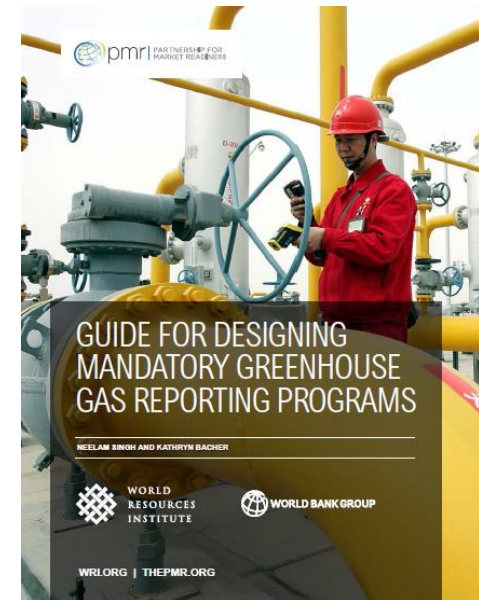# Guide for Designing Mandatory Greenhouse Gas Reporting Programs

Neelam Singh, World Resources Institute
June 16, 2015

Overview

- MRV and GHG Reporting Programs
- Key steps in designing reporting programs
- Where to begin
- What's next
- Discussion

GHG Reporting Programs

- Collect and track emissions data at the level of individual emitters at regular intervals
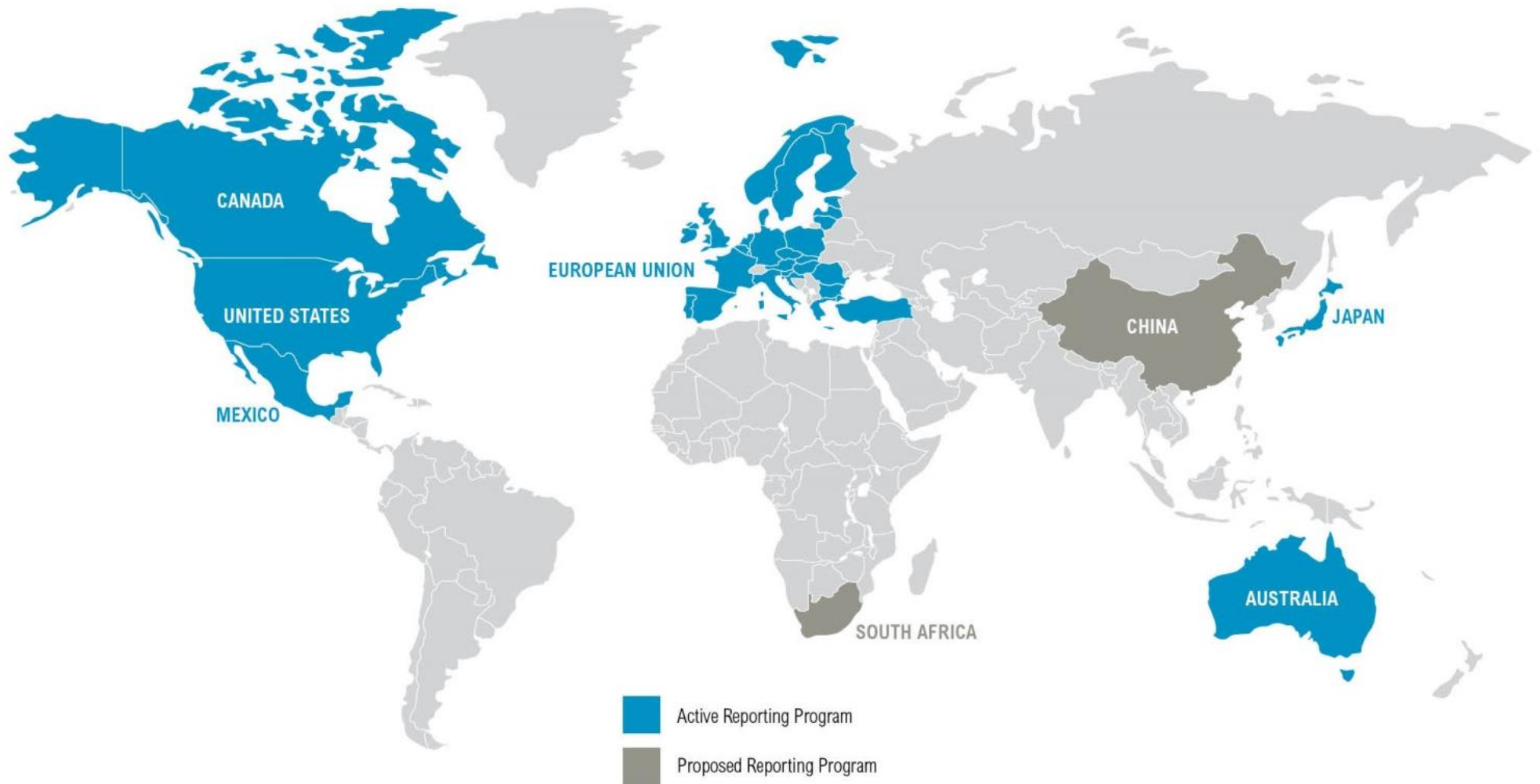- Encompass a set of components
- Voluntary or mandatory

