New Greenhouse Gas Protocol standards for quantifying GHG effects of policies and tracking progress toward mitigation goals

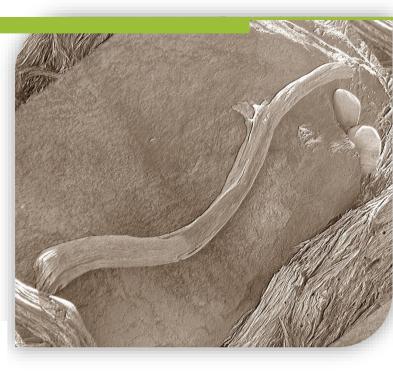GREENHOUSE GAS PROTOCOL

IEPPEC Conference

Berlin

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Current Future

WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

Why a ‚Policy and Action' Standard?

- Increasing demand for the evaluation of GHG effects of policies
  - Based on UNFCCC requirements
  - Based on voluntary action by countries
  - Based on increased demand from stakeholders
  - ➡ Especially in developing countries with limited experience and resources

- Increasing need for comparability and transparency

- Amount of different methodologies, methods and tools can be confusing for less experienced users

- Differences in reporting practices reduce transparency

Target groups

Target groups

- Governments (municipal, subnational, national)

- Donor agencies and financial institutions

- Research institutions

- NGOs

Indirectly

- Evaluation experts

The standard provides guidance on:

- Required steps

- Useful methods for individual steps

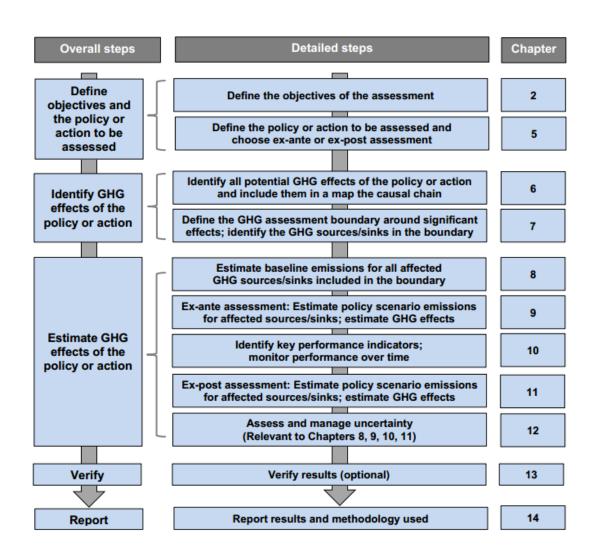- Different levels of accuracy

- Reporting requirements

- Enhanced consistency

- Enhanced transparency through reporting requirements

Key steps

Overall steps	Detailed steps	Chapter
Define objectives and the policy or action to be assessed	Define the objectives of the assessment	2
	Define the policy or action to be assessed and choose ex-ante or ex-post assessment	5
Identify GHG effects of the policy or action	Identify all potential GHG effects of the policy or action and include them in a map the causal chain	6
	Define the GHG assessment boundary around significant effects; identify the GHG sources/sinks in the boundary	7
Estimate GHG effects of the policy or action	Estimate baseline emissions for all affected GHG sources/sinks included in the boundary	8
	Ex-ante assessment: Estimate policy scenario emissions for affected sources/sinks; estimate GHG effects	9
	Identify key performance indicators; monitor performance over time	10
	Ex-post assessment: Estimate policy scenario emissions for affected sources/sinks; estimate GHG effects	11
	Assess and manage uncertainty (Relevant to Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11)	12
Verify	Verify results (optional)	13
Report	Report results and methodology used	14

Steps aim to ensure that

- All relevant effects are considered
- Assumptions are made explicit
- All relevant information to understand the results are provided

What is new?

- Not much!

