Promoting Low-carbon Transport in India

Factsheet

Overall Context

India is currently the fourth largest greenhouse gas (GHG) emitter in the world. With the second largest population, its per capita emissions are though less than half of the world average. The transport sector is the second largest contributor to carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions in India. Besides CO_2 emissions, the sector also gives rise to negative impacts such as road congestion, local air pollution, noise and accidents. The burden of these impacts has been extremely high in the urban areas. In the last two decades modal switching from rail to road transport has taken place for both freight and passenger transport. In cities the public transport services have been burdened by population growth and urbanisation and overtaken by a rapid increase in private vehicles.

Opportunities exist to make India's transport growth more sustainable by aligning development and climate agenda. India's National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) recognizes that GHG emissions from transport can be reduced by adopting a sustainability approach through a combination of measures like increased use of public transport, higher penetration of biofuels, enhanced energy efficiency of transport vehicles, etc.

This project aims to contribute to the efforts of the Government of India in realizing a low-carbon transport system and is endorsed by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF). The project has a cities component wherin the work shall be carried in close coordination and guidance from the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD).

Project Objectives

The project has the following objectives:

1. Delineating an enabling environment for coordinating policies at national level to achieve a sustainable transport system.
2. Enhancing capacity of cities to improve mobility with lower CO_2 emissions.

Budget:
€ 2.49 million

Duration:
2010 – 2013 (3 years)

Implementing Agency:
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Implementing Partners:
UNEP Risoe Centre, Denmark

Along with local partners:
- IIMA: Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad
- IITD : Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi
- CEPT University, Ahmedabad

Other Partners:
To be identified for the cities

Geographical Scope:
- National level : "Transport Action Plan"
- City Level (up to 4 cities): "Low-carbon mobility plans"

Supported by:

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

based on a decision of the Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany

Contacts:
Kamala Ernest, UNEP, kamala.ernest@unep.org; Subash Dhar, UNEP Risoe Centre, sudh@risoe.dtu.dk
Project website : www.unep.org/transport/lowcarbon/

The first objective would be achieved by developing a "Transport Action Plan" in cooperation with multiple stakeholders. The second objective will be attained by assissting selected cities to develop "Low-carbon Mobility Plans".

Expected Outcomes

1. A Transport Action Plan at national level which includes :
   - Sustainability Indicators pertinent to 'Sustainable Transport Services' in India.
   - National level integrated assessment of transport sector emissions and projections of future CO_2 Emissions till 2050.
   - Case studies of existing and under implementation projects.
   - A Road Map for developing a 'Sustainable Transport System' for India including the identification of technology needs, related R&D and technology transfer, finance and pathways for international cooperation.
   - Policy recommendations for achieving a sustainable transport system.
2. Low-Carbon Mobility Plans for up to four (4) cities, including:
   - A methodology for developing low-carbon mobility plans at city level.
   - Development of mobility plans which identify appropriate infrastructures and technologies for reduction of CO_2 emissions and adaptation to climate change impacts.
3. A Network for Information Sharing and co-ordination in the form of a project website to facilitate effective exchanges among stakeholders and dissemination of information related to project specific events, documents and outcomes.

IIT Delhi

Contacts:
Kamala Ernest, UNEP, kamala.ernest@unep.org; Subash Dhar, UNEP Risoe Centre, sudh@risoe.dtu.dk
Project website : www.unep.org/transport/lowcarbon/