

Webinar report:

What are NAMAs and how can civil society organisations benefit from them?

8 July 2015

As a part of capacity building work on NAMAs, Carbon Market Watch organized a webinar on NAMAs and how civil society can contribute to and benefit from the process. The aim of the webinar was to build understanding among the civil society organisations (CSOs) on the functioning of NAMAs and the significance of public participation for accountability of NAMA actions.

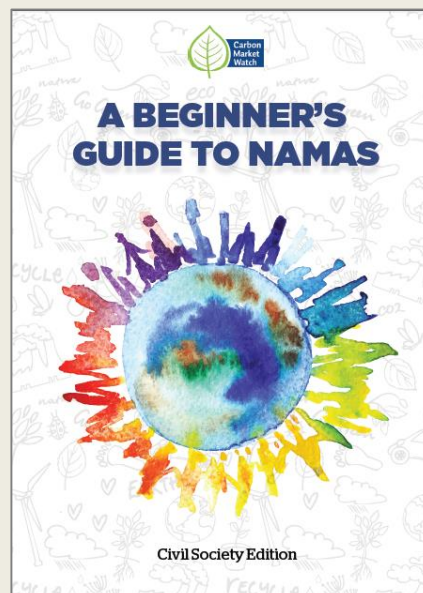
The speakers included representatives of civil society and United Nations Development Program (UNDP), who are developing and implementing NAMAs on the ground. During the webinar two case studies were presented – from Mexican and Georgian NAMAs – which highlighted the opportunities for and challenges from civil society engagement on the ground. The conclusions of the webinar were the following:

- NAMAs are complex systems and require the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders to create a real impact
- Engagement of civil society in every step of the NAMA process can draw out barriers to implementation and ensure co-benefits are properly assessed
- Extensively planned multi-stakeholder framework can ensure that NAMA activity will be publicly accepted, sustainable, that it creates a spirit of ownership, increases collaboration and encourages the flow of information
- CSOs can benefit from involvement in NAMA process because NAMAs can offer a tool to drive their missions, civil society are also major recipients of resulting co-benefits

Urska Trunk from Carbon Market Watch gave a general introduction to the concept of NAMAs. She explained that NAMAs were first introduced 8 years ago with the Bali Action plan as a tool to provide a way for developing countries to contribute to the efforts of fighting climate change. She pointed out that while they are still in early stages – with 162 NAMAs in the pipeline - they show a great transformational potential to reduce emissions, deliver sustainable development and improve the livelihoods of local communities. She distinguished the concept of NAMA from the CDM and explained the different contexts they are built on.

NAMAs are not burdened by inherent problem of offsetting and focus only on developing countries' own contribution to mitigation. Urska also described the link between NAMAs and the INDCs and explained that NAMAs can inform the INDCs in many ways, including serving as actions to implement the INDCs.

She highlighted that NAMAs can be a great tool for climate finance but need the right guidelines to insure they deliver positive impacts. She stressed the importance of civil society involvement as a precondition of sustainable NAMA but indicated that there are currently no agreed rules or guidelines on stakeholder engagement for NAMA process. Urska accentuated the need for building awareness and capacity among civil society as a way to facilitate stronger involvement and foster information sharing of good practices. Respectively, she referred to the [Beginner's Guide to NAMAs](#) as a useful tool to strengthen civil society's knowledge and understanding.



James Vener from UNDP presented the UNDP Low Emission Capacity Building (LECB) program and their approach to using stakeholder consultations at all levels, including the civil society. LECB aims to support efforts to stimulate low emission technologies and methodologies and help countries integrate climate change in day to day policy making activities through five work areas, including NAMAs. James explained that in their programs they put a strong emphasis on putting together a multi-stakeholder framework in order to ensure that the activity will be publicly accepted, sustainable, that it creates a spirit of ownership, increases collaboration and encourages the flow of information. Their stakeholder engagement strategy in designing a NAMA includes reaching out to different levels of society via workshops, structured dialogues and consultations and aligning this work with national development goals.



James explained that they trust local people as the best judges on who are the most relevant stakeholders. They also heavily rely on expertise on the ground to identify which activities are most realistic and could be most efficient. He presented a few LECB examples, where civil society groups play a key role in the NAMA design and implementation. He concluded that civil

society does not only play a key role in design of NAMAs but that CSOs can also benefit from getting involved as NAMAs can support their missions and provide opportunities for governments to focus on specific areas important for civil society.

Constanza Gomez Mont from Integral Platform for Sustainable Development (PIDES)

presented a pilot program of low emission schools in Mexico and the role of youth in creation of NAMAs for their own schools. Low emission school pilot programme is a greenhouse gas reduction and environmental education programme created and Implemented by PIDES and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) in 35 Mexican schools. Most important goals of this program included empowerment of school community, environmental education through the creation and implementation of the NAMA, reduction of emissions in each school and intersectoral collaboration. Constanza explained that the program facilitated creation of green teams of 5-15 people in each school composed of students, teachers, parents, administrative staff and cleaning personnel. The pilot helped to create empowerment tools with which young population became the leaders of the initiatives and adopted practices as their own rather to think of them as something external. Through civil society involvement CSOs became the facilitators of conversations among governments, civil society and the school sector. This resulted in the creation of a greater impact and scalability of programs due to created partnerships and because they became national policies.



Constanza emphasized the importance of constant feedbacks from community on limits and gaps for development of the policy. She also emphasized that a good understanding of what NAMA for schools meant was a prerequisite for implementation of the programme. Lastly she pointed out the importance of learning from best case studies and sharing experience on what other cities and countries are doing to implement NAMAs on the ground.



Nino Gamisonia from Rural Community Development Agency (RCDA) in Georgia

shared her experience from a 7 year pilot phase led by strong coalition of NGOs and community as the basis of developing a gender sensitive NAMA. The aim of the program was to improve energy security in rural areas of Georgia by installing energy efficiency stoves. The main co-benefits of the program are gender equality and women empowerment. The technology built was made from locally available materials. Both men and women were involved in development of the programme and trained on solar water heater construction and monitoring. The women in the programme are mostly involved in monitoring and maintenance of sustainable development benefits. The engagement of civil society helped to draw out barriers to implementation and ensured that co-benefits were properly assessed.

The project resulted in comprehensive social, economic and environmental co-benefits. 40% of women which participated in training became monitoring and maintenance experts in 5 regions. Men have also

benefited as the program reduced their unpaid work by reducing the time and energy they spend on collecting firewood and increased their opportunities for employment. The program also led to improved living conditions (e.g. heat and comfort), increased gender equality, reduced rural poverty (saving 30% of total energy costs), 135 jobs created, enhanced economic development, reduced national energy dependency, decline in overcutting forests, reduced exposure to indoor air pollution and protection of biodiversity.



For more information on our NAMAs work or on upcoming webinars please contact:



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This project action has received funding from the European Commission through a LIFE grant. The content of this section reflects only the author's view. The Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.