

Botswana's Sustainable Development Criteria for Clean Development Mechanism CDM projects

Introduction

The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) has two objectives. The first objective is to assist developing countries achieve sustainable development. CDM project development also assist developed countries to meet their obligation under the Kyoto Protocol through investment in developing countries. The second objective is to assist participating countries access CDM carbon market. Botswana will encourage investment under CDM for new and existing infrastructure that will result in less carbon emissions. This will help Botswana achieve sustainable development.

Specific CDM Project Requirements

The primary legal criteria for CDM Projects under the Kyoto Protocol are:

- a. That the project assists the Host Country to achieve sustainable development;
- b. That the project provides real, measurable, and long-term benefits related to the mitigation of climate change; and
- c. That the project delivers reductions in emissions that are additional to any that would occur in the absence of the certified project activity.

Botswana's Sustainable Development Criteria

A public screening process of CDM Project Design Documents (PDDs) is performed and stakeholders are given an opportunity to comment on the project, including its impact in terms of social, economic and environmental effects.

All CDM project proposals are expected to address the following criteria:

- a. General Criteria: The project should:
 - be consistent with the national sustainable development policies and laws and other relevant policies and plans
 - be based upon the principle of voluntary participation
- b. Environmental Criteria: The project should:
 - result in significant reduction in the emissions of Greenhouse Gases
 - identify opportunities to conserve local resources and improve local environment

- c. Social Criteria: The project should:
- result in poverty alleviation
 - result in creation of new jobs
 - result in creation of new economic activities
 - have positive impacts on local communities
 - improve equity
 - take gender concerns into consideration and
 - ensure stakeholder participation in the development of the project
- d. Economic Criteria: The project should:
- contribute to improvement of Foreign Direct Investment
 - be cost effective
 - apply innovative, locally manageable technology
 - result in technology and know-how transfer

Application of the sustainable development criteria

The above-mentioned criteria should be viewed as a guide to CDM project development. Though other criteria will be considered emphasis will be given to CDM projects resulting in significant reduction of emissions of Greenhouse Gases.