



Subsidiary Body for Implementation

Thirty-sixth session

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National communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention

**Work of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications
from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention**

Progress report on the work of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention: report on the hands- on training workshop for the Asia and the Pacific region on greenhouse gas inventories

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE), in collaboration with the National Communications Support Programme and the Technical Support Unit for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories organized a hands-on training workshop for the Asia and the Pacific region on national greenhouse gas inventories, in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 30 January to 3 February 2012. This report outlines the proceedings of the workshop; it summarizes the feedback on and recommendations regarding the workshop received from its participants, the updated CGE training materials, and the financial and technical issues relating to the preparation of the national communications.

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I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by decision 5/CP.15, reconstituted the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) for the period 2010–2012 in order to improve the process of, and preparation of, national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties).
2. The terms of reference of the CGE stipulate that the CGE, in fulfilling its mandate, shall provide technical assistance to non-Annex I Parties for, among other things, the regular development of national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories with a view to improving the accuracy, consistency and transparency of the information in their national communications.
3. The terms of reference of the CGE are operationalized through its work programme for 2010–2012 developed at its first meeting held in March 2010. The work programme was welcomed and taken note of by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) at its thirty-second session.¹
4. The CGE, with the assistance of the secretariat, and in collaboration with the National Communications Support Programme (NCSP) and the Technical Support Unit for the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC TFI-TSU), organized a hands-on training workshop for the Asia and the Pacific region² on national GHG inventories in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 30 January to 3 February 2012 as per its work programme referred to in paragraph 3 above, with a view to enhancing the capacity of national experts from the region involved in the process of, and preparation of, their national communications using updated CGE training materials on national GHG inventories.
5. By decision 5/CP.15, the COP requested the secretariat to facilitate the work of the CGE by organizing meetings and workshops and compiling reports of its meetings and workshops for consideration by the SBI.

B. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

6. The SBI, having considered this report, may wish:
 - (a) To note the recommendations of the workshop participants and provide further guidance to the CGE on the implementation of its mandate relating to paragraph 2(a) of its terms of reference, contained in the annex to decision 5/CP.15, on the provision of technical assistance to non-Annex I Parties in order to facilitate the regular development of national GHG inventories;
 - (b) To invite Parties and/or those relevant organizations, including bilateral and multilateral organizations, in a position to do so, to continue to provide financial resources to support the work of the CGE in the implementation of its mandate relating to paragraph 2(a) of its terms of reference.

¹ FCCC/SBI/2010/10, paragraph 21.

² Together with non-Annex I Parties from Eastern Europe.

II. Proceedings of the workshop

A. Opening of the workshop

7. The hands-on training for the Asia and the Pacific region on national GHG inventories was hosted by the Government of Sri Lanka from 30 January to 3 February 2012 in Colombo. The Minister of Environment for Sri Lanka, Mr. Anura Priyadarshana Yapa, delivered the opening remarks and outlined the role played by the communication of a large amount of precise and detailed data pertaining to greenhouse gas inventories by Parties, which must be transparent, accurate, complete, consistent and comparable. The Secretary for the Ministry of Environment, Mr. B.M.U.D. Basnayake, in his address, referred to the work on national communications as being key for the sustainable development of non-Annex I Parties. Ms. Sangchan Limjirakan (Thailand), Chair of the CGE, thanked the Government of Sri Lanka for hosting the workshop, welcomed the participants and outlined the workshop objectives. The Director of Climate Change and the national focal point for the UNFCCC, Mr. Sunimal Jayathunga, delivered a message of thanks to the Government of Sri Lanka for hosting the workshop. The secretariat provided a brief overview of the organization of the workshop.

8. The objectives of the workshop were as follows:

(a) To build the capacity of national experts from the Asia and the Pacific region using updated CGE training materials, with a view to improving the preparation of the national GHG inventories, by providing them with technical guidance;

(b) To seek and generate feedback on the draft updated CGE training materials on GHG inventories in order to improve them further;

(c) To serve as a platform for the exchange of views among Parties and with the experts.

9. A total of 41 national experts from 30 non-Annex I Parties,³ five members of the CGE, and two representatives from the IPCC TFI-TSU attended the workshop.

10. An average of 50 extra participants per day, representing non-Annex I Parties from the Asia and the Pacific region, participated in the workshop using a facility for remote participation via videoconferencing (WebEx), allowing up to 10 GHG experts per country to participate in the workshop. This remote participation allowed for a total of 252 additional experts to be involved in the training. The CGE, with the assistance of the secretariat, will continue to provide this additional opportunity for virtual participation in such workshops to non-Annex I Parties in the future, subject to the availability of resources.

11. The workshop was organized with the financial support of the Government of Canada, the European Union, NCSP and IPCC TFI-TSU.

³ Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Indonesia, Iraq, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Montenegro, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Moldova, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

B. Organization of the work

12. The Chair outlined the organization of the workshop as per the agenda prepared in consultation with the CGE, which comprised 10 sessions, as follows, taking into account the recommendations from the previous regional workshop:⁴

(a) The first session was in the form of a presentation of background information on the UNFCCC guidelines on national GHG inventories for the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties, and the IPCC Emission Factor Database;

(b) The second session was on the general aspects and cross-cutting issues regarding national GHG inventories, covering key category analysis, uncertainty assessment, quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) and addressing data gaps;

(c) The third to the eighth sessions, conducted in parallel, were in-depth hands-on training sessions on the IPCC methodologies pertaining to all sectors of a national GHG inventory; the mornings were dedicated to the IPCC methodologies covered by decision 17/CP.8, while the afternoons were dedicated to exercises where participants had to address activity data and emission factors selection in order to estimate the GHG emissions or sequestration using the UNFCCC GHG inventory software for non-Annex I Parties;

(d) The ninth session was dedicated to national presentations on institutional arrangements for national GHG inventories, and challenges and experiences in developing national GHG inventories, as well as a presentation on the soon to be rolled out UNFCCC GHG inventory software for non-Annex I Parties;

(e) The final session was a wrap-up session, in which views were exchanged among participants and with the experts on financial and technical support needs, and on how best to address them for the preparation of national communications.

13. The training sessions, including the hands-on training sessions, were facilitated by resource persons as well as CGE members using the updated CGE training materials.⁵

14. In closing, an evaluation of the workshop was conducted. The participants also provided recommendations on possible improvements to the training materials and, in general, to such regional workshops in the future.

C. Summary of discussions

15. The presentations as well as the hands-on training sessions generated a fruitful exchange of views among participants and with the experts in relation to the following:

(a) The challenge of addressing data gaps;

(b) The need to, and challenges with, establishing suitable institutional arrangements to support the regular development of national GHG inventories;

(c) The choice and application of IPCC methodologies and the year(s) for which emission estimates should be reported;

(d) The applications of methods and tools aimed at improving the transparency, accuracy, consistency, completeness and comparability of national GHG inventories;

⁴ FCCC/SBI/2011/10/Add.2, paragraph 17.

⁵ The current CGE training materials, available at <http://unfccc.int/national_report/non-annex_i_natcom/training_material/methodological_documents/items/349.php>, are being updated.

- (e) The use of the UNFCCC GHG inventory software for non-Annex I Parties and ways to overcome the most commonly faced difficulties;
- (f) The financial and technical support needs, and how best to address them to ensure the regular development of national GHG inventories.

III. Participants' feedback and conclusion

16. During this session, participants identified a number of key points as take-home messages that they had picked up from the workshop.

A. Participants' feedback

17. An online survey was conducted after the workshop in order to gather feedback from participants, including those who participated remotely. A total of 41 participants responded, these responses are summarized below.

18. Participants welcomed the hands-on training workshop and appreciated the usefulness of the tools applied and guidelines presented. They highlighted the following as key elements of the success of the training:

- (a) The clear presentations leading to a better understanding of various concepts and principles of national GHG inventories, such as key category analysis and QA/QC, as well as addressing data gaps;
- (b) The fruitful exchange of views with various experts, participants and multilateral agencies;
- (c) The electronic version of the CGE training materials that were distributed, which can be used to replicate the training at the national level, and the references provided to various data sources, such as emission factors;
- (d) The hands-on exercises, which provided participants with an opportunity to practise, first hand, various methods, using tools and techniques pertaining to all sectors of a national GHG inventory.
- (e) The workshop also provided an opportunity for the participants to address, with the assistance of experts and other peers, data and methodological issues that they had been facing in compiling their national GHG inventories.

19. Most participants found the overall approach and content of the hands-on training workshop useful. Most also found the training modules clear, helpful and relevant to their work, as illustrated in the figures below.

