

CDM-EB90-AA-A01

Concept note

Expansion of the scope and scale of Regional Collaboration Centres' assistance activities in developing countries

Version 01.0



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change

1. Procedural background

1. At its eleventh session, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) requested¹ the Executive Board of the CDM (hereinafter referred to as the Board), taking into consideration the mandate to ensure transparent and prudent management of resources of the CDM, to expand the scope and scale of RCCs' assistance activities in developing countries by exploring the emerging technical and methodological areas in the context of the CDM where specific assistance is requested by countries underrepresented in the mechanism.
2. Since January 2013, five Regional Collaboration Centres (RCCs) have been put into operation, each servicing their respective regions: RCC Lomé in Togo; RCC Kampala in Uganda; RCC Bogotá in Colombia; RCC St. George's in Grenada; and RCC Bangkok in Thailand. These RCCs focus on supporting the implementation of the clean development mechanism (CDM) in their regions. Their current activities can be organized into three categories:
 - (a) Regional distribution/prioritization of countries;
 - (b) Direct assistance to existing projects and identification of new projects;
 - (c) Support to:
 - (i) The identification and development of new bottom-up and top-down standardised baselines;
 - (ii) The renewal of standardised baselines.
3. Since their inception, RCCs maintained contact with over 1,000 CDM projects and programmes of activities (PoAs); directly supported more than 450 projects and PoAs, resulting in 246 impacts on 84 projects and PoAs moving one or more times through the CDM project cycle, and 127 additional projects brought into the CDM pipeline; initiated the development of 134 standardized baselines, with 22 being submitted to the Board and 19 approved; and effectively implemented capacity-building trainings in the countries.
4. The proposed RCC expansion relates to the activity "Partnerships" under objective 2a: Facilitate the acceptance of CERs for compliance purposes; objective 2b: Enhance the use of the CDM for voluntary purposes; objective 2c: Further develop the CDM as a key tool for monitoring, reporting and verifying the outcomes of mitigation finance, with a resource allocation as indicated in table 5 in the appendix to the CDM two-year business plan 2016–2017 and management plan 2016 (CDM-EB87-A01).

¹ Decision 6/CMP.11.

2. Purpose

5. The purpose of this note is to propose potential new or expanded CDM-related activities in the light of the CMP mandate referred to in paragraph 1 above to expand the scope and scale of RCCs while ensuring the prudent management of resources.

3. Key issues and proposed solutions

3.1. Key issues

6. Since its inception, the context in which the CDM operates has changed significantly. Future activities should therefore create more added value for the CDM in areas of increased relevance to climate action, such as national climate action in a non-compliance environment, climate finance, voluntary demand for climate neutrality, and action by non-party stakeholders.

3.2. Proposed solutions

7. The following expanded technical and methodological support is proposed by the secretariat:
 - (a) Support for the development and use of methodologies and baselines for underrepresented sectors and activities, which may be used both for CDM projects and PoAs and for other types of climate action, such as verifying the results of climate financing. This includes:
 - (i) Expanded support for data collection, processing, assessment and publication for their direct use in CDM activities and areas where the potential is likely to be mobilized under the CDM;
 - (ii) Support for the establishment of a quality assurance/quality check system for standardized baselines;
 - (iii) Support for the use of local certification bodies for performing assessments of standardized baselines;
 - (b) Support to any entity interested in the voluntary cancellation platform under the Climate Neutral Now initiative, including more proactive outreach on both the supply and demand sides;
 - (c) Technical support and capacity-building for the use of the CDM as an instrument to channel climate finance. This includes:
 - (i) Training of national institutions active in climate finance (including non-state actors);
 - (ii) Training of project developers in the preparation of their funding proposals for international funds, such as the Green Climate Fund;

- (d) Technical support and capacity-building for the use of the CDM to prompt start the implementation of parties' commitment to mitigation action. This includes:
 - (i) Technical and methodological support for integrating and using the CDM in national/regional carbon markets and carbon pricing initiatives or under any other national policy or economic instrument for climate change mitigation;
 - (ii) Technical and methodological support to CDM-based activities for implementing parties' commitment to mitigation action (including for activities to increase ambition and/or channel external support);
 - (iii) Technical and methodological support for tracking, accounting for and reporting on the mitigation effort achieved through the CDM;
- (e) Technical and methodological support for developments which may affect the CDM, including those related to international negotiations;
- (f) Technical support to designated national authorities requesting assistance for the local stakeholder consultation process.

4. Impacts

8. The implementation of the actions suggested in paragraph 7 above would serve to:
- (a) Lower barriers to the use of the CDM for a wide range of stakeholders, especially Parties;
 - (b) Directly provide the support required for using the CDM as a climate action tool to:
 - (i) Contribute to the rapid implementation of the Paris Agreement;
 - (ii) Deliver mitigation action funded by climate finance;
 - (iii) Support the implementation of parties' commitment to mitigation action and other climate action plans.

5. Subsequent work and timelines

9. The proposed work plan is as follows:
- (a) Incorporate the new activities as part of RCC work;
 - (b) Include the new activities as part of RCC reporting to the Board;
 - (c) Include the new activities as part of RCC reporting in the annual report of the Board to the CMP;
 - (d) Propose and discuss, if required, the work that may require new resources as part of discussions on the management plan 2017.

6. Budget and costs

10. Most of the activities proposed in this document can be carried out within the existing budget and mandates of the RCCs. Work that may require new resources would be proposed and discussed as part of the discussions on the management plan 2017.

7. Recommendations to the Board

11. The secretariat recommends that the Board agree on the above proposals and provide guidance on how to carry out the relevant work so as to respond to the CMP mandate.

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