

CDM-EB80-AA-A09

Concept note

Assistance to DNAs for development of guiding tools for monitoring sustainable development benefits of CDM project activities and PoAs

Version 01.0



United Nations
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1. Procedural background

1. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) at its ninth session requested the Executive Board of the clean development mechanism (hereinafter referred to as the Board) to develop guiding tools to assist designated national authorities, upon the request of the host Party and on a voluntary basis, in monitoring the sustainable development benefits in its territory, of clean development mechanism (CDM) project activities and programmes of activities (PoAs), recognizing that the use of such guiding tools is the prerogative of Parties and subject to the availability of funds from Parties included in Annex I.
2. In response to a CMP request to the Board (decision 3/CMP.9, paragraph 8), the Board requested the secretariat to inform designated operational entities (DNAs), through the DNA Forum, of the possibility of requesting guiding tools for monitoring the sustainable development benefits in their territory of CDM project activities and programmes of activities (PoAs). The Board further requested the secretariat to bring such requests to the attention of the Board at the meeting following receipt.
3. At the request of the Board, the secretariat has undertaken to inform DNAs about this mandate and the opportunity provided by the CMP, by emailing all DNAs and publicizing it on the CDM website, through a specialized mailing list and through the DNA Forum.
4. On 15 May 2014 the secretariat received a request from the DNA of Cambodia requesting assistance in developing guidelines for monitoring of sustainable development benefits.

2. Purpose

5. The purpose of this concept note is to propose an approach for tackling the mandate from the CMP on how to provide assistance to requesting DNAs on developing guidelines for monitoring sustainable development benefits.

3. Key issues and proposed solutions

6. In addition to emission reductions, the contribution to sustainable development benefits is one of the pillars of the CDM. While emission reductions are subject to rigorous checks by the process laid down by the Board, as sustainable development is the prerogative of host Parties it is normally checked through the Letter of Approval provided by the DNA.
7. The approach proposed to achieve this mandate is as follows:
 - (a) Communication to DNAs informing them about the CMP request and seeking their interest in receiving assistance for monitoring sustainable development benefits (step already undertaken);
 - (b) Requesting DNAs to share their practices for monitoring sustainable development benefits, including the indicators they use, with other DNAs. The secretariat is to facilitate the sharing of information;

- (c) Based on the input from DNAs, if received, and other sources, the secretariat is to facilitate, through the DNA Forum, the development of best practice guidelines for monitoring sustainable development benefits;
- (d) Providing assistance to DNAs, if they so request, in tailoring the best practice guidelines to meet their specific needs and the situation in their countries. This assistance, depending on the needs of the DNA, may be carried out through online communications and conference calls or a site visit;
- (e) Assistance to DNAs that have requested assistance in assessing the adequacy of the guidelines developed;
- (f) Continuously communicating on the opportunity for DNAs to receive assistance in all forums and events where possible and via electronic means.

4. Impacts

- 8. The impacts of implementing the above would include improving visibility and sustainable impact claims from CDM projects in the concerned countries. Providing assistance to DNAs, if they so wish, in developing guidelines for sustainable development monitoring, would better equip them to undertake their role for monitoring sustainable development benefits of CDM project activities and PoAs.

5. Subsequent work and timelines

- 9. Based on the guidance by the Board on the approach for providing assistance to DNAs, if they so wish, in developing guidelines for sustainable development monitoring, the secretariat will start implementing the approach and providing assistance to DNAs when requested.

6. Budget and costs

- 10. The proposed work is not included in the 2014 CDM management plan as it is a new mandate from the ninth session of the CMP. It is difficult to estimate the budget for such work as it would largely depend on the number of requests by DNAs.

7. Recommendations to the Board

- 11. The Board may wish to provide guidance to the secretariat on the approach to be undertaken for implementing the CMP mandate on providing assistance to DNAs, if they so wish, in developing guidelines for monitoring sustainable development benefits.

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