

CDM-EB109-AA-A07

Status of CDM MAP 2020–2021 implementation (1 January-31 December 2020)

Version 01.1



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change

COVER NOTE

1. Procedural background

1. The clean development mechanism (CDM) two-year business and management plan 2020–2021 (CDM MAP 2020–2021) was adopted at the 104th meeting of the Executive Board of the CDM (hereinafter referred to as the Board) (EB 104).¹

2. Purpose

2. The purpose of this document is to provide an update to the Board on the progress made towards achieving the goals, objectives, operational activities and project activities, as established in the CDM MAP 2020–2021. The end-year review of the first year of the CDM MAP 2020–2021 will allow the Board to assess the secretariat's implementation of the CDM MAP and offer guidance on refining the direction of future work, if needed.

3. Impacts

3. The Board's review of the CDM MAP 2020–2021 implementation at its 109th meeting, and its subsequent guidance regarding the future direction and priorities of the secretariat's support of the CDM, will provide input to the work planned for 2021.

4. Recommendations to the Board

4. The Board may take note of the status of the CDM MAP 2020–2021 as at 31 December 2020 and advise on any adjustments that may be required.

¹ See CDM-EB104-A01-INFO <<https://cdm.unfccc.int/Reference/Notes/index.html>>.

TABLE OF CONTENTS	Page
1. INTRODUCTION	4
2. PROGRESS REPORT ON OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES, PROJECTS AND RESOURCES UTILIZED.....	4
2.1. Goal 1: Enable the efficient and transparent implementation of mitigation activities to ensure the trusted certification of their outcomes	4
2.1.1. Objective 1a: Operate efficient project and entity assessment processes.....	4
2.1.2. Objective 1b: Operate an effective regulatory framework resulting in reduced transaction costs for participants in the mechanism.....	9
2.1.3. Objective 1c: Develop simplified and user-friendly standards and procedures that increase efficiency and ensure environmental integrity	15
2.2. Goal 2: Nurture demand for, and participation in, the clean development mechanism	19
2.3. Cross-cutting activities	23
3. FINANCIAL UPDATE	29
3.1. Status of income from 1 January to 31 December 2020	29
3.2. Expenditure from 1 January to 31 December 2020.....	30
3.3. Summary of financial position (income and expenditure status, as at 31 December 2020).....	34
4. HUMAN RESOURCES	35
5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	35
APPENDIX. REPORTING DATA (JANUARY–DECEMBER 2020)	36

1. Introduction

1. The clean development mechanism (CDM) two-year business and management plan 2020–2021 (CDM MAP 2020–2021), adopted at the 104th meeting of the Executive Board of the CDM (hereinafter referred to as the Board) (EB 104), documents the goals and objectives of the CDM and the approach, activities and resources required to support the effective execution of the goals and objectives in 2020 and 2021.¹
2. This document describes the status of implementation of the CDM MAP 2020–2021 for the period 1 January through 31 December 2020, the activities and projects underway and the financial and human resources of the secretariat's Mitigation Division, which supports the Board and operation of the CDM.
3. Prior mid-year and end-year status of implementation of the CDM MAP review reports are available on the CDM website.²

2. Progress report on operational activities, projects and resources utilized

4. The 2020 end-year review of the first year of MAP implementation reports on the 59 operational activities and two project activities included in the CDM MAP 2020–2021. Of the total of 61 CDM MAP activities, 55 have volume data forecasts associated with them (e.g. number of expected cases, assessments, stakeholder queries). For these 55 activities, table 2 in the appendix lists both the projected annual volume data in the approved CDM MAP 2020–2021 and the actual volumes processed during the 12-month reporting period under consideration (1 January to 31 December 2020).
5. The following section is a comprehensive reporting on the work performed, progress made and products delivered under each of the 59 operational activities and two project activities in the CDM MAP 2020–2021.

2.1. Goal 1: Enable the efficient and transparent implementation of mitigation activities to ensure the trusted certification of their outcomes

2.1.1. Objective 1a: Operate efficient project and entity assessment processes

CDM registry

6. As shown in figure 1 below, during the reporting period 6,333 requests for forwarding and cancellation transactions for certified emission reductions (CERs) were completed against the 2020 annual forecasted volume of 8,200 transactions. This corresponds to 77 per cent of the forecasted volume. Additionally, 1,664 changes to modalities of communication (88 per cent) were completed against the annual forecasted volume of 1,900 change requests.
7. The CDM registry operational volumes are lower than the annual projected volumes for the reporting period. Comparing the volume data for this 12-month period in 2020 against the same period in 2019, there is a decrease in completed requests for forwarding and

¹ See CDM-EB104-A01-INFO <<https://cdm.unfccc.int/Reference/Notes/index.html>>.

² See for example: CDM-2020Q2-INFO01 (mid-year review report for 2020), CDM-2019Q4-INFO01 (end-year review report for 2019) and CDM-2019Q2-INFO01 (mid-year review report for 2019) <https://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/report/index_2019.html>.

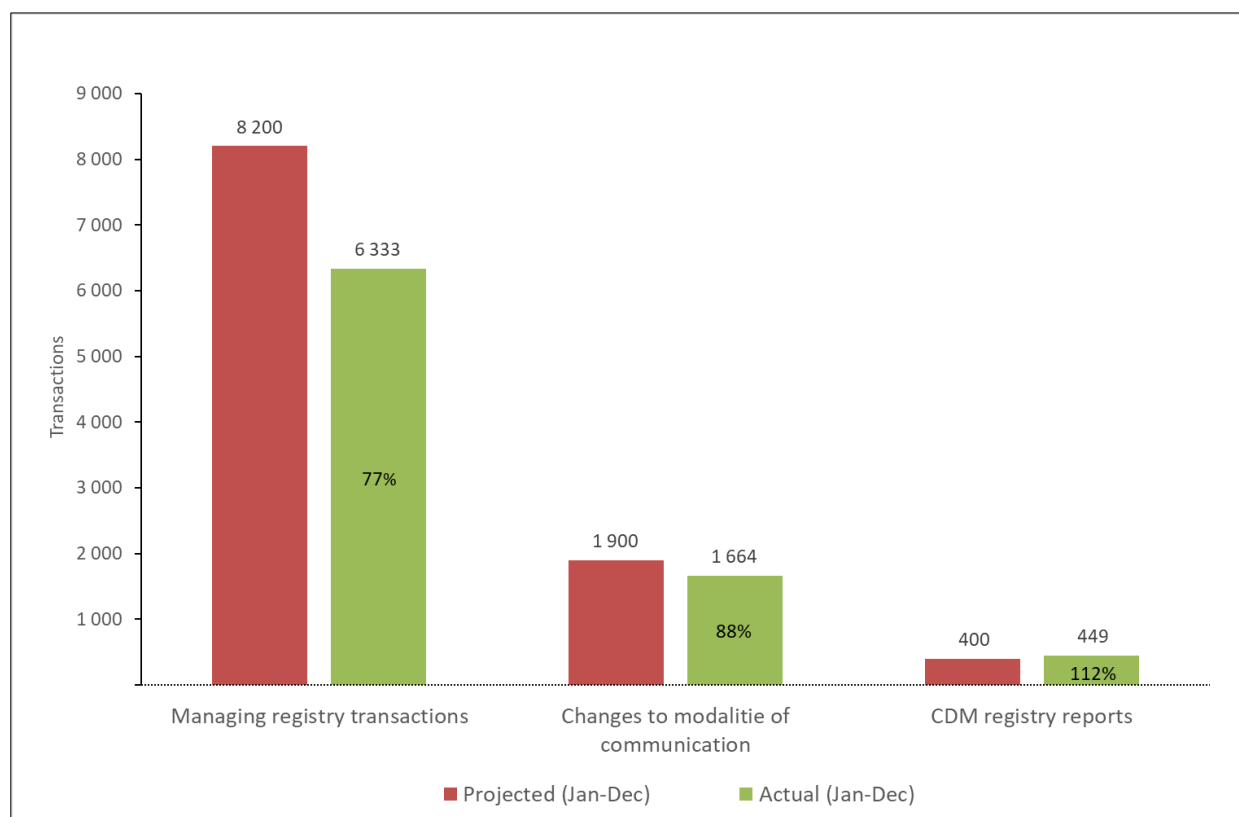
cancellation transactions for CERs (8,564 transactions by December 2019 versus 6,333 transactions for the reporting period). This overall decrease is due to a decrease in the number of orders placed through the voluntary cancellation platform (6,770 orders placed in 2019 versus 4,242 orders placed in 2020). There is also a decrease in changes to modalities of communication transactions (1,953 changes processed by December 2019 versus 1,664 changes processed for the reporting period).³

8. In relation to the CDM registry reporting function, 449 reports (112 per cent), including designated national authority (DNA) reports, CDM Executive Board monthly reports and reports to the World Bank, were produced against the annual forecasted volume of 400 reports. Comparing the volume data of 2020 to the volume data of 2019, there was a slight increase in the reports produced (from 422 reports in 2019).
9. In 2020, eight voluntary cancellation seller accounts were opened, and one seller account was reactivated, bringing the total number of accounts to 79 against a forecasted volume of 80 active seller accounts by the end of 2020. The CERs available for listing on the United Nations Platform for Voluntary Cancellation of CERS, through the 79 active accounts, exceeded 6.4 million at the end of the period, which is sufficient for the current level of operations. Supply-side activities are tailored according to short-term forecasts to ensure a stable supply of units.
10. Cancellations through the voluntary cancellation platform reached 1,111,599 CERs during 2020, as compared to 795,866 CERs for 2019 (a 28 per cent increase).
11. Looking at all voluntary cancellations recorded during the reporting period through both tracks (CDM registry regular track and the voluntary cancellation platform), a comparison against the same period in 2019 shows a decreasing number of cancellation requests (orders), while the total number of CERs cancelled has increased (from 10.6 million CERs in 2019 to 19.3 million CERs in 2020).⁴

³ Note: Although there were fewer orders placed through the voluntary platform, a higher volume of CERs were cancelled through the platform during the reporting period (see paragraphs 10 and 11).

⁴ Regular reports to the Board on the voluntary cancellation platform are located at: <https://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/report/>.

Figure 1. CDM registry operation (January–December 2020)



Project assessments

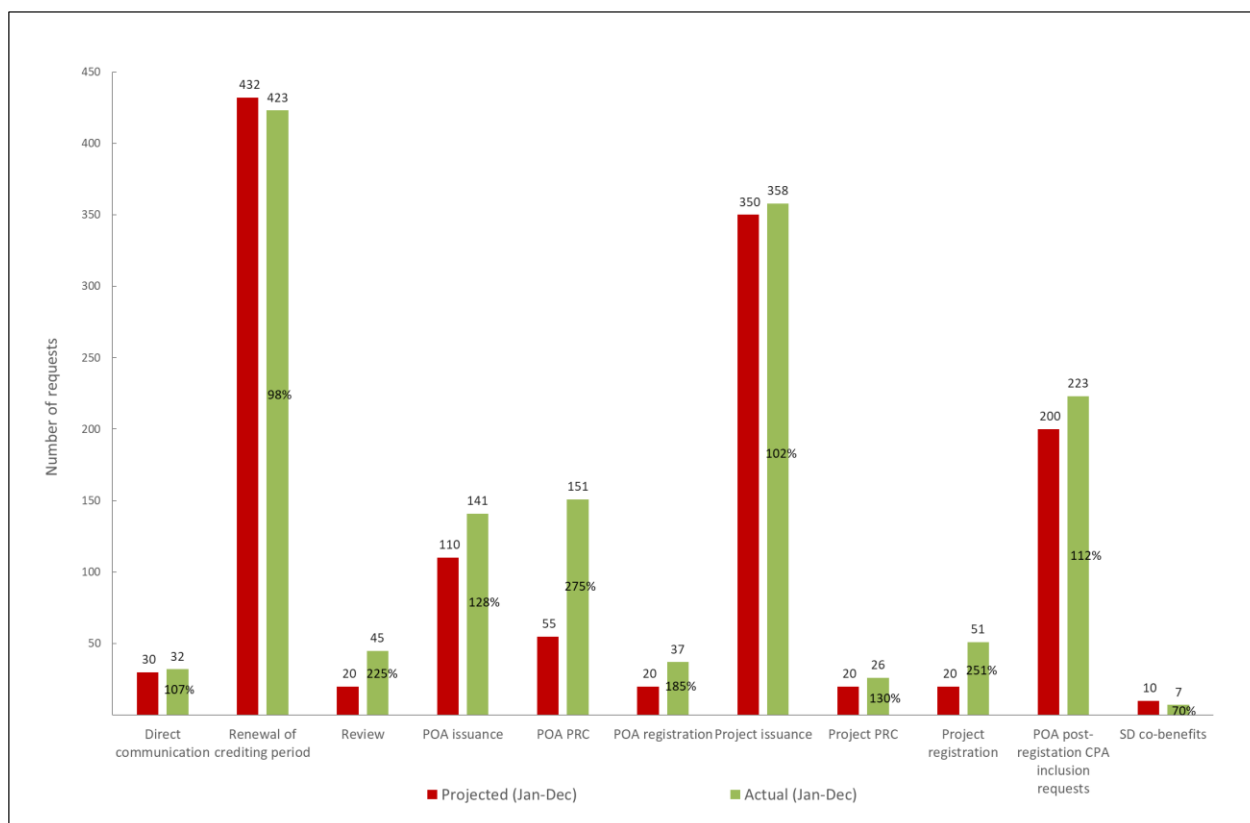
12. The total CERs issued over the reporting period is 70,930,939, of which 9,786,103 CERs were issued for programmes of activities (PoAs) and 61,144,836 were issued for project activities.
13. In terms of caseload, details of the project assessments processed during the reporting period are included in table 1 and figure 2.

