


Operational Completion Report (OCR)

Signatures

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1. Project Identification

GEF ID: 9105
Project Title: Preparation of intended nationally determined contribution (INDC) to the 2015 Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
Executing Agency: Nine (9) National Governments ¹
UNEP Division: Climate Change Division
Country/Region: Global
Actual Implementation Start Date: Apr 2015
Actual Completion Date: Sept. 2018
GEF Focal Area: Climate Change
GEF Grant Amount: US\$ 1,800,000
Co-financing (if applicable): N/A

2. Project Implementation

1. Brief description of activities, and its link to Convention obligations.

A decision at COP 19 {1/CP.19 Para 2(b)} catalyzed a new approach within the international climate negotiations by requesting Parties to provide up front information about their ‘*intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs)*’ to the new global climate agreement. Parties were requested to communicate their INDC well in advance of the twenty-first session of the COP (by the first quarter of 2015 for those parties ready to do so). The Lima call for climate action at COP 20, reiterated the global objective of holding global temperature increase limits below 1.5° C or 2° C compared to pre-industrial levels, and recognized that there is still a significant emissions gap towards this goal. Parties were invited to communicate to the UNFCCC secretariat their INDCs towards achieving the objective of the Convention as set out in its Article 2. Parties also agreed that the least developed countries and small island developing States may communicate information on strategies, plans and actions for low greenhouse gas emission development reflecting their special circumstances in the context of intended nationally determined contributions.

UNEP has over the years supported the UNFCCC climate negotiation process and countries to comply with their reporting obligations. This project supported the following nine (9)

¹ Names of executing partners provided in Table 1

countries to prepare and communicate their INDCs to the UNFCCC: Benin, Cambodia, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Namibia, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe and Uzbekistan. These countries were supported to identify and communicate their INDCs in line with the Lima call for climate action.

2. Overview of implementation arrangements

The project was implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and executed by nine (9) national governments, with each national government appointing an executing partner, as listed in Table 1. UNEP worked in close collaboration with the executing agencies through the country-specific institutional arrangement for INDC preparation. UNEP was responsible for overall project supervision, overseeing the project progress through the monitoring and evaluation of project activities and progress reports, including technical issues. Proposed institutional arrangements for INDC preparation complemented, to the extent possible, established national structures for climate change enabling activities projects. The project management units comprised the national project managers and part time accountants. Technical experts/consultants were engaged to prepare different elements of the INDC.

Table 1: - Project Executing Entities

Country	Appointed Executing Agency
1. Benin	Ministry of Environment in charge of Climate Change Management, Reforestation, and Protection of Natural and Forest Resources through the Directorate General of Climate Change
2. Cambodia	The Ministry of Environment, through Climate Change Department (CCD)
3. Gabon	Ministry of Forest, Environment and Protection of Natural Resources (MFEPNR)
4. Guinea Bissau	The Secretary of State for the Environment
5. Namibia	The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Environment and Tourism
6. Papua New Guinea	Office of Climate Change and Development
7. Rwanda	Rwanda Environment and Management Authority (REMA)
8. Sao Tome and Principe	Ministry of Public Works, Infrastructure, Natural Resources and Environment
9. Uzbekistan	Centre of Hydro Meteorological Service under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Uzhydromet)

3. Delivery of outputs

The project supported nine (9) countries to prepare and communicate to the UNFCCC secretariat their INDCs as the main outputs. The Lima Call for Climate Action recognized that INDC communicated by Parties may vary from country to country depending on the national circumstances, reporting capacities and development goals. It also agreed that the LDCs and SIDS may communicate information on strategies, plans and actions for low GHG emission development reflecting their special circumstances in the context of intended nationally determined contributions. All Parties to the UNFCCC were invited to consider communicating their undertakings in adaptation planning or consider including an adaptation component in their INDCs. The links to the INDC reports prepared and communicated to the UNFCCC secretariat are provided in **Annex 1** of this report.

Project Objective: Nine countries prepare and submit intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) to the 2015 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Agreement and have institutional arrangements in place that support the INDC process			
Project Components	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Targets End of Project² (UNEP as the IA)
1. Institutional arrangements for the preparation of intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) to the 2015 UNFCCC Agreement	1.1 An institutional arrangement which promotes the preparation, implementation and monitoring of INDCs is established in eligible countries	1.1.1 Institutional arrangement for preparation, implementation and monitoring of INDCs agreed and clearly described	- 9 project documents prepared that included detailed one-year workplans.
		1.1.2 Staff of participating institutions and INDC national experts have accessed INDC materials and participated in relevant INDC regional/subregional workshops, including those organized by the Global Support Programme (GSP) to build their capacities for effective work delivery in the INDC process	- Nine (9) INDC reports completed and submitted to the UNFCCC.
2. Preparation and submission of INDC to the 2015 UNFCCC Agreement	2.1 Countries submit their INDC report that meet the UNFCCC Convention reporting	2.1.1 Nine INDC reports drafted, peer reviewed, completed and ready for submission to the UNFCCC	

² Reports submitted to the UNFCCC are appended in Annex 1.

	obligations		
3. Monitoring, reporting and evaluation	3.1 Effectively monitored and implemented and evaluated project	3.1.1 INDC project inception workshops held 3.1.2 Project financial and technical progress reports prepared and submitted promptly 3.1.3 MSP financially audited 3.1.4 Project is evaluated upon successful execution	

The preparation of INDCs not only supported planning and climate policy making at national level but also supported the UNFCCC intergovernmental negotiation leading up to the adoption of the 2015 global climate Agreement. Through this project, national institutional and human capacities were strengthened to prepare, implement and monitor INDCs. These reports became important vehicles for enhancing national ambitions of countries to address the challenges posed by climate change. The support provided to the INDC processes at the global level within the framework of the Global support programme (GSP) ensured countries were able to effectively share lessons learnt and good practices and had access to training as well as technical and policy-relevant guidance materials, methodologies and tools for INDC preparation and implementation.

