took place in the municipality of Lauro de Freitas, Bahia State, Brazil, on 22 August 2019;

- (iv) Workshop: Presentation on renewable energy for energy generation and for the consumption sectors given at the 1st Regional Workshop on a Renewable Energy Roadmap for Central America, held in Panama City, Panama, from 4 to 5 September 2019;
 - (v) Conference: CDM technical support to project participants and designated operational entities was provided on the margins of the “Forum Agora Bogota: Empresas por los ciudadanos, vida y ciudad” (companies for citizens, life and city), held in Bogotá, Colombia, from 4 to 6 September 2019;
 - (vi) Conference: “How do we achieve decarbonization of the economy?”, where insights were shared on sectors that have shown progress towards economy decarbonization in the region. This discussion took place during a session of the XIV Edition of the International Sustainability Symposium, held in Panama City, Panama, on 2 October 2019;
 - (vii) Site visit: On-the-ground CDM technical support was provided to CDM project activities entitled “FEDEPALMA SECTORAL CDM UMBRELLA PROJECT FOR METHANE CAPTURE, FOSSIL FUEL DISPLACEMENT AND COGENERATION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY”, “Dona Juana landfill gas-to-energy project” and “Suba and Usaquen hydroelectric CDM umbrella project” in Colombia, from 18 to 20 December 2019;
- (d) Middle East, North Africa and South Asia region:
- (i) With the commencement of operations on 20 October 2019, RCC Dubai started its work on the development of methodological tools to support CDM project development from a measurement, reporting and verification perspective, increase the use of digital tools to track the outcomes of climate action and support CDM project activities/climate action projects to access finance;
 - (ii) Conference: RCC Global Forum on the margins of the World Green Economy Summit, held from 20 to 21 October 2019, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The Forum provided RCC partners an opportunity to connect, share and set strategies to help spur global climate action through the network of RCCs;
 - (iii) Workshop: Needs-based Finance for Arab States to Facilitate a Regional Approach to Mobilization and Access of Climate Finance, held in Cairo, Egypt, from 6 to 7 November 2019.
10. In this reporting period, the RCCs published eight newsletters on their individual websites:⁵ two for the Africa region, one for the Asia-Pacific region, four for the Latin America and Caribbean region and one for the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia 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.

⁵ Accessible at <<https://unfccc.int/rcc-bangkok>>, <<https://unfccc.int/rcc-dubai>>, <<https://unfccc.int/rcc-kampala>>, <<https://unfccc.int/rcc-panama>> and <<https://unfccc.int/rcc-st-georges>>.

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 activities under the framework of the West African Alliance on Carbon Market and Climate Finance, including hosting technical workshops on the market mechanism established under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement;
 - (ii) Following the launch of the East African Alliance on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance on the margins of the 50th session of the subsidiary bodies of the UNFCCC held in Bonn, Germany, a regional coordinator for the Alliance was appointed. The main responsibilities of the regional coordinator will be to coordinate the implementation of the Alliance work plan and overall management of the related activities, represent the alliance at relevant climate forums, and report to partners. The countries in the Eastern Africa region that formed the Alliance to promote a common vision to foster carbon markets and climate finance are Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. RCC Kampala together with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) Uganda, on behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), act as the interim secretariat for the Alliance to kick start the work plan and activities while the establishment of the secretariat takes place.
 - (b) Asia-Pacific region:
 - (i) RCC Bangkok continued its partnership with GIZ Thailand. RCC Bangkok is supporting the development of standardized baselines for the waste sector in Thailand;
 - (c) Latin America and the Caribbean region:
 - (i) RCC Panama supported a new partnership between ParlAmericas and UNFCCC by signing a memorandum of understanding on 6 December 2019 on the margins of United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Madrid, Spain. Under this partnership, RCC Panama and RCC St. George's will carry out capacity-building events, dialogues/panel discussions, strategic meetings and, together with parliamentarians, the development of knowledge products in support of the implementation of the Paris Agreement. The ParlAmericas International Secretariat signed the pledge to join the Climate Neutral Now initiative. ParlAmericas International Secretariat staff agreed to compensate the emissions associated with work travel through the purchase of carbon offsets via the UNFCCC Carbon Offset Platform. Parliaments and parliamentarians were invited to join ParlAmericas' staff and offset their flights;
 - (ii) RCC St. George's continued its partnerships with (1) the United Nations Development Programme through its Japanese-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership for the development of five top-down standardized baselines; and (2) the Greenhouse Gas Management Institute and the Global Support

Programme to establish a Caribbean MRV Hub. RCC St. George's started a new partnership with St. George's University, Grenada and the World Health Organization to deliver a four-week online course (open to all) entitled "Climate and Health" that discusses the implications of climate change on public health. The course was open from 20 October to 17 November 2019;

- (d) Middle East, North Africa and South Asia region:
 - (i) RCC Dubai, in partnership with the World Green Economy Organization, began serving countries in the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia. RCC Dubai's project portfolio consists of six projects designed to fill knowledge gaps in adaptation to climate change, create strategies to access climate finance, increase regional participation in global climate action, strengthen the capacity of youth to contribute to the regional and global response to climate change, and introduce new methodologies and tools to address climate change. RCC Dubai, along with its host partner, is expected to play a crucial role in supporting green economy activity in the region directly, as well as internationally through the placement of green economy experts at all RCCs.
12. In this reporting period, a total of 17 RCC host partner staff members worked together with 7 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 4:1;
 - (ii) East African Development Bank 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;
 - (d) Middle East, North Africa and South Asia region:
 - (i) World Green Economy Organization to UNFCCC is 2:1.

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