RESPONSES OF BENIN TO RAISED QUESTIONS DURING THE SBI FSV WORKSHOP

Session I – 02/06/2021

Question 1 – raised by Czechia.

The BUR describes various mitigation policies and measures, which are projected to significantly increase the forest sink in Benin. What is the implementation status of the forest sink-related mitigation actions and barriers to its implementation?

Answer by Benin

The Government continues to implement the three measures through the various projects mentioned in the document, namely:

(i) Support the creation and management of communal forests (M1);

(ii) Restoration of degraded classified forests (M2);

(iii) strengthening the policy of intensive reforestation (M3).

Regarding the measure M1, the first phase was completed while the second phase is ongoing in 23 Communes. The main barriers to the implementation of M1 include:

- the mobilization by the municipalities of land from the local authorities who own it and the time that this may take;
- the fact that the municipalities do not have their own forestry services;
- the lack of capacity of the local government to manage forests.

The measure M2 is also in its second phase and will last in two years. But a new project (Classified Forests) has just launched. It covers 60% of the area of classified forests in Benin. The measure M2 implementation does not face any challenge as:

- The forests already exist and are classified resources (therefore no need to mobilize land for its implementation);
- The techniques used can sometimes include relatively less expensive natural regeneration.

The measure M3 is endless mitigation action, which includes the annual reforestation activities by the Forestry Administration and the private sector. The Forestry Administration is implementing the Intensive Reforestation Project under this measure. The main barrier for this project is the lack of financial resources.

The weakness of the three measures is that the plant species used are not native to Benin. There is a need to promote the production of seed of country-specific plants.

Question 2 - raised by New Zealand.

What is the aim of the CBIT project of Benin?

Answer by Benin

The CBIT Project is on “Strengthening capacity in the energy, agriculture, forestry and other land-use sectors for enhanced transparency in the implementation and monitoring of Benin’s Nationally Determined Contribution”. It aims to remove barriers and lay a solid foundation for the establishment

of an improved transparency framework in Benin. The project is also developing appropriate infrastructure tools and methodologies from information systems.

The project aims to help Benin strengthen its transparency framework by setting up the necessary bases to monitor the progress of the implementation of the NDC in accordance with the requirements of the Paris Agreement. The expected results are as follows: 1) Institutional arrangements for improved transparency are in place and very effective; 2) Reinforcement of greenhouse gas inventories, including the improvement of methodological guidelines and the design of a national MRV system are carried out; 3) A tool for monitoring the progress of the NDC and transparency is implemented.

Question 3 - raised by EU

Benin provided a comprehensive National Inventory Report, in addition to its Biennial Update Report. Could you name some advantages of compiling and reporting detailed inventory information separately from the BUR? Which were some of the challenges you faced in compiling this detailed inventory information and related solutions?

Answer by Benin

The GHG inventory report included some relevant information that are not available in the BUR. It enables the better understanding of the trend of emissions and the main contributing sources. Compiling and reporting detailed inventory information separately from the BUR serves as source of information for various stakeholders regarding the development of GHG and air pollutants mitigation measures in Benin.

Challenges faced in compiling GHG inventory report included:

- The availability of good quality and consistent activity data and EF over the time series considered. Weaknesses noted at this level relate to the lack of activity data in all GHG inventory sectors (energy (e.g. recent energy balances), industrial processes and product use, agriculture (e.g. livestock characterization), forestry (land identification and classification) and waste (e.g. waste characterization);
- The establishment and the maintain of a robust institutional arrangement system;
- The capacity building of involved Working Groups' Membership on the 2006 IPCC Guidelines and software;
- The availability of financial resources to incentive the human resource involved;
- Lack of expertise on specific topics such as remote sensing for land identification and classification;
- The private sector is not ready to provide data due to the confidentiality issue.

Solutions adopted to face challenges:

- The involvement of institutions that are holders of data in the institutional arrangements set up for the GHG inventory facilitate the access to the required activity data and information (for example, the timeseries of the GHG inventory under the TNC was 1990-2015, while that of the second national communication was limited 1995 and 2000)
- The in-country capacity building of institutions organised in thematic working groups through trainings provided following a learning-by-doing approach for long durations enable Benin to have some national experts autonomous and independent from external support (a pool of experts in charge of capacity building of thematic groups was set up. The capacity building was undertaken for the GHG inventory team over 3 years);

- ❖ The international capacity building support was requested to the UNFCCC, FAO and GIZ to improve quality of our data and the inventory report;
- ❖ We took advantage from available capacity building supports (UNDP/UNEP Global Support Programme for NCs and BURs, Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement (Cluster Francophone)) were exploited.
- ❖ The sectoral and national reporting templates were drafted for GHG inventory

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Question 4 – raised by Luxembourg.

