

## UNFCCC - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change:

An international environmental treaty produced at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro with the objective to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. Lebanon has been a Party to the UNFCCC since 1994.

## KP - Kyoto Protocol:

An international agreement linked to the UNFCCC adopted in Kyoto, Japan, in 1997 that sets binding targets for industrialized countries to reduce their emissions. Lebanon became a Party to the KP in 2006.

## GHG emissions - Greenhouse gas emissions:

Atmospheric gases that contribute to the greenhouse effect by absorbing infrared radiation produced by solar warming of the Earth's surface. They include carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O).



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# Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs)

## Definition

Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions are voluntary emission reduction proposals submitted by developing countries to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). These government-prioritized actions aim at reducing GHG emissions from various sectors, and are expected to be the main vehicle for mitigation action in developing countries such as Lebanon under a future climate agreement.

As the name implies, NAMAs are nationally appropriate actions. They can be implemented at national, regional, or local levels, contribute to **sustainable development**, and are supported and enabled by technology, financing and capacity building, in a **measurable, reportable** and **verifiable** manner. Support can be requested for either the preparation of the NAMA concept or for its implementation. Lebanon can also choose to submit domestically-funded (or unilateral) NAMAs for recognition for which international support is not requested.

## Box 1: Key aspects of NAMA

- ☑ Voluntary in nature
- ☑ In line with national or local development priorities
- ☑ Supported (technology, capacity building and financing) from domestic and/or international sources
- ☑ Reduces GHG emissions
- ☑ Transparent: Measurable, reportable and verifiable (MRV)

## Types of NAMAs

Three broad types of NAMAs have been identified:

**Unilateral NAMAs:** domestically funded and implemented without any support from an external funding source;

**Supported NAMAs:** implemented with financial, technological and/or capacity building support from an external funding source;

**Credited NAMAs:** generate revenues from selling carbon credits resulting from emissions reductions (NB: this market mechanism is not yet agreed on in the UNFCCC).

Furthermore, NAMAs can be:

**Strategies:** such as a national renewable strategy – wind, solar, etc.

**Policies:** such as an energy efficiency standard, a feed-in-tariff, etc.

**Programmes:** such as an energy efficient lighting programme, etc.

**Projects:** such as a bus rapid transit lane, etc.

In addition to requesting support for full-scale NAMA implementation, Lebanon can receive support for:

- 1) Capacity building and readiness for NAMA development;
- 2) Pilot projects that are part of a broader NAMA strategy and would help the development of such a strategy.

## Benefits of NAMAs

The primary function of NAMAs is the direct reduction of GHG emissions. In addition, NAMAs should have important social, economic and environmental benefits. Since NAMAs in the various sectors are considered discrete set of measures that feed into the transition to a low-emission development, they provide an opportunity to achieve long term transformational change supporting sustainable economic growth in Lebanon. NAMAs also provide a great opportunity to engage with the private sector.

## Measurement, Reporting and Verification requirements - MRV

The requirements for MRV of NAMAs entails having a strong, credible and transparent system for tracking GHG emissions that is consistent, comparable, complete and accurate. Therefore, one of the main challenges when designing and implementing a NAMA is its "MRV-ability". The MRV in turn provides assurances that the NAMAs are contributing to emissions reduction, and that this reduction is monitored, the progress is reported and the results verified. NAMAs receiving international support are subject to both domestic and international MRV, while domestically-funded NAMAs are only subject to domestic MRV. All MRVs will be "in accordance with guidelines to be developed under the UNFCCC."

## The Clean Development Mechanism and NAMAs

CDM and NAMAs use divergent approaches, but both reduce GHG emissions. The primary difference is their rationale: whereas the CDM provides additional ways for **developed countries** to meet their emission reduction commitments under the KP through the purchase of project-based emissions reductions from developing countries, NAMAs are primarily conceived as a means for **developing countries** to reduce domestic emissions in the context of sustainable development. Programmatic CDM – "Programmes of Activities (POAs)" – is closer to the NAMA concept in terms of scale, since PoAs can cover policies and measures rather than individual projects. However, PoAs still generate credits. The differences between CDM and NAMAs are summarized in *Table 1* below.

*Table 1: Differences between CDM and NAMAs - Evaluation*

	CDM	NAMA
<b>Definition</b>	One of the <b>flexible mechanisms</b> of the KP It allows a <b>developed country</b> with an emission-reduction commitment to implement an emission-reduction project in a developing country	<b>Voluntary Commitment</b> under the UNFCCC <b>Internationally supported</b> NAMAs will be subject to both domestic and international MRV, while <b>unilateral NAMAs</b> will be subject to domestic MRV
<b>Actions</b>	Projects and programmes of activities	Policies, strategies, programmes and projects
<b>Initiator</b>	Typically <b>Private sector</b> or <b>public sector</b>	Typically <b>Public Sector</b>
<b>Return on investment</b>	Certificates (Certified Emission Reductions, CERs) CERs are issued by the <b>CDM Executive Board</b> based on project verification reports. CERs can be traded on carbon markets	Financial and technical support <b>Developed countries</b> provide enhanced financial, technological and capacity building support for the preparation and implementation of NAMAs of developing countries
<b>Preconditions</b>	Reductions in emissions must be additional to any that would occur in the absence of the certified project activity CDM to assist developing countries in achieving sustainable development	A NAMA, framed in the context of sustainable development, aims at achieving a deviation in emissions relative to 'business as usual' emissions in 2020
<b>Requirement</b>	Project supports sustainable development (proven by Government letter)	Action is nationally appropriate (proven by government registration under the UNFCCC)
<b>Financing</b>	Upfront financing, generally through the private sector. Certificates are issued ex-post based on regular verification reports. CERs are sold on a carbon market	Domestic resources and/or international support (e.g. through bilateral/multilateral agreements, development banks) for the preparation and implementation of NAMAs
<b>Rulebook</b>	Marrakech Accords and subsequent body of CDM Executive Board decisions	Relevant guidance, including MRV guidelines being developed under the Convention

