

**Agenda item: 3****OVERVIEW OF PMR TECHNICAL NOTE: OPTIONS TO USE EXISTING INTERNATIONAL OFFSET STANDARDS IN A DOMESTIC CONTEXT**

**Objective:** The PMR Technical Note “Options to use existing international offset standards in a domestic context” is being prepared as part of the offset component of the PMR technical work program. Its objective is to support PMR country participants currently planning and/or designing a domestic offset program to identify how existing international offset programs can be best leveraged to develop domestic offset arrangements that suit their national circumstance. This analysis builds on PMR Technical Note 6 “Similarities and differences between existing offset standards” updated in February 2015.

**Context:** Over the past 25 years significant experience on offsetting has been built up through the development, implementation and improvement of various international and domestic offset programs. A wide range of approaches adapted to different circumstances have been explored. Currently a number of countries are considering the design of their own domestic offset programs. This report will explore different options for drawing on this international knowledge and infrastructure.

Leveraging the existing international offset programs can be a way to cost effectively fast start a domestic offset program<sup>1</sup>. Making use of the existing international experience can take the form of different levels of dependencies, ranging from full reliance on international programs on the one hand to a fully independent domestic program in the other extreme case, and everything in between.

**Structure:** The report will present a guiding framework to help policy makers to make informed decisions about if and how existing international offset standards can be used in a national context. The report includes a) an inventory of different institutional, administrative/procedural and project assessment/methodological approaches applied in existing international offset programs; b) a definition of plausible scenarios for leveraging international experience when designing domestic programs; c) an Impact and evaluation of the advantages and disadvantages of different options assessed; and d) identification and evaluation of key questions that policy makers planning or designing a domestic offset program may find useful to consider when applying elements of international offset standards.

**Draft findings:** Ecofys and CAR were selected to prepare the report following a call for proposals. They will present draft findings during the offset working group webinar in order to secure feedback that will be taken into consideration as they finalize the report, expected by early April 2015.

Participants are encouraged to provide their views and thoughts on the presentation, particularly regarding:

- Critical issues that they think the report should address;
- Clarification of key questions that participants have themselves been forced to consider when designing, planning, implementing or operating domestic offset programs; and
- The structure of the report.

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<sup>1</sup> The analysis defines an international offset program as a program that is designed to provide offsets sourced from several countries. The rules are not specific to a certain country and the programs are generally administered by international bodies or NGOs.