



**“THE CAPACITY GAP
BETWEEN
DESIRED REPORTING
AND
CURRENT SITUATION”**

SOME REMARKS ABOUT REDD+

1. **Kyoto Protocol (1997):** Articles 2 and 3 establish scope for REDD: “direct human induced land-use change and forestry activities, but only Afforestation /Reforestation (A/R) within **CDM**.
2. **COP 7 and Marrakesh Accord (2001):** Compromise on forestry, i.e. targets can be met with REDD+ activities in Annex 1 countries, but only afforestation and reforestation allowed to generate tradable credits under CDM.
3. **COP 11; Montreal (2005):** Proposal by Papua New Guinea and Costa Rica, on behalf of the Coalition of Rainforest Nations (CfRN). *The term REDD was formally put on the agenda.*



SOME REMARKS ABOUT REDD+

4. **COP 13, Bali (2007):** Decision 2/CP.13 REDD adopted; Stern report released, Bali Action Plan (the last major agreement) including new KP parallel negotiation track AWG-LCA (includes US), NAMAs; World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) announced
5. **SBSTA 29, Poznan (2008):** REDD became REDD+; UN-REDD launched
6. **COP 15 Copenhagen:** Adopted decision on Methodological guidance for activities relating to REDD+
7. **Interim REDD+ Partnership** launched by Norway and France in May 2010



COP 13, BALI (2007):

In framing these negotiations, the Bali plan introduces a new construct with its requirement that certain actions be “measurable, reportable and verifiable.”

Specifically, in paragraphs 1(b)(i) and (ii), addressing mitigation, the plan calls for consideration of:

- 1. Measurable, reportable and verifiable nationally appropriate mitigation commitments or actions, including quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives, by all developed country Parties....[and]*
- 2. Nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country Parties in the context of sustainable development, supported and enabled by technology, financing and capacity-building, in a measurable, reportable and verifiable manner.*



MRV

The Bali Action Plan establishes MRV as a critical cross-cutting element certain to figure prominently in any new agreement.

- In many aspects, the concepts of “measurable,” “reportable” and “verifiable” are closely linked.
- In fact, in many contexts, one might presume that actions or commitments that are measurable are also reportable and verifiable.
- However each concept presents a distinct set of issues.



MEASURABLE

Typically, “measurement,” is used in connection with quantifiable attributes, such as volume, mass, distance, area, time, and temperature, which can be characterized and determined very precisely.

However, virtually any phenomenon can, in principle, be measured.

For example, under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the secretariat measures parties’ observance with their obligation to enact implementing legislation by qualitatively assessing each state’s legislation on a three-point scale.

So long as the evaluation can be performed on a rationally objective basis, applying expert judgment, measurement is possible.



REPORTABLE

Reporting is perhaps the most ever-present commitment in multilateral environmental agreements. Virtually every environmental agreement requires states to provide information.

What Should Be Reported?

Under the Bali Action Plan, the association of the term “reportable” suggests that the purpose of reporting is to permit others to assess what a country is doing.

Successful reporting is a function of two factors:

- (1) the precision and consistency of the reported information, which brings us back to the issue of *measurement*.
- (2) the degree to which information is presented in a transparent and **standardized** way that allows comparisons between reports and verification by others.



Methods and Modalities of Reporting

Many international environmental agreements provide detailed guidance on the preparation of national reports, including reporting formats, templates, or questionnaires.

For example, guidelines developed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) set forth exceptionally detailed methodologies for estimating and reporting emissions under the Framework Convention.

These standardized methods serve two functions. First, they identify the information that the international community believes important for an assessment of a country's actions. Second, they help ensure that the information provided can be compared and verified.



Methods and Modalities of Reporting

Agreements differ in the periodicity of reporting. Many agreements require annual reports, like the annual emission inventories that developed countries must submit under the UNFCCC. But some agreements provide for less frequent reports, such as the Convention on Migratory Species, which requires triennial reports.

As the UNFCCC illustrates, the formats and periodicity of reporting may be differentiated among parties based on differences in their commitments and their capacities to report.



VERIFIABLE

Verification generally refers to the process of independently checking the accuracy and consistency of reported information or the procedures used to generate information.

Verification of parties' actions depends on three factors:

- (1) the degree to which reported data is capable of being verified;
- (2) the actors who conduct the verification, and
- (3) the manner in which verification is performed.



Who verifies?

A wide variety of actors can play a role in the verification process.

Other states. Bilateral arms controls agreements generally rely on verification by the other party to the agreement through “national technical means of verification” such as satellites, radars, as well as through on-site inspections.

