

Start Up Clean Development Mechanism in ACP-Countries CDM-Susac

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FACT-SHEET (3)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In order for the CDM to achieve its principal objective, the impacts of a project on sustainable development (SD) must be assessed.

In 1987 the Bruntland report¹ defined sustainable development as:

“development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

There is general agreement that sustainable development requires the integration of four key elements: the **economic**, **social** and **environmental** dimensions of development. The most common way of measuring the sustainability of policy interventions is through the use of **sustainability indicators**.

Governments of non Annex I countries need to identify the country's priorities with regards to sustainable development, then adopt those indicators that are relevant to the national priorities and development goals. According to the national priorities host governments can identify a number of key sector that would bring development to the country and then verify in which relevant sector a proposed CDM activity/project would fit. At this point the selected development indicators relevant for the sector would be used to analyse how the project meets the country's priorities. This can be done as a simple checklist that need not be expensive or time consuming. On the other hand some countries may feel the need for a more thorough approach to CDM project selection and decide to prioritise the sustainable development indicators according to the national priorities. In this case a ranking method may be used to prioritise the indicators and therefore help governments to decide upon which project better meets the country's goals.

The objective of checking a CDM project's compatibility with a country's sustainable development goals is to avoid that the CDM will merely become a cost-reduction tool for developed countries legitimised by secondary benefits that may or may not be consistent with developing countries development priorities.

Most national governments have prepared or are preparing National Development Strategies setting out their sustainable development priorities.

REFERENCES

Kelly, C. and Helme, N (2000) “*Ensuring CDM project compatibility with sustainable development goals*” Centre for Clean Air Policy <http://www.ccap.org>

OECD (1999) “*The three-year project on sustainable development: a progress report*” PAC/AFF(99)1. <http://www.oecd.org/subject/sustdev>

¹ “Our Common Future”, World Commission on Environment and Development 1987.