According to Benin's BUR, water management in rice cultivation has an important emissions reduction potential. This mitigation action had a first phase from 2011 to 2015 and is now its second phase. Could you share any lessons learned during the first phase which are of interest for further implementation, e.g. relating to planning, inclusion of stakeholders, or monitoring?

Answer by Benin

According to the annual performance reports of the agricultural sector, various actors (both the State and private actors) are investing in the hydro-agricultural development of rice-growing areas. The lessons learned are as follows;

- ❖ Projects carried out by the State have made it possible to set up facilities with total water control;
- ❖ Private initiatives have focused on basic improvements with partial water control;
- ❖ The private sector investment is increasing.

Question 5 – raised by UK

Experience of Benin on the establishment of the institutional framework for GHG inventory and BUR/NC compiling.

Answer by Benin

Benin has published three NCs and its first BUR. The Ministry of the Environment has out-sourced outsourced the development of the first and second communications to consultants although it is the UNFCCC National Focal Point, responsible for climate change related-policies and reporting information.

The establishment of institutional arrangements relevant to the preparation of its NCs and BURs on a continuous basis started under the development of the third national communication and the BUR1. The main steps followed were:

- ❖ Baseline assessment of the institutional arrangements used for the GHG inventory under the first and second national communications;
- ❖ Development of the conceptual institutional and procedural arrangements for the GHG inventory;
    - Identification of institutions to be involved in the NCs and BURs process in Benin: we were aware that the needed capacity was not available at the institutions level; thus, the availability of relevant data was the main criteria for institution selection. The

institutions of which data were used for the previous NCs preparation were selected to be involved in the NCs and BURs process.

- Development of planification documents for GHG inventory including manual of procedures defining role and responsibility of each institution.
- Definition of criteria for the appointment of institution representatives and appointment of institution representatives
- The Ministry of the Environment is the Entity Responsible of the GHG inventory
- The institutions were organised in five sectoral thematic working groups for GHG inventory and the sixth working group is in charge of data management and archiving;
- Experts involved in the previous GHG inventory were grouped to form the pool of experts in charge of sectoral working groups capacity building, GHG inventory quality, compilation of GHG inventory reports;

❖ Implementation of the conceptual institutional and procedural arrangements for the GHG inventory

- Organisation of awareness meeting to inform the selected institutions and to identify with their help additional institutions relevant to NCs and BURs development;
- Appointment of the institutions' representatives based on the defined criteria (assessment of CVs)
- Organisation of in-country capacity building for institutions members of thematic working groups through trainings provided following a learning-by-doing approach (the capacity building was undertaken for the GHG inventory team over 3 years);
- The GHG inventory system was set up and formalised through the decree ''ANNEE 2020 N° 091/MCVDD/DC/SGM/DGEC/DGCC/SA portant création, attributions, organisation et fonctionnement du SNI de GES dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre de la CCNUCC en République du Bénin'' ;
- GHG data were archived in the ''Direction de l'Informatique et du Pré-archivage'' of the Ministry of the Environment and in the Direction des Archives Nationales'' using a software based on MySQL using Java SE.

❖ The sectoral thematic working groups for GHG inventory were assigned with the assessment of mitigation actions and their effects;

❖ The institutional arrangements were set up for the Vulnerability and Adaptation assessment based on the lessons from the establishment of the institutional arrangements for GHG inventory;

❖ The institutional arrangements for the Vulnerability and Adaptation assessment include seven sectoral working groups and a pool of experts.

Some lessons were learned from this experience:

❖ The arrangements set up for the GHG inventory, climate change mitigation analysis, vulnerability and adaptation assessment facilitate the access to the required activity data and information (for example, the timeseries of the GHG inventory under the TNC was 1990-2015, while that of the second national communication was limited to 1995 and 2000).

❖ The in-country capacity building of institution representatives organised in thematic working groups through trainings provided following a learning-by-doing approach for long durations enable Benin to have of many national experts autonomous and independent from external support mainly in GHG inventory, climate change mitigation analysis, vulnerability and adaptation assessment (for each component of the TNC, a pool of experts in charge of capacity building of thematic groups was set up. The capacity building was undertaken for the GHG inventory team over 3 years).

- Using the same team for GHG inventory and climate change mitigation analysis is time and resources saving regarding the capacity building on climate change mitigation analysis and it facilitate emissions projection;
- The involvement of the institutions in the thematic groups enable a good understanding of national policy and economic development and sectoral economic, production or impact models;
- Increasing awareness among ministerial authorities involved in the institutional arrangements of GHG inventory, climate change mitigation analysis, vulnerability and adaptation assessment is determinant for the sustainability of these arrangements (for example, this can enable to overcome the turnover of experts, availability and other administrative constraints);
- The lack of data remains a critical issue despite the involvement of institutions holding relevant data;
- The private sector is not ready to provide data due to the confidentiality issue