

Lessons Learned from PPIAF Activities: Public-Private Partnerships and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions in Jordan

In October 2010 PPIAF approved an innovative activity in Jordan to assist the government to define and prioritize nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs) with specific attention to infrastructure projects suitable for private sector participation and climate finance instruments.

Background

The origin of NAMAs is the 2007 Bali Action Plan, which calls for “nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country Parties in the context of sustainable development, supported and enabled by technology, financing and capacity building, in a measurable, reportable, and verifiable manner.” In December 2009, at the 15th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Copenhagen, countries agreed on the need to implement sustainable NAMAs that limit greenhouse gas emissions without compromising economic growth and social inclusion. Subsequently parties were asked to formally communicate their association with the Copenhagen Accord to the UNFCCC Secretariat. The outcome of the 16th Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC in Cancun in December 2010 confirmed NAMAs as a primary mechanism for achieving “common but differentiated responsibilities” in combating climate change.

On January 31, 2010, the government of Jordan provided the UNFCCC Secretariat with a list of proposed mitigation actions in sectors such as transport, environment, energy, waste, agriculture, and forestry. The listed NAMAs included several options for public-private partnerships, particularly in areas where both public and private finance are traditionally combined, such as energy supply, transport, and waste and wastewater infrastructure. The government of Jordan expressed the need for financial and technical support, as well as capacity building, to refine the government’s list of NAMAs and identify the right incentives to engage the private sector in this process.

PPIAF’s Contribution

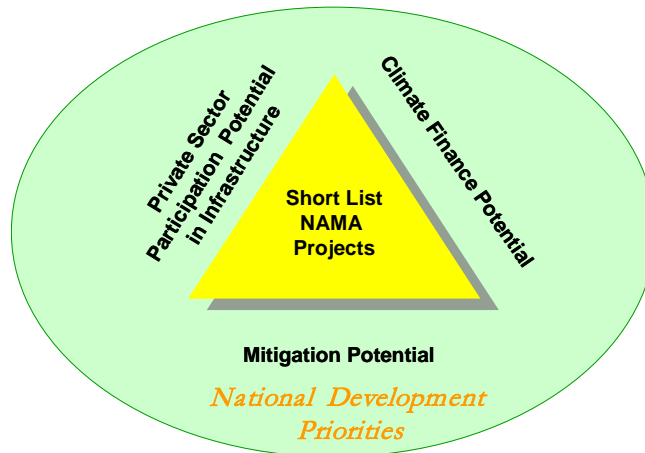
The list of NAMAs submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat by the government of Jordan was preliminary. Additional analysis was therefore required to identify options for embedding NAMAs within new instruments of international climate change policy. Subsequently, the government requested PPIAF support, through the World Bank’s Middle East and North Africa Sustainable Development (MNSSD) department and in collaboration with CF-Assist, to assist in the definition and prioritization of NAMAs, with the objective of selecting a pilot activity in infrastructure for additional feasibility analysis.

The joint PPIAF/MNSSD/CF-Assist technical assistance project began in October 2010 and is still ongoing. However, several sectors of interest have already been identified as potential NAMAs: concentrated solar power; landfill gas; waste and wastewater-to-energy; wind power; energy efficiency, including government buildings, solar water heaters, solid waste treatment, water pumping efficiency, and sludge treatment; and transportation projects such as Bus Rapid Transport and Light Railway Transport.

In developing a shortlist of potential NAMAs, data collection for the project was carried out following the following criteria as approved by the National Steering Committee:

- Private sector participation potential in infrastructure
- Greenhouse gas emissions mitigation potential
- Climate finance potential

Importantly, it was stressed that NAMAs must be coherent with the framework of national development priorities for Jordan, thereby ensuring that the mitigation actions suggested are “nationally appropriate.”



After initial dialogue with sector ministries, key local and national government stakeholders, the private sector, and NGOs, a list of over 50 projects was created. Following additional analysis and data-gathering, 20 of these projects were deemed to fit the developed criteria for NAMA development. In September 2011, a stakeholder workshop took place to analyze these 20 projects and choose one pilot project as a blue print for further analysis.

Based on the results of data collection and stakeholder dialogue at a workshop in September 2011, it was agreed that the PPIAF activity should move ahead with further pre-feasibility analysis of the Zarqa River Basin Centralized Industrial Waste Treatment and Biogas Utilization project.

Lessons Learned

The submission of the list of NAMAs to the UNFCCC Secretariat presented Jordan with an opportunity to further evaluate and develop strategic options that address a major global and national concern about a changing climate without compromising its growth and development objectives. Although the activity is still ongoing, several lessons have already been learned from the project:

- 1) NAMAs and national strategies
NAMAs cannot be launched in isolation and must form part of a long-term national and sectoral strategy to avoid inefficiencies or contradiction between NAMA projects and national strategies. As a hypothetical example, a bus rapid transit system may fit NAMA definitions, but it may fall outside of the government or municipality's urban transport plan, and would therefore not be suitable for implementation. Successful NAMAs must be informed by and support long-term government strategies.
- 2) Local ownership and commitment
In the process of developing and prioritizing NAMAs it is imperative to involve all the relevant stakeholders, in both the public and private sectors. Gaining support from all ministries for a common goal will make it much easier for a NAMA project to move forward and potentially receive finance.
- 3) Focal point
As a further measure to ensure government ownership, and in order to improve communication and cooperation across government, choosing one government focal point to coordinate NAMA communication and processes is beneficial. In the case of Jordan, the Ministry of Environment, in its capacity as UNFCCC National Focal Point, is serving as the focal point for this technical

assistance with overall guidance provided by the National Climate Change Committee which serves as the National Steering Committee for this project.

4) Scope of NAMAs

NAMAs can be defined in many ways with a broad or narrow scope. A NAMA could be a single project, such as waste-to-energy landfill, a set of projects that form part of a comprehensive sector plan, or a policy NAMA that targets specific legislation or regulation that may impede a NAMA-related project

5) Long-term impact

The value of NAMAs can be greater than the measurable direct short-term emissions reductions. Longer-term indirect impacts include capacity building and policy development that will indirectly help long-term emissions reductions, such as improved urban planning.