Reporting programs help MRV emissions

- MRV – measuring, reporting, verifying
- MRV of emissions – at emitters level
  - Transparency
  - Accuracy/data quality
  - Comparability
  - Tracking progress/demonstrating impact
  - Access to finance

Mandatory GHG Reporting Programs Researched

Mandatory vs voluntary reporting programs
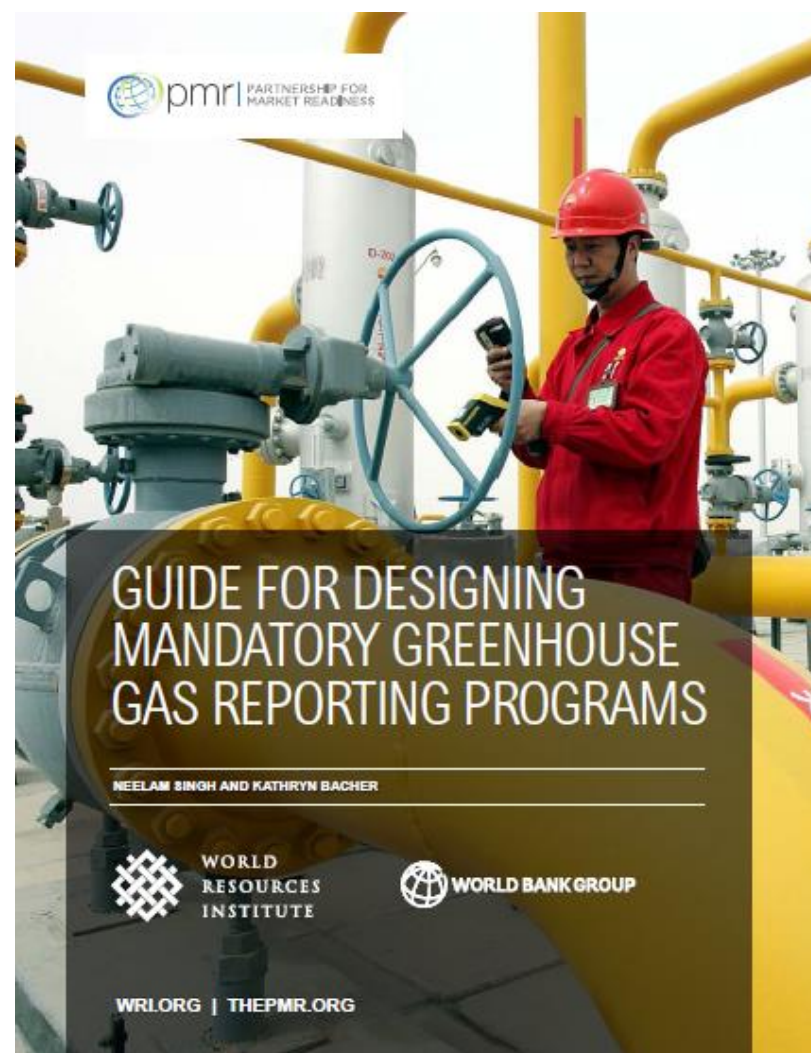
Mandatory

