

European Union – United Nations  
Development Programme

# LOW EMISSION CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME



A GLOBAL INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT  
MITIGATION ACTIONS

# Mitigation in a Development Context



It is now recognised that limiting increases in global temperature to minimise the adverse impacts of climate change will require both developed and developing countries to transition to low-emission, climate-resilient pathways.

However, the mitigation of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions must be seen in the context of social and economic development, including poverty eradication, especially in developing countries. Development benefits such as increased energy security, new technology investment opportunities, and improved public health (through fewer airborne pollutants) must be articulated. Energy is a key factor in economic growth, and gaining access to clean and affordable energy is a high priority for developing countries. Thus economic incentives should play a key role; for example, the International Energy Agency has shown that, on average, an additional one dollar invested in more efficient electrical equipment, appliances and buildings avoids more than two dollars in investment in electricity supply.



While many developing countries recognise these fundamental arguments, they often face significant institutional and technical capacity challenges in making informed investment choices. The EU-UNDP Low Emission Capacity Building Programme is a collaborative initiative between the European Commission (EC), the Government of Germany (BMU), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Programme's overall objectives are to strengthen institutional and technical capacities in participating countries in order to:

1. Develop national GHG inventory systems
2. Identify and formulate Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs)
3. Prepare Low-Emission Development Strategies (LEDS)
4. Facilitate the design and adoption of mitigation action plans by select industries
5. Design systems for the measuring, reporting, and verification (MRV) of the proposed mitigation actions

#### PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

1. ARGENTINA
2. CHILE
3. CHINA
4. COLOMBIA
5. DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
6. ECUADOR
7. EGYPT
8. KENYA
9. MEXICO
10. MOROCCO
11. PERU
12. THE PHILIPPINES
13. UGANDA
14. ZAMBIA

# Programme Overview

A GLOBAL INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT MITIGATION ACTIONS

Participating countries are primarily focusing on capacity building actions in the public sector. This includes formulating Low-Emission Development Strategies and/or Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs), as well as establishing the underlying data collection systems (i.e., national GHG inventory systems, and monitoring, reporting, and verification systems).

In select cases (Argentina, China, Egypt, and Mexico), the Programme is also supporting capacity building efforts to develop mitigation action plans for high-emission industries, such as cement, iron and steel, petrochemicals, and fertilizers.

Partner governments determine, develop and implement their national projects ensuring country ownership. This includes consulting with relevant stakeholders to agree upon the national components and the sectoral focus. From the inception phase of each project, however, and for the life of the programme, countries will receive guidance and technical backstopping from UNDP through its Global Support Unit. This unit is housed within the Green, Low-Emission and Climate-Resilient Development Unit.

## THE UNDP GREEN, LOW-EMISSION AND CLIMATE- RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT UNIT

UNDP's holistic approach to long-term climate change management incorporates climate change mitigation and adaptation into environment and sustainable development goals and planning processes. This enables countries to mobilise and employ the diverse financing and policy options required for green, low-emission and climate-resilient development.

The EU-UNDP Low Emission Capacity Building Programme works in tandem with the UNDP Green, Low-Emission and Climate-Resilient Development Unit to support multi-level country efforts that intertwine climate change with development choices and actions involving multiple sectors, stakeholders, and ecosystems. Through this arrangement, UNDP seeks to develop strong partnerships to deliver capacity building and support to countries in the area of climate change.

**Low-emission development strategies (LEDS):** A strategic plan of action to assist a country in shifting its development path to a low-carbon economy and achieve sustainable development, based on national socio-economic and development priorities. The Cancun Agreements (2010) encouraged developing countries to prepare LEDS.

**Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs):** To be undertaken by developing country Parties in the context of sustainable development, supported and enabled by technology, financing and capacity-building, in a measurable, reportable and verifiable manner. (Bali Action Plan, 2007)

**Measurable, reportable and verifiable (MRV):** A process/concept that potentially supports greater transparency in the climate change regime.



The World Bank/  
Edwin Huffman

**COLOMBIA** will base its climate change national policy on three strategies – the Climate Change National Adaptation Plan; the Colombian Low Carbon Development Strategy; and the National Strategy for Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD).

The government is using the Programme to develop the framework for its Low Carbon Development Strategy. Three main activities are envisaged in Colombia across a broad range of sectors (industry, energy, mining, waste, agriculture, and transport), all supported with capacity building:

- Identification and assessment of low-carbon alternatives and opportunities;
- Design of low-carbon plans, policies and measures; and
- Design and construction of an MRV system.

A knowledge platform will be established for stakeholders, which will also allow the work to be linked to other national activities, such as marginal abatement cost curves for industry, investment and financial flows assessments for agriculture, and development of transport NAMAs.

