
Abbreviations and acronyms

CBA	cost-benefit analysis	NO_x	nitrogen oxides
CEA	cost-effectiveness analysis	PM	particulate matter
CO₂e	carbon dioxide equivalent	PV	photovoltaic
DTU	Technical University of Denmark	Rs	Indian rupee
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
GDP	gross domestic product	SO₂	sulfur dioxide
GHG	greenhouse gas	t	tonne
GW	gigawatt	TWG	Technical Working Group
ha	hectare	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
ICAT	Initiative for Climate Action Transparency	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change		
kg	kilogram		
km	kilometre		
kW	kilowatt		
kWh	kilowatt-hour		
m³	cubic metre		
MRV	monitoring, reporting and verification		
MCA	multi-criteria analysis		
Mt	megatonne		
MW	megawatt		
MWh	megawatt-hour		
NDC	nationally determined contribution		
NGO	non-governmental organization		

Glossary

Adopted policies	Policies for which an official government decision has been made and there is a clear commitment to proceed with implementation, but implementation has not yet begun
Assessment boundary	The scope of the assessment in terms of the range of dimensions, impact categories and specific impacts that are included in the assessment
Assessment period	The time period over which impacts resulting from a policy are assessed
Assessment report	A report, completed by the user, that documents the assessment process, and the GHG, sustainable development and transformational impacts of a policy
Baseline scenario	A reference case that represents the events or conditions most likely to occur in the absence of a policy (or package of policies) being assessed
Baseline value	The value of a parameter in the baseline scenario
Bottom-up data	Data that are measured, monitored or collected at the facility, entity or project level
Causal chain	A conceptual diagram tracing the process by which a policy leads to impacts through a series of interlinked logical and sequential stages of cause-and-effect relationships
Dimension	An overarching category of sustainable development impacts. There are three dimensions: environmental, social and economic.
Drivers	Socioeconomic or other conditions, or other policies that affect an impact category. For example, economic growth is a driver of increased energy consumption. Drivers are divided into two types: other policies and non-policy drivers.
Dynamic	A descriptor for a parameter that changes over time
Ex-ante assessment	The process of assessing expected future impacts of a policy (i.e. a forward-looking assessment)
Ex-ante baseline scenario	A forward-looking baseline scenario, based on forecasts of external drivers (such as projected changes in population, economic activity or other drivers that affect emissions), in addition to historical data
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. ⁶⁷ Users can apply their own expert judgment or consult experts. Expert judgment can be strengthened through expert elicitation methods to avoid bias.

⁶⁷ IPCC (2006).

Ex-post assessment	The process of assessing historical impacts of a policy (i.e. a backward-looking assessment)
Ex-post baseline scenario	A backward-looking baseline scenario that is established during or after implementation of a policy
Impact assessment	The qualitative or quantitative assessment of impacts resulting from a policy, either ex-ante or ex-post
Impact category	A type of sustainable development impact (environmental, social or economic) affected by a policy
Implemented policies	Policies that are currently in effect, as evidenced by one or more of the following: (1) relevant legislation or regulation is in force, (2) one or more voluntary agreements have been established and are in force, (3) financial resources have been allocated, (4) human resources have been mobilized
Independent policies	Policies that do not interact with each other, such that the combined effect of implementing the policies together is equal to the sum of the individual effects of implementing them separately
Indicator	For quantitative impact assessment, a metric that can be estimated to indicate the impact of a policy on a given impact category. For monitoring performance over time, a metric that can be monitored over time to enable tracking of changes towards targeted outcomes.
Indicator value	The value of an indicator. For example, 500 is an indicator value for the indicator “number of jobs created”.
In-jurisdiction impacts	Impacts that occur inside the geopolitical boundary over which the implementing entity has authority, such as a city boundary or national boundary
Intended impacts	Impacts that are intentional, based on the original objectives of the policy. In some contexts, these are referred to as primary impacts.
Interacting policies	Policies that produce total effects, when implemented together, that differ from the sum of the individual effects had they been implemented separately
Intermediate impacts	Changes in behaviour, technology, processes or practices that result from a policy, which lead to sustainable development impacts
Jurisdiction	The geographic area within which an entity’s (such as a government’s) authority is exercised
Life cycle impacts	Changes in upstream and downstream activities, such as extraction and production of energy and materials, or effects in sectors not targeted by the policy, resulting from the policy
Long-term impacts	Impacts that are more distant in time, based on the amount of time between implementation of a policy and its impacts
Macroeconomic impacts	Changes in macroeconomic conditions – such as GDP, income, employment or structural changes in economic sectors – resulting from a policy
Market impacts	Changes in supply and demand, prices, market structure or market share resulting from a policy

