

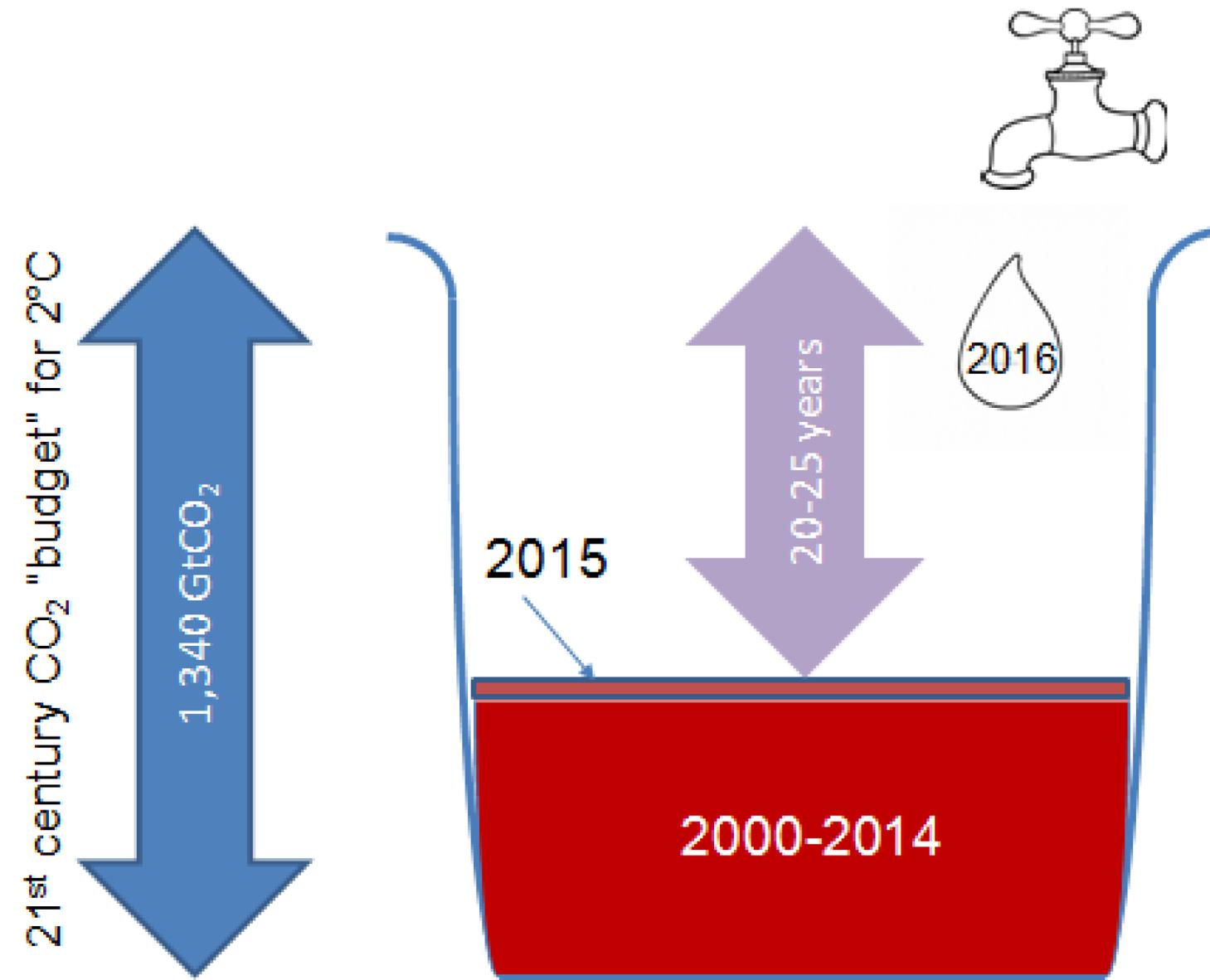


Capacity Building in MRV

Gaps in MRV capacities as experienced by various donor-led programmes

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NDCs and the impact on MRV requirements – the complex web of absolute and relative targets and GHG and non-GHG metrics



