



LOW EMISSION CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME

GLOBAL SUPPORT NEWSLETTER

ISSUE FOUR 2012

NAMA News from Doha

Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) were an important topic discussed during the recent COP 18 in Doha, Qatar. It was decided that a Work Programme on NAMAs will be established over 2013-14 in an overt effort to understand the diversity of NAMAs with a view to facilitate their preparation and implementation in the future. As part of this effort the UNFCCC, UNDP and others will organize regional workshops and technical materials for capacity building on the preparation, submission and implementation of NAMAs and Low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS).

This high-level agreement serves to encourage developing countries who haven't yet submitted NAMAs, to voluntarily submit NAMA implementation plans. It also helps to support developing countries who wish to formulate low emission and climate resilient development strategies at the national level.

As discussed at the LECB Programme's Global Technical Workshop on NAMAs, held in Marrakech, Morocco, in October 2012, a web-based UNFCCC registry is being produced which will match developing country NAMAs to funding sources, as well as to technological and capacity building support that is available. The prototype will be deployed by April 2013, with feedback sought over the course of the year with the aim of a fully operational final registry before COP 19.

The COP agreed to adopt guidelines on measuring, reporting and verification (MRV) of voluntary domestically supported NAMAs within a year. The decision included a call for wider collaboration with internationally accredited organizations to produce such guidance.

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Final plenary of the UNFCCC negotiations in Doha. Photo: Jan Golinski/unfccc



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Institutional Arrangements for the work on NAMAs and LEDS under the LECB Programme

Cutting across a range of sectors and disciplines, climate change issues are often addressed by a number of different agencies. With the relative newness of climate change on the political agendas of many countries, mitigation issues are addressed in ministries of environment, forestry, energy, transport and agriculture among others, while the overall context is often set in those of finance and planning. One of the key challenges many countries face is the strengthening of inter-agency coordination mechanisms. Many of the countries participating in the LECB Programme are designing activities to help strengthen their institutional arrangements and ensure sustainability of mitigation actions.

Approach 1: Bringing together institutions working on climate change

To better link the various institutions involved in NAMA and LEDS development most countries set up inter-agency committees, which are sometimes anchored at a high level in institutional hierarchy to coordinate efforts between different ministries. This practice demonstrates that climate change is increasingly understood as a cross-cutting issue that needs to be dealt with in more institutions besides the Ministry of Environment, and that climate change is of rising importance on political agendas.

For example, to carry out project activities in **Kenya** the Climate Change Secretariat at the Ministry of Environment and Mineral Resources is in charge of the overall project coordination, assisted by the National Environment Management Authority. The LECB project steering committee builds on existing institutional structures and also includes representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme, the European Union, the Kenya Association of Manufacturers, the Kenya Cleaner Production Centre, the Ministries of Finance and Planning, and the Climate Change Working Group among others.

Similarly, in **Chile** the Ministry of Environment is in charge for project oversight, but uses its "Ministries' Committee on Climate Change", including the Ministries of Energy, Agriculture, Transport, Mining, Public Works, Industry, Foreign Affairs, and Finance for climate change decisions. This diversity of members supports a cross-sector understanding and serves as a good model for institutional arrangements.

Approach 2: Strengthening collaboration and planning among key institutions

While bringing together the representatives of different institutions is an important step, often climate change policies are fragmented, making efficient implementation of activities challenging. Dealing with climate change requires coordination among a wide range of national

institutions. A number of countries have chosen to focus their work under the LECB Programme to deepen the collaboration of ministries and agencies to align their policies.

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Environment and with participation of key line ministries, **Peru** has developed National Mitigation Guidelines, is developing a National Network for GHG inventories, and coordinates the development of NAMAs on energy efficiency and waste management. The LECB project team will include subnational governments, civil society organizations, private enterprises, universities and research institutions as well as independent experts to ensure any LEDS developed will be implementable on the ground.

Approach 3: Involvement of the private sector

While it is widely recognized that private sector participation is vital to achieve substantial mitigation goals, greater efforts are needed to engage the private sector. A number of countries employ innovative approaches to involve the private sector, ranging from encouraging consultations between government agencies and the private sector to the allocation of specific tasks.