Model uncertainty	Uncertainty resulting from limitations in the ability of modelling approaches, equations or algorithms to reflect the real world
Monitoring period	The time over which the policy is monitored, which may include pre-policy monitoring and post-policy monitoring in addition to the policy implementation period
Negative impacts	Impacts that are perceived as unfavourable from the perspectives of decision makers and stakeholders
Net impact	The aggregation of all impacts, both positive and negative, within a given impact category
Non-policy drivers	Conditions other than policies, such as socioeconomic factors and market forces, that are expected to affect the impact categories included in the assessment boundary. For example, energy prices and weather are non-policy drivers that affect demand for heating.
Other policies or actions	Policies, actions and projects – other than the policy or action being assessed – that are expected to affect the impact categories included in the assessment boundary
Out-of-jurisdiction impacts	Impacts that occur outside the geopolitical boundary over which the implementing entity has authority, such as a city boundary or national boundary
Overlapping policies	Policies that interact with each other and that, when implemented together, have a combined effect that is less than the sum of their individual effects when implemented separately. This includes both policies that have the same or complementary goals (e.g. national and subnational energy efficiency standards for appliances) and counteracting or countervailing policies that have different or opposing goals (e.g. a fuel tax and a fuel subsidy).
Parameter	A variable or other type of data needed to calculate the value of an indicator, in cases where the indicator value cannot be directly measured
Parameter uncertainty	Uncertainty regarding whether a parameter value used in the assessment accurately represents the true value of the parameter
Parameter value	The value of a parameter. For example, 5 is a parameter value for the parameter “tonnes of SO ₂ emitted per kWh of electricity”.
Peer-reviewed	Literature (such as articles, studies or evaluations) that has been subject to independent evaluation by experts in the same field before publication
Planned policies	Policy options that are under discussion, and have a realistic chance of being adopted and implemented in the future, but have not yet been adopted or implemented
Policy or action	An intervention taken or mandated by a government, institution or other entity, which may include laws, regulations and standards; taxes, charges, subsidies and incentives; information instruments; voluntary agreements; implementation of technologies, processes or practices; and public or private sector financing and investment
Policy implementation period	The time period during which a policy is in effect

Policy scenario	A scenario that represents the events or conditions most likely to occur in the presence of a policy (or package of policies) being assessed. The policy scenario is the same as the baseline scenario except that it includes the policy (or package of policies) being assessed.
Positive impacts	Impacts that are perceived as favourable from the perspectives of decision makers and stakeholders
Propagated parameter uncertainty	The combined effect of each parameter's uncertainty on the total result
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 on selected impact categories in numerical terms
Qualitative assessment boundary	The scope of the qualitative assessment in terms of the range of dimensions, impact categories and specific impacts that are included in the qualitative assessment
Quantitative assessment	An approach to impact assessment that involves estimating the impacts of a policy on selected impact categories in quantitative terms
Quantitative assessment boundary	The scope of the quantitative assessment in terms of the range of dimensions, impact categories, specific impacts and indicators that are included in the quantitative assessment and estimated
Regression analysis	A statistical method for estimating the relationships among variables – in particular, the relationship between a dependent variable and one or more independent variables
Reinforcing policies	Policies that interact with each other and that, when implemented together, have a combined effect greater than the sum of their individual effects when implemented separately
Scenario uncertainty	Variation in calculated emissions resulting from methodological choices, such as selection of baseline scenarios
Sensitivity analysis	A method to understand differences resulting from methodological choices and assumptions, and to explore model sensitivities to inputs. The method involves varying the parameters to understand the sensitivity of the overall results to changes in these parameters.
Short-term impacts	Impacts that are nearer in time, based on the amount of time between implementation of a policy and its impacts
Specific impact	A specific change that results from a policy or action (within a given impact category)
Stakeholders	People, organizations, communities or individuals who are affected by, and/or who have influence or power over, a policy
Static	A descriptor for a parameter that does not change over time