NDCs and the impact on MRV requirements – solutions and key features

1. Guidance from the UNFCCC process:

- ❖ Transparency Framework (as in Art 13) will emerge, but
- ❖ it is likely that non-prescriptive, non-binding, non punitive best practices and guidance will emerge over time
- ❖ balancing between “one size fits all” and “differentiation” will be a long battle with results informing of the first NDC cycle

2. NDC “owners” are left at their own resources for MRV systems suitable for design & management as well as for reporting to the UNFCCC hence,

- ❖ countries needs to design systems without clear, known rules balancing between implementability/management and eventual reporting and third party scrutiny
- ❖ Only “best practice sharing” and dedicated – bilateral, IFI etc – capacity building is available

(I)NDCs and their impact on MRV requirements

1. Lack of understanding of MRV beyond the value of “reporting” to the UNFCCC
2. Inventorisation (IPCC meth.) driven, Tier 1 MRV systems not suitable for policy formulation (top down where institutional interests undermine self-critical approaches)
3. Lack of understanding and benefiting that MRV will support policy formulation and adjustments
4. Disperse and hardly coordinated donor efforts on MRV due to lack of (understanding) PA Transparency Framework details
5. Inter-sectoral sensitivities – the UNFCCC mandate of ministries of environment puts the MRV systems into weak hands
6. Limited linkages for SDG, LEDS and national development programmes/priorities

A late awakening and almost missing the Warsaw – Lima – Paris journey

- UNFCCC Focal Points were late in waking up after Warsaw COP (2013 December) and INDCs were seen broadly as “another report to the Convention”, despite this the
- MRV, both the inventorisation and action impact tracking aspects, were overlooked
- No broader stakeholder engagement occurred where ownership/leadership was linked to an ‘environment’ body.
- The usual UNFCCC guidance were awaited throughout 2014 and
- INDC thinking/working started very late “led” by generally weak Convention responsables within the Governments,
- without understanding the implications of the shift towards the bottom-up system from the previous top-down approach of the Convention all areas suffered, including MRV,
- But international donors have rarely provided MRV support under the INDC umbrella (they continued with NC, BUR etc support as if the PA was not on the horizon)

A limited awakening: avoiding the heavyweights and staying within comfort zones

- UNFCCC Focal Points used their acquired conflict avoidance and stuck to their comfort zones,
- by not trying to engage broader stakeholder groups (fear of the energy stakeholders were paramount; modelling scenarios avoided; no compliance check with global 2C pathways).
- Attempts were either avoided or failed to engage higher and/or broader sphere of government, and covering unusual climate areas such as SDGs, innovation and energy balances.
- The avoidance of broader engagement and scrutiny also materialized towards civil society / NGOs and science/academia
- Therefore exploring and learning new MRV relevant approaches and establishing development/climate metrics has hardly happened

Will Sleepwalking continue after Paris?

how to implement anything without institutional support, embeddedness, leadership and measurability (MRV)?

- Whilst PA ratification is progressing it is yet to be seen how NDCs will be implemented and what MRV systems will be there to (a) support their (re)formulation and (b) enable their progress tracking
- If NDCs do not enter the broader development narrative and they not become measurable they will remain marginalized and would not influence mainstream governance (=> only new NCs and BURs for the UNFCCC...)
- Other development priorities – that were mentioned as principles/conditions of the INDCs – could become drivers (and consequently metrics) of the new systems
 - => *standalone, “GHG only” metrics likely to be insufficient for the NDCs that are by definition broader than GHG MRV*

Hopes and opportunities: societal pressures, innovative technology and climate mainstreaming

- Increasingly, environmental/green/sustainability movements bring (local) air pollution, extreme weather events, loss of biodiversity, resilience& adaptation challenges to the fore and hence strengthening the case for improved MRV systems
- Autonomous developments in technology may sooner or later trickle down to MRV systems (e.g. satellite tracking; big data derived proxies; blockchain etc.)
- Accepting adaptation/resilience as key development factor and incorporating PA mitigation objectives to national policies would result in improved MRV systems
 - => *societal drivers - technological development, energy security, health - will result in improved MRV systems (eventually)*