Table 1. Project assessments (January–December 2020)

Activity	Projected annual volume MAP 2020	Actual volume (Jan–Dec 2020)
Requests for project issuance	350	358
Requests for programme of activities (PoA) issuance covering component project activities (CPAs)	110	141 ^(a)
Request for project registration	20	51
Request for PoA registration	20	37
Requests for project post-registration changes (PRCs)	20	26
Request for PoA PRC	55	151
Request for renewal of crediting period	432	423 ^(b)
Request for review	20	45
Request for direct communication	30	32 ^(c)
PoA post-registration CPA inclusion requests	200	223

- (a) These included the processing of 1,074 CPAs.
- (b) These included the processing of 62 PoA renewal requests.
- (c) These include nine renewal of crediting period for CPAs.

Figure 2. Type and number of project assessments processed against annual projected volume forecasts for the period under review (January–December 2020)



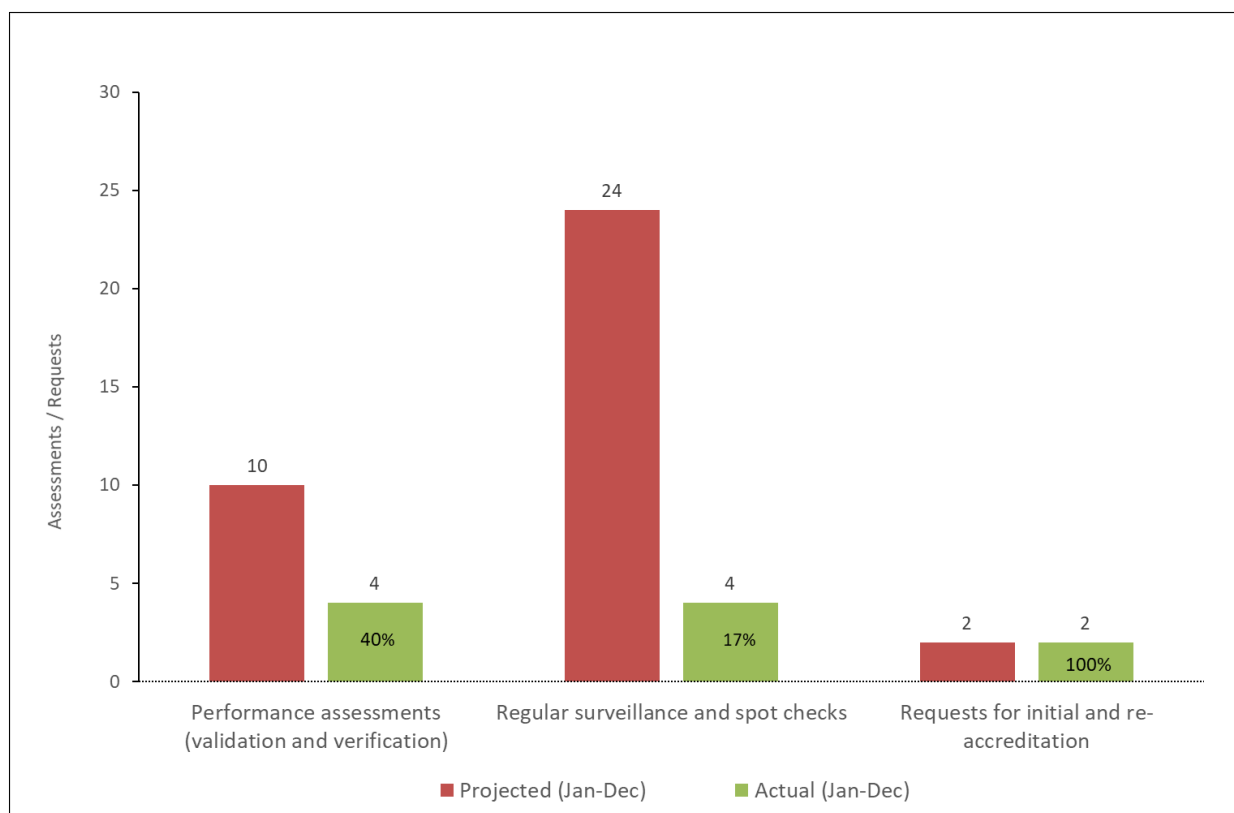
Note: CPA = component project activity; PoA = programme of activities; PRC = post-registration changes, SD = sustainable development.

14. As seen in table 1, activities including requests for project issuance, PoA issuance covering component project activities (CPAs), project registration, PoA registration, project post-registration changes (PRC), PoA PRCs and PoA post-registration CPA inclusions, request for review and direct communication have a higher volume reported against the projected annual volume forecasts, whereas for renewal of crediting period the reported data volumes are aligned against the linear projection for volumes.
15. During the reporting period, the waiting times for the commencement of project assessments for registration and issuance were below 15 days, as mandated by the Board and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP), except for 20 weeks during January, July, August, September, October and November, owing to a sudden increase in the number of submissions and operational exigencies.
16. Seven sustainable development co-benefit reports were received and published during the reporting period against the annual forecast of 10 reports.

Entity assessments

17. There are currently 30 accredited designated operational entities (DOEs).⁵
18. As shown in figure 3, during the reporting period, four performance assessments were conducted⁶ against the annual forecasted volume of 10 assessments (40 per cent). Four regular surveillance assessments and spot checks were conducted against the annual forecasted volume of 24 regular surveillance assessments and spot checks (17 per cent). Two assessments for the extension of accreditation for additional sectoral scopes were conducted during the reporting period against the annual forecasted volume of two requests for initial and re-accreditation.⁷ Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the conducting of assessments during the reporting period, the actual volume of assessments conducted is less than the annual forecasted volume.

Figure 3. Type and number of entity assessments processed against annual volumes and the linear projected volume for the period under review (January–December 2020)



19. During the reporting period, a virtual calibration workshop of the CDM accreditation roster of experts for lead assessors was held from 31 August to 1 September 2020, in conjunction with the 87th meeting of the CDM Accreditation Panel (CDM-AP-87). The DOE

⁵ Note that in the CDM MAP 2020–2021 (CDM-EB104-A01-INFO, table 4), the volume data indicate that 31 entities are to be supported in 2020. At the time of preparing the CDM MAP 2020–2021, there were 31 accredited entities. However, on 20 December 2019, one entity voluntarily withdrew, leaving 30 entities.

⁶ All related to verification performance assessment.

⁷ In accordance with the CDM accreditation procedure, extension of accreditation for additional sectoral scopes applies the same provision of the initial accreditation.

calibration workshop planned in the MAP 2020 was not organized due to COVID-19 pandemic.

20. In summary, in relation to objective 1a, table 1 of the CDM MAP 2020–2021 allocates 22 per cent of the annual approved budget to the 17 operational activities delivering services and products in support of this objective.⁸ Table 1 in the appendix shows that, as at 31 December 2020, 15 per cent of the annual budgeted resources were utilized against the activities associated with this objective.

2.1.2. Objective 1b: Operate an effective regulatory framework resulting in reduced transaction costs for participants in the mechanism

Communications

21. Communications focused on showcasing the CDM as a functioning climate action tool available to Parties as well as non-Party stakeholders - for example, as part of efforts to increase the use of CERs through the Climate Neutral Now initiative. In addition, communications aimed at updating stakeholders on developments in relation to the postponement of the sixteenth session of the CMP. Tables 3 and 4 in the appendix list the stories and information items created or sourced and published on the United Nations Climate Change main website and the United Nations Climate Change CDM website. These stories were further promoted using social media.

External queries

22. As shown in figure 4, during the reporting period, a total of 677 CDM-related queries from stakeholders were processed, including 76 communications addressed to the Board and 601 communications addressed to the secretariat. This corresponds to 169 per cent of the annual forecasted volume. An additional 787 queries of an administrative nature (e.g. log-in troubleshooting, updating the contact database) were processed by the secretariat. In addition, during the reporting period, 301 queries were processed by the regional collaboration centres (RCCs), details of which are included in the RCC operation reports (January–June 2020 and July–December 2020).⁹
23. Considering requests from stakeholders, the Board agreed at EB 106 to relax the mandatory site visits by DOEs for a period of three months (23 March to 23 June 2020) because of the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁰ The Board agreed on 23 June 2020¹¹ to further extend the period in which DOEs may apply alternative measures of validation/verification to mandatory on-site inspections until 31 December 2020. At EB 108, in response to communications from stakeholders, the Board agreed to extend the period in which DOEs may apply alternative measures of validation/verification to mandatory on-site inspections until 20 June 2021.
24. Further, recognizing the difficulties that project participants and coordinating/managing entities were facing in the monitoring of registered CDM project activities and PoAs due to

⁸ For the indicative allocation of resources by objective, see CDM-EB104-A01, appendix, tables 1 and 2 at <<http://cdm.unfccc.int/Reference/Notes/index.html>>.

⁹ See RCC operation reports at <<https://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/report/>>.

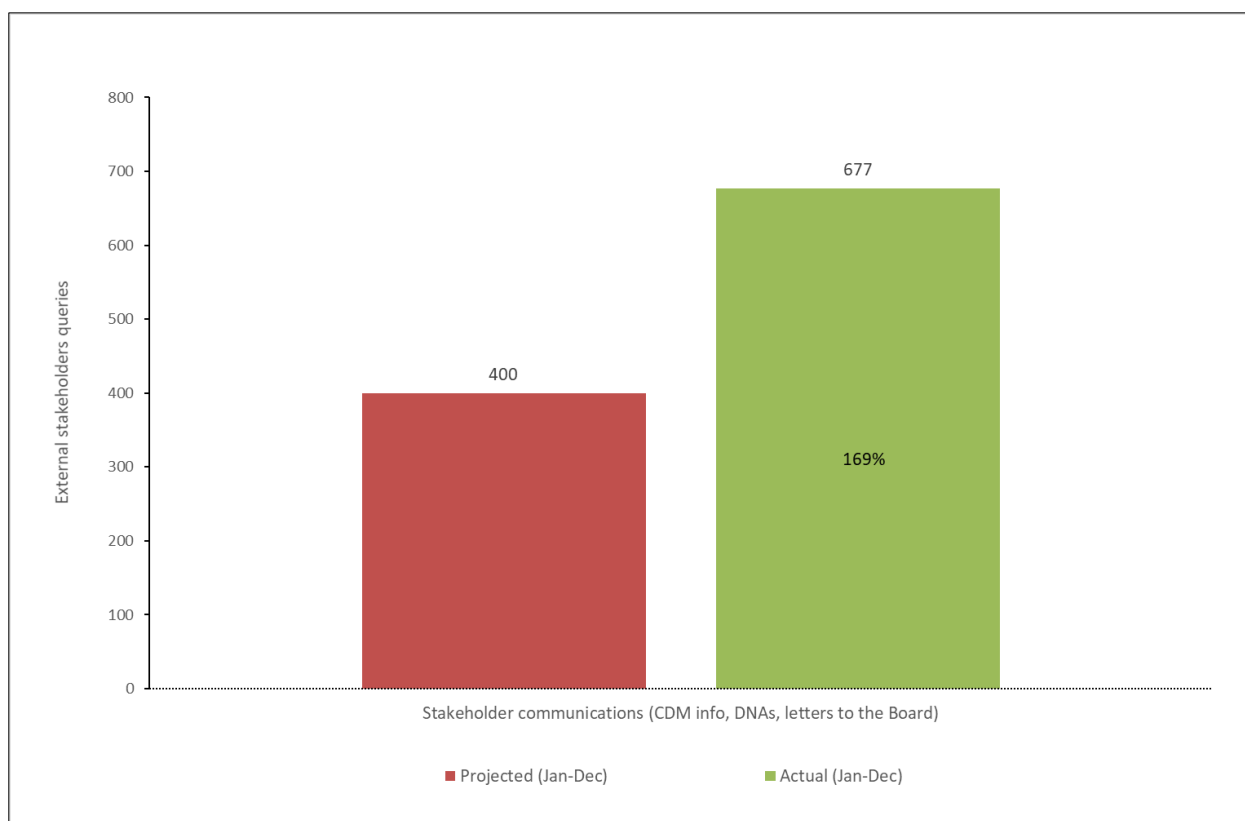
¹⁰ See CDM-EB106, paragraph 26 at <<https://cdm.unfccc.int/UserManagement/FileStorage/AV836BOL4R5S9HTZEXYIW2NMQF10PJ>>.

¹¹ See Newsroom article at <https://cdm.unfccc.int/newsroom/latestnews/releases/2020/01041_index.html>.

various restrictions under the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board, at EB 106, issued a clarification on the temporary deviation from the registered monitoring plan for a monitoring period affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.¹²

25. At EB107, in response to communications from stakeholders, the Board agreed not to extend the deadline for submission of any overdue cases (existing registered project activities whose crediting period has expired after 30 September 2019) for which requests for extension of the deadline are communicated to the Board after 30 September 2020.
26. On 9 July 2020, in response to communications from stakeholders, the Board agreed via electronic decision-making to extend the deadline for submission of PCR requests due to an increase in the capacity or addition of technologies/ measures that occurred before 31 August, from 31 August to 31 December 2020, and shift the cut- off date for PCR cases from 31 August 2018 to 31 December 2018.

