NewClimate Institute, World Resources Institute, CDP, The Climate Group

Non-State and Subnational Action Guidance

Guidance for integrating the impact of non-state and subnational mitigation actions into national greenhouse gas projections, targets and planning

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Glossary, abbreviations and acronyms, references and contributors

GLOSSARY

Absolute value The non-negative value of a number without regard to its sign. For

example, the absolute value of 5 is 5, and the absolute value of -5 is also

5.

Assessment boundary The scope of the assessment in terms of the (sub)sectors and GHG

emissions included in the assessment

Assessment report A report, completed by the user, that documents the assessment

process, methods and results related to the impact of non-state and

subnational action

Ex-ante assessment The process of assessing expected future impacts of non-state and

subnational actions or of national policies and actions (i.e., a forward-

looking assessment)

Expert judgment A carefully considered, well-documented qualitative or quantitative

judgment made in the absence of unequivocal observational evidence by a person or persons who have a demonstrable expertise in the given field (IPCC 2006). The user can apply their own expert judgment or consult experts. Expert judgment can be strengthened through expert

elicitation methods to avoid bias.

Ex-post assessment The process of assessing historical impacts of non-state and subnational

actions or national policies and actions (i.e., a backward-looking

assessment)

Impact assessment The qualitative or quantitative assessment of impacts resulting from non-

state and subnational actions or from national policies and actions. This

can be conducted either ex-ante or ex-post.

Independent non-state and subnational actions

Non-state and subnational actions that do not interact with each other or with national policies, such that the combined effect of implementing them together is equal to the sum of the individual effects of implementing them separately

Indicator

A metric that can be estimated and monitored over time to understand the impact of non-state and subnational action and track changes towards targeted outcomes.

Intended impacts

Impacts that are intentional based on the original objectives of the policy or action. In some contexts, these are referred to as primary impacts.

Jurisdiction

The geographic area within which an entity's (such as a government's) authority is exercised

Monitoring period

The time over which the non-state and subnational actions are monitored

Negative impacts

Impacts that are perceived as unfavourable from the perspectives of

decision makers and stakeholders

Non-state actor

Any actor other than a national and subnational government.

Non-state commitments

Planned non-state action that has been publicly announced but unlike non-state mitigation action, implementation has not yet started.

Non-state mitigation action

Any kind of activity that is directly or indirectly aimed at reducing GHG emissions and that is led by non-state actor(s).

Overlapping non-state and subnational actions

Non-state and subnational actions that interact with each other or with national policies and that, when implemented together, have a combined effect less than the sum of their individual effects when implemented separately. This includes both those that have the same or complementary goals (such as national and subnational energy efficiency standards for appliances), as well as counteracting or countervailing policies that have different or opposing goals (such as a national fuel tax and a subnational fuel subsidy).

National policy or action

An intervention taken or mandated by a national government, which may include laws, regulations and standards; taxes, charges, subsidies and incentives; information instruments; voluntary agreements; implementation of new technologies, processes or practices; and public or private sector financing and investment, among others

Current policy scenario

A scenario that represents the events or conditions most likely to occur in the presence of the current mix of policies or actions.

Positive impacts

Impacts that are perceived as favourable from the perspectives of decision makers and stakeholders

Proxy data

Data from a similar process or activity that are used as a stand-in for the

given process or activity

Qualitative assessment An approach to impact assessment that involves describing the impacts

of a policy or action on selected impact categories in numerical terms

Quantitative assessment An approach to impact assessment that involves estimating the impacts

of a policy or action on selected impact categories in quantitative terms

Reinforcing non-state and subnational actions

Non-state and subnational actions that interact with each other or with national policies and that, when implemented together, have a combined effect greater than the sum of their individual effects when implemented

separately

Specific impact A specific change that results from a policy or action

Stakeholders People, organisations, communities or individuals who are affected by

and/or who have influence or power over the policy

Subnational actor Any form of government which is not a national government.

subnational mitigation action, implementation has not yet started.

