



**Second annual meeting of the
West African South-South Network on MRV and Transparency**

11-13 October 2017
Hotel Jardin Savana
Dakar, Senegal
Report of the meeting



In partnership with:



Regional Collaboration Centre – Lomé
Promoting Action Against Climate Change

Background

In the framework of the West African South-South Network on Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) and Transparency, which was initially [launched in October 2016 in Lomé, Togo](#), the Government of Senegal hosted the second annual meeting of the Network in Dakar, Senegal, from 11 to 13 October 2017. This event was part of the Network's activities and its vision to have operational MRV system by 2020 in the countries engaged in the Network.

The meeting convened the two nominated focal points from each country member of the Network, a guest country (the Government of Morocco), invited to share its experience as well as West African regional institutions and international organizations involved in the MRV/Transparency framework. The meeting gained from the technical and financial support from the UNDP/UNEP Global Support Program for National Communications and Biennial Update Reports (GSP, www.un-gsp.org) and the Regional Collaboration Centre of Lomé (RCC Lomé). The participation and technical support by Government of Morocco, Federal Government of Belgium, the Government of Sweden, UNFCCC secretariat, FAO, GIZ, ECREEE, Centre Régional Agrhymet, ICAT and IFDD was highly valued during the meeting.

Key Decisions

At the second annual meeting of the West African South-South Network on MRV and Transparency, the participants reached some **important conclusions on the strengthening and development of the Network**, identifying thereby the following elements as added-value for the Network:

- Enhanced coordination;
- Peer-to-peer support;
- Networking and sharing of information.

By **enhanced coordination** it is meant that the Network wants to be instrumental in i) supporting the strengthening of national MRV systems throughout the ECOWAS region, ii) analyzing the status of MRV systems in every country and iii) identifying and sharing good practices between member countries. Based on the information that is made available through the member countries, it was agreed that coordination is the cornerstone to achieve the vision of operational MRV systems by 2020.

The main element for **peer-to-peer support** is the sharing of knowledge and expertise between countries. As the different countries stand at different levels with their MRV systems, the idea of one country supporting another country based on its experience was fostered. In fact, it was noticed that the knowledge on specific issues is often available within the Network; therefore, national experts should be listed for mentoring other countries. Further peer to peer support will be enhanced through by capacity building initiatives such as on-line and in person courses to be made available for national experts through the network.

Finally, the **networking and sharing of information** is about having the support of a virtual platform to be used for sharing (urgent) questions and answers. The possibilities the CGE website provides will be investigated as this could mean a more cost-effective solution than setting up a new site. Further, the platform could list and disclose tools, grants and funding possibilities available for the region.

With the understanding that the Network is not the only current regional initiative on MRV, **participants raised the issue of complementarity**, highlighting the interest to cooperate with any other projects working on MRV in the region. The basic idea behind this is that cooperation is needed in order to be able to reach the national goals set within the framework of the Paris Agreement.

Further **participating countries asked the RCC Lomé**, who had so far acted as interim secretariat of this initiative, **to continue acting as Network coordinator also for the coming year**, until a member country will take the lead.

In an action plan **for 2018, initial activities have been also identified** both at the regional and national level. In particular, one of the initial priorities will be to identify the needs and status of each individual country in the Network and, in order to support this, the RCC Lomé will create a reporting template to facilitate the exercise, which should be completed by the end of 2017. The information listed in the template will facilitate

the understanding of the needs of countries and therefore facilitate the matchmaking and the peer to peer exchanges among countries.

This first step would enable the Network to identify and coordinate programmatic priorities and areas of support, while encouraging countries to start sharing their best practices and lessons learnt within the Network.

Member countries also **selected a logo**, so as to strengthen the identity of the Network.

Key insights

Countries stand at different levels of maturity of their MRV systems. In a quick self-assessment, it became clear that some countries are just starting setting-up an MRV system while other countries are in the process of formalizing their MRV-system and moving towards a mature level. The added-value of the Network will be in facilitating the sharing of information among countries.