Figure 4. External stakeholder queries processed against the annual forecast and a linear projected volume for the period under consideration (January–December 2020)



Market and policy analysis

27. During the reporting period, the secretariat continued to gather intelligence on developments in global carbon markets. The secretariat is using this intelligence to provide updates to the Board on developments in the UNFCCC process in relation to the Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement, including updates on carbon-pricing mechanisms globally, recent policy developments in different regions and international sectors, and the potential

¹² See CDM-EB106, paragraph 26 at <https://cdm.unfccc.int/UserManagement/FileStorage/AV836BOL4R5S9HTZEXYIW2NMQF10PJ>.

role of the CDM. Regular updates were provided to the Board at EB 107¹³ and EB 108. This information allows decisions by the Board across its work programme to be informed by broader ongoing developments. At EB108, the Board considered a request for information received from the International Civil Aviation Organization related to the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation and agreed to consider it at its next meeting and to respond accordingly.

Secretariat interactions with stakeholders

28. On behalf of the Board and its support structures, eight calls for public input were sought on: (a) issues included in the annotated agenda and related annexes prepared for EB 106, EB 107 and EB 108; (b) methodological issues; and (c) the draft revised procedure: “Performance monitoring of designated operational entities”.¹⁴
29. The 2019 annual report on stakeholder communications providing feedback to stakeholders was published during the reporting period.¹⁵
30. The Board and its support structure met virtually with the representative of the DOE/Accredited Independent Entities Coordination Forum at the eighty-sixth meeting of the CDM-AP (CDM-AP 86), eighty-seventh meeting of the CDM-AP (CDM-AP 87) and at EB 106, EB 107 and EB 108 and took note of forums’ inputs.
31. At EB 106, EB 107 and EB 108 the Board took note of the activities undertaken related to stakeholders, DNAs, applicant entities and DOEs:
 - (a) Fiftieth DOE video conference call held on 4 March 2020
 - (b) Fifty-first DOE conference call held on 8 July 2020;
 - (c) Fifty-second DOE conference call held on 22 October 2020;
 - (d) One global and three regional DNA Forum meetings held from 2 to 12 November 2020 via video-conference.
32. The 21st Global DNA Forum, originally scheduled to take place in May 2020 in Barcelona, Spain, was postponed due to the travel restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Virtual meetings for global and regional DNA forums were organized in November 2020. The Board, at its 107th and 108th meetings, interacted with registered observers, who raised concerns about the future of the CDM after 31 December 2020. The Board took note of the input.

Servicing of the regulatory body and its panels and working groups

33. At its first meeting of the calendar year,¹⁶ the Board adopted its workplan and that of its panels and approved the calendar of meetings. During the 2020 reporting period, three meetings of the Board (EB 106, EB 107 and EB 108), two of the CDM Accreditation Panel

¹³ At EB 106, the Board agreed to consider the report on the carbon market and policy updates at its next meeting.

¹⁴ See the archive of calls for public input at <http://cdm.unfccc.int/public_inputs/index.html>. Another call for input was in relation to the approved methodology AMS-II. E.

¹⁵ See CDM-2019SC-INFO01 at <https://cdm.unfccc.int/sunsetcms/storage/contents/stored-file-20200309144945385/Regular%20report_Stakeholder_communication_Jan_Dec19.pdf>.

¹⁶ EB 106, originally scheduled from 24 to 27 March 2020, was postponed due to travel restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, EB 106 was organized virtually from 11 May to 12 June 2020.

- (CDM-AP 86 and CDM-AP 87¹⁷) and three of the Methodologies Panel (MP 81, MP 82 and MP 83¹⁸) were concluded. Table 6 in the appendix includes information on the number of documents under consideration by the Board during the reporting period.
34. During the reporting period, the Board considered five urgent matters through electronic decision-making.
 35. At EB 107 and EB 108, the Board considered the implications of the postponement of the sixteenth session of the CMP and agreed on temporary measures to apply to CDM activities generating emission reductions after 31 December 2020, pending CMP guidance at CMP 16.¹⁹ The Board's decisions provide stakeholders with information regarding how cases related to such emission reductions would be processed until the CMP provides guidance on this matter.
 36. At EB 108, the Board considered the implications of the postponement of CMP 16 on the operations of the CDM after the second commitment period and made a recommendation to the CMP.²⁰
 37. At EB 107, the Board provided guidance on key messages to be conveyed in its annual report to the CMP at its sixteenth session. At EB 108, the Board considered the draft annual report of the Executive Board to the CMP and agreed to continue work at its next meeting.
 38. In addition to the activities in the approved CDM MAP 2020–2021, the workplan covers one additional mandate²¹ to the Board provided by the CMP at its fifteenth session (see table 5 of the appendix). The additional CMP mandate was absorbed into the work streams approved in the CDM MAP 2020–2021.
 39. As per the workplan approved by the Board at EB 106,²² 54 products were forecasted to be delivered in 2020. One additional mandate was provided by the Board during the reporting period.²³
 40. As shown in table 7 in the appendix, as at 31 December 2020, a total of 48 products were delivered against the workplan.
 44. At EB 106, the Board designated four Board members to serve as evaluators for the CDM registration and issuance team. At the same meeting, the Board decided that a new call for experts to serve on the CDM accreditation roster of experts was not required.

¹⁷ CDM-AP 87 was organized virtually from 1 to 4 September 2020.

¹⁸ MP 82 and MP 83 were organized virtually from 15 to 26 June 2020 and from 2 to 13 November, respectively.

¹⁹ See EB 108 report, paragraphs 7 and 8 for details of the temporary measures.

²⁰ See EB 108 report, paragraph 6 and annex 1: [Recommendation to the CMP: Implications of the postponement of the CMP 16 for the operations of the CDM \(version 01.0\)](#)

²¹ See decision 2/CMP.15, paragraph 8.

²² See CDM-EB106-A01 at <https://cdm.unfccc.int/UserManagement/FileStorage/FSXP6GC9381QYBKIEZ2RJVALD4T5W>.

²³ See EB 107 report paragraph 7.

Accreditation system

42. During the reporting period, 30 entities were supported.²⁴ The support included day-to-day activities related to the administration of the accreditation workflow.
43. During the reporting period, 12 accreditation assessments were launched, of which four were regular surveillance assessments and seven were performance assessments, and one was an assessment for extension of accreditation for additional sectoral scopes. Their corresponding workplans were processed in accordance with the “CDM accreditation procedure”.
44. The Board re-accredited one entity and extended the scopes of accreditation for another entity. The Board will present these recommendations for endorsement by the CMP at its sixteenth session.
45. The Board took note of the notification by the CDM-AP on the completion of regular on-site surveillance assessments and performance assessments for 11 DOEs.
46. At EB 107, recognizing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the launching of assessments, the Board decided to allow the provision related to deviation from the standard assessment modalities for regular surveillance assessments described in paragraph 125 of the “CDM accreditation procedure” to be applied in initial accreditation and re-accreditation assessments.
47. At EB 108, the Board took note of the synthesis report prepared by the secretariat of the DOEs’ annual activity reports covering the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.

Registration and issuance system

48. Information system support for CDM activities/cycles, including the uploading of monitoring reports, summary notes, Board member objections, rejection rulings, updated documents related to direct communication, and queries from project participants, were carried out according to the established procedures.
49. The CDM information system continues to be enhanced with additional capabilities and workflows. Ongoing activities in this regard include: defining requirements; testing and handling of deployments; overseeing the implementation of change requests; and managing relations with the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) department.

Regulatory framework management

50. At EB 106, the Board issued the amendments to version 02.0 of the “CDM project standard for project activities” and the amendments to version 02.0 of the “CDM project standard for programmes of activities” to clarify the reference level for the capping of claimable CERs due to capacity increases through PCRs. At the same meeting, the Board also issued the amendments to version 02.0 of the “CDM project standard for programmes of activities” to introduce instructions on the consideration of possible cross-effects in a PoA in urban sectors.
51. At EB 106 and EB 108, the Board considered the concept note on the revision of regulatory provisions on standardized baselines to address the situation where standardized baselines are not updated in time and to address the inconsistency in the regulatory provisions on the application of standardized baselines, and issued the amendments to

²⁴ See footnote 5.

- version 02.0 of the “CDM project standard for project activities” and version 02.0 of the “CDM project standard for programmes of activities” as well as adopted the revised “Standard: Determining coverage of data and validity of standardized baselines” and the revised “Procedure: Development, revision, clarification and update of standardized baselines”.
52. At EB 106, the Board adopted the revised “Procedure: Performance monitoring of designated operational entities”, which enables the effective monitoring of DOEs when submissions are low. The Board requested the secretariat to establish a workflow to implement the revised procedure and report back the outcome of the first iteration of the monitoring report for the monitoring period 1 May 2020 to 31 August to the Board in 2021.
53. Also, at EB 106, the Board adopted: (a) the revised “CDM accreditation procedure”, incorporating a previous clarification issued by the Board related to the mandatory number of performance assessments; and (b) the revision of the frequency and timing of the performance assessment, in alignment with the revised procedure on performance monitoring of DOEs.
54. At EB 108, the Board considered the concept note “Consistent use of market penetration metrics for additionality, common practice and FOIK²⁵” and requested the MP to: propose definitions for the terminologies associated with penetration of technology/measure with a view to include them in the CDM glossary of terms; propose a consistent approach to the data vintage and data sources used for the determination of penetration of technology/measure with a view to include them in the CDM project cycle procedures or the CDM project standards; and revise “TOOL23: Additionality of first-of-its-kind project activities” and “TOOL24: Common practice” to explore including an appropriate penetration threshold for technology/measure (e.g. 2.5 per cent).
55. At EB 108, due to time constraints, the Board agreed to postpone to 2021 the consideration for the following items:
- (a) Concept note “Impacts of the use of the digitized methodology ACM0002 on the regulatory framework”;
 - (b) Concept note “Overview of CDM regulatory development: how CDM regulations have changed over the years and lessons learned”.
56. In summary, in relation to objective 1b, table 1 of the CDM MAP 2020–2021 allocates 25 per cent of the annual approved budget for 2020 to the 17 operational activities delivering services and products in support of this objective.²⁶ Table 1 in the appendix shows that, as at 31 December 2020, 16 per cent of the total budgeted resources for 2020 were utilized against the activities associated with this objective.

²⁵ FOIK = first-of-its-kind.

²⁶ For the indicative allocation of resources by objective, see CDM-EB104-A01, appendix, tables 1 and 2 at <<http://cdm.unfccc.int/Reference/Notes/index.html>>.

2.1.3. Objective 1c: Develop simplified and user-friendly standards and procedures that increase efficiency and ensure environmental integrity

Methodologies

57. Figure 5 below provides data for the 12-month reporting period²⁷ relating to methodologies work against the annual forecasted volume of 60 requests.²⁸
58. During the reporting period, the following requests for clarification were processed:
- (a) Fifty requests for clarifications were fully concluded;²⁹
 - (b) One request for clarification was under process.³⁰
59. During the reporting period, two requests for revision of a methodology³¹ and one request for revision of tool³² were concluded.
60. During the reporting period, a total of seven new methodology requests were processed:
- (a) Three new methodology requests were concluded,³³ while one request has been recommended for consideration by the Board;³⁴
 - (b) Three requests for new methodologies were under process.³⁵

²⁷ The data in figure 5 also include submissions from earlier reporting periods that are still under process. This is because these items required additional work during the reporting period.

²⁸ The annual forecasted volume includes 30 requests for processing requests for clarification, deviation, revision and new submissions from stakeholders and 30 requests responding to methodological work mandated by the Board.

²⁹ For small-scale: SSC_766, SSC_767, SSC_768, SSC_769, SSC_770, SSC_771, SSC_773, SSC_774, SSC_775, SSC_776, SSC_777, SSC_778, SSC_779, SSC_780, SSC_781, SSC_782, SSC_784, SSC_785, SSC_786, SSC_787, SSC_788, SSC_789, SSC_790, SSC_791, SSC_792, SSC_793, SSC_794, SSC_795, SSC_796, SSC_797, SSC_798, SSC_799, SSC_800, and SSC_801; for large-scale: AM_CLA_0282, AM_CLA_0283, AM_CLA_0284, AM_CLA_0285, AM_CLA_0286 and AM_CLA_0287; and for methodological tools: CLA_TOOL_0033, CLA_TOOL_0034, CLA_TOOL_0035, CLA_TOOL_0036, CLA_TOOL_0037, CLA_TOOL_0038, CLA_TOOL_0039, CLA_TOOL_0040, CLA_TOOL_0041 and CLA_TOOL_0042.

³⁰ SSC_802.

³¹ AMS-III.AV: Low greenhouse gas-emitting safe drinking water production systems (SSC_772) , AMS-III.AR: Substituting fossil fuel-based lighting with LED/CFL lighting systems (SSC_783).

³² TOOL24: Common Practice (REV_TOOL_0004).

³³ NM0378: Use of renewable sources of carbon instead of fossil sources in the production of thermoplastic resins and its components (rejected); AM0121: Emission reduction from partial switching of raw materials and increasing the share of additives in the production of blended cement (NM0379) and AMS.III.BP: Emission reduction by shore-side electricity supply system (SSC-NM0104).

