

THE CLEAN DEVELOPMENT MECHANISM

GUIDE - 2009

The background of the cover features a dynamic, abstract graphic. It consists of flowing, curved bands of color, primarily in shades of blue and cyan, with a prominent, bright orange and yellow streak that curves across the lower right portion of the image. The overall effect is one of movement and energy, set against a dark blue gradient background.

This revised and expanded version of the Guide to the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) was commissioned by the Ministry of Science and Technology (Ministério da Ciência e Tecnologia, MCT) and drawn up under the sponsorship of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The contents were revised with the direct assistance of the MCT and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Publication was sponsored by the Brazilian Social and Economic Development Bank (BNDES).

The CDM is the sole mechanism through which industrialized countries with quantified emission reduction and limitation commitments (commonly known as "targets"), established by the Kyoto Protocol, can offset part of these targets by acquiring Certified Emission Reductions (CERs) generated by CDM projects in developing countries.

Given that the first commitment period defined by the Kyoto Protocol (2008-2012) began on January 1, 2008, the window of opportunity in relation to the CDM is still open. In addition, during the ongoing negotiations, the Parties to the Protocol have manifested their interest in its continuation after 2012, more specifically in the second commitment period.

This Guide has three main objectives: (i) to provide information to all those interested in CDM project activities; (ii) to detail the specific regulations governing the submission of CDM project activities in Brazil; and (iii) to facilitate an understanding of the process and, consequently, promote the development of CDM projects in the country.

Chapter 1 outlines the general context of the international efforts to deal with the challenge of global climate change from both the scientific and political point of view. For those interested in developing CDM project activities, Chapter 2 deals directly with the CDM and Chapter 3 with the procedures for submitting such projects to the Interministerial Commission on Climate Change (Comissão Interministerial de Mudança Global do Clima – CIMGC) – in order to receive a Letter of Approval from the Brazilian government.

The Guide's contents are based on: (i) CDM-related decisions by the Conferences of the Parties (COPs) and the Conferences of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOPs) up to COP 14 (COP/MOP 4) in Poznan, 2008; (ii) resolutions of the CDM Executive Board (EB) up to its 46th meeting in March 2009. Other sources include the BNDES publication entitled *Efeito Estufa e a Convenção sobre Mudança do Clima* (The Greenhouse Effect and the Convention on Climate Change) and the 2002 MCT publication entitled *O Mecanismo de Desenvolvimento Limpo – Guia de Orientação* (The Clean Development Mechanism): A Brazilian Implementation Guide), coordinated by the Getúlio Vargas Foundation (FGV) and sponsored by UNCTAD and the BNDES.

Finally, it should be noted that the CDM regulations are dynamic, reflecting not only the COP/MOP negotiations, but also the resolutions taken by the periodic meetings of the CDM Executive Board. Consequently, new decisions may alter the contents of this Guide. Although the principles, rules and overall framework of the CDM are already defined, certain regulations are specific to the first commitment period, from 2008 to 2012, and may be renegotiated for subsequent periods.

Different parties were consulted during the drafting of the Guide in order to ensure that the main issues and questions of interest to potential readers were addressed, always aiming to present the CDM rules and procedures in a clear and concise manner. In Brazil these rules are rigorously applied in order to ensure the reduction and/or removal of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere, thereby preserving the environmental integrity of the Kyoto Protocol and the acknowledged quality of the projects implemented in the country.

Isaura Frondizi

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This document was prepared under the auspices of the UNCTAD Climate Change Programme. The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations.

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CIP-BRASIL. CATALOGAÇÃO-NA-FONTE
SINDICATO NACIONAL DOS EDITORES DE LIVROS, RJ

G971

Guide to the clean development mechanism, 2009 / [coordinator Isaura Maria de Rezende Lopes Frondizi ; translation by Knight Campbell]. - Rio de Janeiro : Imperial Novo Milênio, 2009.

ill.

Translation of: O mecanismo de desenvolvimento limpo : guia de orientação, 2009
Appendices

ISBN 978-85-99868-49-2

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FOREWORD

I am deeply honored to have been asked to write the foreword to the 2009 edition of the CDM Guide, an essential document for all those involved in activities related to the Clean Development Mechanism. This concise, but comprehensive, work has been coordinated by Isaura Frondizi, who has a profound knowledge of the subject.

For the developing countries, the CDM is the most visible face of the Kyoto Protocol and the struggle against climate change. In Brazil, as elsewhere, a series of meticulously prepared and carefully monitored CDM projects have reduced greenhouse gas emissions, generating certified emission reductions, or carbon credits. For the local business community, whose dynamism has put Brazil in third place in terms of CDM projects, this is a unique opportunity to make production more sustainable and obtain the necessary financing to do so. It is, in fact, a win-win situation.

That is not all, however. The CDM has also proved to be an extraordinarily effective mechanism for encouraging good practices, promoting the dissemination of knowledge, and fostering the adoption of production standards that are more in tune with the new sustainability paradigms, in turn becoming increasingly evident in market demand and consumer preference for products that respect nature and conserve the environment. Nowadays, the fight against climate change has become an inextricable part of corporate responsibility.

The Kyoto Protocol undoubtedly has its critics, many of whom believe the obligatory emission reduction targets of the industrialized nations are woefully inadequate. Such criticism certainly has its place, and Brazil is seeking to change this situation in the negotiations that will culminate in Copenhagen in 2009. We are proposing that those countries who were primarily responsible for climate change be subjected to substantially more ambitious targets (in the 25% to 40% band) during the Protocol's second commitment period, as proposed by the IPCC. We also support the IPCC's suggestion regarding the developing countries: a substantial difference in emissions growth in relation to the business as usual scenario.

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