

Lessons to be learnt from the CDM in India

Mahesh Pandya

ParyavaranMitra

Objectives of CDM

Article 12 of the Kyoto Protocol ;

- To assist in the achievement of sustainable development,
- To contribute to the attainment of the environmental goals of the Framework Convention, and
- To assist Annex B parties in complying with their emissions reduction commitments.

CDM Insights

- **Registered projects: 7682**
- **CERs Issued for Project Activities**
: 1,636,250,072
- **CERs Issued for Programme of Activities**
: 3,630,786

<https://cdm.unfccc.int/> As on 1st December 2015

CDM in India

- *India is **Second nation** only to China in using the CDM (Clean Development Mechanism) to help reduce its carbon emissions.*
- More than **1500** registered CDM projects
- CDM projects are concentrated in states that are **more industrialized**, such as Gujarat and Maharashtra.

CDM Projects in Gujarat State

- Gujarat is leading the nation - having 372 CDM projects
- Proud owner of 1st CDM project registered at UNFCCC - [Project 0001 : Project for GHG emission reduction by thermal oxidation of HFC 23 in Gujarat, India.](#)
- Current trend - Renewable energy projects (Solar, Wind)

Gujarat Fluorochemicals Limited(GFL)



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[Project 0001 : Project for GHG emission reduction by thermal oxidation of HFC 23 in Gujarat, India.](#)



- Ground water contamination due to discharge of untreated effluents by the factory units
- Health hazards to people and especially livestock of farmers.
- Health hazards due to hazardous chemical-Oleum leakage to the local villagers.
- **First in the world to seek registration by the CDM Executive Board, Also first in ignoring environment responsibilities.**

Problems of Local People



- At least 10 different complaints were made by various village folk alleging Ground water contamination.
- An accident occurred on 29th Nov, 2005 outside the premises of the factory resulting in the escape of the Hazardous chemical - Oleum from a transportation tanker.
- The villagers have become so frustrated that they have made a formal submission to India's National Human Rights Commission requesting an investigation.

Problems

- Complaints by local people to GPCB
- Negative Remarks in Visit Reports of GPCB
- Non compliance of host country's environment laws



Yet to check - Environmental Clearance

- **Not following conditions given in Environment Clearance** - In conditions of Environmental Clearance given by MOEF on 14-08-2007. in Part B in condition XX it is given that “A six monthly compliance status report shall be submitted to monitoring agencies and shall be posted on the website of the company.” But it is not done so this is a violation of EPA – 86 and EIA Notification 2006.



Gujarat Solar Park @ Charanka

- 590 MW capacity
- 5,384 acres of unused land
- With provision to harness rain water
- Power evacuation at the door steps
- Installed capacity 224MW by 20 developers.

• <http://www.gpclindia.com/showpage.aspx?contentid=15>



@ Charanka : Ground Reality

- **Loss of Agriculture land** – farmers have no alternative livelihood option
- **Land Scam** – Middlemen: Eat up the benefits, purchased land at very less amount
- **PIL** in Gujarat high court in 2010 and August 2014



@ Charanka : Ground Reality

- **Gauchar** (grazing land) : Taken without permission of panchayat – no public consent
- **Death of cattle** – no option left
- Widespread impact on **Biodiversity**
- **Employment** – very few opportunities in solar park
- **Sources of water** – pond and check dams



Loopholes in system

- Lack of Public Participation – weak Stakeholder consultation
- Local people – not getting benefit
- Environmental Laws – Non Compliance
- Contribution in Sustainable Development - ??
- Betterment of local environment
- No monitoring mechanism at local level

Suggestions

- Need to **focus on Sustainable Development** objective
- Make **EIA mandatory** – even for renewable energy projects, linkage with EIA notification, include Social Impact Assessment
- **Strong Monitoring** – teeth to NCDMA, state level mechanism must
- Provision to **spend 2% CER** – Local participation is must
- **Stake holder consultation** – Fair participation & transparent process

Indian Constitution – Article 21

“No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to the procedure established by law.”

Time to Act...

- **10th December 1948 - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)** adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at the Palais de Chaillot, Paris.
- **December 2015 – COP 21 @ Paris ...**

For more information,

- paryavaranmitra@yahoo.com