³⁴ SSC-NM0105: Switch from non-renewable biomass to electricity for cooking application by the user. EB 108 requested guidance from the CMP on the eligibility of the proposed measures in the methodology.

³⁵ NM0377, NM0380 and SSC-NM0106.

61. During the reporting period, details of the processing of standardized baselines were as follows:
- (a) Five standardized baseline submissions were approved;³⁶
 - (b) Fifteen standardized baselines were under process.³⁷
62. During the reporting period, in response to mandates received from the Board, the following requests for revisions of the methodologies and tools were processed:
- (a) Nine requests for revision of methodologies and tools were concluded;³⁸
 - (b) Seven requests for revision of methodology³⁹ and five requests for revision of a tool⁴⁰ were under process.

³⁶ See approved standardized baselines ASB0008-2020, ASB0047-2020, ASB0048-2020, ASB0049-2020 and ASB0050-2020 at <https://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/standard_base/2015/sb4.html>.

³⁷ See standardized baselines under process:

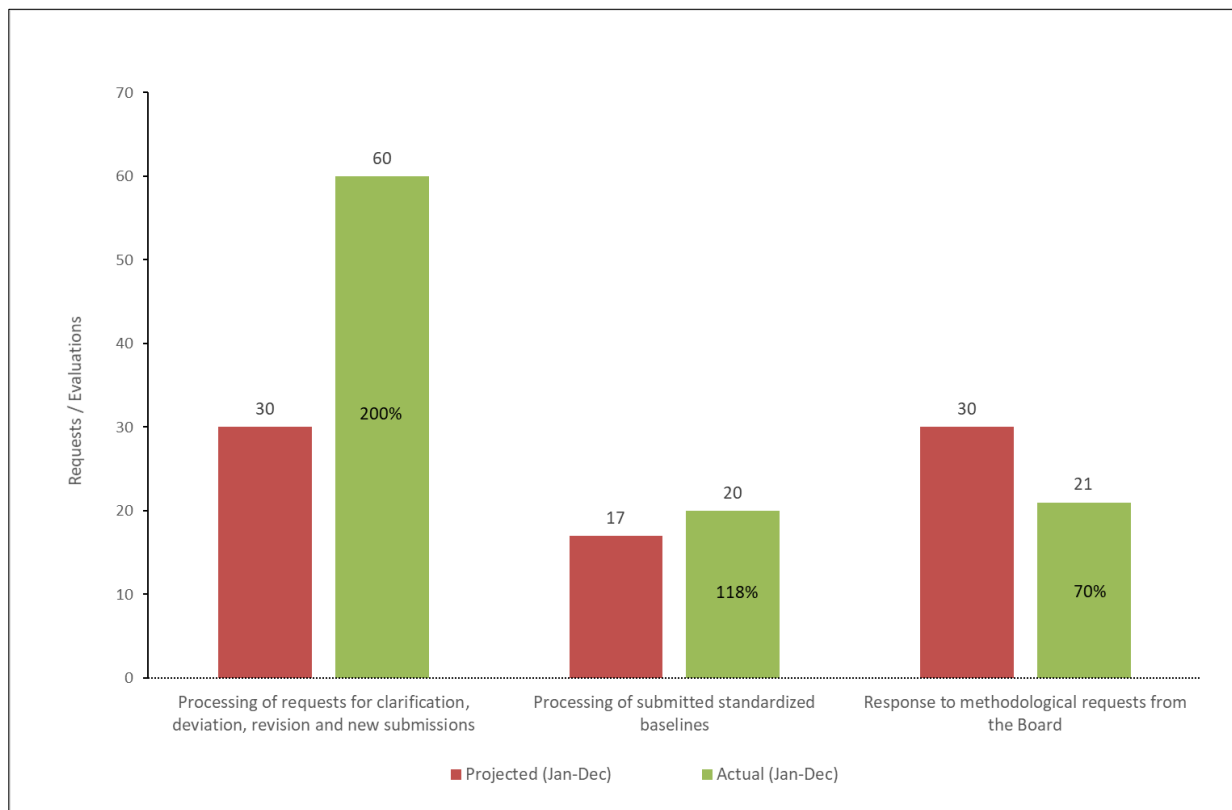
- (a) Bottom-up: PSB0013, PSB0021, PSB0031, PSB0051, PSB0052 and PSB0053 (submitted during previous reporting periods and under process during the current reporting period) and PSB0056, ASU_005, ASU_006 and ASU_007 (submitted during the reporting period) at <https://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/standard_base/2015/sb2.html>.
- (b) Top-down: TSB0002, TSB0006, TSB0008, TSB0013 and TSB0014 (work initiated during previous reporting periods and under process during the current reporting period) <https://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/standard_base/2015/sb5.html>.

³⁸ TOOL09: Determining the baseline efficiency of thermal or electric energy generation systems; AM0036: Use of biomass in heat generation equipment; ACM0006: Electricity and heat generation from biomass; ACM0018: Electricity generation from biomass in power-only plants; ACM0003: Partial substitution of fossil fuels in cement or quicklime manufacture; AMS-II.E: Energy efficiency and fuel switching measures for buildings; AMS-I.E: Switch from non-renewable biomass for thermal application by the user; AMS-II.G: Energy efficiency measures in thermal applications of non-renewable biomass; TOOL30: Calculation of the fraction of non-renewable biomass.

³⁹ AM0031: Bus rapid transit projects; ACM0016: Mass Rapid Transit Projects;; AM0027: Substitution of CO₂ from fossil or mineral origin by CO₂ from renewable sources in the production of inorganic compounds; ACM0022: Alternative waste treatment processes; AMS-III.AJ.: Recovery and recycling of materials from solid wastes; AMS-I.E: Switch from non-renewable biomass for thermal applications by the user; and AMS-II.G: Energy efficiency measures in thermal applications of non-renewable biomass.

⁴⁰ TOOL23: Additionality of first-of-its-kind project activities; TOOL24: Common practice; TOOL27: Investment analysis; TOOL30: Calculation of the fraction of non-renewable biomass; and TOOL32: Positive lists of technologies.

Figure 5. Methodology requests and processing of standardized baselines against annual forecasts (January–December 2020)



63. At EB 106, the Board took note of an update on the approved project under objective 1(c) (“Digitization of methodologies for the web-based generation of project design documents and monitoring template”) and requested the secretariat to present an outcome of the road testing at EB 107.
64. At EB 107 and EB 108, due to time constraints the Board agreed to consider the following items in 2021:
- (a) Progress report on digitalization of methodologies with outcomes of the road testing;
 - (b) Concept note “Revision of project 256: Digitalization of CDM methodologies” to postpone them to 2021. Progress on products associated with this project is shown in table 2.

Table 2. PROJ256: Digitization of methodologies for web-based generation of project design documents and monitoring template (January–December 2020)

Product title/short description	% complete	Forecasted delivery
Road testing ^(a)	100	EB 109
Revision of project 256 ^(b)	100	EB 109

^(a) See CDM-EB104-A01-INFO, table 5, footnote (b), which states, “The Project 256 titled, Digitization of methodologies for web-based generation of project design documents and monitoring templates, as approved in the CDM two-year business and management plan 2018–2019, continues until closure.”

- (b) See CDM-EB104-A01-INFO, table 5, footnote (b), which states, “0.5-person month allocated to prepare a concept note for revising Project 256, for the Board’s consideration at the mid-year of the first year (2020) of the management plan implementation”.

65. At EB 106, EB 107 and EB 108, the following actions were taken by the Board:

- (a) In response to decision 2/CMP.15, paragraph 8, the Board considered a concept note on methodological approaches for calculating emission reductions from project activities, resulting in the reduced use of non-renewable biomass in households. The Board requested the MP and the secretariat to facilitate and streamline the application of “TOOL30: Calculation of the fraction of non-renewable biomass” (EB 106). The Board approved a revision of “TOOL30: Calculation of the fraction of non-renewable biomass” and methodologies “AMS-I.E: Switch from non-renewable biomass from thermal application by the user” and “AMS-II.G: Energy-efficiency measures in thermal applications of non-renewable biomass” (EB 108); The Board also requested the secretariat to identify information related to the baseline of methodologies for clean cooking and present it on the CDM website;
- (b) The Board approved two proposed new methodologies:
- (i) A methodology for using electricity generated from renewable energy sources at shore-side to ships docked at berths, displacing electricity produced from ships’ fossil-fuel auxiliary power generators;
- (ii) A methodology for emission reduction from partial switching of raw materials and increasing the share of additives in the production of blended cement;
- (c) The Board also considered the proposed new methodology “SSC-NM105: Switch from non-renewable biomass to electricity for cooking application by the user” and agreed to seek guidance from the CMP on whether the Board may approve the proposed new methodology;
- (d) The Board approved the revisions of methodologies “AM0036: Use of biomass in heat generation equipment”; “ACM0006: Electricity and heat generation from biomass”; “ACM0018: Electricity generation from biomass in power-only plants”; “ACM0003: Partial substitution of fossil fuels in cement or quicklime manufacture”; “AMS-II.E: Energy efficiency and fuel switching measures for buildings”; and “AMS-III.AR: Substituting fossil fuel-based lighting with LED/CFL lighting systems”;
- (e) The Board considered the concept note “Consistent use of market penetration metrics for additionality, common practice and FOIK” and gave guidance to the MP to propose revisions to related tools with a view to improve and harmonize the provisions on use of market penetration metrics;
- (f) The Board adopted the guideline “Development of PoA applicable to buildings”;
- (g) The Board mandated further work by the MP and the secretariat on:
- (i) The revision of the definition of biomass, biomass residues and renewable biomass in the “Glossary CDM Terms”;
- (ii) The assessment of the regulatory provision related to the change and/or addition of technologies/measures to a registered project activity or PoA;
- (h) The Board agreed to extend the validity of the standardized baseline ASB0034 “Grid emission factor for West African Power Pool” by one year from the date of expiration.

66. In relation to objective 1c, table 1 of the CDM MAP 2020–2021 allocates 5 per cent of the 2020 approved budget to the three operational activities and one project delivering services and products in support of this objective.⁴¹ Table 1 in the appendix shows that, as at 30 December 2020, 5 per cent of the total budget resources for 2020 was utilized against the activities associated with this objective.

2.2. Goal 2: Nurture demand for, and participation in, the clean development mechanism

Partnerships and engagement activities

67. During the reporting period, activities relating to partnerships and engagement activities in support of the CDM MAP 2020–2021 goals and objectives included:

- (a) Strategic missions, prior to the travel restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic:
 - (i) Aviation sustainability summit organized in Brussels, Belgium, by the Airport Council International to explain how the CDM may be used to encourage voluntary action and climate neutrality among airports and airlines;
 - (ii) Climate Neutral Now stakeholder consultations in Seville, Spain, to take stock of lessons learned and discuss ways of enhancing climate action, including using the CDM;
 - (iii) Carbon-pricing workshop for West Africa in Lomé, Ghana, to explore and promote carbon-pricing, including the use of the CDM, for supporting climate action;
 - (iv) Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation workshop on climate action in Jakarta, Indonesia, with a focus on how the CDM methodological framework can be deployed to support the implementation of nationally determined contributions;
- (b) Other exchanges with intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, governments, financial institutions and businesses, mainly through virtual participation and inputs to discussions and events.

Nairobi Framework coordination and regional activities

68. During the reporting period, Nairobi Framework⁴² coordination and regional activities continued focusing on enhancing the capacity of DNAs to become fully operational, building capacity in developing CDM project activities, promoting investment opportunities for projects, improving information sharing, outreach and training, and strengthening inter-agency coordination. Activities included:
- (a) Two coordination meetings held online to address possible disruptions of planned activities of the Nairobi Framework Partnership (NFP) due to the COVID-19 pandemic. NFP partners discussed and agreed to create a repository of online meetings being organized by the partners, which otherwise would have taken place

⁴¹ For the indicative allocation of resources by objective, see CDM-EB104-A01, appendix, tables 1 and 2 at <<http://cdm.unfccc.int/Reference/Notes/index.html>>.

⁴² See Nairobi Framework Partnership at <<https://unfccc.int/process/the-paris-agreement/nairobi-framework-partnership>>.

during the four climate weeks (now postponed to 2021) forecasted in the CDM MAP for 2020;

- (b) The publishing of the NFP Annual Report 2019, documenting the activities completed by the partner agencies and cooperating organizations of the NFP during 2019.⁴³
69. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all regional climate weeks scheduled for 2020 were postponed to 2021. During the reporting period, the secretariat engaged with the host governments, which confirmed their commitments to host the regional climate weeks in 2021. The NFP agreed on a schedule for the regional climate week meetings in 2021 to include a series of virtual events to take place before COP26 in Glasgow. New dates are announced on the UNFCCC website.⁴⁴ In order to keep momentum and advance preparations for 2021, organizing partners developed a set of virtual activities or events that took place in 2020. The virtual activities organized by partners were not meant to replace the regional climate week events in 2020, but rather to serve as pathways towards the preparation of the events that will take place in 2021. These activities were captured in a repository site.⁴⁵
70. At EB 108, the Board took note of updates on the NFP, as part of the draft annual report of the Executive Board to the CMP.

Support to stakeholders/capacity-building (designated operational entities)

71. During the reporting period, three conference calls took place with with the DOE/AIE Coordination Forum (see paragraph 31 above).
72. A total of five interactions (see paragraph 30 above) were recorded during the reporting period against the annual forecast of 12 interactions with stakeholders.