Subnational mitigation action Any kind of activity that is directly or indirectly aimed at reducing GHG

emissions and that is led by subnational actor(s).

Sustainable development impacts

Changes in environmental, social or economic conditions that result from a policy or action, such as changes in economic activity, employment, public health, air quality and energy security

Uncertainty

1. Quantitative definition: Measurement that characterises the dispersion of values that could reasonably be attributed to a parameter. 2. Qualitative definition: A general term that refers to the lack of certainty in data and methodological choices, such as the application of non-representative factors or methods, incomplete data, or lack of transparency.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AFOLU agriculture, forestry and other land use

APPC Alliance of Peaking Pioneer Cities

BAU business as usual

BR Biennial Report

BUR Biennial Update Report

CDKN The Climate and Development Knowledge Network

DIE Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (German Development Institute)

EE energy efficiency

FAO Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations

FFS Fossil Free Sweden

GDP gross domestic product

GGBP Green Growth Best Practice Institute

GHG greenhouse Gas

GPC Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories

GWP global warming potential

HFCs hydrofluorocarbons

ICAT Initiative for Climate Action Transparency

ICI International Climate Initiative
IEA International Energy Agency

IRENA The International Renewable Energy Agency

IPCC Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

LEDS low emission development strategy

LULUCF land use, land use change and forestry

MRV measuring, reporting and verification

NAMA nationally appropriate mitigation action

NAZCA Non-State Action Zone for Climate Action

NDC Nationally Determined Contribution

OECD Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development

RE renewable energy

SLCP short-lived climate pollutants

UNEP United Nations Environment

UNFCCC United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

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CONTRIBUTORS

Guidance development lead

Katharina Lütkehermöller, NewClimate Institute

Drafting team

Hanna Fekete, NewClimate Institute

Jean-Charles Seghers, The Climate Group

Neelam Singh, World Resources Institute

Cynthia Elliott, World Resources Institute

David Rich, World Resources Institute

Ian van der Vlugt, CDP

Andrew Clapper, CDP

Sebastian Sterl, NewClimate Institute

Takeshi Kuramochi, NewClimate Institute

Niklas Höhne, NewClimate Institute

Pedro Faria, CDP

Technical working group

Angel Hsu, Yale-NUS College/Yale University

Anny Huang, California Air Resources Board

Ashwini Hingne, World Resources Institute India

Axel Michaelowa, University of Zurich/Perspectives

Conor Barry, United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Deeba Yavrom, US Environmental Protection Agency

Dr. Zhen Wang, Beijing Forestry University, China

Emeka Ogazi, Transparency and Economic Development Initiatives

Fanny Guezennec, EcoAct

Harmke Immink, Promethium Carbon

Hina Lotia, LEAD Pakistan

Mark Stephan, Washington State University, School of Politics, Philosophy, and Public Affairs

Monali Ranade, World Bank

Robbie Louw, Promethium Carbon

Rose Bailey, Ricardo Energy & Environment

Ross Hunter, Ricardo Energy and Environment

Sander Chan, DIE

Soffia Alarcon, Carbon Trust

Tamara Bujhawan, Mora Carbon Consult Limited

Todd Litman, Victoria Transport Policy Institute

Vivek Adhia, WRI India

Vivek Sadevra, GMR Energy Ltd

Reviewers

Amy Weinfurter, Data-Driven Yale

Angel Hsu, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and Yale-NUS

Ann Gardiner, AG Climate & Energy Ltd

Benjamin Cashore, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies

Carley A. Chavara, World Resources Institute

Cory Jemison, ICF International

Fatemeh Bakhtiari, UNEP DTU Partnership

Harmke Immink, Promethium Carbon

Joana Setzer, Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment

John Moorhead, BSD Consulting

Mariana Panuncio-Feldman, World Wildlife Fund

Robbie Louw, Promethium Carbon

Tamara Bujhawan, Mora Carbon

Vanesa Castan Broto, UCL

Wee Kean Fong, World Resources Institute

Zhen Wang, Beijing Forestry University