Tunisia develops a NAMA to scale up energy conservation across the building sector and strengthen its national energy strategy

Over the past 30 years, Tunisia has been proactively developing energy conservation policies and initiatives in order to manage final energy consumption in various sectors. This NAMA proposal is a concrete step towards the achievement of an energy conservation NAMA in the building sector in Tunisia, which aims to reduce energy consumption from this sector and associated GHG emissions. Ecofys has supported the Tunisian government with the development of this NAMA, which will strengthen its national energy strategy.

National context and rationale

In 2008, the biggest share of emissions (67.7%) in Tunisia was attributed to energy. As Tunisia’s population grows (at around 1% per year on average) and poverty headcount ratio decreases (from 32.4% of the population in 2000 to 15.5% in 2010), CO₂ emissions per capita have constantly increased (from 1.8 metric tonnes per capita in 1995 to 2.4 in 2009) (World Bank, 2013).

Between 2010 and 2030, final energy consumption from the building sector is expected to double and will contribute to the overall increase of the final energy consumption in Tunisia. The energy conservation NAMA in the Tunisian building sector will aim to tackle this increase in both existing and new buildings. This will help reduce energy consumption and associated GHG emissions as compared to the business as usual (BAU) scenario while delivering sustainable development co-benefits and reinforcing the current Tunisian energy strategy.

Stakeholders and their involvement

Representatives from the National Energy Conservation Agency, the Ministry of Equipment, professional orders (e.g. architects) and business associations, amongst others, helped identify barriers to current energy conservation programmes and technologies in the building sector and potential ways to overcome them. Consultations early on with regulatory institutions in charge of policy design and with organisations involved in programme implementation, including funders and the private sector, resulted in the identification of the NAMA components and activities.

Barrier analysis and NAMA design

The NAMA includes three technological components: a solar component (including solar water heaters and solar panels), an insulation component and a research component focusing on innovative technologies for air conditioning. Policy, technical, communication and research activities aim to address various barriers, including information, technical capacity and finance barriers.
The activities are specific to each component and are detailed in the full NAMA proposal. The financial mechanism includes international grants for programme costs and research activities as well as national subsidies, concessional loans and credit lines for technology costs.

**Impacts: GHG and co-benefits**

The NAMA will result in GHG emission reductions which are currently being quantified and a range of sustainable development benefits, including economic, social and health benefits. Regarding economic benefits, the NAMA aims to strengthen the business sector that provides energy conservation services/products for buildings, to create jobs and to reduce energy costs for both the government and the final energy consumers. Regarding social and health benefits, the NAMA will ensure a more reliable domestic electricity supply and improved access to energy services, especially in the social housing segment. The NAMA will also strengthen Tunisia’s mitigative capacity by building institutional and technical capacities, including enforcement capacities of the government and technical capacities of products and service providers. Research activities to be funded under the NAMA will provide the basis for decisions to support promising energy conservation technologies.

**Lessons learned and next steps**

The NAMA proposal is currently being finalised and implementation is expected to begin in 2014-2015. The development process of the NAMA demonstrated the importance to identify lessons learned from current policies and programmes in the building and energy sector. National stakeholders played a central role in identifying these lessons, as well as barriers to current policies and programmes and ways to overcome these. This inclusive process is also a guarantee of the stakeholders’ interest and commitment during the NAMA implementation phase.

**Contact**

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