4. Project Outcome

Where applicable any project outcomes, as achieved short- or medium-term effect of outputs (*including unintended positive and negative outcomes*)

The project enabled the nine countries to meet their INDC reporting obligations under the UNFCCC, while laying the groundwork for sustained climate action and integration of climate priorities into national development agendas. The notable outcomes include: -

- Enhanced Climate Governance
 - Operational institutional arrangements for climate planning and implementation.
 - INDCs served as a foundation for future NDCs under the Paris Agreement.
- Integration into National Planning
 - Climate change main-streamed into national development and policy frameworks.

- Initiation of environmental information systems for informed decision-making.
- Global Environmental Benefits
 - Contribution to global efforts in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
 - Support for transformational shifts toward low-emission, climate-resilient development.

5. Stakeholders' involvement

Extent of stakeholder engagement and capacity developed

Each of the participating countries in this project undertook inclusive stakeholder engagement processes to ensure national ownership and alignment with development priorities. These included:

- National consultations involving ministries, civil society, academia, and private sector actors.
- Local-level engagement, particularly in Benin and Cambodia, through mechanisms like Local and sub-national planning frameworks.
- Sectoral working groups and climate committees, such as Rwanda's National Climate Change Committee and Cambodia's Climate Change Technical Working Group.
- Feedback mechanisms and mapping exercises, notably in Papua New Guinea, to ensure broad representation and input.
- Integration with existing national strategies, ensuring climate actions were aligned with development goals.

Capacity building efforts focused on strengthening institutional, technical, and policy frameworks to support climate action. Highlights include:

- Training in MRV systems, climate finance, and policy integration across ministries.
- Institutional strengthening through climate units and committees, such as Namibia's Climate Change Unit.
- Development of strategic plans and roadmaps, such as Cambodia's NDC Roadmap and Uzbekistan's low-emission development strategies.
- Capacity building in adaptation planning, especially in vulnerable sectors like agriculture, forestry, and coastal management.

6. Financial Summary

Source	(USD)
GEF Grant	1,800,000
Final Date of Disbursement	08/02/2018
Cumulative Disbursement (as of final date of disbursement)	1,564,067.21
Co-financing, if applicable	N/A

6. Lessons Learned

Some of the key insights from the INDC preparation through this project include: -

- Institutional Strengthening: All nine countries established institutional arrangements to support INDC development, highlighting the importance of national coordination mechanisms.
- Capacity Building: Technical assistance and capacity building were essential, especially for data collection, scenario modeling, and stakeholder engagement.
- Integration with Existing Frameworks: INDCs were often developed in conjunction with National Communications (NCs) and Biennial Update Reports (BURs), leveraging existing climate reporting structures.
- Stakeholder Engagement: Inclusive consultations with government agencies, civil society, and the private sector were critical for legitimacy and alignment with national priorities.

The INDC preparation process carried out through this project brought forward the following recommendations:

- Enhance Technical Support: Continue providing tailored technical backstopping, including methodologies and tools for GHG inventories, mitigation modeling, and vulnerability assessments.
- Strengthen Institutional Capacity: Support long-term institutional frameworks for climate governance beyond INDC preparation.
- Promote Knowledge Sharing: Facilitate regional and global platforms for sharing lessons learned and best practices.
- Ensure Sustainable Financing: Maintain flexible and accessible funding mechanisms like GEF's expedited approval process and no co-financing requirement for small projects.
- Integrate Climate Planning: Encourage alignment of INDCs with broader development strategies, including SDGs and national adaptation plans.
- Monitor and Evaluate: Develop robust M&E systems to track implementation progress and inform future NDC updates.

Annex 1: Submission of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) to the UNFCCC

Country	Date of submission to UNFCCC	UNFCCC Link
1. Benin	30 Sept. 2015	INDC Benin: - INDC BENIN Version finale revue septembre 2015.pdf
2. Cambodia	30 Sept. 2015	INDC Cambodia: - Cambodia's INDC to the UNFCCC.pdf
3. Gabon	01 April 2015	INDC Gabon: - Gabon Contributions prévues déterminées au niveau national
4. Guinea Bissau	30 Sept. 2015	INDC Guinea Bissau: - GUINEA-BISSAU INDC Version to the UNFCCC (eng).pdf
5. Namibia	29 Sept. 2015	INDC Namibia: - INDC of Namibia Final pdf.pdf
6. Papua New Guinea	30 Sept. 2015	INDC Papua New Guinea: - PNG INDC to the UNFCCC.pdf
7. Rwanda	02 Dec. 2015	INDC Rwanda: - INDC Rwanda.pdf
8. Sao Tome and Principe	30 Sept. 2015	INDC Sao Tome and Principe: - Microsoft Word - Short_STP_INDC _Ingles_30.09.2015
9. Uzbekistan	19 April 2017	INDC Uzbekistan: - INDC Uzbekistan 18-04-2017_Eng_20170419093154_171926.pdf