The private sector often holds relevant information for the development of NAMAs and LEDS, while holding financial levers to implement mitigation measures or change consumption patterns. For example **Mexico** coordinates various stakeholder inputs via the Inter-Ministerial Commission on Climate Change and ad hoc working groups with special support from the President's Office. Private sector participation is considered crucial, given the project focus is in the industrial sector, therefore private sector representatives from industrial chambers and associations from the chemical, cement, cellulose and paper industry participate in the working groups. In **Malaysia** efforts to engage the private sector to implement mitigation measures include its Low Carbon Cities initiatives and agreements with private companies to champion the Energy Efficient Buildings initiative.

Approach 4: Involving civil society and academia

Even with the engagement of government institutions and the private sector, much of the success of mitigation activities depends on the participation of civil society. A number of countries feel that bringing in civil society organizations, such as women's groups or academia can help ensure ownership of the process. As an example, in the **Philippines** the government undertook an intensive round of stakeholder consultations including the private sector, trade associations, academia, NGOs and CSOs, beginning with a core group meeting of key stakeholders, followed by two broader consultations to introduce the LECB project and to decide on main parameters. Similarly, the **DRC** is formalizing a Project Steering Committee under the lead of the MoE. This Committee is comprised of a range of ministries, NGOs and the National Council of NGOs, reps of the FoCE, trade unions, and local experts from uni and business thereby ensuring inclusion of multiple stakeholders knowledge and expertise.

Approach 5: Strengthening existing institutional structures

It is not uncommon to find internationally supported projects that set up parallel structures, which are often not efficient for coherent national planning. Also they may contribute to knowledge drain from national institutions and parallel institutions created by international interventions. To avoid this, a number of participating countries use existing relevant structures for the implementation of their LECB projects.

Setting up a good institutional structure for project implementation also requires the effective coordination of varying expectations, levels of knowledge and engagement, and different professional levels and institutional agendas. In this context, countries profit from identifying clear roles and responsibilities and to ensure that the multi-stakeholder process is integrated in national structures.

Vietnam: Project activities are embedded as a component of an overarching programme, “Strengthening capacity on climate change initiatives in the Industry and Trade sectors”, overseen by the Ministry of Industry and Trade, to ensure timely coordination of initiatives, enhancing the cost-effectiveness of the financial resources from different sources.

Colombia uses its “Climate Change Executive Commission” including the “Financial Committee” to ensure financial viability of work, setting up inter-disciplinary working groups. The project implementation is supervised by the Climate Change Executive Commission, supervising the Financial Committee, which oversees the four sub-commissions on sectoral issues, territorial issues, international affairs and cross sector information and climate change impacts, each comprising interdisciplinary working groups.

BUILDING ON EXISTING INITIATIVES

Beyond setting up institutional arrangements for the project implementation, many countries use this opportunity to revive existing collaborations and initiatives. Countries often draw on previous work and personnel such as from the National Communication process. In Morocco, Chile and Costa Rica for example, the LECB project is working closely with the development of the Third National Communication to ensure the project work is

linked with the identification of national priorities, building upon existing structures to streamline activities to mitigate climate change. Experience shows that participation from a broad range of actors in the project process is most effective when each party sees the benefit of their engagement in terms of development goals and the cross cutting nature of climate change and embraced within the chosen institutional arrangements.

Country Spotlight – Colombia

Delivering low-carbon development

By Andrea Garcia Guerrero and Oscar Beltrán

Colombia has had a number of advances in mitigation actions, but is aware that still much remains to be done. There was a recognition that a coordinated plan is needed to identify the country’s mitigation potential and activities that have social and economic benefits. With these objectives, the country is working on the Colombian Low Carbon Development Strategy - CLCDS.

The CLCDS is a national initiative encompassing the main GHG emitters to design sectoral mitigation plans to sustain economic growth while reducing GHG emissions. The mitigation action plans are clearly sector driven, with a second phase working on inter-sectoral linkages.

The sectors that are part of this initiative are agriculture, transport, waste, energy, mining and industry. It is important to note that the housing subsector has been part of the process too.

The CLCDS has a bottom-up approach, taking advantage of NAMAs identified earlier. Through the Climate Change Division’s work, all these initiatives are coordinated to seek synergies and to prevent overlap of activities and funds, ensuring the best use of national and donor resources.

Additionally the CLCDS has two overarching aspects: Capacity building and communications.

