



CoP 16 Side-Event

What has carbon trade taught us about ecological markets? Lessons learnt from a developer's perspective

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South Pole is an international CDM/VER project developer with 10 offices - headquartered in Zurich





South Pole at a glance



	 One of the last independent global carbon developers More than 160 projects. managed by 75 staff in 10
	offices
	 Focus on high-quality CERs and VERs
Highlights	 Largest Gold Standard portfolio worldwide (projects
	and issued certificates)
	 First approvals for PoAs in Asia
	 Driver of "CDM 2.0" – PoAs, NAMAs, standardized
	baselines and automated monitoring



South Pole: A passion for CDM development with a global team from 19 countries





The current state of the CDM



Achievements

- Some 500m tCO₂e emissions have already been avoided
- Methodologies have been developed for broad range of projects
- Many project categories have seen uptake in investments
- CDM has "transformed" entire sectors
- CDM has facilitated countless climate-related capacity development activities
- ⇒ "Carbon Revenues" are now a central component of emission reduction projects

The current state of the CDM



Challenges

- Limited scalability
- High transaction costs
- Inability of the CDM authorities to create predictability due to everchanging rules
- Subjective additionality requirements & ratcheting up of approval standards
- CDM market dominated by highly controversial HFC and N2O projects
- Market is paralyzed by post-2012 political uncertainties
- ⇒ The CDM does not yet provide "Carbon Finance" & is not scalable
- ⇒ The CDM is a political market



- The Impact Debate
- The Co-Benefits Debate
- The MRV Debate
- The Governance Debate



The Impact Debate – Example (Biogas in Thailand)





Did the carbon markets have a true impact on climate change mitigation?

Depends on the sector:

- 1. Yes, in case of methane projects
- 2. Yes, in case of industrial gases but wouldn't policies have been the better tool?
- **3.** Debatable, in case of renewable energies
- 4. No, in case of transport, buildings and decentralized projects, CDM was not appropriate for that.
- 5. No, in case of forestry no demand from the EU ETS



The MRV Debate - Example

- Group of 95 micro-hydro projects in rural China
- Located in mountainous areas, mostly populated by minority groups
- Only small run-of-river hydroelectric plants
- Installed capacity 1.6 MW to 5 MW
- First delivery of 1 mill VCUs in May 2010 world's first delivered carbon credits from PoA-style activity
- South Pole's automated monitoring system is currently being installed (MOVERs)



The MRV Debate - Example



- GSM based technology using common industrial standard (RS485)
- Simple, cost effective hardware set-up



GSM SIM card



The MRV Debate - Example



The MRV Debate



- MRV is a crucial pillar of any climate change mitigation programme
- However, MRV is complicated and has limitations
- The perfect is the enemy of the good
- Even more so for other ecological markets that lack a "currency" such as CO2e

The Co-Benefits Debate – Example

- Gold Standard VERs (micro-scale)
- Financing of up to 5000 energy-efficient stoves for rural households
- Approx. 10k GS VERs per annum
- Location in Upper-Yangtse area, home to the Panda
- Carbon finance provides through innovative offsetting scheme set up by WWF and South Pole







- According to the KP, CDM shall assist host countries in achieving sustainable development
- For many buyers, co-benefits are a must-have now
- However, risk of exaggerated focus on co-benefits could water down the main purpose of the CDM, namely climate change prevention.



Are China's subsidies for wind power E+, E-, or neither?





- Investors need clarity and predictability to a certain extent
- One of the main shortcomings of CDM are the everchanging rules, combined with changing interpretation of existing rules
- Is a political body like the UNFCCC the right institution to govern a market mechanism?





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