EASTERN AFRICA STANDARDISED BASELINES – APPLICATION, REPLICATION AND EXPANSION

This document summarises discussions that took place during the DNA round table side event that was organised by GIZ and the UNFCCC RCC Kampala with support from the BMUB and the East Africa Development Bank during the 2016 Africa Carbon Forum in Kigali, Rwanda. The main objective of the event was to assess the status of Standardised Baselines (SBs) in Eastern Africa in addition to their current and future role in the context of the Paris Agreement.

The round table discussions moderated by Carbon Africa provided an opportunity for DNAs to share their experiences in developing SBs, identify areas for regional synergies and further collaboration.

Panellists

Setting the context of SBs

- John Kasiita Ssemulema – GIZ
- Vikrant Badve – UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre Uganda
- Tim Cowman – Carbon Africa

DNA round table discussions

- Imaculée Uwimana – DNA Rwanda
- Chebet Maikut – DNA Uganda
- Anne Nyatichi Omambia – DNA Kenya
- Yohannes Ameha Assefa –DNA Ethiopia

Wrap-Up and outlook

- Thomas Forth – BMUB

Till Serafimov and Gloria Namande from GIZ Uganda and Tim Cowman, Carbon Africa's Deputy Director, moderated the discussions.

Setting the context for SBs

John Kasiita Ssemulema

"BMUB through GIZ is committed to supporting the development of SBs in the East African region."

GIZ continues to support the development of SBs including through:

a) Policy advisory & capacity strengthening;
b) Technical support;
c) An East African Regional exchange platform;
d) Development of SBs.

Vikrant Badve

"SBs remain applicable as an MRV tool for mitigation actions"

There are currently 24 standardised baselines in total. It is noted that SBs are now being used in broader contexts (other than the CDM) for example for NAMA development. In the Gambia, SBs have been used in the development of their rural electrification NAMA while in the Philippines, SBs have been applied in their rice cultivation NAMA. This shows that SBs have potential application as an MRV tool for mitigation commitments under the Paris Agreement and in the post 2020 climate regime.

Tim Cowman

"SBs have potential for application, replication and expansion across the region"

It is important to highlight that the Eastern African Region has strong foundations in SB development.

It is noted that the development of SB's often results in positive impacts within the host country that go beyond generating the actual baseline figure. These effects can include improved institutional capacity with accompanying data collection processes as well as feeding into enhanced governance structures.

Against this backdrop there is potential for application, replication and extension of SBs in the region. Being that these internationally recognised baseline figures can find application not only at the CDM projects and programmes level but also in NAMA development and potentially feeding into the NDC reporting process.

SBs with potential for replication and/or expansion include the institutional cookstove SB developed for Uganda and the Ethiopian SB for electrification of rural communities using renewable energy. These SBs, amongst others, could be of interest to other East African countries planning to develop similar mitigation actions as part of their NAMAs and/or their NDCs. In addition, given the interconnected nature of the East African electricity grid, the possibility of a regional Power Pool SB GEF could be explored.

DNA roundtable discussions on potential role for application, replication and expansion of SBs

Imaculée Uwimana – DNA Rwanda

"In order to find broader application, SB development time-frames needs to be matched with relevant and applicable country activities "

SB Experience

1 Approved SB	Rwanda GEF
1 SB under development	Solid waste management

In the development of the GEF SB, the main challenge faced was data collection particularly since the Rwandan grid is interconnected to other country grids. This resulted in extended processing times for completion and approval.

Application, replication and expansion of SBs

There are elements of the SB that can be applicable to the country's reporting requirements, however development time frames are a key consideration in this regard. For example, the GEF SB could not be applied in Rwanda's Renewable Energy NAMA since it had not been finalised at the time of development.

There could be potential for SB development for the agricultural sector NAMA that focuses on the development of sustainable fertilizer. In addition, SB could find relevance in the transport sector NAMA, also considered under Rwanda's NDC.

There is also potential for replication and expansion of the Ugandan charcoal production SB particularly since Rwanda is developing a sustainable charcoal production NAMA.

Chebet Maikut – DNA Uganda

CarbonAfrica limited

"Partnerships are key for the development of SBs"

SB Experience

3 Approved SB	Charcoal sector Uganda GEF Institutional cook stoves
2 SB under development	Waste water treatment Solid waste management

The process to develop SB calls for collaboration among various stakeholders and partners as finances and expertise are required. The SB development process also calls for patience, as it can be a lengthy process.

Application, replication and expansion of SBs

The cookstove SB has been particularly useful and has been applied in the development of the Ugandan green schools NAMA. There is also potential for SB application in the implementation of Uganda's Green growth development strategy, Low Emission Development Strategies as well as NDC development and reporting. The EAC should work together to develop a regional SB, where possible.

Anne Nyatichi Omambia – DNA Kenya

"Lets reduce the gaps. The timelines for SB development and approval should be reduced"

SB Experience

3 SB under development	Kenya GEF Cookstove Methane avoidance

Prior to the collapse of the carbon market there was a lot of interest and support for SB development from the private sector.

Collaboration is a key requirement for the development of SBs where for example with the GEF the DNA had to liaise with a number of institutions in order to obtain necessary data.

Stakeholder engagements were also very useful in obtaining feedback.

The main challenges faced, specifically on the GEF SB, was integrating the potential regional power sharing in the SB development. Acquiring data and more so in the required format remains a huge challenge. It is these procedural requirements that process lengthy processing times that need to be shortened.

Application, replication and expansion of SBs

Approved SB could find application in the development of CDM, projects, programmes of activities as well as NAMAs and NDCs. In the Kenyan context, various sectors including the cement, cookstove, waste and transport sectors would find SBs useful for MRV purposes even in the context of the Paris agreement. We should however ensure that the SB development and approval timelines are reduced in order to allow for easy adoption and application of the SBs. The East African Community should definitely consider developing a regional GEF due to the power interconnections that exist in the region.

Yohannes Ameha Assefa –DNA Ethiopia

"We need support in the data collection and quality control and assurance process"

SB Experience

2 SBs under development	**Clinker production** **Rural electrification**

There are two standardised baselines currently seeking approval from the country and the procedural timelines have been too long. The Ethiopian grid is for the most part clean and therefore a GEF SB has not been considered.

Application, replication and expansion of SBs

SB's are very useful because they add to the simplification of the CDM. The main challenge is that their approval and registration can take too long. There is also need for significant levels of support in the process of quality assurance and quality control as well as data collection in the preparation and finalisation of the SB.

Wrap-Up and outlook

Thomas Forth –BMUB

"Let us focus on the benefits gained through the SBs and capitalize on these, as they will motivate us to improve."

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), Thomas welcomed the regional level interaction, reflecting that the outcomes present potential areas for future collaboration. In addition the opportunity was utilised to remind participants that the Paris Agreement has significantly shifted the context with NDCs now providing the framework for SBs. In this regard it was important to acknowledge that two critical elements will shape future developments – the conditional, non-conditional and uncovered breakdown of NDCs, and the added dimension of a dynamic timeframe. Within this context Africa was encouraged to consolidate its position on the provisions within article 6 in order to ensure that the most is extracted from the option for cooperative approaches.

Follow up actions

Following the successful regional level interactions in Kigali , further follow up is to be made with regards to key potential actions areas could that include:

- Regional expansion of existing SBs such as those for institutional cookstoves and charcoal;
- Development of a regional Grid Emission Factor SB.
- Completion of pending SBs in the region;
- New developments in priority sectors such as transport and agriculture;

All work being undertaken with appreciation for the broader context of NDC and NAMA implementation