International organizations/secretariat. The most prominent example of verification by an international organization is the International Atomic Energy Agency’s (IAEA) role in the nuclear non-proliferation regime. In the environmental arena, the CITES secretariat plays a significant role in reviewing and verifying information in national reports, including through ad hoc verification missions.



Who verifies?

Independent experts. As for example The UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol's expert review team process.

National verification. Although verification typically involves third-party review, verification can be performed at the national level. for example, by government agencies, non-governmental actors, independent experts, or auditors.

Qualified private third-parties. Some environmental standards involve verification by recognized third parties. For example, information regarding projects under the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) is verified by designated operating entities, which are accredited by the CDM Executive Body.

NGOs typically play an informal role in verifying the accuracy of national reports. For example, Greenpeace checks the accuracy of data on whaling, but must find a willing government to introduce its information because it has no official status at International Whaling Commission meetings



MRV in the Climate Regime

The UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol contain many provisions relating to the measurement and reporting of information on parties' actions.

Under the Convention, all parties are required to submit **national communications** and **national emission inventories**, but the requirements for Annex I parties (developed countries and economies in transition) and non-Annex I parties (developing countries) differ substantially.



EXISTING REPORTING COMMITMENTS FOR ANNEX I PARTIES UNDER THE CONVENTION

National communications

Content: information on national GHG emissions, climate related policies and measures, GHG projections, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, financial assistance and technology transfer to non-Annex I Parties, and actions on raising public awareness on climate change;

Frequency: Submission to the COP every 4 years; Revision by international expert review teams (ERTs) within 1–2 years from the submission date.



... EXISTING REPORTING COMMITMENTS FOR ANNEX I PARTIES UNDER THE CONVENTION

National GHG inventories:

Required since 1996

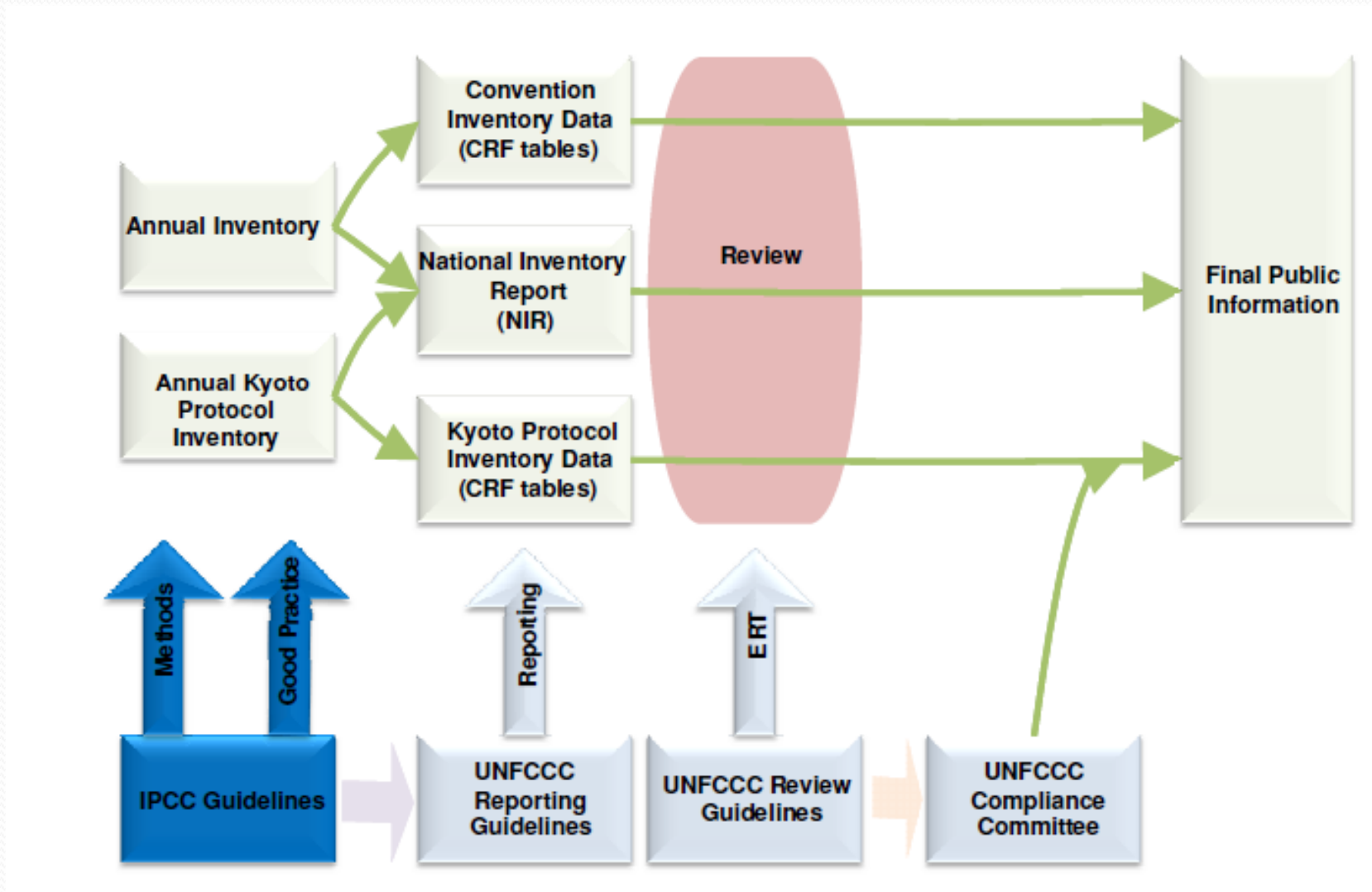
Content: information on emissions and removals of direct GHGs from six sectors (Energy, Industrial processes, Solvents, Agriculture, LULUCF, Waste),