The Colombian LECB Project is part of the CLCDS and its resources were allocated to support components two and three (see box right), and to foster capacity building in ministries and in the private sector through:

- Continuing the research unit’s work
- Furthering co-benefit analysis of mitigation options
- Completing an MRV platform for sectoral plans and measures
- Additional sector capacity building.

The LECB Project in Colombia is nested within the CLCDS, giving the project a high profile and linking it to the CLCDS work areas. This enables the LECB project to leverage resources to increase the project’s sustainability and to ensure a broader stakeholder base with far-reaching impact.

Component 1: Identification and formulation of low carbon development strategies - participative approach

- Construction of GHG baselines for each sector (energy, transport, industry, mines, waste, agriculture) up to 2040
- Identification of mitigation alternatives and technology entry patterns
- Evaluation of viability of mitigation actions and their perceived co-benefits
- Quantification of co-benefits of mitigation actions
- Identification of early implementation NAMAs

Component 2 : Design and implementation of Low Carbon Sectoral Plans

- Define mitigation priorities for each sector based on their mitigation potential and co-benefits
- Start design of Low Carbon Sectoral Plans
- Formulation of early NAMAs Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions
- Identify financial strategies to support implementation of plans and NAMAs

Component 3: Design of an MRV – monitoring, reporting and verification - system

- Identify and address institutional arrangements and information needs and flows
- Identification of minimum information requirements for each sector
- Guidelines for NAMA baseline and activity design for the national registry
- Design and implementation of an MRV platform that tracks emission reductions, national and international investments and co-benefits indicators



Partner Spotlight: Parliamentary Action on Renewable Energy (PARE)

Legislators meet to agree action for greater renewable energy access to tackle climate change

As part of the project Parliamentary Action on Renewable Energy (PARE), parliamentarians from 10 countries in Asia, Africa and the Middle East came together in two international conferences in 2012. Members of Parliament were able to discuss potential solutions with leading climate scientists, policy experts, and technical specialists for increasing access to renewable energy and tackling climate change, share best practices and work together to outline a future legislative strategy for the promotion of renewable energy.

The first hearing in Sri Lanka (16th-18th November) focused on regional electricity trading and the potential of sustainable investment for cutting carbon emissions. The second forum in Qatar (8th-10th December) had a focus on renewable energy success stories, and

explored innovative policy ideas from UNDP, the Institute for Development Studies, and the Climate Bonds Initiative.

Butch Gadde, UNDP's Technical Specialist on Climate Change for the South Asian Region, was one of the speakers at the Forum in Sri Lanka. *"Climate change is a real threat, disproportionately affecting the poor,"* he argued. *"This year, Sri Lanka and India experienced an unusually strong hurricane, droughts and flooding drove up global grain prices by over 10%, and Hurricane Sandy created havoc in America. The best solution for climate change is to invest in renewable energy. This can give us a triple win: improve conditions for the climate, create jobs, and improve conditions for the 675 million people in Asia-Pacific who are without access to electricity."*

On the forum organized in Doha, a new programme was launched for 2013: the Renewable Tigers. *"Developing countries can't wait for rich developed nations to solve climate change,"* Nick Dunlop, General Secretary of Climate Parliament, argued. *"The countries represented in this programme are in grave danger. But they also have a huge opportunity to work together to transform their economies, improve their energy security and show the rest of the world how the fight against climate change can be won."*

The meetings brought together Members of Parliament from the 10 countries participating in the PARE project, which is implemented by UNDP and the NGO, Climate Parliament. The conferences were organized as part of a EUR 3.1 million global project aimed at helping MPs from developing countries to promote access to renewable energy, fight climate change and stamp out poverty through parliamentary action, funded by the European Union and the Danish Foreign Ministry and implemented by UNDP and the NGO, Climate Parliament. A full report on the conferences, including a detailed description of proceedings and agreed strategies for future action, will be available in early 2013. This is just another one of the complementary programmes that are working alongside the LECB Programme. More information will be posted at www.lowemissiondevelopment.org as it becomes available.



Participants of the Forum in Sri Lanka. Photo: James Corre

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The Low Emission Capacity Building (LECB) Global Support Newsletter provides updates and information on a range of topics including the status of ongoing national activities, global programme updates, topical news, country highlights, project impacts and results, and noteworthy announcements.

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Contact us at lowemission@undp.org to let us know your thoughts and proposals.