

CDM-2020RCC-INFO01

Regular report

Regional Collaboration Centres (1 January 2020 to 30 June 2020)

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 2020,¹ 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 the RCCs. The first RCC was established in Lomé, Togo, in 2013, followed by RCCs in Kampala, Uganda; St. George's, Grenada; Bogotá, Colombia; Bangkok, Thailand; and Dubai, the United Arab Emirates. 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.
3. The current reporting period covers 1 January to 30 June 2020. Cumulative figures covering from the beginning of RCC operations in 2013 until 30 June 2020 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. Support for project activities and programme of activities

4. From 1 January to 30 June 2020, the RCCs provided direct technical support to 123 CDM project activities and PoAs, of which approximately 44 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 109 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) letter of approval; (iv) share of proceeds; and (v) participation in the CDM.
5. From the beginning of their operations until 30 June 2020, the RCCs have provided direct support to 1,414 CDM project activities and PoAs, contributing to 238 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, 123 new CDM project activities and PoAs were identified and their notification of CDM prior consideration submitted.

¹ The CDM Executive Board workplan 2020 is available at https://cdm.unfccc.int/sunsetcms/storage/contents/stored-file-20200615135332922/info_note88.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 January to 30 June 2020, the RCCs supported the development of 60 bottom-up standardized baselines (13 were new and 47 were continuations from the previous reporting period), of which approximately 67 per cent originated from DNAs of underrepresented countries. As a result of the support provided by RCCs in the previous years, two proposed standardized baselines (PSB0054 (second submission) and PSB0055) were successfully submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat, and the Board approved one standardized baseline (ASB0047-2020). In addition, the RCCs continued to support the work on two top-down standardized baselines during the reporting period (continuation from the previous reporting period).
7. From the beginning of their operations until 30 June 2020, the RCCs directly supported the development of 265 standardized baselines, of which 47 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 2020–2021⁴ (“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: Inception workshop of the needs-based finance for the Eastern Africa region to facilitate a regional approach to mobilization and access of climate finance, held in Zanzibar, Tanzania, from 19 to 20 February 2020;
 - (ii) Workshop: West Africa regional workshop on measurement reporting and verification (MRV), held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 3 to 5 March 2020;
 - (iii) Webinar: Virtual meeting of the West African Alliance on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance, held on 29 April 2020;
 - (iv) Webinar: Virtual meeting of the Eastern Africa Alliance on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance, held on 22 May 2020;
 - (v) Workshop: Virtual workshop on standardized baselines as a building block for low-carbon pathways in the Paris Agreement regime, held on 23 June 2020;
 - (b) Asia-Pacific region:

⁴ The CDM two-year business and management plan 2020-2021 is available at https://cdm.unfccc.int/sunsetcms/storage/contents/stored-file-20190913162610355/Info_note83.pdf.

- (i) Conference: Sustainability Bond Forum, held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 31 January 2020;
 - (ii) Workshop: Validation workshop on needs-based finance for Island States in the Indian Ocean to facilitate a regional approach to mobilization and access of climate finance, held in Male, Maldives, from 4 to 5 March 2020;
 - (iii) Workshop: Virtual workshop for DNAs – First episode: the role of the DNA in modalities of communication and letters of approval, held on 25 June 2020;
 - (c) Latin America and the Caribbean region:
 - (i) Workshop: CDM dialogue on the status of the carbon market in the Latin-American region, held in Panama City, Panama, 10 March 2020;
 - (ii) Conference: Second annual meeting of the Caribbean Cooperative MRV Hub, held in Bridgetown, Barbados, from 11 to 12 March 2020;
 - (iii) Workshop: Virtual CDM technical support was provided to the CDM project activity entitled “FEDEPALMA Sectoral CDM Umbrella Project for Methane Capture, Fossil Fuel Displacement and Cogeneration of Renewable Energy”, on 15 April 2020;
 - (iv) Webinar: Carbon footprint programme “Reduce tu Huella Panamá” held on 3 June 2020;
 - (v) Webinar: Climate Change Negotiations and Carbon Neutrality – capacity-building session for the Youth Climate Change Network and the University of Panama, held on 9 June 2020;
 - (vi) Webinar: Virtual dialogue on the Alliance of Voluntary Greenhouse Gas Management Programs for Latin America and the Caribbean, held on 17 June 2020;
 - (vii) Webinar: Regional carbon footprint platforms, held on 18 June 2020;
 - (d) Middle East, North Africa and South Asia region:
 - (i) Workshop: Technical workshop on climate finance for finance experts in the Arab region, held in Cairo, Egypt, from 12 to 13 February 2020;
 - (ii) Virtual workshop for DNAs – First episode: The role of the DNA in modalities of communication and letters of approval, held on 25 June 2020.
10. In this reporting period, the RCCs published 10 newsletters on their individual websites:⁵ three for the Africa region, three for the Asia-Pacific region, three 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>>.

11. In response to COVID-19 pandemic, a regional virtual platform⁶ was launched that provides a list of events organized by the RCCs, the UNFCCC secretariat and their partners, including CDM-related virtual meetings for DNAs and project participants, either already taken place or will be taking place in the six RCC regions.

2.4. Inter-agency partnerships

12. 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 Markets and Climate Finance, including hosting virtual events, extending the alliance through a memorandum of understanding, and developing a website for the alliance;
 - (ii) RCC Lomé started a new partnership with the West African Power Pool secretariat to update ASB0034: Grid emission factor for West African Power Pool (version 01.0);
 - (iii) RCC Kampala continued its activities under the framework of the East African Alliance on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance, which became an official member of the Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition. The alliance is developing an online course module as part of the existing World Bank E-Course on Carbon Taxation. The course module will be tailored to the African context and will seek input from African States that are in the process of or have had experience with developing carbon pricing instruments;
 - (iv) RCC Kampala started a new partnership with the African Development Bank to improve knowledge opportunities for access to climate finance in the region, for example through the needs-based finance project and/or tracking of climate finance opportunities by RCC Kampala. RCC Kampala and the African Development Bank are aiming to replicate training programmes for countries to access climate finance;
 - (b) Asia-Pacific region:
 - (i) RCC Bangkok continued its partnership with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) Thailand. RCC Bangkok and GIZ made substantive progress in developing standardized baselines for the waste sector in Thailand;
 - (c) Latin America and the Caribbean region:
 - (i) RCC Panama supported a new partnership between the UNFCCC Climate Neutral Now initiative, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank's Partnership for Market Readiness Programme by establishing the Alliance of Voluntary Greenhouse Gas Management Programs for Latin America and the Caribbean. The alliance promotes knowledge exchange, synergies and a roadmap for the homologation of criteria and standards to

⁶ <https://unfccc.int/about-us/partnerships/current-calls-for-partnerships/regional-collaboration-centres/regional-virtual-platform>

- increase the private sector's involvement in and impact on climate action, while being consistent with the implementation of the nationally determined contributions of each country, in pursuit of carbon neutrality in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- (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 two top-down standardized baselines; and (2) the Greenhouse Gas Management Institute and the Global Support Programme to support the Caribbean Cooperative MRV Hub;
- (d) Middle East, North Africa and South Asia region:
- (i) RCC Dubai started a new partnership with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to support the needs-based finance project in the Arab region by formalizing a framework memorandum of understanding.
13. In this reporting period, a total of 19 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 5:1;
- (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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Document information

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