Public policy development

73. During the reporting period, the secretariat continued to gather and analyse reports and information regarding the evolution and direction of carbon-pricing instruments globally. These will be used as a basis for future updates to the Board and as inputs for strategic decision-making by the Board relating to how the CDM may best respond to the evolving post-Paris context, including supporting the potential use of the CDM in emerging emission-trading systems and in the aviation and maritime transport sectors. As part of this work, the secretariat continued to develop its contacts with policymakers and relevant experts globally to ensure that the Board is informed of the latest developments affecting the operation of the CDM. At EB 107 and EB 108, the Board took note of updates on carbon markets and policy developments.

Operation and further development of the United Nations Platform for Voluntary Cancellation of CERs

74. The voluntary cancellation platform has been visited by most of the countries in the world, with contributors from 102 countries completing cancellations. The total number of CERs

⁴³ The report is available at <<https://cdm.unfccc.int/sunsetcms/storage/contents/stored-file-20200303184828321/NFP%20Annual%20Report%202019.pdf>>

⁴⁴ For 2021 dates, consult the UNFCCC website at <<https://unfccc.int/about-the-regional-climate-weeks>>.

⁴⁵ See <<https://unfccc.int/about-us/2020-virtual-activities-organized-by-regional-climate-weeks-partners>>.

cancelled through the platform since its launch in September 2015 is 2,452,491. The average historical price per tonne purchased on the platform is USD 1.03⁴⁶

75. During the reporting period, a major technology upgrade of the voluntary cancellation platform was completed by the service provider to reflect the version changes of the underlying software (Microsoft nopCommerce). The new version of the voluntary cancellation platform was successfully released on 1 July 2020, providing higher performance and security standards in the operation of the platform as well as capacity for greater scalability.

Improvement of the CDM to make it attractive for results-based finance

76. During the reporting period, work was undertaken to make the CDM more attractive for use in result-based finance beyond the Kyoto Protocol by:
- (a) Further broadening its applicability with: (i) the development of new methodologies (requests for approval of new methodologies were processed); (ii) the approval of new standardized baseline; and (iii) the processing of other standardized baselines;
 - (b) Conducting further work with a view to simplifying the use of its infrastructure, including by making progress in the digitalization of methodologies, including the road-testing of ACM0002.

Use of the CDM in climate finance

77. At EB 107, the Board took note of an update on the progress of the support provided to international climate finance institutions.

Nurturing demand for the CDM and voluntary cancellation of certified emission reductions

78. During the reporting period, activities to nurture demand for the CDM and the voluntary cancellation of CERs included:
- (a) Continued outreach to companies and organizations to invite them to estimate their climate footprint, reduce it and compensate for the remainder with CERs. Close to 100 companies and organizations were contacted in the first half of 2020;
 - (b) Exploration of partnerships with organizations to integrate the use of the voluntary cancellation platform in their business models, offering offsetting to their clients in business-to-business and business-to-consumer applications. Several such partnerships are under discussion;
 - (c) Engagement in several working groups on the topic of climate neutrality/net zero emissions to recommend the integration of compensation of unavoidable emissions through the use of CERs.
79. Approximately 10 per cent of the total CERs cancelled through the voluntary cancellation platform and approved by the registry during the reporting period were cancelled by

⁴⁶ For information on the operations of the platform, see the regular bi-annual reports published at: <<https://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/report/>>.

individuals. These represented over 60 per cent of the total voluntary cancellations originated on the voluntary cancellation platform and approved by the registry.⁴⁷

80. At EB107 and EB108, due to time constraints, the Board could not consider the concept note on the proposed promotional activities for the United Nations Online Platform for Voluntary Cancellation of CERs and agreed to consider them in 2021.

Regional Collaboration Centre operations

81. The Regional Collaboration Centres (RCCs) continue to prioritize the work in least developed countries (LDCs) and underrepresented countries in the CDM (i.e. with 10 or fewer registered CDM projects as at 31 December 2010).⁴⁸
82. During the reporting period, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a regional virtual platform⁴⁹ was launched providing a repository of links to, and information on, recently held or upcoming meetings in the six RCC regions, including CDM-related virtual meetings for DNAs and project participants organized by the RCCs, the UNFCCC secretariat and their partners.
83. The annual RCC Global Forum for 2020 was held virtually on 15 October 2020, where RCC partners shared the advances made on 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 mid-year progress and report on planned continuing work by the RCCs in 2020 and beyond, amid the challenging environment posed by the pandemic.

Regional Collaboration Centre on-site support to projects

84. During the reporting period, direct technical support was provided at the regional level to increase participation in the CDM. As at 31 December 2020, the RCCs had supported 229 CDM projects/PoAs against the annual forecasted volume of 210 projects/PoAs. The support resulted in 13 CDM project activities and PoAs progressing at least one step in the CDM project cycle. In addition, the RCCs responded to 301 queries received from stakeholders requesting clarifications on CDM requirements.
85. From the beginning of the RCCs' operations in 2013 until 31 December 2020, the RCCs directly supported 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 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.

⁴⁷ For information on the United Nations platform for voluntary cancellation of certified emission reductions during this reporting period, see CDM-2020VC-INFO02 at https://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/report/index_html.

⁴⁸ See the regular biannual report on RCC operations at <https://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/report/>.

⁴⁹ <https://unfccc.int/about-us/partnerships/current-calls-for-partnerships/regional-collaboration-centres/regional-virtual-platform>.

Regional Collaboration Centre on-site site support to bottom-up standardized baselines

86. During the reporting period, RCCs supported the development of 19 new bottom-up standardized baselines against the annual forecasted volume of 19 requests,⁵⁰ of which approximately 60 per cent originated from DNAs of underrepresented countries in the CDM. As a result of the support provided by the RCCs in the previous years, four proposed standardized baselines⁵¹ and two proposal for updates⁵² were successfully submitted to the secretariat and the Board approved five standardized baselines.⁵³
87. In addition, the RCCs continued to support three top-down standardized baselines for which work commenced in 2019. From the beginning of the RCCs' operations in 2013 until 31 December 2020, the RCCs directly supported the development of 307 standardized baselines, of which 51 were approved by the Board.
88. In summary, in relation to goal 2 and its three objectives on nurturing demand for, and participation in, the CDM, table 1 of the CDM MAP 2020–2021 allocates 26 per cent of the 2020 budgeted resources to the 11 operational activities and one project delivering services and products in support of this goal.⁵⁴ During the reporting period, 22 per cent of the 2020 budgeted resources were spent on the activities associated with this goal.

2.3. Cross-cutting activities

Communications engagement and marketing

89. In addition to stories being published on the United Nations Climate Change main website and United Nations Climate Change CDM website (see tables 3 and 4 in the appendix, respectively), all CDM-related stories published on the main site were promoted via the secretariat's main social media accounts.
90. The secretariat's main social media accounts and websites are the major online assets used to promote the CDM, principally the work on raising demand and promoting the CDM in the context of promoting climate neutrality. The messaging is about Measure, Reduce, Offset. The UN Climate Change social media accounts comprise Facebook, with 479,000 followers; Twitter, 775,000 followers; Instagram, 564,000 followers; LinkedIn, 90,000 followers; and YouTube, 11,000 followers. The use of the UN CarbonMechs social media channels was discontinued, as it has been established that active accounts following the UN CarbonMechs channels also follow the main UN Climate Change accounts.
91. News items relevant to the work of the Board were collected and incorporated in the daily news email compiled by the secretariat's Communications and Outreach Programme.
92. During the reporting period, communications work was carried out in support of key events, including the June Momentum for Climate Change and the Climate Dialogues that took place in November. Communications work in support of the Regional Climate Weeks

⁵⁰ In addition, support was provided to 47 standardized baselines that were continuations from the previous reporting period.

⁵¹ PSB0052 (second submission), PSB0054 (second submission), PSB0055 and PSB 0056.

⁵² ASU_005 and ASU_006.

⁵³ ASB0008-2020, ASB0047-2020, ASB0048-2020, ASB0049-2020 and ASB0050-2020.

⁵⁴ For the indicative allocation of resources by objective, see CDM-EB104-A01, appendix, tables 1 and 2 at <<http://cdm.unfccc.int/Reference/Notes/index.html>>.

was initiated and will be tailored to the postponement and virtual nature of these events taking place at future dates in 2021.

93. Communication engagement and marketing carried out by the RCCs, including through their regular e-newsletters, webinars, workshop support and capacity-building related to the CDM, are described elsewhere in this report.
94. In 2011, the secretariat launched Momentum for Change,⁵⁵ an initiative to recognize and promote climate action. Since 2017, under the Momentum for Change Climate Neutral Now category, organizations, companies and governments achieving real results in transitioning to climate neutrality, including through use of offsets, have been invited to submit their work for consideration.⁵⁶ The most inspiring, innovative and successful activities are selected as winning activities and are recognized and celebrated during the COP and at other key events, such as the Regional Climate Weeks.⁵⁷ In 2020, all in-person events were cancelled due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Instead, for the first time, the initiative organized a series of online events, including at the November Climate Dialogues, to showcase the work of the 2020 winning activities. In addition, the initiative organized the first-ever online award ceremony to recognize this year's winners. Communications work in 2020 centred on encouraging eligible submissions to the 2020 edition of the Awards and on drawing attention to the 2019 and 2020 winners⁵⁸ – for example, through production and promotion of videos⁵⁹ and the online Momentum for Change annual report.⁶⁰
95. During the reporting period, a total of 25 communication products were developed against the annual forecast of 24 products.

Human resources, skills development and learning

96. During the reporting period, and in line with secretariat practice, a staff training plan was developed. The training plan included capacity-building in the areas of:
 - (a) Hosting, moderating and managing virtual meetings;
 - (b) Climate and renewable energy finance;
 - (c) United Nations country team leadership course: maximizing synergies for greater impact;
 - (d) Mobilizing financing for sustainable development;
 - (e) Results-based management, monitoring and evaluation;
 - (f) Women Transforming Leadership Programme;

⁵⁵ Momentum for Change <<https://unfccc.int/climate-action/momentum-for-change>>.

⁵⁶ Climate Neutral Now <<https://unfccc.int/climate-action/momentum-for-change/climate-neutral-now>>.

⁵⁷ For a list of winning activities in this category, please visit <<https://unfccc.int/climate-action/momentum-for-change/climate-neutral-now>>. See a short video of last year's winners at: <<https://vimeo.com/305472800>>.

⁵⁸ UN Global Climate Action Awards 2020 winners: < <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/momentum-for-change/lighthouse-activities#eq-1>>.

⁵⁹ See all videos at < <https://vimeo.com/m4c>>.

⁶⁰ Momentum for Change annual report 2019 <<https://www.momentumforchange.net/2019/>>.

- (g) Chartered Quality Institute and the International Register of Certificated Auditors ISO 9001:2015 lead auditor training course;
 - (h) Energy efficiency in buildings.
97. To maximize the outcomes from capacity-building programmes, the secretariat focused on areas where a number of staff skills could be enhanced through small-group training, as opposed to concentrating on individual capacity-building learning opportunities (15 staff members undertook specific virtual training related to their job descriptions in areas of secretarial support, organizational development, leadership, communications, climate finance, SharePoint, Microsoft Visio and taxonomy development).
98. During the reporting period, a total of 107 contracts (staff, general temporary assistance, CDM and RIT experts, interns) were managed against the annual forecast of 115 contracts managed.

Finance (including budget, expert payments, fee payments and procurement)

99. The finance administration team processed 291 financial and procurement-related transactions against the annual forecast of 315 transactions. Additionally, 25 monitoring reports⁶¹ were produced against the annual forecast of 25 reports.
100. During the reporting period, 99 travel-related cases and expense reports related to the operations of the CDM were processed against the annual forecast of 640 travel cases, reflecting the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the travel of staff, the Board and funded-participants.

Intra-secretariat information technology engagement agreements

101. During the reporting period, information technology (IT) operational activities supported under the IT engagement agreement included:
- (a) CDM systems application, maintenance and support. Authoring tool - used for preparing and cataloguing the documentation of the Board and its panel and working groups (three issues were supported);
 - (b) CDM registry - operational maintenance, software maintenance and security (five issues resolved and several change requests related to reporting and registry functionalities and the assessment of the voluntary cancellation platform Application Programming Interface);
 - (c) CDM Information System - manual interventions, operational change requests for the CDM, and roster of experts system support (3 business process activities, 3 change requests, 44 content management updates, 481 manual interventions, 83 user administration requests, 87 user help requests, 52 reported problems and 52 requests for other types of support);
 - (d) Simplified Processing Tool - application service management for support testing of activities with external users, oversight of development work for improving functionalities, reducing technical debt and advancing some work for preparing the migration to SharePoint Online in 2021, overall support and maintenance plus minimal cost for oversight from UNFCCC ICT;
 - (e) Sustainable Development Tool - minimal maintenance;

⁶¹ Includes twelve CDM financial monthly reports, nine core & supplementary budget financial reports, two audit reports and two ICT quarterly reports.

