

**Capacity-building workshop on CDM Standardized Baselines:
Opportunities to experience simplified tools for MRV
Freetown, Sierra Leone, 21 – 22 March 2017**

The development of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) standardized baselines (SB) and other measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) topics were discussed in Freetown, Sierra Leone, 21-22 March 2017, during the capacity building workshop “CDM Standardized Baselines: opportunities to experience simplified tools for MRV”.

The workshop was organised by the Environment Protection Agency of Sierra Leone, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Support Programme (GSP), the Regional Collaboration Centre (RCC) Lome and the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE). The workshop represented one of the first concrete activities implemented in the framework of the West African South-South Collaboration Network on MRV established last October in Lome, Togo under the GSP (www.un-gsp.org).

The workshop was attended by about 20 participants from relevant ministries and organizations (e.g. Environmental Protection Agency, Ministry of Energy, Electricity Distribution Authority, etc.) that have a potential role to play in the establishment of the national MRV system in Sierra Leone.

In accordance with the MRV Network mission, the workshop mobilized MRV expertise from the West African region. RCC Lome oversaw the discussion on the international MRV framework and related provisions in the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, including the integration between National Communications (NCs), Biennial Update Reports (BURs) and NDCs. MRV experts from Ghana and Senegal presented successes, challenges and barriers faced during the establishment of MRV systems in their respective countries, which attracted much interest from participants and generated an intense discussion on how to take into consideration the Ghanaian and Senegalese experiences in the context of Sierra Leone, particularly with regard to the establishment of institutional arrangements and ensuring effective coordination among key stakeholders.

Intense discussions also took place on the development of the SB for the grid emission factor (GEF) for the electricity system of Sierra Leone, which - on a small scale - touched upon the elements that SB and MRV have in common:

- The identification of a coordinator, responsible for the overall supervision and management of the process;
- The identification of key stakeholders, providers or sources of key information and data;
- The definition of the procedure for data collection, quality control and reporting, including roles and responsibilities, frequency of data collection and reporting, a common template for data collection, type of data, type of evidence;
- The formalisation of the procedural set up, by means of a legal instrument;
- The identification of activities to keep the stakeholder engaged in the long run.

The discussion about the GEF SB proved to be a useful exercise towards the establishment of national MRV system in Sierra Leone. A concrete outcome of the discussion was that a workplan for the development of the SB for the GEF of Sierra Leone has been elaborated on. This foresees the GEF calculation and approval of the SB by the CDM Executive Board by the end of 2017.

The development of CDM standardized baselines (SB) offers opportunities to develop expertise on different aspects of measuring, reporting and verification (MRV): i) the establishment of effective and sustainable institutional arrangements; ii) the definition of data collection and delivery procedures; and iii) the enhancement of local capacity on MRV system. Since their introduction SBs have facilitated the determination of baseline GHG emissions in key economic sectors that require intensive efforts for data collection, processing, compilation and reporting, providing thereby reliable information to be fed into national MRV requirements established under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. Furthermore, GHG baselines set by means of SB development may also serve for innovative climate financing instruments and be used for wider mitigation activities such as Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions and climate actions planned under Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC).