

CDM-2021RCC-INFO01

Regular report

Regional Collaboration Centres (1 January to 30 June 2021)

Version 01.0



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change

1. Introduction

1. The Executive Board of the clean development mechanism (CDM) (hereinafter referred to as the Board), through the CDM Executive Board workplan 2021,¹ requested regular reports on progress made in specific areas.
2. This report covers the regional support provided by Regional Collaboration Centres (RCCs) for the development and implementation of CDM project activities and programmes of activities (PoAs) and the development of standardized baselines in the respective regions. The report also includes information on the promotion of the CDM, capacity-building and inter-agency partnerships of the RCCs. The first RCC was established in Lomé, Togo, in 2013, followed by RCCs in Kampala, Uganda; St. George's, Grenada; Bogotá, Colombia; Bangkok, Thailand; and Dubai, the United Arab Emirates. RCC Bogotá, which has been in operation since August 2013, was moved to Panama City, Panama, in March 2017. These RCCs focus on supporting the implementation of the CDM in their regions.
3. The current reporting period covers 1 January to 30 June 2021. Cumulative figures covering from the beginning of RCC operations in 2013 until 30 June 2021 are also presented in this report to reflect the support provided for the development and implementation of CDM project activities and PoAs and the development of standardized baselines.²

2. Regional support

2.1. Support for project activities and programmes of activities

4. From 1 January to 30 June 2021, the RCCs provided direct technical support to 91 CDM project activities and PoAs, of which approximately 55 per cent were in countries underrepresented in the CDM.³ The support resulted in eight CDM project activities and PoAs progressing at least one step forward in the CDM project cycle. In addition, RCCs responded to 97 queries received from stakeholders, which were primarily related to: (i) requests for clarification of CDM rules (e.g. prior consideration of the CDM, applicability of methodologies/standardized baselines/tools, post-registration changes); (ii) renewal of crediting period; (iii) letter of approval; and (iv) issuance and voluntary cancellation of certified emission reductions.
5. From the beginning of their operations until 30 June 2021, the RCCs provided direct support to 1,611 CDM project activities and PoAs, contributing to 255 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, 126 new CDM project activities and PoAs were identified and their notification of CDM prior consideration submitted.

¹ The CDM Executive Board workplan 2021 is available at https://cdm.unfccc.int/sunsetcms/storage/contents/stored-file-20210312135758223/Info_note93.pdf.

² Previous reports are available on the UNFCCC CDM website at <https://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/report/>.

³ The list of countries with 10 or fewer registered CDM projects as of 31 December 2010 is available at https://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/standard_base/cdmprojects.pdf.

2.2. Support in the development of standardized baselines

6. The RCCs have also provided direct technical assistance to designated national authorities (DNAs) for the development of standardized baselines. From 1 January to 30 June 2021, the RCCs supported the development of 36 bottom-up standardized baselines (11 were new and 25 were continuations from the previous reporting period), of which approximately 69 per cent originated from DNAs of underrepresented countries. As a result of the support provided by RCCs in the previous years, three proposed standardized baselines (ASU_006 (second submission), PSB0031 (second submission) and PSB0052 (third submission)) were successfully submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat, and the Board approved four standardized baselines (ASB0011-2021, ASB0034-2021, ASB0051-2021 and ASB0052-2021). In addition, the RCCs continued to support the work on three top-down standardized baselines during the reporting period (continuation from the previous reporting period).
7. From the beginning of their operations until 30 June 2021, the RCCs directly supported the development of 343 standardized baselines, of which 55 were approved by the Board.

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

8. The RCCs supported the work relating to financing and use of the CDM by international finance institutions under goal 2 of the CDM two-year business and management plan 2020–2021⁴ (“Nurture the demand for, and participation in, the CDM”), under objectives 2b (“Enhance the use of the CDM for voluntary purposes”) and 2c (“Further develop the CDM as a tool for monitoring, reporting and verifying the outcomes of mitigation finance”).
9. Virtual events supported, organized or co-organized by RCCs in this reporting period to promote the CDM and to build CDM capacity in key regional and national institutions include:
 - (a) Africa region:
 - (i) Workshop: Preparing for carbon taxes in Africa, 6 to 22 April;
 - (ii) Workshop: East African Community needs-based finance mobilization and access strategy validation workshop, 27 to 28 April;
 - (iii) Webinar: Eastern Africa Alliance on carbon markets and climate finance 2nd annual member meeting, 25 May;
 - (iv) Workshop: Youth carbon market training for East Africa, 15 to 17 June;
 - (b) Asia-Pacific region:
 - (i) Webinar: Virtual regional dialogue on youth empowerment in climate action in the Asia-Pacific region, 9 to 10 February;
 - (ii) Workshop: Association of Southeast Asian Nations needs-based finance pre-validation workshop, 22 February;

