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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 2017, the secretariat conducted two 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 summarizes the discussions.

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I. Introduction

A. Mandate and background

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*¹ (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 (UNDP), to make every effort to ensure that the relevant training is made available to all non-Annex I Parties.²

2. In response to this request, the secretariat planned three regional training workshops for 2017. However, financial resources were available only for two 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. The first workshop was conducted in collaboration with the IPCC and the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE), and the second with UNDP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the CGE.

B. Scope of the note

3. This report contains a summary of the proceedings of and discussions at the following two regional hands-on training workshops:

(a) Workshop for the Africa region, held in Swakopmund, Namibia, from 24 to 28 April 2017;

(b) Workshop for the Latin America and the Caribbean region, held in Rodney Bay, Saint Lucia, from 12 to 16 June 2017.

4. It also includes a brief description 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.

C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

5. The SBI, having considered this report, may wish to note the feedback from workshop participants (see chapter III) and provide further guidance to the secretariat, as appropriate, on the provision of further technical assistance to non-Annex I Parties with fulfilling their reporting obligations under the Convention.

II. Objectives and proceedings of the workshops

6. Among the main objectives of the regional workshops were: the enhancing of the capacity of national experts and national focal points to build sustainable national GHG inventory management systems and use the 2006 IPCC Guidelines in the preparation of their country's national GHG inventory; providing a platform for an exchange of views, lessons learned and experience.

¹ Available at www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/public/2006gl/index.html.

² FCCC/SBI/2015/10, paragraph 29.

7. The two regional training workshops were similar in design and structure and therefore followed similar agendas.³ They were designed to cover the key role of a national GHG inventory management system and the process of developing it. An interactive training approach was used, including presentations, discussions and hands-on exercises employing realistic data sets. Participants also shared their countries' experience and attended question and answer sessions.

8. The training sessions were conducted by resource persons who included staff members of the secretariat along with, for the first workshop, the Technical Support Unit of the IPCC Taskforce on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories for the first workshop, and, for the second workshop, a staff member of FAO and a resource person from Chile.

9. The regional training workshop for the Africa region, hosted by the Government of Namibia, was attended by 47 national experts representing 42 non-Annex I Parties.⁴ Mr. Petrus Muteyauli, Deputy Director, Department of Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Namibia, delivered the keynote statement.

10. The regional training workshop for the Latin America and the Caribbean region, hosted by the Government of Saint Lucia, was attended by 31 national experts representing 20 non-Annex I Parties.⁵ Ms. Valerie Leon, Permanent Secretary, Department of Sustainable Development of Saint Lucia, delivered the keynote statement.

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

(a) The CGE *Handbook on Building Sustainable National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Management Systems*;⁶

(b) The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) *Template Workbook on Developing a National Greenhouse Gas Inventory System*;⁷

(c) The 2006 IPCC Guidelines, with supporting materials from the IPCC Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories;⁸

(d) Relevant templates, spreadsheets and IPCC inventory software.⁹

12. 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 (i.e. energy, industrial processes and product use, and waste) were organized. Each group session included exercises on the use of relevant templates, spreadsheets and inventory software.

³ The agendas are available at http://unfccc.int/national_reports/non-annex_i_natcom/meetings/items/655.php.

⁴ Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

⁵ Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay.

⁶ Available at http://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.

⁷ Available at <https://www3.epa.gov/climatechange/Downloads/EPAactivities/Complete%20Template%20Workbook.doc>.

⁸ Available at www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/support/support.html.

⁹ Available at www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/software/index.html.

III. Summary of the discussions

1. Country presentations

13. Representatives of some participating countries¹⁰ gave brief overviews of their national GHG inventory systems and experience in using the 2006 IPCC Guidelines. The participants also outlined lessons learned, best practices and areas for improvement. In addition, all participants were encouraged to share their national experience throughout the workshop.

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

14. 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*, were used by participants to discuss, and share experience on, institutional arrangements, conducting quality assurance and quality control procedures, archiving procedures, establishing or refining a national inventory improvement plan, and performing key category analyses.

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

3. Use of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change software

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

17. 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 one for the energy, industrial processes and product use, and waste sectors. Participants were made aware of the various choices and decisions involved in applying the 2006 IPCC Guidelines.

18. In addition to the theoretical discussions, participants also carried out hands-on exercises with IPCC inventory software, covering the following topics: inventory management (user management and management of different versions of the inventory, as well as the workflow for producing the final version of the national GHG inventory); key cross-cutting issues (key category analysis, completeness and consistency checks); and all the sectors (energy, industrial processes and product use, AFOLU and waste). The participants were given ample time to practise and thereby become more familiar with the available functionalities, as well as to interact with the resource persons and gain confidence in using the application.

IV. Feedback from participants

19. Feedback was welcomed from participants throughout the workshop. 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.

¹⁰ Argentina, Belize, Benin, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ghana, Jamaica, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Panama, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, South Africa, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uruguay.

20. The participants expressed their appreciation to the secretariat and the IPCC, FAO and UNDP for organizing the workshops, and to the Governments of Namibia and Saint Lucia for hosting them.

21. The online survey indicates that participants were satisfied with both the content and the organization of the workshops.¹¹

22. Participants acknowledged the usefulness of the training, especially with regard to the application of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines. The workshops were deemed to have been successful in achieving the following:

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

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

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

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

23. A recurring suggestion from participants was that the hands-on sessions on the use of IPCC software could be improved by allocating more time, utilizing more data sets that better reflect country cases, and providing examples of activity data sets for subsectors.

24. Some participants indicated the need to have two participants per country trained because the hands-on training sessions on AFOLU and non-AFOLU sectors were organized in parallel. Some participants highlighted the need to organize the workshop in two or three tiers (e.g. beginner, intermediate and advanced) considering the different levels of expertise of participants.

25. The need for the availability of IPCC GHG inventory software in other United Nations languages, specifically French and Spanish, was highlighted by some of the participants. Also noted was the need for improvements in the software in terms of data exchange with other specialized tools and software, the user interface and time series data management.

26. Some of the participants, acknowledging the need to train more experts than can participate in the regional workshops, noted the need to supplement the workshops 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.

¹¹ Utilizing a four-point scale (excellent, good, fair and poor), 100 per cent of the participants rated the organization of the training as good or excellent. More than 94 per cent of the participants rated the balance between general guidance and interactive discussion sessions as good or excellent, and more than 80 per cent rated the balance between presentations and hands-on sessions as good or excellent. No participants rated the training as poor regarding either organization or content.