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PRESS RELEASE

Brazil Scores Some Early Goals in Campaign for Carbon Neutral FIFA World Cup

News that Government has received 115,000 UN-Certified Emission Reduction credits since calling for donations welcomed by top UN climate official

(Bonn, 4 June 2014) – Host country Brazil has announced a strong start to its efforts to offset greenhouse gas emissions from this summer’s FIFA World Cup using carbon credits produced by projects registered under the Kyoto Protocol’s Clean Development Mechanism, or CDM.

Just about six weeks after calling for donations of CDM certified emission reductions (CERs), holders of credits have offered up 115,000 CERs, each equivalent to one tonne of CO₂, to offset emissions from construction and renovation of stadia, consumption of fossil fuels from official and public transport, and other sources.

“Sport is all about rising to a challenge. It’s exciting to see how quickly people have risen to the challenge of offsetting key emissions from the FIFA World Cup,” said Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) after being updated on the offsetting effort.

The Government of Brazil estimates that direct emissions from the tournament will amount to 59,000 tonnes and 1.4 million tonnes total when international travel and other sources of indirect emissions are included.

“Brazil is showing leadership by measuring the climate impact of the FIFA World Cup and using CDM credits to offset emissions. Every event, large and small, should do the same. Let’s give the planet a sporting chance and let’s see even more donations before the final whistle blows,” said Ms. Figueres.

Under Brazil’s World Cup offsetting drive, all donated credits must originate from Brazilian CDM projects. About 150 Brazilian CDM projects have issued more than 90 million CERs; an estimated 14 million of these could be available for donation. Each CER is equal to one tonne of avoided carbon dioxide.

The smallest accepted donation is 5,000 CERs and donors will receive an official certificate acknowledging their contribution to offsetting the FIFA World Cup in Brazil. All donated CER credits will be cancelled in the UNFCCC CDM Registry.

FIFA itself has launched a separate initiative to encourage fans attending the tournament to offset their own emissions.



Since the CDM was established under the Kyoto Protocol, the world's first emissions reduction treaty, more than 7,600 projects and programmes in 105 developing countries have been registered. These range from projects that reduce emissions by replacing inefficient wood stoves and that improve energy efficiency to solar, wind and hydro power projects. The CDM to date has generated more than 1.4 billion CERs, showing that CDM projects hold great potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to sustainable development.

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About the CDM

The CDM allows emission-reduction projects in developing countries to earn certified emission reductions (CERs), each equivalent to one tonne of CO₂. CERs can be traded and sold, and used by industrialized countries to meet a part of their emission reduction targets under the Kyoto Protocol.

With more than 7,600 registered projects and programmes in 105 developing countries, the CDM has proven to be a powerful mechanism to deliver finance for emission-reduction projects and contribute to sustainable development.

About the UNFCCC

With 196 Parties, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has near universal membership and is the parent treaty of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. The Kyoto Protocol has been ratified by 192 of the UNFCCC Parties. For the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, 37 States, consisting of highly industrialized countries and countries undergoing the process of transition to a market economy, have legally binding emission limitation and reduction commitments. In Doha in 2012, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol adopted an amendment to the Kyoto Protocol, which establishes the second commitment period under the Protocol. The ultimate objective of both treaties is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that will prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system.

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