- (f) Stakeholder Interaction System - change and maintenance, including minor bug fixes;
 - (g) Meeting and workshop support: support was provided to in person and virtual meetings of the CDM-AP (two meetings), CDM-Assessment Team virtual calibration workshop, MP (three meetings) and the Board (three meetings);
 - (h) Data centre hosting services: business-as-usual and recovery services for the CDM Information System (CDM-IS) content management system, CDM registry and CDM mailing lists;
 - (i) Licenses: business-as-usual services in support of desktop and specialized software.
102. During the reporting period, two IT projects were initiated under the engagement agreement as follows:
- (a) **CDM activities lifecycle project** - to further enhance the CDM-IS capabilities including: changes resulting from the revised DOE performance monitoring procedure (approved by the Board at EB 106), related workflows, e-mail capabilities and usability improvements. Enhancing the CDM-IS will provide a workflow framework which is flexible and adaptable to other CDM business processes and will include a user interface portal that features additional process areas and related tools to be easily integrated in the future. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and temporary measures agreed by the Board at EB 108 for activities with new crediting period or PoA period starting on or after 1 January 2021 and issuance of CERs for emission reductions achieved on or after 1 January 2021, the related work had higher priority over the timeline of this project. Below is an updated status of the deliverables:
 - (i) DOE performance monitoring procedure - upgrade of the workflow to capture and provide the results of DOE performance monitoring: completed in 2020;
 - (ii) Erroneous inclusion and exclusion of CPAs, including voluntary exclusion of CPAs: moved to 2021;
 - (iii) Addition of options to make editorial changes in the completeness check stage: moved to 2021;
 - (iv) Automated workflow to process withdrawal requests: 50 per cent of the work completed in 2020;
 - (v) De-registration workflow: 50 per cent of the work completed in 2020;
 - (vi) CDM webpages clean-up with a focus on the project search section of the CDM website and on extending it to include a PoA search capability: 20 per cent of the work completed in 2020;
 - (vii) Modalities of Communication /Customer Relationship Management database upgrade: moved to 2021. The original scope was changed during third quarter of 2020 and additional deliverables were added;
 - (viii) Upgrade of forwarding form: completed in 2020;
 - (ix) Number of small change requests to enhance existing workflow and reduce manual intervention: completed in 2020 though the CDM Information System service maintenance work (as part of the 32 change requests listed in paragraph 102 (iii)).

- (b) **Development of a centralized RCC IT portal and tool project** - to consolidate the information and data on the six RCCs, allowing for improved planning and reporting against the work of RCCs. During the reporting period, the requirements for the project have been identified and information has been collected to develop the portal and tool. The IT tool has been developed and it will be rolled out in 2021.

103. Table 3 indicates the expenditure for services received under the IT engagement agreement during the reporting period.

Table 3. Information technology services expenditure for the reporting period (January-December 2020)

Services received	Expenditure (USD)
Operational	
Application, maintenance and support to CDM systems	367,514.53
System infrastructure services (data hosting services)	163,395.85
Service desk support for workshops/meetings	13,591.57
Licenses	20,075.84
Sub-total	564,577.79
Projects *	
Enhance the CDM-IS capabilities	67,928.91
Development of a centralized RCC IT portal	92,409.86
Total*	724,916.56

*Includes obligations.

Internal communications

104. During the reporting period, 12 internal newsletters were prepared and published to inform staff of the progress under operational activities and projects, including important milestones, achievements and goals related to the CDM MAP 2020–2021. In addition, 44 secretariat-wide news articles were prepared and published to ensure information-sharing and cross-programme collaboration, for a total of 56 communication products against the annual forecasted volume of 40 communication products.

Information, knowledge and records management

105. During the reporting period, the cataloguing and indexing of the Board's regulatory documents, including the documentation of its supporting meeting bodies, included the indexing of 144 documents, which ensures transparency and access to the regulatory decisions via the public CDM Catalogue of Decisions database.⁶² Over 3,600 searchable documents are contained in the Catalogue of Decisions database, utilizing over 500 controlled vocabulary terms in the integrated taxonomy.

106. The secretariat is increasing its use of SharePoint technology, and to date the Mitigation Division, supporting the CDM work programme, has a total of over 90 internal sites with almost 500 subsites. Each site contains libraries and lists which comprise records and information relating to work supporting the Board, its working groups and the CDM. These platforms and information are managed using a robust taxonomy with CDM-specific keywords, which enables user-friendly search and retrieval. The secretariat continues to migrate content to the cloud (servers that are accessed over the Internet), which will

⁶² Searchable catalogue of CDM-EB decisions available at <http://cdm.unfccc.int/Reference/catalogue/search>.

ensure the long-term preservation of material and, over time, safeguard CDM records and information.

107. In terms of physical records, approximately 10 linear metres of physical records were appraised and managed. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was limited access to the physical records reducing the volume of on-site physical record appraisal.

Management of division/units

108. Several active internal processes and meeting bodies contributed to the planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting of the operational activities and projects supporting the two goals and six objectives included in the CDM MAP 2020–2021.

Planning, monitoring and reporting

109. The Board receives regular reports relating to the implementation of its CDM MAP for consideration on a regular basis. These reports provide information on progress made in specific areas and are considered between meetings. The following reports, delivered during the reporting period, are available on the UNFCCC CDM website:

- (a) Status of CDM MAP 2018–2019 implementation (1 January to 31 December 2019);⁶³
- (b) Annual key performance indicators (2019);⁶⁴
- (c) RCC 2019 end-year and 2020 mid-year reports;⁶⁵
- (d) United Nations platform for voluntary cancellation of certified emission reductions 2019 end-year and 2020 mid-year reports;⁶⁶
- (e) Annual report on stakeholder communications (2019).⁶⁷
- (f) Status of CDM MAP 2020–2021 implementation (1 January to 30 June 2020)⁶⁸
- (g) Synthesis report of the annual activity reports submitted by the designated operational entities for the reporting period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.⁶⁹

Secretariat-wide responsibilities

110. During this reporting period, the Mitigation Division, being an integral part of the secretariat, fulfilled its secretariat-wide responsibilities including contributions to several UNFCCC internal processes and meeting bodies.
111. In summary, in relation to the cross-cutting activities, table 1 of the CDM MAP 2020–2021 allocates 22 per cent of the budgeted resources for 2020 to the 11 cross-cutting operational activities delivering services and products across the two goals and six

⁶³ See CDM-2019Q4-INFO01 <<https://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/report>>.

⁶⁴ See CDM-2019KPI-INFO01 at <<https://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/report>>.

⁶⁵ See CDM-2019RCC-INFO02 at <<https://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/report>>.

⁶⁶ See CDM-2019VC-INFO02 at <<https://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/report>>.

⁶⁷ See CDM-2019SC-INFO01 at <<https://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/report>>.

⁶⁸ See CDM-2020Q2-INFO01 at <<https://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/report>>.

⁶⁹ See CDM-2020SYN-INFO01 at <<https://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/report>>.

objectives.⁷⁰ During the reporting period, 31 per cent of the annual budgeted resources were spent on the activities associated with this objective (see table 1 in the appendix).

3. Financial update

3.1. Status of income from 1 January to 31 December 2020

112. Table 4 shows the balance brought forward from 2019 and the income received from 1 January to 31 December 2020.

Table 4. Income received in 2020, including carry-over from 2019 (USD)⁷¹

Carry-over figure from 2019 (A)	76 157 278
Income received in 2020	
Accreditation fees	45 000
Fees from the accreditation process	49 778
Registration fees ^(a)	816 477
Share of proceeds (SOP) ^(b)	14 216 529
Subtotal – Income: 1 Jan to 31 Dec 2020 (B)	15 127 785
Current balance of 2019 carry-over and 2020 income (A + B)	91 285 063

Note: USD 45 million held in reserve (EB 45, 2009) are not included in the above figures.

^(a) This fee is based on the average annual issuance of CERs over the first crediting period and calculated as a share of proceeds (SOP) to cover administrative expenses, as defined in decision 7/CMP.1, paragraph 37. Projects with annual average emission reductions of less than 15,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent are exempt from the registration fee, and the maximum fee applicable is USD 350,000. This fee is a prepayment of the SOP to cover administrative expenses;

^(b) The SOP, payable at the time of issuance of CERs, is USD 0.10 per CER issued for the first 15,000 CERs for which issuance is requested in each calendar year, and USD 0.20 per CER issued for amounts in excess of 15,000 CERs.

113. The total fees received as at 31 December 2020 amounted to USD 15.1 million (see table 4). This is 168 per cent of the projected income of USD 9.0 million for 2020.⁷² The total fees received during the same period last year (January–December 2019) were USD 10.4 million (116 per cent).⁷³

114. CERs held in the CDM registry at the end of December 2020 amounted to 407.0 million. The secretariat has already performed all related tasks (with the exception of forwarding) for the corresponding project issuances. The SOP from administration remaining due for CERs held in the pending account of the CDM registry amounts to approximately USD 51.9 million. This is a decrease of USD 9.0 million in comparison to August 2018 when the outstanding SOP reached its peak of USD 60.9 million for issuances that were submitted

⁷⁰ For the indicative allocation of resources by objective, see CDM-EB104-A01, appendix, tables 1 and 2 at <<http://cdm.unfccc.int/Reference/Notes/index.html>>.

⁷¹ The data presented in this report are subject to change, as the financial period remains open at the time the report is being finalized.

⁷² As per the CDM MAP 2020–2021 (CDM-EB104-A01-INFO, table 12).

⁷³ As per Status of CDM MAP 2018–2019 implementation (1 Jan to 31 Dec 2019) document (CDM-2019Q4-INFO01, table 7).

under the old rule. The new rules approved by the Board for partial payment of SOP on already approved issuances and upfront payment of SOP on new issuances were implemented in 2018. These rules are intended to enable some of the outstanding SOP amount to be recovered or to prevent it from growing further.

3.2. Expenditure from 1 January to 31 December 2020

115. Table 5a shows the expenditure incurred and the utilization rate against the 2020 reporting period (12 months). Table 5b shows the expenditure incurred and the utilization rate against the 2020–2021 budget period (24 months).

Table 5a. Comparison of budget and expenditure from 1 Jan to 31 Dec 2020 (USD)

Expenditure classification	Budget	Expenditure	Difference	% Rate of
	2020	(Jan–Dec 2020)	to 2020 budget (a – b)	expenditure vs. 2020 budget (b/a)
	a	b ^(a)	c	d
Staff ^(a)	10 469 682	10 870 893	(401 211)	103.8
Consultants ^(b)	257 950	84 308	173 642	32.7
Expert fees ^(c)	153 100	197 052	(43 352)	128.7
Expert travel ^(d)	199 200	47 723	151 477	24.0
Travel of representatives ^(e)	408 550	98 231	310 319	24.0
Travel of representatives (EB) ^(f)	363 000	23 282	339 718	6.4
Travel of staff ^(g)	290 800	16 400	274 400	5.6
Training ^(h)	18 000	32 533	(14 533)	180.7
Operating expenses ⁽ⁱ⁾	481 300	137 133	344 167	28.5
RCC operations ^(j)	528 800	440 692	88 108	83.3
Total cost of ownership ^(k)	1 364 978	1 185 438	179 540	86.8
Engagement agreement (ICT) ^(l)	953 659	724 196	228 742	76.0
Mobile telecommunications ^(m)	7 200	2 208	4 992	30.7
Supplies and material ⁽ⁿ⁾	76 500	22 635	53 865	29.6
Grants (EB) ^(o)	350 000	326 460	23 540	93.3
Subtotal	15 922 719	14 209 905	1 712 814	89.2
13% programme support ^(p)	2 069 953	1 847 288	222 665	89.2
Total	17 992 672	16 057 193	1 935 479	89.2

Table 5b. Comparison of the biennium budget 2020–2021 and expenditure from 1 Jan to 31 Dec 2020 (USD)

Expenditure classification	Budget 2020 a	Budget 2021 b	Total 2020–2021 (a+b) c	Expenditure (Jan 20 – Dec 20) d ^(q)	Difference to 2020–2021 budget (c-d) e	% Rate of expenditure vs. 2020–2021 budget (d/c) f
Staff ^(a)	10 469 682	9 489 307	19 958 989	10 870 893	9 088 096	54.5
Consultants ^(b)	257 950	233 475	491 425	84 308	407 117	17.2
Expert fees ^(c)	153 100	138 400	291 500	197 052	94 448	67.6
Expert travel ^(d)	199 200	187 800	387 000	47 723	339 277	12.3
Travel of representatives ^(e)	408 550	396 095	804 645	98 231	706 414	12.2
Travel of representatives (EB) ^(f)	363 000	326 700	689 700	23 282	666 418	3.4
Travel of staff ^(g)	290 800	263 960	554 760	16 400	538 360	3.0
Training ^(h)	18 000	16 200	34 200	32 533	1 667	95.1
Operating expenses ⁽ⁱ⁾	481 300	434 455	915 755	137 133	778 622	15.0
RCC operations ^(j)	528 800	439 900	968 700	440 692	528 008	45.5
Total cost of ownership (TCO) ^(k)	1 364 978	1 242 978	2 607 956	1 185 438	1 422 518	45.5
Engagement agreement (ICT)) ^(l)	953 659	753 659	1 707 318	724 917	982 402	42.5
Mobile telecommunications ^(m)	7 200	6 480	13 680	2 208	11 472	16.1
Supplies and material ⁽ⁿ⁾	76 500	68 800	145 300	22 635	122 665	15.6
Grants (EB) ^(o)	350 000	350 000	700 000	326 460	373 540	46.6
Subtotal	15 922 719	14 348 209	30 270 928	14 209 905	16 061 023	46.9
13% programme support ^(p)	2 069 953	1 865 267	3 935 220	1 860 616	2 087 932	46.9
Total	17 992 672	16 213 476	34 206 148	16 057 193	18 148 956	46.9