Building upon a first analysis undertaken by UNDP/UNEP Global Support Program, participants shared and deepened their understanding on the gaps and needs of their current MRV systems. This led to the following insights:

1. **Political support and collaboration is necessary** in order to implement a sustainable MRV system. In many countries in the region political support should be stronger, especially because setting up a GHG inventory requires strong cooperation across different departments, ministries, research institutes and private sector. Therefore, it was pointed out that **raising awareness** for political buy-in was necessary. This links directly to the institutional level, as a sustainable MRV system requires an effective **regulatory framework**, internal **capacities for collection and processing of data** and **sufficient funding**. Countries pointed out also challenges in data collection and management, as in some cases, there is no data, mostly due to the reluctance of private companies and state-owned utilities to comply with requests. There again, **raising awareness** on environmental issues in order to gain more commitment from all the data providers is needed in the first place.
2. **Training** is needed as many officials having a role in data collection and processing lack the required knowledge. Most officials currently do not have the technical capacity to work on GHG inventories or do not know what data is needed and how it should be collected. Countries highlighted the lack of knowledge on IPCC 2006 guidelines within their countries and insisted that training is needed to help overcome this problem.
3. **Sharing of information** underpins any well-functioning MRV system as cooperation between many organizations at different levels is needed. The transparency framework within the Paris Agreement also requires an open, coherent and transparent system. This means that sharing of information should be built in the design of the MRV system.

These insights showed the relevancy of the Network as countries have a great willingness to share **experts, best practices, approaches and methodologies on a peer-to-peer basis**. The peer-to-peer support is seen as a great asset as countries are all at different levels in setting-up their MRV systems.

Proceedings

The meeting was formally opened by the Mr. Henri Mathieu Lô, First Technical Advisor to the Minister of Environment of Senegal, by Mr. Mathieu Ciowela, country director of the UNDP in Senegal and Mr. Donald Singue Tanko from the RCC Lomé.

The first day focused on reflections on the first year of the Network, how it originates and the steps that had been taken past year. In its first year of operation, the Network has contributed to:

- Providing expert support, in partnership with the Governments of Senegal and Ghana, to MRV discussions in Sierra Leone and Liberia;

- Financing access to virtual training on the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for greenhouse gas inventories;
- Facilitating the nomination of focal points and formal engagement to the Network¹;
- Organizing webinars on MRV/Transparency.

After that presentation, the UNFCCC Secretariat gave an overview and latest update on the MRV and Transparency Framework. This was complemented by a regional overview for the Energy Sector (by ECREEE) and the AFOLU sector (Centre Régional Agrhymet). The afternoon focused on the 2006 IPCC guidelines (with a presentation from GSP) and an overview of the other initiatives on MRV in the region (GIZ for the Partnership on Transparency for the Paris Agreement and ICAT).

During the second day, the Government of Morocco, as a guest country, presented its institutional arrangements of the MRV system. After which, the countries sat together to share their own MRV experiences between themselves in small groups. The day ended with discussions about the value-added of the Network, the choice of the network logo and the identification of the first steps.

On the third day a field visit was organized to showcase climate sustainable experiences as well as to strengthen informal relationships among countries participants. The Agence Nationale des Ecovillage (ANEV) supported RCC Lomé and GSP in the organization of the field visit in the eco village named Mbackombel, Thiès Region. The village is a concrete example of high quality mitigation and adaptation activities focused on renewable energies (PV panels, biogas and solar cookers), water management (water stocking and solar pumps), food security and sustainable agriculture (use of natural fertilizers and insecticides, agroforestry, reduced use of chemicals), with a focus on income generating activities thanks to a bakery and improved education standards in the local primary and secondary school, thanks to electricity, internet connection, use of television and laptops to share knowledge. All common goods and resources are managed by management boards, which underline the importance of the cooperation among stakeholders in the climate change actions.

¹ As at 11 October 2017, 14 countries took action to be part of the Network and nominated focal points to the Network (1 for the energy sector and 1 for the AFOLU sector). These countries include: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.