

Für Mensch & Umwelt

Umwelt 
Bundesamt

Annual Partnership Retreat „Enhanced transparency
- Learning from implementation, facilitating
negotiations“

Experiences with the review processes under UNFCCC

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Background on Reporting and Verification under the UNFCCC

Goal of the Convention: „ ... *to stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system*“ (Art. 2 UNFCCC)

In order to achieve this objective, national, reliable information is needed on the following:

- **Status of GHG emissions from sources and removals from sinks**
- **Reduction goals for GHG emissions (in industrialised countries)**
- **Implementation of commitments under Art. 4 UNFCCC**
- **Methodological foundations of the estimation of GHG emissions**

=> Non-compliance is sanctioned under the Kyoto-Protocol

=> High relevance for national policy development

Reporting Requirements for Annex I Countries

Report	Frequency	Contents	Reviews	Further processes within UNFCCC	Reviews in Germany so far
National Communication	Every 4 years	GHG inventory PaMs Projections Financial Support ...	Mandatory (in-country)	Summary of results are discussed under SBI	7 in-country reviews
Biennial Report	Every 2 years	Focus on 2020 goals GHG inventory PaMs Projections Provision of support	Mandatory (in-country + centralised)	IAR (Multilateral Assessment under SBI)	2 in-country (together with 6 & 7 NC) 1 centralised
National Inventory Report	Every year	GHG inventory	Mandatory yearly (centralised) + in-country (few years)		Centralised yearly since 2001 4 In-country (2004, - 07, -10, -16)

Germany's experience with the verification processes under UNFCCC

- ⇒ **Reviews, both centralised and in-country, were mostly conducted in a cooperative and never in a confrontative manner**
- ⇒ **Common search for suitable solutions**
- ⇒ **Had as results the improvement of the national reports and an increase in transparency**
- ⇒ **Lead to improved understanding among reviewers and reviewed country and for improved understanding of reporting requirements**
- ⇒ **Are an excellent capacity building instrument**
- ⇒ **Support political buy-in for climate policies and improvement of reporting**

Improvements in Germany's reporting due to UNFCCC review process

NATIONAL INVENTORY REPORT

- Important gaps identified in the 2007 report. As a result, estimations were adjusted to include additional 23 Mt CO₂-eq across 12 source categories
- As the review process for NIRs is „mature“ the focus has shifted from „inventory gaps / errors“ to transparency issues

NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

Completeness issues

- Improve completeness by providing projected emissions and removals for the LULUCF sector (recommendation implemented in NC7 and BR3)
- Presentation of the GHG projections, aggregated and by gas (recommendation implemented in NC7)

Transparency issues

- Adapt structure of the NC in accordance to UNFCCC-Guidelines, especially when reporting on PaMs, financial resources and technology transfer (recommendation implemented in NC7)

BIENNIAL REPORT

Transparency issues

- Providing consistency between PaMs chapter in the BR and CTF-Tables (recommendation implemented in BR3)

Voluntary verification processes in Germany

- **NATIONAL THIRD-PARTY VERIFICATION**
 - Meetings / workshops with independent organisations and associations to verify compliance with the Kyoto Protocol
 - Different meetings / fora have taken place: 2004 (cross-cutting), 2009 (IPPU) with participation of industry sector experts, 2011 (LULUCF) with the participation of international experts, 2012 (Energy Balance)
 - Workshops notably contribute to improve data quality and quality of the NIR
- **INTERNATIONAL PEER-TO-PEER EXCHANGE**
 - Tri-lateral exchange on f-gases (D – A – UK, February 2011)
 - Informal exchange with other countries (e.g. New Zealand, 2014)
- **GHG INVENTORY AUDIT**
 - Performed in 2016 by independent national experts
 - Validation of emissions estimates
 - Enhances trust in the numbers reported
- **INFORMAL IN-COUNTRY REVIEWS OF NON-ANNEX I COUNTRIES**
 - Within the scope of an international cooperation project
 - Remote reviews and in-country review

Summarising: what is the value of verification?

- ⇒ **Verification under the UNFCCC is the basis for understanding the national circumstances of a Party and its climate change commitments**
- ⇒ **Is a pivotal instrument for transparency in the international climate regime**
- ⇒ **Builds mutual trust, especially in climate negotiations**
- ⇒ **Supports improving capacities and creating ownership / political buy-in for climate change policies**
- ⇒ **Verification has to encompass all Parties under UNFCCC**

Thank you very much for your attention!

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