

Questions and answers at the webinar sessions

Access to the CRF Reporter

1. How long is the "playground" for CRF Reporter going to be available?

The CRF Reporter environment dedicated for developing country Parties (the "playground") was prepared following the conclusions at SBSTA 50 in the realms of the negotiations for the preparation of the common reporting tables (CRT) for reporting of GHG inventories under the Paris Agreement. The purpose of the "playground" is for developing country Parties to familiarize themselves with the tool that is currently being used by Annex I Parties to report their annual GHG inventories. We intend to make the environment available as long as required.

2. Is there a limit to the number of users?

No, there is no limit to the number of users an NIC can add for his/her country.

3. Is access to the CRF Reporter unconditional?

All developing country Parties will be able to access the environment of the CRF Reporter dedicated for those Parties to allow them to familiarize themselves with the tool, as requested at SBSTA 50. For the secretariat to grant access, the National Focal Point should send a nomination for the role of NIC in the CRF Reporter by email to <crfweb@unfccc.int>. Once the nomination is received, the secretariat will provide an account to the NIC, and he/she will be able to add as many users as necessary within his/her country.

Data entry

4. The notation keys are to be filled for one year and then auto-filled in the subsequent years. What if an activity becomes available in the later years in the country?

The functionality to automatically propagate notation keys to the subsequent years was implemented to make it easier for users to enter notation keys across the time series. However, should quantitative information become available, the notation keys could be easily overwritten by making manual entry in the data entry grid or through Excel import.

5. What is the difference between using the Excel sheets and the data entry grids?

In the CRF Reporter, there are several ways for data input. One way is by exporting the data entry grids in Excel format, entering data in the Excel file, and then importing the Excel file into the CRF Reporter. Another way is by manually entering data directly into the data entry grids on the application interface. The data entry using Excel allows users to enter the data offline and import the data into the CRF Reporter when they are online.

6. Does the application cover all GHGs?

The CRF Reporter allows for entering emissions and/or removals for the greenhouse gases listed in the UNFCCC reporting guidelines for Annex I Parties (decision 24/CP.19).

7. As data is saved automatically and there is no "Save" button, is there an "Undo" button?

In the CRF Reporter, there is no "Undo" button either. Should a country-specific category be added incorrectly, this can easily be deleted. Data that have been erroneously entered can be overwritten either manually or through import.

8. Using the export/import feature is very useful when we want to work offline. When we import a file that we have worked on, will the previous data be deleted or saved automatically in another version?

Importing data into the CRF Reporter, whether through Excel or XML file, will overwrite existing data. Importing will not result in the creation of a new version of the inventory.

9. Is it possible to enter local emission factors and parameters into the CRF Reporter, particularly for those Parties who are using Tier 2 methodology and have country-specific parameters?

The CRF Reporter is a reporting tool and not a calculation/estimation tool like the IPCC software. The information to be entered in the CRF Reporter are emissions and activity data, if available.

10. How is the level of disaggregation decided when reporting data – is it up to the Party?

The agreed CRF tables annexed to decision 24/CP.19 allowed for reporting at a less disaggregated level for some categories, should data not be available. Parties agreed to implement this provision through dropdown lists and specified in which categories this would be applied and what would be the elements of the dropdown lists. Consequently, the CRF tables for those categories may be different among Parties depending on the level of disaggregation reported.

11. If a country has more categories, than the ones in the tool, is it possible to change that online? If so, would the downloaded Excel files be modified accordingly?

For most of the categories, it is possible to provide information for country-specific categories by adding a node(s) under 'Other (please specify)'. The Excel file exported after adding the node(s) would reflect those newly-added country-specific node(s).

Import/export

12. Can the sector users download data sets for other sectors?

Yes, all users of the application can export data entry grids and reporting tables irrespective of the sector assigned to them. They will however be able to import the data entry grids only for sectors they have been assigned to.

13. Are there any requirements on the version of MS office package for processing exported Excel file from the system?

The CRF Reporter was developed and tested in 2014, and the application had been tested for compatibility with Excel 2007 and higher.

Interoperability with other systems

14. What kind of support is rendered to Parties who want to establish national reporting systems that provide easy interface with the CRF Reporter?

The CRF Report has an XML schema which allows for interoperability between national systems and the CRF Reporter. This function is currently used by many Annex I Parties so that they compile their GHG inventories in their own systems and import the XML generated by their system into the CRF Reporter to generate their official GHG inventory submission. However, this feature is not available in the "playground" environment dedicated for developing country Parties.

15. Is the IPCC 2006 software compatible with the CRF Reporter so that the import/export feature can be used for data transfer?

No, the IPCC software is currently not interoperable with the CRF Reporter, and it is not possible to import data from the IPCC software into the CRF Reporter. Import of Excel files into the CRF Reporter is only possible using those Excel files exported from the Reporter. Import of XML file is only possible if it follows the XML schema of the CRF Reporter.

Other questions

16. Does the CRF Reporter have the capability of estimating GHG emissions both for 2006 and 1996 Guidelines?

No, the CRF Reporter is the tool used by Annex I Parties to report their annual GHG inventories. It follows the structure and format of the agreed CRF tables annexed to decision 24/CP.19 which implements the use of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines.

17. What is the difference between the IPCC software and the CRF Reporter?

The IPCC software is a tool used for estimating/calculating GHG emissions/removals, whereas the CRF Reporting tool is the tool used by Annex I Parties for reporting and submitting their GHG emissions/removals.

18. How do you access the user manual?

The user manual can be accessed in the CRF Reporter through the tab 'Useful links → User manual'.

19. What changes are expected in the new CRT compared to the CRF tables?

The negotiations on the "Common tabular formats for the electronic reporting of the information necessary to track progress made in implementing and achieving nationally determined contributions under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement" are still ongoing under SBSTA, hence we are currently not able to predict the changes that may be required to the CRF tables.

20. Is using the CRF Reporter mandatory for developing countries post-2020?

The CRF Reporter is the reporting tool used by Annex I Parties in reporting and submitting their official annual GHG inventories under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. The environment of the CRF Reporter dedicated for developing countries is solely for the purpose of getting familiar with using the tool.

21. How is data security ensured as the CRF Reporter is an online application?

The CRF Reporter has built-in security measures in the application. The Party can only see the data they have entered, and the data is not accessible to the secretariat or other Parties.