- **More prescriptive - greater consistency in reporting**

- **More likely to be at facility level**

- **Purely reporting scheme, no targets**

Voluntary

- **Greater flexibility**

- **More likely to be at corporate level**

- **Companies may report on emissions reductions**

A Guide for policymakers

- Discusses good practices while recognizing different country contexts/ priorities/ objectives
- Helps develop a sound framework for GHG reporting

Steps to Establish GHG Reporting Programs

1

Determine Program Objectives

- Define objectives based on local context and priorities

2

Create an Enabling Environment

- Establish legal architecture
- Seek stakeholder engagement
- Build institutional, human resource, technical, and financial capacity

3

Determine Program Structure and Requirements

- Define program coverage
- Provide emissions quantification methodologies
- Lay out reporting requirements
- Establish a reporting platform
- Define quality control and quality assurance procedures
- Create enforcement rules

4

Conduct Program Review

- Focus on program's process, its substantive details and/or its impact
- Determine details regarding who should conduct the review and how the review is to be conducted

Program Objectives

- Objectives influence program design decisions

- Programs can serve a range of objectives that can evolve over time
  - Inform the analysis of emissions mitigation opportunities
  - Directly support policies that require detailed entity-level data, e.g., ETS & carbon tax
  - Improve data quality and consistency
  - Provide information to stakeholders
  - Inform national inventories
  - Help entities assess their climate risks and opportunities

Enabling Environment

Legal architecture

Institutional, human resource, technical, financial capacitiy

Stakeholder engagement

Enabling Environment

Legal Architecture

Existing vs new legislation

Laws and regulations

Enabling Factors

- Building capacity:
  - Institutional capacity
  - Human resources and technical capacity
  - Financial capacity

Stakeholder Engagement

Why to engage?	Whom to engage with?	When to engage?	What issues to engage on?	How to engage?
■ Outline benefits of stakeholder engagement	■ Identify stakeholders	■ Timing and frequency of engagement	■ Identifiy topics on which to engage stakeholders	■ Determine methods of engagement

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Reporting Program Design Elements

PROGRAM COVERAGE
Who reports what?

EMISSIONS QUANTIFICATION
How to calculate and measure emissions?

REPORTING PROCEDURES & SCHEDULES
What to report and how often?

REPORTING PLATFORMS & DATA DISCLOSURE
Where to report and who has access to reported information?

QUALITY CONTROL & ASSURANCE
Who verifies what and how?

ENFORCEMENT
What measures to apply in case of noncompliance?

Program Coverage

Reporting entity	• Facility/Company
Emissions to report	• Direct/Indirect
Program applicability	• Thresholds
GHGs to report	• All Kyoto/Only CO_2/Others (e.g., black carbon)

Emissions Quantification

- Calculation-based approaches

- Direct measurement

- Policymakers' role:
  - Methodologies
    - Tiers
    - Uncertainty
    - GWP

Reporting requirements and Reporting platforms

- Specify the type of information to be reported, the frequency of reporting, deadlines, recordkeeping

- Reporting platform – data management system to facilitate reporting, organization and analysis of data
    - Simple spreadsheets to sophisticated systems
    - Independent or integrated systems

Quality control

Programs can focus on QC measures in:

