

Standardized Baselines as a building block for Low Carbon Pathways in the Paris Agreement regime

Format: **Webinar (free)**

Date: **23 June 2020**

Time: **14:00-16:00 EAT**

Background and context

The notion of Standardized Baselines (SB) dates as far back as 2010 when the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) at its sixth session, decided that Parties, project participants, as well as international industry organizations or admitted observer organizations through the host country's designated national authority (DNA), may submit proposals for standardized baselines applicable to new or existing methodologies, for consideration by the Executive Board of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) (*decision 3/CMP.6*).

SBs are established for a Party or group of Parties to facilitate the calculation of Emission Reductions and removals and/or the determination of additionality for CDM project activities,¹ while ensuring environmental integrity. Although setting the baseline for the calculation of greenhouse gas emission reductions has been an expensive and time-consuming exercise in some cases, the development of SBs for a region/country or group of countries brings significant benefits such as, reduced time and cost incurred by the project developers, provides credibility of the data that was used for calculation, incubates a habit of QA/QC compliance at the data generation level etc. The use of SBs can also enhance transparency, objectivity and predictability, and scale up the abatement of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in developing countries.

Over a seven-year history of SB development in Africa, a total of 27 national and regional standardized baselines have been approved by the CDM Executive Board for the following sectors: electricity sector (i.e. grid emission factor SBs) and rural energy (i.e. efficient cooking), energy efficiency, forestry and waste. This has been through the support and authorization of the host Party CDM Designated National Authority (DNA).

The adoption of the Paris Agreement and establishment of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) presents a potential opportunity to scale-up mitigation actions, building upon existing CDM methodologies and SBs, to aid accounting and attainment of Parties' climate mitigation targets. Article 6 of the Paris Agreement provides for cooperative approaches (Art. 6.2), a mechanism for mitigation and sustainable development (Art. 6.4) and a framework for non-market approaches (Art. 6.8), the rules for which are being negotiated. Emission reduction estimated from all these approaches could potentially benefit from work done under the SB concept.

¹ For simplicity, only CDM project activities are referred to – it is implied that Programmes of Activities are also covered.

Along the same line of thought, there are other measures that aim to catalyze sustainable development and low-carbon pathways such as Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA), other mitigation projects and national policy measures. This Webinar aims to explore the potential evolution of SBs from being CDM centric tools to their use under wider frameworks such as those mentioned above.

This webinar is organized by the [Regional Collaboration Centre \(RCC\) Kampala](#) with the support of [UNFCCC Climate Change Secretariat](#), [GIZ Global Carbon Market Programme](#), and the [Eastern Africa Alliance on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance](#)

Objectives and expected results

The webinar aims to achieve the following objectives and results;

1. Give an overview of SBs applicable in Eastern and Southern Africa and their evolution, to give a better understanding of the story so far;
2. Share stakeholder perspectives on the development of standardized baselines, opportunities and challenges;
3. Discuss options for using SBs beyond the CDM framework and to showcase approaches that would give participants a better understanding of potential options for measurement of emission reductions for other mitigation activities such as NDCs.

Target audience

State and non-state climate change stakeholders including government officials (UNFCCC, DNA, NDC, and, GCF focal points, and other sectoral experts), project developers, NGOs and private sector.

Programme

Activity	Speaker
Webinar introduction	RCC Kampala
Overview of SBs- The story so far	RCC Kampala
Application of SBs for wider climate change mitigation projects and frameworks	UNFCCC Secretariat
Q&A Session	
Significance of SBs: Panel discussion	GIZ Carbon Market Programme UNDP World Bank Others to be confirmed
Q&A and discussion session	