The task force developing the Colombian Low Carbon Development Strategy will comprise interdisciplinary working groups reporting to a sectoral sub-commission (vice minister level) that reports to the Climate Change Executive Commission (ministerial level).

The 2009 Climate Change Act (Republic Act 9729) put in place the legal framework for the National Framework Strategy on Climate Change in **THE PHILIPPINES**. The mitigation pillar of the framework strategy has the long-term objective to facilitate the transition towards low GHG emissions for sustainable development in the areas of energy efficiency and conservation; renewable energy; environmentally sustainable transport; sustainable infrastructure; national REDD+ strategy; and waste management.



UN Photo

Under the Programme, The Philippines will fully operationalise its newly developed GHG inventory management system as a platform to identify NAMAs, design LEDS, and MRV mitigation actions. The focus under the Programme will be on building capacities in the transport, waste management, and agriculture sectors.

# Examples of Country Activities

After developing a National Climate Change Response Strategy in 2009/10, the government of **KENYA** is now finalising a Climate Change Action Plan to operationalise the strategy. Through the Programme, national stakeholders will build from and/or feed results into most Action Plan subcomponents, including LEDS, NAMAs, MRV, creating a policy and regulatory environment, financing options, and knowledge sharing.

Additionally, the government has identified the development of a GHG national inventory system as the highest priority under the Programme, since this will provide the foundation for identifying NAMAs and supporting MRV actions.

Building on previous work, a transport NAMA for reducing vehicle emissions will be fast-tracked to gain experience and capacity for investigating NAMAs in the energy (household demand/biomass use) and industrial (energy demand) sub-sectors.



UN Photo

In **EGYPT**, the government will work with the iron and steel and/or cement industries (to be determined through further consultations with the industries) to build capacities to develop and implement mitigation action plans. Together, the two industries emit more than two-thirds (68 percent) of total emissions for the industrial sector. Overall, the industrial sector contributed 14 percent of the total GHG emissions for 2000; the emissions increased 275 percent over 1990 levels.



Under the Programme, the government also plans to design and adopt a national GHG inventory system (in collaboration with 3rd National Communication), design LEDS, and develop up to 20 NAMAs in the energy and transport sectors.

UNDP

# Global Support Unit

A GLOBAL COLLABORATION TO BUILD CAPACITY FOR A GREEN, LOW-EMISSION FUTURE

UNDP has established a Global Support Unit to assist and guide national projects under the Low Emission Capacity Building Programme. In addition to providing technical support at the country level, this unit will be coordinating north-south and south-south exchanges of knowledge, as well as learning and best practices.

## TYPES OF SUPPORT

1. Dissemination of tools and training materials to support NAMA, LEDS, and MRV in the context of national priorities. One key role of the Unit is producing guidance and technical materials, create a technical training package based on capacity building needs (in coordination with centres of excellence), and provide training in various thematic areas, as required.
2. Targeted technical support to national teams during project implementation. This includes: (a) establishing effective communication with countries on how to access the available technical support; (b) identifying experts to assist national teams in addressing technical gaps and methodological issues; (c) monitoring technical support and its impact on the quality of deliverables; and (d) extracting best practices and lessons learned.
3. Support to identify innovative policy and financing options for low-emission development, including partnerships between the public sector and industry. Support includes guidance on fostering partnerships between public and private sector for mitigation actions; the development and adoption of financing strategies; the identification of potential funding sources; the policy incentives to support the implementation of LEDS and mitigation actions; and the identification of opportunities to build on relevant public-private partnerships.
4. Dissemination of knowledge and lessons learned to raise awareness, engage stakeholders, and inform decision makers. A primary role of the Unit is to identify and disseminate lessons learned and best practices via newsletters, case studies, and other knowledge products. Expert networks and external communication are at the centre of this information exchange.

Despite the groundwork that has been undertaken in the participating countries, especially through the National Communications to the UNFCCC, implementation of the Programme at the national level may face a number of **CHALLENGES**. These include:

- **Changes in government:** which can lead to differing priorities;
- **Inter-ministerial coordination:** national structures often exist, but do not always function and/or inform adequately;
- **Lack of institutional and technical capacities on climate change:** both within, but especially beyond, the Ministry of Environment for carrying out the required technical studies; and
- **Quality and/or lack of data and information** to adequately inform decision making.

In order to address or minimise some of these challenges, the Programme is working in close coordination with key stakeholders at the national level to provide practical solutions on implementation issues and to strengthen technical and institutional capacities. This includes identifying solid linkages between the Programme and national priorities as a way to ensure country ownership of the process and outputs of the Programme.

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Cover image: Approximately 2.5 billion people living in developing countries, including this Vietnamese woman who is preparing briquettes for sale, rely on biomass for cooking (Kibae Park/ UN Photo, June 2011).

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