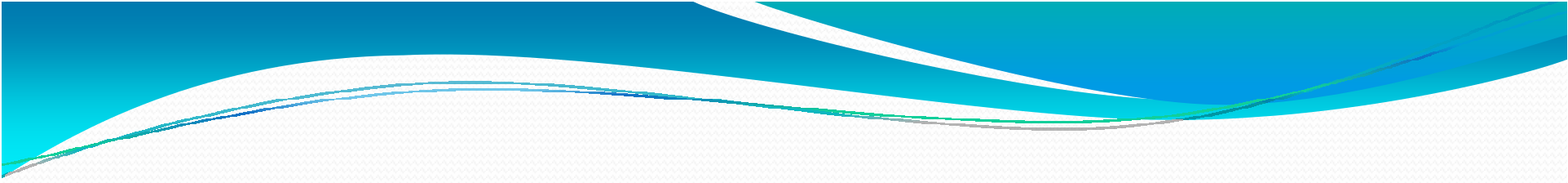
Frequency: Annual submission, following reporting guidelines by the COP and methodology developed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Annual review by ERTs following agreed review guidelines.

Standardized requirements for reporting to promote provision of credible and consistent GHG information: Common reporting format (CRF) tables National Inventory Report (NIR)



ANNEX I NATIONAL GHG INVENTORIES





**CURRENT
SITUATION IN REPORTING
BY
NON-ANNEX I PARTIES**



THE NATIONAL GHG INVENTORY IN NON-ANNEX I PARTIES

In non-Annex I Parties, the national GHG inventory is a portion of the national communication;

Frequency: initial communication to be submitted within 3 years of the entry into force of the Convention for that Party, or within 3 years of the availability of financial resources (except for the least developed countries, who may do so at their discretion);

Preparation and delivering depends on availability of resources (human and financial) and on the national arrangements put in place for the national communication.



SOME EXPECTED COMMITMENTS FOR NON-ANNEX I PARTIES IN THE POST-2012 CLIMATE REGIME

Cancún Agreements (decision 1/CP.16, Dec 2010):

- Non-Annex I Parties should submit their national communications to the COP every 4 years (par. 60 b.);
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- Should also submit biennial update reports, containing updates of national GHG inventories including a national inventory report and info on mitigation actions, needs and support received (par. 60 c.).
- REDD+ activities: timing for reporting not established yet. However, consistency with any guidance regarding MRV agreed for NAMAs should be ensured.





A NATIONAL SYSTEM TO ALLOW FOR A GHG INVENTORY

National systems are mandatory for Annex I Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (KP Art 5, par 1). The development and implementation of the institutional frameworks for GHG inventory preparation by developing countries in the post-2012 regime can benefit from the experience of Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol, while adapting to different levels of development, commitments and priorities.

Definition: “A national system includes all institutional, legal and procedural arrangements made within a Party included in Annex I for estimating anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, and for reporting and archiving inventory information” (Guidelines for National Systems - decision 19/CMP.1)

TECHNICAL PROBLEMS & CONSTRAINTS AFFECTING NON-ANNEX I PARTIES

- The number of national experts is insufficient
- Often, support comes from independent consultants and external qualified technical experts
- Capacity-building mostly focus on individuals and not institutional capacity
- Difficulties in obtaining appropriate activity data and emission factors
- Lack of willingness to provide data among data providers for all sectors
- Financial resources: “The developed country Parties shall provide new and additional financial resources to meet the agreed full costs incurred by developing country Parties in complying with their obligations under Art. 12, par. 1” .





As a final Statement

**A MASSIVE CAPACITY BUILDING
IS NEEDED!**