- The standard is based on common good practice, but what IS new is:
  - A standardized process applicable to all sectors, most types of policies/actions as well as different levels of jurisdiction
  - It provides guidance for both experienced and less experienced users
  - It caters to different objectives for the analysis
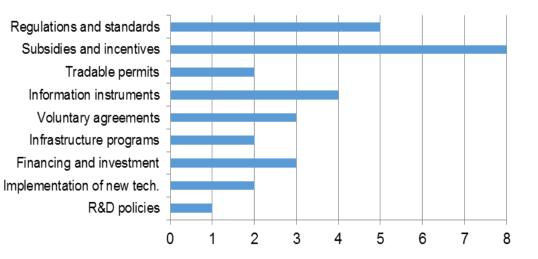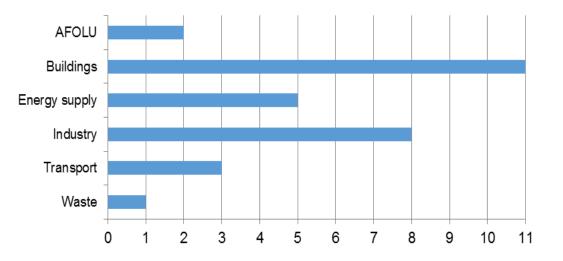 - Requiring users to think through all possible effects in the causal chain exercise and make choices on which to include in the analysis explicit

Pilot testing - scope

The pilot testing was conducted across

- 8 developed countries

- 18 developing countries

- national and subnational levels

- all sectors

- A wide range of types of policies/actions
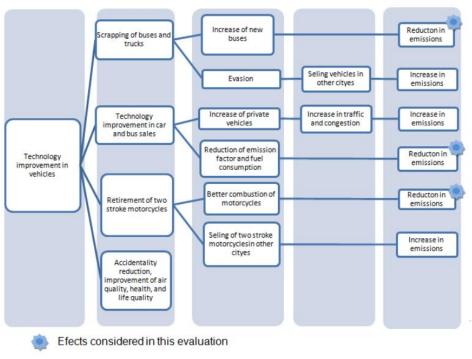
- 4 Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs)

Case study 1 – Transportation planning in Colombia

Type of policy: Regulation + Incentive scheme

Scope: Area Metropolitana del Valle de Aburra

Organization: Clean Air Institute (CAI)

Efects considered in this evaluation

Goal of the assessment: Ex-ante evaluate the GHG impact of two transportation measures individually and jointly to determine interactions

Main challenges:

- Developing the causal chain

- Selecting the appropriate model

Main lessons:

- Identification of unintended effects was seen as very useful

- Assessment of significance of effects more determined by practical considerations than the proposed methodology

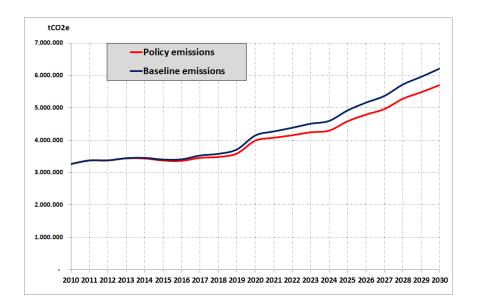- Importance of uncertainty identification

Case study 2 – Renewable energy program in Tunisia

Type of policy: Incentive scheme

Scope: National

Organization: National Agency for Energy Conservation of Tunisia and GIZ

Goal of the assessment: Combined ex-post and ex-ante assessment of GHG effects and expected savings in energy subsidies

Main challenges:

- Assessing the likelihood of effects
- Selecting the appropriate model

Main lessons:

- Lack of guidance on policy interaction
- Lack of guidance on monitoring and verification

Summary of findings from pilot testing

Most helpful

- Mapping of the causal chain to understand the cause-and-effect relationships;

- Providing of a framework to identify all significant effects of the policy, not only the direct or intended effects; and

- Requiring that users define a baseline scenario.

Most challenging

- Tier concept

- General applicability, making the standard less practical

- Length of the standard

Reactions to pilot testing findings

- Removal of 'tier' concept and provision of range of methodological choices instead

- Provision of an executive summary for the standard

- Provision of sector guidance documents additional to the standard

- Publication of a list of available tools and methods

- Pilot testing experiences used as 'real wold examples' within the standard

Next steps

- Publication in October 2014

- Publication of sector guidance documents for the building sector, energy, transport, waste and AFOLU

- Development of training material for
  - In-person training workshops
  - Webinars
  - E-lerning

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