



United Nations

FCCC/SBI/2016/INF.17



Framework Convention on
Climate Change

Distr.: General
4 October 2016

English only

Subsidiary Body for Implementation

Forty-fifth session

Marrakech, 7–14 November 2016

Item 4(c) of the provisional agenda

Reporting from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention

Provision of financial and technical support

Regional training workshops on sustainable national greenhouse gas inventory management systems and the use of the *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories*

Report by the secretariat

Summary

In 2016, the secretariat conducted three regional training workshops on the building of sustainable national greenhouse gas inventory management systems and the use of the *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* for Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention. This report outlines the proceedings of the workshops and includes a summary of the discussions.

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I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. At its forty-second session, the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) noted the requests from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) for further technical support aimed at improving their domestic capacity to facilitate continuity in meeting reporting requirements through training on the use of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* (hereinafter referred to as the 2006 IPCC Guidelines), building sustainable national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory management systems, and understanding and applying best practices relevant to the setting up of domestic measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) systems. The SBI, therefore, encouraged the secretariat, in coordination with the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme, to make every effort to ensure that the relevant training is made available to all non-Annex I Parties.¹

2. In response to this request, the secretariat conducted three regional hands-on training workshops for non-Annex I Parties on the use of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines and building sustainable national GHG inventory management systems in collaboration with the IPCC. The aspects relating to domestic MRV systems were addressed as a part of reporting on mitigation actions and their effects at the regional training workshops on the preparation of biennial update reports.²

3. SBI 44 requested the secretariat to report to SBI 45 on the progress made in this regard, including on relevant regional workshops held in 2016.³

B. Scope of the note

4. This report contains a summary of the proceedings of and discussions at the three regional hands-on training workshops. It also includes a brief summary of the presentations made by resource persons and secretariat staff, the subsequent discussions held, as well as feedback on possible improvements to, and the implementation of, possible future regional training workshops.

5. The report covers the following:

(a) Training workshop for the Africa region, held in Maseru, Lesotho, from 14 to 18 March 2016;

(b) Training workshop for the Latin America and the Caribbean region, held in Panama City, Panama, from 6 to 10 June 2016;

(c) Training workshop for the Asia-Pacific and Eastern Europe regions, held in Songdo, Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 5 to 9 September 2016.

¹ FCCC/SBI/2015/10, paragraph 29.

² The report on the regional training workshops on the preparation of biennial update reports from non-Annex I Parties is contained in document FCCC/SBI/2016/15.

³ FCCC/SBI/2016/8, paragraph 41.

C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

6. The SBI, having considered this report, may wish to note the feedback from workshop participants and provide further guidance to the secretariat, as appropriate, on the provision of further technical assistance to non-Annex I Parties to support them in fulfilling their reporting obligations under the Convention.

II. Proceedings of the workshops

A. Objectives of the workshops

7. The main objectives of the regional workshops were, inter alia, to enhance the capacity of national experts and national focal points with respect to the building of sustainable national GHG inventory management systems and the use of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines in the preparation of their country's national GHG inventory; and to serve as a platform for the exchange of views, lessons learned and related experiences.

8. The three regional training workshops were similar in design and structure, and therefore followed similar agendas.⁴ They were designed to cover the key role of a national GHG inventory management system and the process of developing such a system, and the use of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines in preparing national GHG inventories. An interactive training approach was used, including presentations, discussions, exercises using realistic data sets and hands-on spreadsheets and software utilization. The workshop content was supplemented by country experiences and question and answer sessions.

9. The training sessions were conducted by resource persons, including secretariat staff members and members of the Technical Support Unit of the IPCC Taskforce on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories.

10. The regional training workshop for the Africa region, hosted by the Government of Lesotho, was attended by 57 national experts representing 42 non-Annex I Parties. Mr. Selibe Mochoboroane, Minister of Energy and Meteorology of Lesotho, delivered the keynote statement.

11. The regional training workshop for the Latin America and the Caribbean region, hosted by the Government of Panama, was attended by 41 national experts representing 25 non-Annex I Parties. Ms. Mirei Endara, Minister of Environment of Panama, delivered the keynote statement.

12. The regional training workshop for the Asia-Pacific and Eastern Europe regions, hosted by the Government of the Republic of Korea, was attended by 55 national experts representing 40 non-Annex I Parties. Mr. Min-ho Lee, Deputy Minister of Environment of the Republic of Korea, delivered the keynote statement.

B. Summary of the discussions

13. The training materials used at the regional training workshops included:

⁴ Agendas are available at <http://unfccc.int/national_reports/non-annex_i_natcom/meetings/items/655.php>.

(a) The Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) *Handbook on Building Sustainable National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Management Systems*;⁵

(b) The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) *Template Workbook on Developing a National Greenhouse Gas Inventory System*;⁶

(c) The 2006 IPCC Guidelines;

(d) Relevant templates, spreadsheets and IPCC inventory software.