Figure 1
Evaluation of presentations on cross-cutting issues

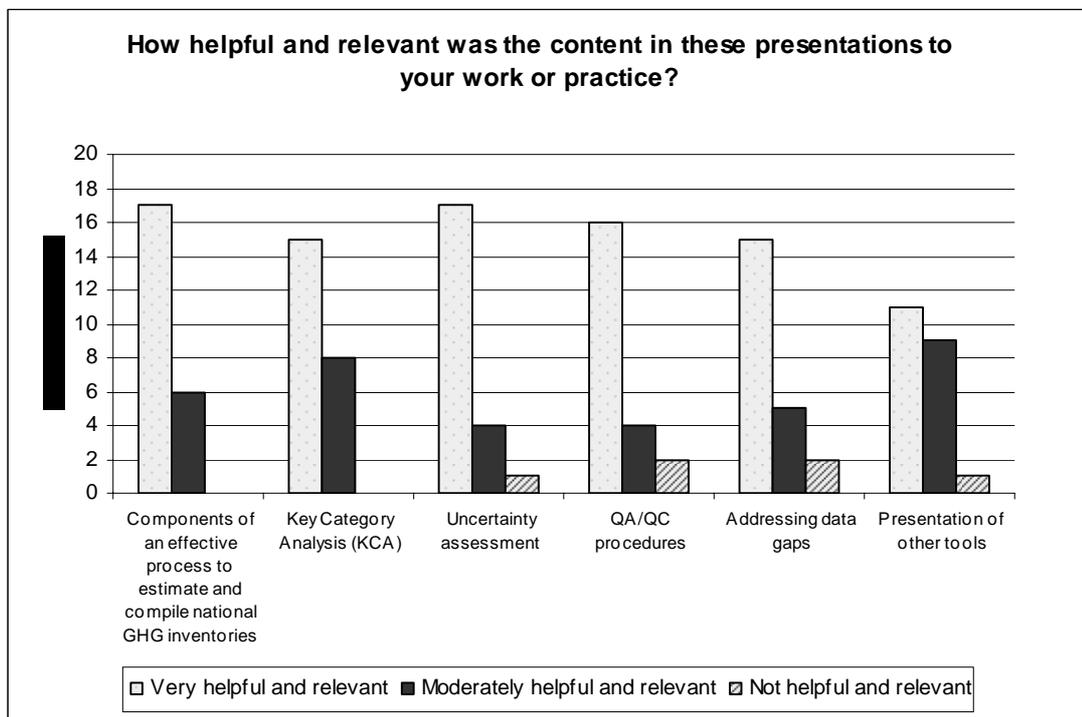
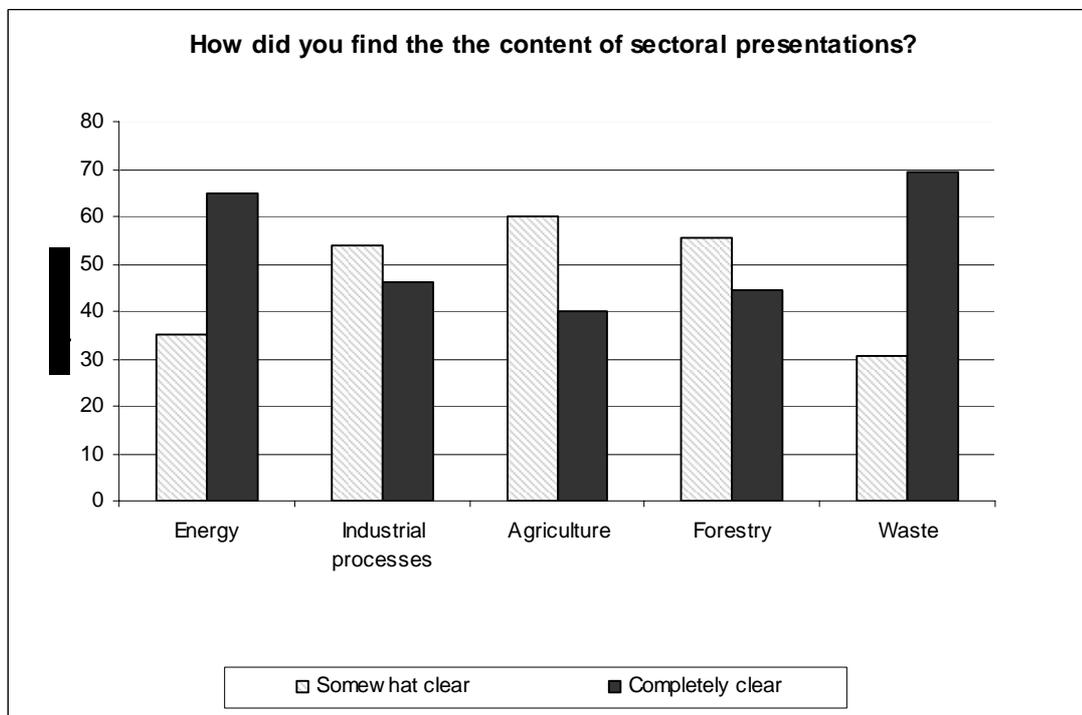


Figure 2
Evaluation of presentations on sectors



20. The workshop participants made the following comments on and recommendations regarding future hands-on training workshops on national GHG inventories:

- (a) Include case studies from developed countries with examples of best practices and lessons learned;
- (b) Conduct such hands-on training workshops on a regular basis;
- (c) Involve the CGE in such training workshops at the national level.

21. During the discussion on the financial and technical needs related to the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties, participants welcomed the development of the prototype of a new UNFCCC GHG inventory software for non-Annex I Parties. Many participants acknowledged that this software will be a useful tool for the national GHG inventory compilers and urged the secretariat to mobilize resources for its development and to make it available to Parties as soon as possible.

22. The discussions during this session also covered the additional reporting requirements envisaged as a result of the decision adopted in Durban by the COP, at its seventeenth session, on biennial update reports. In view of this recent development, most Parties highlighted the importance of continued financial and technical assistance for the development of their GHG inventories.

B. Conclusion

23. Participants were appreciative of the training provided, and thanked the CGE and the secretariat for organizing the workshop, the Government of Sri Lanka for hosting it in excellent facilities and its people for the warm welcome accorded to the workshop participants. They also thanked those Parties and other organizations that made financial contributions towards the organization of the workshop.
