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Monitoring Climate Change Mitigation on the Context of National Sustainable Development Strategies

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Outline

1. Role of national sustainable development strategies (NSDS) in addressing climate change
2. Monitoring an NSDS and the role of official statistics
3. Climate change mitigation policies in NSDS – country experiences and monitoring needs

UN DESA – Division for Sustainable Development

- Mission Statement: To provide leadership and to be an authoritative source of expertise within the United Nations system on sustainable development
- DSD serves as the Secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)
- CSD:
 - Functional Commission of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
 - Attended by non-CSD member states, UN system, NGOs and IGOs
 - Includes high-level segment with 60-70 ministers in attendance
- DSD conducts normative work, analytical work and technical cooperation



NSDS and climate change

- What is an NSDS?
 - *A coordinated, participatory and iterative process* to achieve economic, environmental and social objectives in a balanced and integrated manner.
- Who has an NSDS?
 - All countries committed to NSDS in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002.
 - 82 countries have reported to the CSD or to DSD that they are implementing a NSDS in 2007.

NSDS and climate change

- Benefits of addressing climate change in an NSDS
 - An NSDS provides a natural framework for climate change mitigation and adaptation policy, as the global intergovernmental consensus recognizes climate change as sustainable development issue;
 - Preamble of UNFCCC: "...responses to climate change should be coordinated with social and economic development in an integrated manner..."
 - Bali Action Plan, para 1 b: "Enhanced national/international action on mitigation of climate change, including, inter alia, consideration of ... (ii) nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country Parties in the context of sustainable development;"
 - an NSDS facilitates the identification and valuation of co-benefits of climate change actions on other sustainable development issues;

NSDS and climate change

- Benefits of addressing climate change in an NSDS
 - an NSDS facilitates harnessing co-benefits from actions driven by non-climate objectives;
 - an NSDS enables country to identify and solve trade-offs between climate change and other objectives;
 - intergenerational equity is at the heart of the concept of sustainable development and of the climate change challenges;
 - as global partnership forms an integral part of the sustainable development agenda, an NSDS facilitates the consideration of other countries' concerns;
 - as an NSDS is a participatory process, it facilitates the engagement of non-state actors.

Monitoring an NSDS

- Three broad elements of an NSDS require monitoring:
 - Actions and activities planned in the NSDS;
 - Effects and impact of NSDS on sustainable development;
 - Progress towards sustainable development.
- Institutional arrangements for monitoring should be clarified from the beginning.
 - Choice depends on overall national institutional structure.

Monitoring an NSDS

- Official statistics play an important role in monitoring an NSDS:
 - Provision of high-quality data (data collection and integration) for monitoring strategy impact and overall progress;
 - Common types and sources of data needed
 - National accounts
 - Censuses
 - Household and other surveys
 - Administrative records
 - Estimations based on agreed standards;
 - Provision of statistical methodologies and standards;
 - Official statistics may have a lead role in monitoring and reporting strategy impact and overall progress, especially if broad elements are monitored separately and not in an integrated manner.

Monitoring an NSDS

- Other main actors in monitoring an NSDS
 - Institution in charge of coordinating NSDS
 - Inter-ministerial committee, presidential commission, NSDS council or lead ministry (Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Environment);
 - Actors implementing NSDS (self-monitoring), especially for monitoring NSDS actions;
 - Other governmental agencies, such as governmental accounting offices (for monitoring NSDS actions and possibly NSDS effects);
 - Research institutions or other non-governmental institutions.

Country experiences

Overview

- Most countries address climate change in their NSDS
 - Forty-four out of 59 countries included in a recent study by DSD address climate change mitigation;
 - twenty-two address climate change adaptation;
 - eleven do not address climate change explicitly.
- Wide range of policy instruments included in NSDS:
 - Economic (subsidies, tax exemption, ...);
 - Regulations, mandatory and voluntary standards, voluntary arrangements with private sector;
 - Developing new and revising existing strategies and management practices;
 - Providing information;
 - Research;
 - Awareness campaigns.

Country experiences

Common objectives and monitoring requirements

- The following table lists some common objectives/aims related to climate change mitigation found in 44 NSDS as well as indicators needed for monitoring.
- List is illustrative and not exhaustive.
- Actual formulation and specification of objectives/aim differ across country.
- Indicators and measurement methods also differ.

Country experiences

Common objectives and monitoring requirements

Objective/aim	Indicators
Limit growth of or reduce GHG emissions, total and/or by sector (energy, transport, waste, agriculture,...)	GHG emissions, total and by gas and sector
Decouple GHG emissions from economic growth	GHG emissions per unit of GDP
Participate actively in international climate negotiations	
Prepare national communications under the UNFCCC (non-Annex 1 countries)	

Country experiences

Common objectives and monitoring requirements

Objective/aim	Indicators
Increase use renewable energy sources	Share of renewable sources in electricity generation and/or total energy consumption
Improve energy efficiency in energy production, industry, transport, agriculture, buildings, energy appliances	Various sector-specific energy intensity indicators; sector-specific greenhouse gas emission intensity
Limit growth of or reduce energy consumption	Energy consumption, total, per-capita and/or by sector
Develop new technologies (RE, clean coal, ...)	

Country experiences

Common objectives and monitoring requirements

Objective/aim	Indicators
Enhance carbon sinks through reforestation, afforestation and avoided deforestation	Deforested area; reforested area; total area covered by forests
Promote sustainable forest management	Area under sustainable forest management
Expand Payment for Ecosystem Services schemes (includes carbon absorption)	Land area under PES schemes
Increase carbon sinks in agriculture	Agriculture land used as carbon sink; area under ecological farming

Country experiences

Common objectives and monitoring requirements

Objective/aim	Indicators
Acquire emission units through flexible mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol (CDM, JI)	Amount of emission units acquired
Benefit from CDM projects and other market mechanisms	Number of projects; avoided emissions
Ensure that CDM projects promote sustainable development	
Incorporate climate change in international cooperation, trade and investment policies	

Thank You

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