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

- (iii) Workshop: Virtual Workshop for DNAs – Fourth episode: Sustainable development assessment of climate actions, 8 April;
 - (iv) Workshop: Technical workshop for finance experts in Central Asia and South Caucasus, 28 April;
 - (v) Webinar: Climate Neutral Now regional launch webinar for Asia, the Pacific, Middle East, and North Africa regions, 19 May;
 - (vi) Workshop: Central Asia and South Caucasus needs-based finance pre-validation workshop, 25 May;
 - (vii) Side event at the 77th United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Sessions 2021: Moving past coal in the Asia-Pacific region, 28 May;
 - (c) Latin America and the Caribbean region:
 - (i) Workshop: Opportunities for registered CDM activities in Latin America and Caribbean regions, 14 May;
 - (ii) Workshop: Standardized baseline and grid emission factor calculation training for the Caribbean DNAs, 16 to 18 June;
 - (d) Middle East, North Africa and South Asia region:
 - (i) Workshop: Fourth episode on sustainable development assessment of climate actions, 8 April;
 - (ii) Webinar: Climate energy dialogue in the Middle East and North Africa region, 27 April;
 - (iii) Webinar: Climate Neutral Now regional launch webinar for Asia, the Pacific, Middle East, and North Africa regions, 19 May;
 - (iv) Workshop: Arab climate finance mobilization and access strategy pre-validation workshop, 25 May.
10. In this reporting period, the RCCs published 21 newsletters on their individual websites:⁵ three for the Africa region; six for the Asia-Pacific region; nine for the Latin America and the Caribbean region; and three for the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia region. These newsletters provide technical advice, inform readers on relevant events, facilitate cooperation and promote opportunities for project funding. The newsletters have received positive feedback from the CDM stakeholders.
11. The regional virtual platform⁶ that was launched in early 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic continued to provide a list of 39 events organized by the RCCs, the UNFCCC secretariat and their partners, including CDM-related virtual meetings for DNAs and project participants, either already taken place or that will be taking place in the six RCC regions.

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

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

2.4. Inter-agency partnerships

12. Inter-agency partnerships forged and maintained in this reporting period to nurture the CDM and its tools include:
- (a) Africa region:
 - (i) RCC Kampala continued its activities under the framework of the East African Alliance on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance and organized the 2nd annual member meeting;
 - (ii) RCC Kampala in partnership with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) started the feasibility study for the East African Community carbon exchange;
 - (iii) RCC Lomé continued its activities under the framework of the West African Alliance on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance, including preparation for virtual events to be delivered in the second half of 2021;
 - (iv) RCC Lomé in partnership with the West African Power Pool secretariat updated ASB0034-2021: Grid emission factor for West African Power Pool (version 01.0), which was approved by the CDM Executive Board;
 - (b) Asia-Pacific region:
 - (i) RCC Bangkok in partnership with the UNDP Youth-Co Lab co-organized the Virtual Regional Dialogue on Youth Empowerment in Climate Action in the Asia-Pacific region, held from 9 to 10 February. This partnership also worked on launching the youth climate platform for the Asia-Pacific region together with partners including UNICEF, the British Council, UNFCCC constituency of Youth Non-Governmental Organizations, Movers Programme and the UK COP26 Presidency team;
 - (c) Latin America and the Caribbean region:
 - (i) RCC Panama continued supporting the partnership between the UNFCCC Climate Neutral Now initiative, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank's Partnership for Market Readiness Programme by establishing the Alliance of Voluntary Greenhouse Gas Management Programs for Latin America and the Caribbean. The alliance promotes knowledge exchange, synergies and a roadmap for the homologation of criteria and standards to increase the private sector's involvement in and impact on climate action, while being consistent with the implementation of the nationally determined contributions of each country, in pursuit of carbon neutrality in Latin America and the Caribbean;
 - (ii) RCC St. George's continued its partnerships with (1) the United Nations Development Programme through its Japanese-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership for the development of three top-down standardized baselines; and (2) the Greenhouse Gas Management Institute and the Global Support Programme to support the Caribbean Cooperative MRV Hub;
 - (iii) RCC St. George's started a new partnership with the University of Trinidad and Tobago to develop a course for MSc. students on Nationally Determined

- Contributions and the Energy Sector (Sustainable Energy Analysis and Policy);
- (iv) RCC St. George's in partnership with the GIZ Global Carbon Markets project team considered project expansion in the Caribbean region;
 - (d) Middle East, North Africa and South Asia region:
 - (i) RCC Dubai started a new partnership with International Renewable Energy Agency by launching discussion on the co-organization of the climate energy dialogue in the Middle East and North Africa region on 27 April 2021.
13. In this reporting period, a total of 19 RCC host partner staff members worked together with 6 UNFCCC staff members in the RCCs. The staffing ratio of RCC host partner staff to UNFCCC staff in the RCCs is as follows:
- (a) Africa region:
 - (i) West African Development Bank to UNFCCC is 4:0;
 - (ii) East African Development Bank to UNFCCC is 3:1;
 - (b) Asia-Pacific region:
 - (i) Institute for Global Environmental Strategies to UNFCCC is 4:1;
 - (c) Latin America and the Caribbean region:
 - (i) Development Bank of Latin America to UNFCCC is 2:2;
 - (ii) Windward Islands Research and Education Foundation to UNFCCC is 3:1;
 - (d) Middle East, North Africa and South Asia region:
 - (i) World Green Economy Organization to UNFCCC is 3:1.

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Document information

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