14. Each of the sessions was followed by a question and answer session. Breakout group sessions focusing on the application of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU) and non-AFOLU sectors were organized. Each group session included exercises for participants to practice the use of relevant templates, spreadsheets and inventory software.

15. The key elements of the discussions that took place at each of these sessions are summarized below.

1. Country presentations

16. The representatives of the participating countries⁷ presented brief overviews of their national GHG inventory systems and their experience of using the 2006 IPCC Guidelines within their countries. The participants also outlined lessons learned, best practices and areas for improvement. Each country presentation was followed by a question and answer session. In addition, all participants were encouraged to share their national experiences throughout the workshop.

2. The key role of the national greenhouse gas inventory management system

17. The participants were introduced to the various terms, definitions and concepts used in the CGE *Handbook on Building Sustainable National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Management Systems*. The handbook, together with the EPA *Template Workbook on Developing a National Greenhouse Gas Inventory System*, was used to discuss and share experiences among participants with respect to the importance of institutional arrangements; conducting quality assurance and quality control procedures; archiving procedures; establishing or refining a national inventory improvement plan; and performing key category analyses.

18. The training emphasized the core elements of establishing and operating national-level GHG inventory management systems and discussed how the concepts of the system can be scaled up to build effective national MRV systems to maximize the extent of mitigation actions that can be taken as part of a national response to climate change.

⁵ Available at <https://unfccc.int/files/national_reports/non-annex_i_natcom/training_material/methodological_documents/application/msword/1_bis__building_sustainable_national_ghg_inventory_management_systems.doc>.

⁶ Available at <<https://www3.epa.gov/climatechange/Downloads/EPAactivities/Complete%20Template%20Workbook.doc>>.

⁷ Benin, Chile, Cook Islands, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Swaziland, and Trinidad and Tobago.

3. Use of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change software

19. Participants were provided with an overview of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines, including the differences between these guidelines and previous IPCC guidelines. Discussions were held regarding uncertainty analysis, key category analysis and the IPCC Emission Factor Database.

20. Following the general discussion about the cross-sectoral aspects of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines, participants were divided into two groups: one for the AFOLU sector and a second for the energy, industrial processes and product use, and waste sectors. Participants were made aware of the various theoretical choices and decisions that can be made when applying the 2006 IPCC Guidelines.

21. In addition to the theory discussions, participants also participated in hands-on training sessions that introduced them to the various functionalities of IPCC inventory software. The hands-on exercises covered the following themes: inventory management (user management and management of different versions of the inventory as well as the workflow to produce the final version of the national GHG inventory); key cross-cutting issues (key category analysis, completeness and consistency checks); and all of the sectors (energy, industrial processes and product use, AFOLU, and waste). The participants were given ample time to practise and better understand the different functionalities that are available and how they work, as well as to interact with the resource persons and gain confidence in using the application.

III. Feedback from participants

22. Feedback was welcomed from participants throughout the workshop and they were encouraged to complete an anonymous online survey immediately after the closure of the workshop regarding the training materials as well as the structure and content of the workshops.

23. The participants expressed their appreciation to the secretariat and the IPCC for organizing the regional training workshops and to the Governments of Lesotho, Panama and the Republic of Korea for hosting them. They also thanked the Parties that funded the workshops.⁸

24. The online survey indicates that participants were satisfied with both the content and the organization of the workshop.⁹

25. Participants acknowledged the usefulness of the training, especially with regard to the application of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines. In general, the workshops were successful in achieving the following:

(a) Familiarizing the national experts from non-Annex I Parties with the 2006 IPCC Guidelines, IPCC inventory software and the IPCC Emission Factor Database ;

(b) Fostering a general understanding of the methodologies used for estimating national GHG emissions by sources and removals by sinks;

⁸ Financial support was received from Japan, the Republic of Korea and Sweden.

⁹ Utilizing a four-point rating scale (excellent, good, fair and poor), the rating per workshop indicates that more than 97 per cent of the participants rated the training as good or excellent. The remaining participants rated the training as fair; no participants rated the training as poor.

(c) Serving as a platform for sharing experiences and lessons learned among national experts from the same region;

(d) Promoting networking among national experts involved in compiling their national GHG inventories.

26. A recurring suggestion from participants was that the hands-on sessions on the use of IPCC software could be improved by utilizing more concise data sets, given the overall time constraints of the workshop.

27. Some participants highlighted the need for the availability of IPCC GHG inventory software in other United Nations languages, specifically French and Spanish. Participants also noted the need for improvements in the software in terms of data exchange with other specialized tools and software, improving the user interface and time series data management.

28. Some participants, acknowledging the need to have more experts trained than can participate in the regional workshops, noted the need to supplement this workshop training with e-learning courses on the 2006 IPCC Guidelines, and to make these courses available in other official United Nations languages, specifically French and Spanish.
