

CDM-2020RCC-INFO02

Regular report

Regional Collaboration Centres (1 July 2020 to 31 December 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, 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 July to 31 December 2020. Cumulative figures covering the beginning of RCC operations in 2013 until 31 December 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 programmes of activities

4. From 1 July to 31 December 2020, the RCCs provided direct technical support to 106 CDM project activities and PoAs, of which approximately 27 per cent were 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 192 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) difficulties faced by the project participants, coordinating/managing entities and designated operational entities in meeting CDM requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic; (iv) implications of the postponement of the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 16) to 2021 on the operations of the CDM after the second commitment period; and (v) participation in the CDM by project developers
5. From the beginning of their operations until 31 December 2020, the RCCs have provided direct support to 1,520 CDM project activities and PoAs, contributing to 247 CDM project activities and PoAs progressing at least one step forward in the CDM project cycle. In

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.

addition, through the provision of technical advice and capacity-building, 124 new CDM project activities and PoAs were identified and their notification of CDM prior consideration submitted.

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 2020, the RCCs supported the development of 42 bottom-up standardized baselines (6 were new and 36 were continuations from the previous reporting period), of which approximately 60 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 (PSB0052 (second submission) and PSB0056) and two requests for update (ASU_005 and ASU_006) were successfully submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat, and the Board approved four standardized baselines (ASB0008-2020, ASB0048-2020, ASB0049-2020 and ASB0050-2020). In addition, the RCCs continued to support the work on three top-down standardized baselines during the reporting period (continuation from the previous reporting period).
7. From the beginning of their operations until 31 December 2020, the RCCs directly supported the development of 307 standardized baselines, of which 51 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: Climate-Smart Cooling Solutions for Sustainable Buildings in Africa, held on 19 August 2020;
 - (ii) Workshop: Regional Virtual Consultation and Capacity-building Workshop on Carbon Pricing, held on 19 and 20 August 2020;
 - (iii) Workshop: Virtual Launch of the West African Need-Based Finance Project, held on 26 and 27 October 2020;
 - (iv) Workshop: Virtual Inception Workshop of the Collaborative Instruments for Ambitious Climate Action initiative for Ghana, held on 17 November 2020;

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.

- (b) Asia-Pacific region:
 - (i) Workshop: Virtual Workshop for DNAs – Second episode: Standardized baselines and their applications, held on 6 August 2020;
 - (ii) Webinar: Technical Assessment of Climate Finance in Southeast Asia, held on 10 August 2020;
 - (iii) Workshop: Regional Dialogue on Carbon Pricing for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, held on 28 and 29 September 2020;
 - (iv) Workshop: Virtual Workshop for DNAs – Third episode: Domestic and international carbon markets, held on 3 November 2020;
 - (c) Latin America and the Caribbean region:
 - (i) Workshop: Defining the Carbon Pricing Instrument Road Map in the Dominican Republic, held on 12 August 2020;
 - (ii) Workshop: Regional Dialogue on Carbon Pricing for Latin America, held on 16 and 17 September 2020;
 - (iii) Workshop: Virtual Training on Cooling Systems in the Caribbean, held from 20 to 22 October 2020;
 - (iv) Workshop: Standardized Baselines as Key Tools for Enhancing Climate Ambition: Experiences in Latin America and Caribbean, held on 10 November 2020;
 - (d) Middle East, North Africa and South Asia region:
 - (i) Workshop: Virtual Workshop for DNAs – Second episode: Standardized baselines and their applications, held on 6 August 2020;
 - (ii) Conference: The annual RCC Global Forum for 2020, virtually hosted by the World Green Economy Organization, held on 15 October 2020, where RCC partners shared the advances made in the areas of work identified at the annual RCC Global Forum for 2019 despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. The virtual meeting also helped partners to keep abreast of achievements, share midyear progress and report on planned continuing work by the RCCs in 2020 and beyond, amid the challenging environment posed by the pandemic;
 - (iii) Workshop: Virtual workshop for DNAs – Third episode: Domestic and international carbon markets, held on 3 November 2020.
10. In this reporting period, the RCCs published 22 newsletters on their individual websites:⁵ six for the Africa region, six for the Asia-Pacific region, seven for the Latin America and Caribbean region and three 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 maintained 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 having 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 the successful closure of the first phase and securing project approval from the donor for the second phase of alliance activities which are under implementation;
- (ii) RCC Lomé continued its partnership with the West African Power Pool secretariat to update ASB0034: Grid emission factor for West African Power Pool (version 01.0), and the request for update was submitted to UNFCCC secretariat on 15 December 2020;
- (iii) RCC Kampala continued its activities under the framework of the East African Alliance on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance. The alliance continued to engage private sectors in the carbon market;

(b) Asia-Pacific region:

- (i) RCC Bangkok, together with the International Development Research Centre of Canada, conducted information and data gathering to inform the mapping study for private sector engagement in capacity-building activities for climate action in South-East Asia;

(c) Latin America and the Caribbean region:

- (i) Since July 2020, RCC Panama is hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme at its regional office in Panama. RCC Panama engaged with United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), with a view to establishing a subregional office of the RCC for Latin America (subject to funds) for mutually beneficial collaborations with ECLAC. RCC Panama is in the process of strengthening further collaboration with Inter-American Development Bank in Latin America;
- (ii) RCC St. George's continued its partnerships with (1) the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in building capacity in the Caribbean for setting up a sector inventory and a Green Cooling Action Plan in the Caribbean; and (2) the Greenhouse Gas Management Institute and the Global Support Programme to support the Caribbean Cooperative MRV Hub;

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

- (d) Middle East, North Africa and South Asia region:
 - (i) RCC Dubai continued its partnership with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) to support the Needs-based Finance (NBF) project in the Arab region. In collaboration with the League of Arab States secretariat and ESCWA, RCC Dubai started to prepare a technical assessment for identifying and prioritizing climate finance needs, with a view to translating it into a collectively developed Arab Climate Finance Mobilization and Access Strategy.
13. In this reporting period, a total of 18 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 3:0;
 - (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) United Nations Environment Programme to UNFCCC is 2:2;
 - (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 3:1.

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Document information

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