- (a) Staff costs include staff salaries, general temporary assistance costs and staff-related costs such as dependency allowance, education grant, rental subsidy, home-leave travel, travel on appointment and separation, and overtime payments;
 - (b) Consultant costs include consultant and individual contractor fees and associated travel costs;
 - (c) Expert fees refer to panel and working group attendance fees and case fees;
 - (d) Expert travel refers to ticket costs and daily subsistence allowance (DSA) of panel and working group members;
 - (e) Travel of representatives includes ticket cost and DSA for participants in the CDM meetings and workshops including the DNA Forum;
 - (f) Travel of representatives (EB) includes ticket costs, DSA and 40 per cent additional DSA for members/alternate members attending meetings of the Board and the EB events at the UNFCCC sessions;
 - (g) Travel of staff includes ticket costs, DSA, terminal expenses and miscellaneous expenses;
 - (h) Training includes attendance and/or course fees, ticket costs and DSA;
 - (i) Operating expenses include rental of equipment, shipping and transport costs, maintenance costs and other logistical costs;
 - (j) RCC operations costs include costs related to administering the RCCs, RCC staff missions, including travel and mission substantial allowance costs, RCC Global Forum and RCC Roundtable;
 - (k) TCO – Service programmes in the secretariat (ICT and Administrative Services) render services to all secretariat activities funded from both core and non-core sources of funding (such as the CDM Trust Fund). The purpose of TCO charges is to ensure the allocation of costs of these support services to the sources of funding to which they relate. In 2020, the TCO charge per capita of EUR 13,500 is applied;
 - (l) Engagement agreement (ICT) includes information technology (IT) costs related to the support for the management plan projects and the maintenance of the operational IT infrastructure required to operate the CDM project activity cycle workflows (e.g. registry, project submission work flows);
 - (m) Mobile telecommunications costs are official mobile telephone charges for mobile phone services and do not include the charges incurred on the regular office telephones (those are covered through TCO);
 - (n) Supplies and material costs include the acquisition of hardware, supplies, software and subscriptions;
 - (o) Grants (EB) include support to individual members/alternate members of the Board for: (i) secretarial/administrative support (temporary secretarial staff and related services, printing, stationery and consumable materials, telephone and internet costs, insurance to cover the loss or theft of laptops); and (ii) IT-related expenses (laptop and software, printers);
 - (p) Programme support – In accordance with the financial procedures of the United Nations, 13 per cent of overhead charges are payable on all UNFCCC trust funds to cover administrative services provided by the United Nations Office at Geneva and the UNFCCC secretariat;
 - (q) Expenditure includes obligations.
116. Column (d) in table 5a shows the rate of expenditure as a percentage of the 2020 budget for each cost category. The total rate of expenditure (89.9 per cent) is below the projected rate of expenditure (100 per cent) for the reporting period.
117. Column (f) in table 5b shows rate of expenditure as a percentage of the 2020–2021 biennium budget for each cost category. The total rate of expenditure (47.3 per cent) is slightly below the linear projected rate of expenditure (50 per cent) for the reporting period.
118. Staff costs amount to 103.8 per cent of the projected 2020 budget for this object of expenditure, which is slightly higher than the projected rate of expenditure (100 per cent)

- for the reporting period. This reflects the engagement of fellows and general temporary assistance.
119. Consultant costs amount to 32.7 per cent of the projected 2020 budget for this object of expenditure, which is significantly lower than the projected rate of expenditure (100 per cent). Several consultancies planned during the reporting period to support training and development were not on-boarded due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, an adjustment to the 2020 training planning was made and training and development activities were carried out by individual staff virtually and are reported under the training object of expenditure (see paragraph 127 below).
 120. Expert fees amount to 128.7 per cent of the projected 2020 budget for this object of expenditure, which is higher than the projected rate of expenditure (100 per cent). Expenditure reflects the increase in the project assessment cases against projected volumes in 2020.
 121. Expert travel amounts to 24.0 per cent of the projected 2020 budget for this object of expenditure, which is significantly lower than the projected rate of expenditure (100 per cent). This reflects the travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic (panel meetings held virtually).
 122. Travel of representatives amounts to 24.0 per cent of the projected 2020 budget for this object of expenditure, which is significantly lower than the projected rate of expenditure (100 per cent). Travel of representatives includes ticket cost and DSA for participants in the CDM meetings and workshops, including the DNA Forum. Expenditure reflects the cancelation of in-person meetings and workshops in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 123. Travel of Board members amounts to 6.4 per cent of the projected 2020 budget for this object of expenditure, which is significantly lower than the projected rate of expenditure (100 per cent). This reflects the travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic (Board meetings held virtually).
 124. Travel of staff amounts to 5.6 per cent of the 2020 budget for this object of expenditure, which is significantly lower than the projected rate of expenditure (100 per cent). This reflects the travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 125. Training costs amount to 180.7 per cent of the projected 2020 budget for this object of expenditure, which is significantly higher than the projected rate of expenditure (100 per cent). This reflects adjustments to the training schedule resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. On-site training by consultants (see paragraph 121 above) was exchanged with virtual training.
 126. Operating expenses amount to 28.5 per cent of the projected 2020 budget for this object of expenditure, which is significantly lower than the linearly projected rate of expenditure (100 per cent). This reflects savings in logistical costs associated with some meetings being held virtually during the reporting period.
 127. RCC operations costs amount to 83.3 per cent of the projected 2020 budget for this object of expenditure, which is lower than the projected rate of expenditure (100 per cent). This is due to reduced activities, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
 128. Total cost of ownership costs amount to 86.8 per cent of the projected 2020 budget for this object of expenditure, which is lower than the projected rate of expenditure (100 per cent). This is due to the reduced number of on-site consultants, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

129. Engagement agreement costs (ICT) amount to 76.0 per cent of the projected 2020 budget for this object of expenditure, which is lower than the projected rate of expenditure (100 per cent). This is due to reduced requirements for internal ICT meeting and workshop support, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
130. Mobile telecommunications costs are 30.7 per cent of the projected 2020 budget for this object of expenditure, which is lower than the linearly projected rate of expenditure (100 per cent). This reflects the lower cost of mobile communications as a result of staff travel restrictions during the reporting period due to the COVID-19 pandemic (staff did not travel to support meetings and events held outside of Bonn).
131. Supplies and materials costs amount to 29.6 per cent of the projected 2020 budget for this object of expenditure, which is significantly lower than the projected rate of expenditure (100 per cent). This is due to a reduction in subscription services in 2020.
132. The expenditure for EB grants amounts to 93.3 per cent of the projected 2020 budget for this object of expenditure, which is lower than the projected rate of expenditure (100 per cent).

3.3. Summary of financial position (income and expenditure status, as at 31 December 2020)

133. Table 6 below shows the balance of the CDM Trust Fund as at 31 December 2020.

Table 6. Income and expenditure status, as at 31 December 2020 (USD)

Carry-over figure from 2019 (A)	76 157 278
Status of funds for the period Jan.–Dec. 2020	
Income: 1 Jan–31 Dec 2020 (B)	15 127 785
Current balance of 2019 carry-over and 2020 income (A+B)	91 285 063
Expenditure: 1 Jan–31 Dec 2020 (C)	16 057 193
Balance available at 31 December 2020 (A+B-C)	75 227 870

Note: USD 45 million held in reserve (EB 45, 2009) are not included in the above figures.

134. Table 7 below shows the income and expenditure trend for the period January to December for the years 2018, 2019 and 2020.

Table 7. Income and expenditure trend, as at 31 December 2020 (USD)

	As at 31 Dec 2018	As at 31 Dec 2019	As at 31 Dec 2020
Income	11 191 822	10 441 779	15 127 785
Expenditure	17 873 541	17 735 674	16 057 193
Income minus expenditure	(6 668 719)	(7 293 895)	(929 408)
Income as a rate of projected income of USD 9 million	124.4%	116.6%	168.1%
Expenditure as a rate of the annual budget	89.7%	91.0%	89.2%

4. Human resources

135. In 2020, the secretariat had a skilled and flexible workforce, including 85 staff funded under the CDM Trust Fund, with a specialized focus on delivering results effectively and efficiently against the approved CDM MAP 2020–2021 activities and projects.
136. As part of the workforce planning, the priority continues to be on optimizing the organizational structure to ensure the effective use of the full range of expertise across the secretariat, adopting a strategy of natural attrition, ensuring the full use of available staff resources over consultants or temporary hires, considering the expertise required and the optimal use of staff-related expertise versus external resource use. Additionally, in efforts to prudently manage resources and bring new skills and experience into the secretariat, interns and fellows are recruited in accordance with United Nations rules and regulations to support the work on the implementation of the CDM MAP 2020–2021.
137. The secretariat has systems in place to track and report on human resource deployment and closely monitors resource allocations against priority areas of work to ensure the full utilization of available staff in delivering high-quality products on time.

5. Conclusions and recommendations

138. The end-year review, as at 31 December, indicates that approved operational activities and projects are being delivered in accordance with the CDM MAP 2020–2021.
139. The Board may take note of the status of the CDM MAP 2020–2021 as at 31 December 2020.

Appendix. Reporting data (January–December 2020)

Table 1. Resources spent against the two goals and six objectives in the approved management plan 2020–2021 during the twelve-month reporting period (January–December 2020)

Objective	Title of objective	Staff months	Non-staff costs (USD)	% of resources allocated	% of resource usage
1 (a)	Operate efficient project and entity assessment processes	135,9	102,840	22%	15%
1 (b)	Operate an effective regulatory framework resulting in reduced transaction costs for participants in the mechanisms	115,9	547,349	25%	16%
1 (c)	Develop simplified and user-friendly standards and procedures that increase efficiency and ensure environmental integrity	46,9	304	5%	5%
2 (a-c)	Facilitate the acceptance of certified emission reductions (CERs) for compliance purposes; Enhance the use of the clean development mechanism (CDM) for voluntary purposes; Further develop the CDM as a key tool for monitoring, reporting and verifying the outcomes of mitigation finance	158,5	685,808	26%	22%
Cross-cutting	Communications, information technology, finance, planning, monitoring and reporting	229,3	817,272	22%	31%

Table 2. Volume of operational activities and projects completed in comparison with annual forecasted volumes (January–December 2020)

Objective 1 (a) – Operate efficient project and entity assessment processes

MAP 2020–2021 activity	Units	Projected annual volume in MAP (Jan.–Dec. 2020)	Actual volume (Jan.–Dec. 2020)
Changes to modalities of communication and requests for registry transactions	Registry transactions	8 200	6 333
	Changes to modalities of communication	1 900	1 664
CDM registry reports	Reports	400	449
Opening and maintaining VCP seller accounts	Accounts	80	79
Requests for: direct communication, renewal of crediting period, and review	Requests for direct communication	30	32
	Requests for renewal of crediting period	432	423 ^(a)
	Requests for review (registration and issuance)	20	45
Requests for PoA issuance	Requests	110	141 ^(b)
Requests for PoA PRC	Requests	55	151
Requests for PoA registration	Requests	20	37
Requests for project issuance	Requests	350	358
Requests for project PRC	Requests	20	26
Requests for project registration	Requests	20	51
PoA post-registration CPA inclusion requests	CPA inclusions	200	223 ^(c)
Sustainable development co-benefits including reporting and promotional activities	Reports	10	7
Performance assessments (validation and verification)	Performance assessment (validation and verification)	10	4
Regular surveillance and spot checks	Regular surveillance assessments and spot checks	24	4
Requests for initial accreditation and re-accreditation	Requests for initial accreditation and re-accreditation	2	2
Calibrate assessment team leads	Workshop	1	1
DOE calibration workshop	Workshop	1	0

^(a) Figure includes the processing of 62 PoA renewal requests.

^(b) Figure includes the processing of 1074 CPAs.

^(c) These include 9 renewal of crediting period for CPAs.

Objective 1 (b) – Operate an effective regulatory framework resulting in reduced transaction costs for participants in the mechanism

MAP 2020–2021 activity	Units	Projected annual volume in MAP (Jan.–Dec. 2020)	Actual volume (Jan.–Dec. 2020)
Media relations	Media contact	12	12
Stakeholder communications	Transactions	400	677
Policy analysis and reports	Reports	4	2
Calls for inputs and feedback to stakeholders	Call for inputs	40	8
	Annual report	1	1
Global and regional DNA Forums	Events	4	0
Accreditation Panel	Meetings	3	2
Methodologies Panel	Meetings	3	3
Roster of experts (CDM)	Notes related to selection of experts	2	1
Support to the Executive Board	Meetings	4	43
Entity administration	Entities	31	30
Entity assessment planning	Assessments	35	12
Entity performance monitoring system	System	1	1
Handling of complaints and requests for review	Report	1	0 ^(a)
R&I system support	Tasks	3 055	3 582
Maintenance of the regulatory framework (i.e. forms, glossary, guidelines, checklists)	Amendments	12	4
Revision of the regulatory framework (VVS, PS, PCP) to allow for the road testing of the digitized methodology (ACM002)	Concept Note	1	1

^(a) No complaint received during reporting period.