*Source: adapted from GIZ and BMU. 2011.CDM and NAMAs – Overview and Differences. Transport and Mobility.*

## Steps for NAMA preparation in Lebanon

In Lebanon, the Ministry of Environment, as the National Coordinator for NAMAs appointed by the Council of Ministers, will consider a six-step NAMA process:

### Step 1 GHG Emissions Inventories and Assessment of Presiding Framework Conditions

The first step serves at identifying the main GHG emission sources and sectors and preparing baseline and business-as-usual scenarios for the different sectors. In parallel, the assessment of the national framework conditions for mitigation, including the governance framework and general barriers for climate policy implementation, are considered. The Ministry of Environment has already undertaken this work, within the broader national context, through the **National Communication** and **Technology Needs Assessment** processes. These will serve as a starting platform since both processes were conducted with extensive stakeholder involvement (Reports available at <http://undp.org.lb/communication/publications/index.cfm>)

### Step 2 NAMA Identification and Scoping

The Ministry of Environment, with inputs from **stakeholders**, will identify opportunities for mitigation actions that can be packaged as potential NAMAs for Lebanon. The evaluation of emission reduction potential, associated costs at both national and sectoral levels, co-benefits, and feasibility of implementation are important at this stage because once **Lebanese NAMAs** are submitted and financing is secured, they **are** subject to the agreed MRV requirements.

The long-list of identified NAMAs will be categorized into two sets: 1) NAMAs that request support from international funding sources for preparation or implementation, and, 2) NAMAs that will be implemented through national efforts (e.g. funding source is the national budget), i.e. domestic NAMAs.

### Step 3 NAMA Prioritization and Selection

Based on a national consensus, the long-list of NAMAs (step 2) will be shortened by using two “requirement criteria” : 1) financing source and type, and 2) transformational aspect of the NAMA idea. Prioritization of the most feasible options to be further elaborated according to specific selection criteria developed for Lebanon (Box 2) will then be done. Prioritized NAMAs can be developed into **concept notes** aimed at policy-makers that provide a brief explanation of how each NAMA would work.

This step is led by the Ministry of Environment as the National Coordinator and requires strong stakeholder involvement, with a clear identification of the roles and responsibilities of the different institutions at this stage, especially in terms of who would be leading the preparation of the NAMAs in different sectors in order to avoid duplication of work, and secure buy-in of the relevant stakeholders.

### Step 4 NAMA Preparation

With guidance and assistance provided by the Ministry of Environment, concerned Ministries/institutions will develop fully detailed NAMA proposals and submit them to the Ministry of Environment to be a basis for negotiation of support and implementation conditions between the government and sources of support. Key challenges anticipated in the development of a full NAMA proposal are the elaboration of robust financing and MRV plans.

#### Box 2: Selection Criteria

- GHG reduction potential
- Sustainable development co-benefits
- Institutional readiness to implement
- MRV-ability
- High-level political support
- Market readiness
- Financial attractiveness

#### Box 3: Requirements for NAMA proposals

- Set the reference/baseline scenarios
- Set sector-wide targets
- Provide details on the MRV component
- Provide details on the costs and possible financing sources
- Propose a plan of action with timelines and the role and responsibilities of associated actors

### Step 5 NAMA Registry

The UNFCCC has set up a NAMA registry to record submitted NAMAs and to facilitate the matching of finance, technology and capacity-building support for those NAMAs seeking international support. NAMA proposals should be presented and approved by the Ministry of Environment, to be officially submitted to the NAMA registry on behalf of the Lebanese government.

There are three types of relevant submission templates that can be used, depending on the request put forward:

- 1) NAMA seeking support for **preparation**;
- 2) NAMA seeking support for **implementation**;
- 3) NAMA for **recognition**;

The templates are available at: [http://unfccc.int/cooperation\\_support/nama/items/6945.php](http://unfccc.int/cooperation_support/nama/items/6945.php).

### Step 6 Implementation and MRV

The last step is the implementation of the NAMA within the relevant sectors once funding is secured and terms of the implementation agreed upon with the supporting countries. Throughout the lifetime of the action, there is a need for **measuring, reporting and verifying** the different aspects of NAMAs according to the MRV plan elaborated and agreed with the investor.

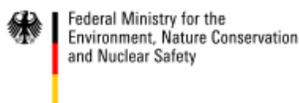
In general, the more specific and quantified the NAMA is, the easier it will be to define a metric for MRV. Both the development and the implementation of the MRV system are a shared responsibility of the NAMA implementer and the Ministry of Environment, as different types of NAMAs require “custom-made” MRV systems. It is important that government departments willing to develop and implement NAMAs do so in close coordination with the Ministry of Environment. This will also facilitate progress during the implementation phase of the NAMA, since NAMA implementers will have to report to the Ministry of Environment on the progress of their respective NAMAs.

### Biennial Update Reports and International Consultations and Analysis and NAMAs

The Convention requests developing countries, including Lebanon, to prepare and submit **Biennial Update Reports (BURs)** on a two-yearly basis. Among other things, the BUR provides information on mitigation actions – including NAMAs under implementation and planned – including a description of associated methodologies and assumptions, analysis of impacts, financial support received, and an update on implementation progress. The MRV report submitted by the NAMA implementer to the Ministry of Environment (in Step 6) serves as a basis for the BUR. The BUR is then subject to an **International Consultations and Analysis (ICA)** process conducted by an independent technical body of experts in consultation with Lebanon, which will result in a detailed analysis report available to the public.

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