



UNDP Sustainable Development Tool Case Study

Preparing a 'Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action' Sustainable Development Evaluation Tool for the UNDP



The Brief

Who is the client?

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in more than 170 countries and territories, the UNDP offers a global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations.

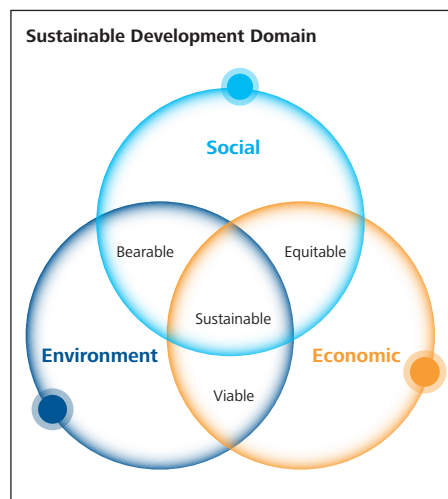
What is the context?

The term 'Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action' (NAMA) refers to a set of policies and actions that countries undertake as part of a commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A NAMA is an emerging mitigation instrument that seeks to bring together public and private players into a coordinated operational framework and an overarching financial architecture in order to scale-up the most promising environmentally and economically effective mitigation actions. Therefore, measurement



and reporting of sustainability benefits is essential to ensuring the effectiveness of mitigation actions, as is a strong integrated approach to assess NAMA's contribution to sustainable development.

The UNDP launched a tender in April 2014 for the development of a NAMA Sustainable Development Evaluation Tool with the objective to publicly release the tool. Thanks to its extensive experience with NAMAs and Sustainable Development assessments, south pole group was selected from amongst a pool of consultants as the best suited to achieve the outcomes of the mandate.



What was the challenge?

Aligning the two objectives of climate and development represents a new challenge of how to assess and promote NAMAs sustainable development benefits. National development objectives provide the context for NAMAs and represent a key driver for mitigation actions. In contrast to traditional project-based mitigation actions, NAMAs focus on building a sustainable low-carbon structure in climate-relevant sectors.



What was the briefing?

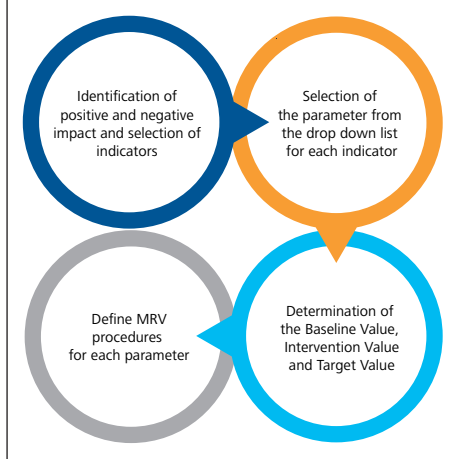
There is a need to give a value to sustainable development for many reasons:

- 1 Report on all sustainable development domains: environmental conservation, economic growth, poverty reduction and public welfare
- 2 Track development over the entire lifetime of a NAMA
- 3 Identify new areas of opportunity
- 4 Demonstrate a level of commitment and results achieved to external parties
- 5 Give donor institutions the confidence that supported actions will be implemented and that climate financing is being utilized effectively





Step-wise Approach



What solution did south pole group develop for UNDP?

UNDP looked for a simple, transparent and practical approach: The NAMA Sustainable Development Evaluation Tool developed by south pole group allows countries to assess the effects of a NAMA on environmental conservation, economic growth, poverty reduction and public welfare and to evaluate the achieved results. Although the expected duration of the work was six months, the tool was successfully finalized and published within just three months.

Our Sustainable Development Evaluation Tool is structured and resourceful, with concrete criteria that define and constitute the main sustainable development elements in a measurable, transparent, and user-friendly way. Guidelines for the application of the tool are being provided in simple language, with step-by-step instructions and examples. A real case study was used to illustrate the applicability of the tool.



Benefits

The tool is designed for NAMA developers, NAMA implementers and policy makers. In addition, the tool could easily be adapted to measure the sustainability of any development project.

- 1 south pole group's approach is universal and standardized, yet flexible enough to ensure compatibility with the variety of possible NAMA designs and national development goals
- 2 Existing sustainability tools were limited, and failed to provide a comprehensive approach for the measurement of sustainable development benefits. south pole group's approach considers the alignment of co-benefit indicators with national development goals as well as the multitude of NAMA design options
- 3 south pole group's tool was tested on a rural electrification project in Gambia, proving the applicability of the approach.



Why work with us

Global team

We are a truly global provider of sustainability solutions and services. Our team is made up of over 100 skilled and enthusiastic professionals from a host of different countries, based in offices spanning 6 continents.

Proven impact

Since 2006, we have measured the climate impact of countless companies and products worldwide. We have screened USD 30 bn+ of investments for their climate impact and we have developed 270+ projects in renewables, forestry, agriculture, industry and households. Through our efforts, 50 million tonnes of CO₂ have been saved, almost as much as the annual CO₂ emissions of Portugal. We have enabled the production of 35,000 GWh of renewable energy (more than the annual electricity consumption of Denmark), and mobilized over USD 6 bn for clean energy investments in emerging markets. In total, our projects have helped create almost 20,000 jobs in developing countries and we have saved 17,000+ hectares of forest from deforestation, about the size of 24,000 soccer pitches.

Added value

We help you grow with groundbreaking solutions that benefit your business, the environment and society.