Objective 1 (c) – Develop simplified and user-friendly standards and procedures that increase efficiency and ensure environmental integrity

MAP 2020–2021 activity	Units	Projected annual volume in MAP (Jan.–Dec. 2020)	Actual volume (Jan.–Dec. 2020)
Processing of requests for clarification, deviation, revision, new submissions	Clarification requests	18	51
	Deviations requests	0	0
	New submission request	2	7
	Revision requests	10	3
Processing of standardized baselines	Evaluations	17	20

MAP 2020–2021 activity	Units	Projected annual volume in MAP (Jan.–Dec. 2020)	Actual volume (Jan.–Dec. 2020)
Response to methodological requests from the Board	Requests	30	21

Objective 2 (a) Facilitate the acceptance of certified emission reductions (CERs) for compliance purposes; Objective 2 (b) Enhance the use of the clean development mechanism (CDM) for voluntary purposes; Objective 2 (c) Further develop the CDM as a key tool for monitoring, reporting and verifying the outcomes of mitigation finance

MAP 2020–2021 activity	Units	Projected annual volume in MAP (Jan.–Dec. 2020)	Actual volume (Jan.–Dec. 2020)
Partnership and engagement activities	Missions	8	4
Nairobi Framework coordination and regional activities with a specific focus on Africa, LDCs and SIDS	Coordination meetings	2	2
	Regional activities	4	0
Support to stakeholders/ capacity-building (DOEs)	Interactions	12	5
Public policy development	Countries engaged	15	15
Nurturing demand for CDM and voluntary cancellation of CERs	Organizations/individuals cancellations on VC platform	4 450	3 119
RCC operations	RCCs	6	6
RCCs: on-site support to projects	Supported projects	210	229
RCC support to bottom-up standardized baselines	Supported standardized baselines	19	19

Cross-cutting activities

MAP 2020–2021 activity	Units	Projected annual volume in MAP (Jan.–Dec. 2020)	Actual volume (Jan.–Dec. 2020)
Communications engagement and marketing	Communication products	24	25
Human resources, skills development and learning	Contracts managed	115	107
Finance (including budget, expert payments, fee payments and procurement)	Reports; procurements	340	316
Intra-secretariat information technology engagement agreement	Agreement development; portfolio managed	1	1
Internal communication	Communication products	40	56
Information, knowledge and records management	Terabytes of CDM electronic files	2	2
Supplies and subscriptions	Subscriptions	10	10

MAP 2020–2021 activity	Units	Projected annual volume in MAP (Jan.–Dec. 2020)	Actual volume (Jan.–Dec. 2020)
Travel management	Travel cases	640	99
Planning, monitoring and reporting	Management plan	1	1
	Reports on status of implementation	2	2
	Effort tracking system	1	1

Table 3. Stories promoted on the United Nations Climate Change website

Story	Date (2020)	Link
1. Preparations Underway for Africa Climate Week 2020 in Kampala	24/01	< https://unfccc.int/news/preparations-underway-for-africa-climate-week-2020-in-kampala >
2. Climate Neutral Now Welcomes First French Football Club	24/01	< https://unfccc.int/news/climate-neutral-now-welcomes-first-french-football-club >
3. Postponed – Africa Climate Week in Kampala	6/03	< https://unfccc.int/news/postponed-africa-climate-week-in-kampala >
4. Climate Neutral Now Initiative Passes 300 Participant Milestone	12/03	< https://unfccc.int/news/climate-neutral-now-initiative-passes-300-participant-milestone >
5. Applications for 2020 UN Global Climate Action Awards: Deadline extended until 11 May 2020	30/04	< https://unfccc.int/news/applications-for-2020-un-global-climate-action-awards-deadline-extended-until-11-may-2020 >
6. First Virtual Meeting of CDM Executive Board	11/05	< https://unfccc.int/news/first-virtual-meeting-of-cdm-executive-board >
7. Climate Conversations: Climate Neutral Now (a story and link to an on-demand video of a Facebook Live event)	13/05	< https://unfccc.int/news/climate-conversations-climate-neutral-now >
8. CDM Adjusts to COVID-19 Challenges	16/06	< https://unfccc.int/news/cdm-adjusts-to-covid-19-challenges >
9. Kyoto's Second Phase Emission Reductions Achievable But Greater Ambition Needed	17/06	< https://unfccc.int/news/kyoto-s-second-phase-emission-reductions-achievable-but-greater-ambition-needed >
10. UN Climate Change Continues to Mobilize the Industrial Sector	29/07	< https://unfccc.int/news/un-climate-change-continues-to-mobilize-the-industrial-sector >
11. UN Carbon Offset Platform Reaches 2 Million CERs Milestone	24/08	< https://unfccc.int/news/un-carbon-offset-platform-reaches-2-million-cers-milestone >
12. RCCs Help Deliver Coordinated Climate Action - Report	07/09	< https://unfccc.int/news/rccs-help-deliver-coordinated-climate-action-report >

Story	Date (2020)	Link
13. Calls Increase to Use Carbon Pricing as an Effective Climate Action Tool	22/09	< https://unfccc.int/news/calls-increase-to-use-carbon-pricing-as-an-effective-climate-action-tool >
14. The CDM Executive Board Considers CDM Beyond 2020	06/10	< https://unfccc.int/news/the-cdm-executive-board-considers-cdm-beyond-2020 >
15. New Carbon Footprint Calculator to Support Climate Action	08/10	< https://unfccc.int/news/new-carbon-footprint-calculator-to-support-climate-action >
16. UN Climate Change Fosters Regional Carbon Pricing	09/10	< https://unfccc.int/news/un-climate-change-fosters-regional-carbon-pricing >
17. Winners of the 2020 UN Global Climate Action Awards Announced	27/10	< https://unfccc.int/news/winners-of-the-2020-un-global-climate-action-awards-announced >
18. The CDM Executive Board Agrees on Temporary Measures to Address COP26 Postponement	16/12	< https://unfccc.int/news/the-cdm-executive-board-agrees-on-temporary-measures-to-address-cop26-postponement >

Table 4. Stories and In-Focus advisories published on the CDM website

Story	Date (2020)	Link
1. Reminder - Deadline renewal of crediting period	20/01	< https://cdm.unfccc.int/ > (sixth slide in In-Focus) < https://cdm.unfccc.int/newsroom/latestnews/releases/2019/01043_index.html >
2. CDM Executive Board 106th meeting dates announced	15/04	< https://cdm.unfccc.int/ > (fifth slide in In-Focus) < https://cdm.unfccc.int/Meetings/MeetingInfo/DB/UOTJ9DN2736GFQE/view >
3. CDM Board elects Chair, Vice-Chair	11/05	< https://cdm.unfccc.int/ > (fourth slide in In-Focus) < https://unfccc.int/news/first-virtual-meeting-of-cdm-executive-board >
4. CDM Executive Board to resume virtual meeting	12/06	< https://cdm.unfccc.int/ > (third slide in In-Focus) < https://cdm.unfccc.int/Panels/EB/index.html >
5. CDM Executive Board extends relaxation of requirements for mandatory site visits	24/06	< https://cdm.unfccc.int/ > (second slide in In-Focus) < https://cdm.unfccc.int/newsroom/latestnews/releases/2020/01041_index.html >
6. German government seeks CERs to voluntarily offset emissions	08/07	< https://cdm.unfccc.int/ > < https://cdm.unfccc.int/newsroom/latestnews/releases/2020/01042_index.html >

Story	Date (2020)	Link
7. UN seeks CERs – advertises invitation to bid	02/07	< https://cdm.unfccc.int/ > < https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/110440?fbclid=IwAR23jYRx2ibno3Hg0PvxqLgZHTJyWD89_s2619esga5OLZ6ncx-346U3p3l >
8. Reminder - Deadline for renewal of crediting periods of CDM activities	General reminder	< https://cdm.unfccc.int/ > < https://cdm.unfccc.int/newsroom/latestnews/releases/2019/01043_index.html >
9. Doha Amendment To The Kyoto Protocol Ratified	02/10	< https://cdm.unfccc.int/ > < https://unfccc.int/news/ratification-of-multilateral-climate-agreement-gives-boost-to-delivering-agreed-climate-pledges-and >
10. Executive Board Considers CDM Beyond 2020	06/10	< https://cdm.unfccc.int/ > < https://unfccc.int/news/the-cdm-executive-board-considers-cdm-beyond-2020 >
11. Temporary Measures to Address COP26 Postponement Agreed	16/12	< https://cdm.unfccc.int/ > < https://unfccc.int/news/the-cdm-executive-board-agrees-on-temporary-measures-to-address-cop26-postponement >

Table 5. Additional mandate provided to the Board by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol at its fifteenth session

Mandate number	Mandate from the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol	Related MAP 2020-2021 project or routine activity
2/CMP.15, para. 7	Acknowledges the work of the Executive Board in reviewing methodological approaches for calculating emission reductions achieved by project activities that result in reduced use of non-renewable biomass in households	Activity Group: Response to methodological requests from the Board
2/CMP.15, para. 8	Encourages the Executive Board to continue to review the methodological approaches referred to in paragraph 7 above, in particular with respect to the default baseline assumptions applied	

Table 6. Documents under consideration by the Board for the reporting period under review (January–December 2020)

Meeting body	No. of meetings	Product	Total documents
Executive Board of the clean development mechanism	43	Annotations, annexes (information notes, concept notes, CDM regulatory documentation, etc.), regular reports (financial reports, synthesis reports, KPIs, etc.)	51
CDM Accreditation Panel	42	Meeting reports (plus electronic consultations) and annexes (information notes and concept notes)	4
Methodologies Panel	23	Meeting reports (plus electronic consultations) and annexes (standards, tools, methodologies, information notes and concept notes)	20
TOTAL			75

Table 7. Products delivered as per the Board 2020 workplan (January–December 2020)

2020 Objective	Product	Products delivered
1 (a) - Operate efficient project and entity assessment processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of cases for registration, issuance and other project and PoA related submissions – Final EB 106 • Consideration of cases for registration, issuance and other project and PoA related submissions – Final EB 107 • Consideration of cases for registration, issuance and other project and PoA related submissions – Final EB 108 	3
1 (b) - Operate an effective regulatory framework resulting in reduced transaction costs for participants in the mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection of Chair/Vice Chair for EB – Final EB 106 • Selection of Chairs/Vice Chairs for panels and working groups – Final EB 106 • Selection of members for RIT roster of experts' performance evaluation group – Final EB106 • Calendar of meetings 2020 – Final EB 106 • Calendar of meetings 2021 – Draft EB 108 • EB Workplan 2020 – Final EB 106 • EB Workplan 2020 – Info EB 107 • EB Workplan 2020 – Info EB 108 • CDM Accreditation Panel workplan 2020 – Final EB 106 • Methodologies Panel workplan 2020 – Final EB 106 • Panel meeting reports – Final EB 106 • Panel meeting reports – Final EB 107 • Panel meeting reports – Final EB 108 • EB report to CMP – Concept EB 107 • EB report to CMP – Final EB 108 • CDM two-year business and management plan 2020–2021: mid-year review – Info EB 107 • Interaction with Co-Chairs of Global DNA Forum – Info EB 106 • Interaction with Co-Chairs of Global DNA Forum – Info EB 108 • Interaction with the Chair of the DOE/AIE Coordination Forum – Info EB106 • Interaction with the Chair of the DOE/AIE Coordination Forum – Info EB107 • Interaction with the Chair of the DOE/AIE Coordination Forum – Info EB108 • Note on implications of the postponement of CMP16 – Info EB107 • Note on implications of the postponement of CMP16 – Info EB108 • Revised procedure: "Performance monitoring of designated operational entities" – Final EB 106 (CDM-AP input) • Revised procedure: "CDM accreditation procedure" – Final EB 106 (CDM-AP input) • Revision of the regulatory provisions on standardized baselines – Concept EB 108 • Revision of the regulatory framework (VVS, PS, PCP) to allow for the road testing of the digitized methodology (ACM0002) – Concept EB108 • Synthesis report of the annual activity reports by DOEs – Info EB108 • Carbon market and policy update – Info EB107 • Carbon market and policy update – Info EB108 • Support to international climate finance institutions (IFI) – Info EB107 	36

2020 Objective	Product	Products delivered
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nairobi Framework Partnership update – Info EB108 • Implementation report of CDM loan scheme – Info EB107Amendment to the “CDM project standard for programmes of activities” – Final EB 106 • Revision of the regulatory provisions on standardized baselines – Concept EB 106 • Social media campaign and outreach to increase the voluntary cancellation – Concept EB 108 	
1 (c) - Develop simplified and user-friendly standards and procedures that increase efficiency and ensure environmental integrity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methodological approaches for calculating emission reductions from project activities, resulting in the reduced use of non-renewable biomass in households – Concept EB 106 • Guideline: Development of a PoA-DD applicable to buildings – Final EB 106 • Consistent use of market share, market saturation, market penetration and penetration rate (through MP report) – Concept EB 108Various top-down revised/new methodologies and tools and best-practice examples mandated by the Board – Final (through MP report, preceded by call) – Final EB 106 • Various top-down revised/new methodologies and tools and best-practice examples mandated by the Board – Final (through MP report, preceded by call) – Final EB 107 • Various top-down revised/new methodologies and tools and best-practice examples mandated by the Board – Final (through MP report, preceded by call) – Final EB 108 • PROJ256: Digitization of methodologies for web-based generation of project design documents and monitoring templates – Road testing – Info EB 106 • PROJ256: Digitization of methodologies for web-based generation of project design documents and monitoring templates – Road testing – Info EB 108 • Revision of project 256 – Concept EB 108 	9
	Total	48

Document information

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