- Calculation and monitoring methods
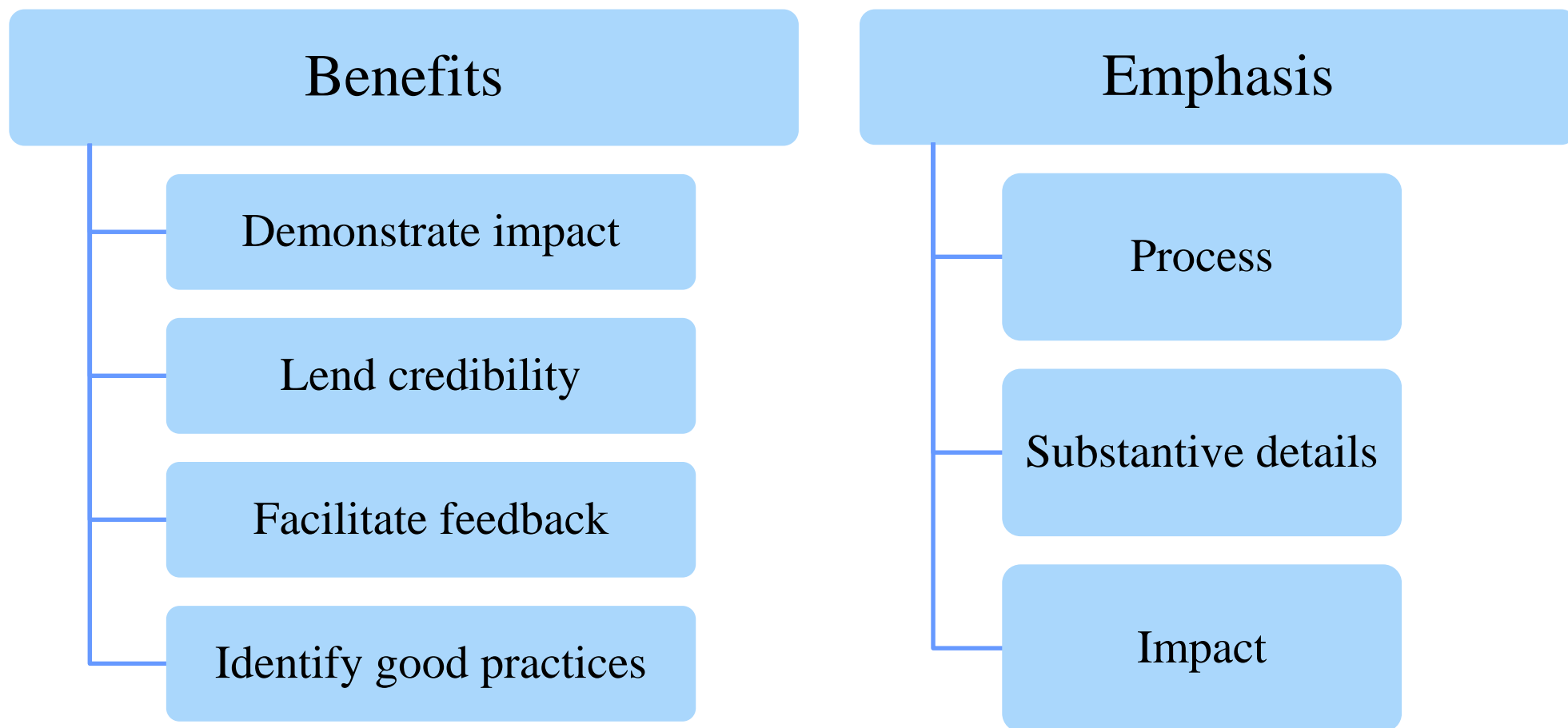
- Data validation

- Compliance assistance

Quality assurance approaches

QUALITY ASSURANCE APPROACH	DEFINITION
Self-certification	Formal assertion by the reporting entity of the accuracy of its emissions report
Review by program administrators	External review undertaken by the program administrator
Third-party verification	Review by a qualified third party

Program review

Benefits

- Demonstrate impact
- Lend credibility
- Facilitate feedback
- Identify good practices

Emphasis

- Process
- Substantive details
- Impact

Where to begin?

Build capacity

Raise awareness and build a constituency

Gradually expand participation and scope over time

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Why use this guide

- Framework for GHG reporting programs
  - Insights from 13 reporting programs
  - Step by step process
- Reference for policymakers: Key considerations, checklist questions
- Potentially save time and cost in developing a new program

On the horizon

- An e-learning course on Designing GHG Reporting Programs – under preparation
- Tentative – Portuguese and Spanish version of the guide

Further activities

- Support jurisdictions in developing reporting programs through:

  – Webinars and workshops for a group of policymakers in one country or across countries

  – Supporting individual countries (e.g., collaborate with individual countries to provide context-specific design recommendations)

- Jointly develop fundraising proposals with interested countries/networks/organizations in either of these activities

Thank You

You can download the Guide at

HTTPS://OPENKNOWLEDGE.WORLDBANK.ORG/HANDLE/10986/21981

HTTP://WWW.WRI.ORG/PUBLICATION/GUIDE-DESIGNING-MANDATORY-GREENHOUSE-GAS-REPORTING-PROGRAMS

For more information on the Partnership for Market Readiness (PMR), please contact: PMRSECRETARIAT@WORLDBANK.ORG

WWW.THEPMR.ORG

For more information on The World resources institute (WRI), Please contact: NSINGH@WRI.ORG

WWW.WRI.ORG