Sustainable development impacts	Changes in environmental, social or economic conditions that result from a policy, such as changes in economic activity, employment, public health, air quality and energy independence
Technology impacts	Changes in technology, such as design or deployment of new technologies, resulting from a policy
Top-down data	Macro-level statistics collected at the jurisdiction or sector level, such as energy use, population, GDP or fuel prices
Trade impacts	Changes in imports and exports resulting from a policy
Uncertainty	(1) Quantitative definition: Measurement that characterizes 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.
Unintended impacts	Impacts that are unintentional based on the original objectives of the policy. In some contexts, these are referred to as secondary impacts.

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Contributors

Methodology development leads

David Rich, World Resources Institute (lead)

Karen Holm Olsen, UNEP DTU Partnership (co-lead)

Drafting team

Ranping Song, World Resources Institute

Alexandra Soezer, United Nations Development Programme (TWG member)

Christopher Campbell-Durufflé, Center for International Sustainable Development Law (TWG member)

Denis DR Desgain, UNEP DTU Partnership

Fatemeh Bakhtiari, UNEP DTU Partnership

Gerald Esambe, Green Future Consulting (TWG member)

Gyanesh K Shukla, independent consultant (TWG member)

Marian Van Pelt, ICF International (TWG member)

Michael Zwicky Hauschild, Technical University of Denmark, Quantitative Sustainability Assessment

Vikash Talyan, Gold Standard Foundation (TWG member)

Yan Dong, Technical University of Denmark, Quantitative Sustainability Assessment

Technical Working Group

Alicia González, Aether

Ana Rojas, International Union for Conservation of Nature

Arief Wijaya, World Resources Institute – Indonesia

Dan Forster, Ricardo Energy & Environment

Denboy Kudejira, independent consultant

Edward Amankwah, Center for Environmental Governance

Edwin Aalders, DNV GL

Eric Zusman, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

Gajanana Hegde, UNFCCC

Gary Kleiman, independent consultant

Grant A. Kirkman, UNFCCC

Hina Lotia, LEAD Pakistan

Ike Permata Sari, National Standardization Agency of Indonesia

Jinyoung Park, Korea Transport Institute

Kenneth Möllersten, Swedish Energy Agency

Krista Heiner, EcoAgriculture Partners

Luis Roberto Chacón Fernández, EMA Consulting Firm

Meinrad Burer, EcoAct

Natalie Harms, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Olawumi Ayodele Olajide, National Agency for the Great Green Wall, Nigeria

Owen Hewlett, Gold Standard Foundation

Sane Zuka, University of Malawi

Tanakem Voufo Belmondo, Department of Analysis and Economic Policies of the Ministry of Economy and Planning of Cameroon

Thomas Damassa, Oxfam

Reviewers

Ashwini Hingne, World Resources Institute

Ayushi Trivedi, World Resources Institute

Bodil Jacobsen, Grue + Hornstrup

Chizuru Aoki, Global Environment Facility

Christopher Ede-Calton, World Resources Institute

Claudia Walther, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH

David O'Connor, World Resources Institute

Harsha Meenawat, World Resources Institute

Juan Carlos Altamirano, World Resources Institute

Laura Malaguzzi Valeri, World Resources Institute

Pankaj Bhatia, World Resources Institute

Raihan Uddin Ahmed, Infrastructure Development Company Limited

Richard Pagett, individual

Shenila Parekh, individual

Sun Xia, Institute of International Relations, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences

Tanushree Bagh, South Pole Group

Pilot organizations

Aalto University

Initiative for Climate Action and Development

Servicios Ambientales S.A.

UNEP DTU Partnership

University of Cape Town, Energy Research Centre

USAID South Africa Low Emissions Development (SA-LED) Program and ICF