

Summary of the Follow-up Workshop on Developing Knowledge on the Building Blocks of a Global Mitigation Architecture

November 29, 2012, Durban/ South Africa
Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

The International Climate Initiative (ICI), launched in 2008 by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), is currently in its fourth year of operation. Since then, more than 250 projects with a total volume of approx. 600 million EUR have been supported.

More than 60% of the ICI portfolio contributes to build climate-friendly economies, with an increasing focus on the development of LCDS, NAMAs and MRV-systems. To date, 20 projects are under implementation, nine under preparation and additional projects are planned for the upcoming funding period.

On November 29, 2011, at the occasion of the Conference of Parties (COP 17) in Durban/ South Africa, the ICI brought together about 30 participants for the follow-up workshop on “Developing Knowledge on Building Blocks of a Global Mitigation Architecture”.

The workshop built on the findings of the first meeting held in June 2011 and aimed at further strengthening the network, enhancing the knowledge transfer among practitioners and experts and at deepening the strategic dialogue on LCDS, NAMAs and MRV-systems as well as on the concrete design and implementation of such mitigations instruments in BMU partner countries. Project examples formed the basis for sharing lessons learnt and reflecting them against the background of the factors identified in the frames of the first workshop to be key for successful work in the field of LCDS, NAMA, MRV. Moreover, central insights from projects that contribute to the conceptual development of climate policy instruments were presented and discussed (e.g. guidance documents for NAMAs such as templates and guidebooks). Fostering such double tracked bottom-up approach – supporting partner countries on the ground and funding conceptual work on mitigation instruments – the ICI adds substantially to imbue the Cancun Agreements with life.

With the Durban Platform a process has been started to further operationalize the Cancun Agreements and to pave the way for a comprehensive global agreement by 2015. A corner stone of this process is the elaboration of a detailed work plan that aims at ensuring the highest possible mitigation efforts by all parties. Though, apart from some specifications on MRV-ing, no substantial progress has been made in terms of setting internally accepted standards and procedures for the design and implementation of LCDS, NAMAs and MRV, it is clear that they will form central pillars of the future work plan. In this regard, the ICI forms a valuable basis for further shaping these mitigation instruments and for concretely addressing the ambition gap through enhanced and coordinated action.

The workshop resulted in the following key points:

- There is continued need for BMU and ICI experts and project implementers in the field of NAMAs, LCDS and MRV to share central experiences from the work on the ground and to jointly reflect results and political implications as well as to identify cooperation potentials and avoid of interferences.
- There is a huge demand for an advanced dialogue on strategic and conceptual aspects of LCDS, NAMAs and MRV-systems.
- There are different positions on the detailed design of a NAMA template, but a shared optimism that such new instrument could foster GHG reduction in fields that could not profit from the Kyoto instruments.
- The ICI should move a step further from planning to implementation in the field of LCDS, NAMAs and MRV.
- A communication and knowledge platform (e.g. an ICI wiki) that ensures a link to project and workshop outcomes as well as a link to the International Partnership on Mitigation and MRV is seen as a helpful tool.