



Inception Report - The launch of the Climate Finance MRV Reporting Project

Drafted by Luis Ruiz
Climate Finance MRV Officer

June 2023

Full disclaimer

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, photocopying, recording or otherwise, for commercial purposes without prior permission of Belize. Otherwise, material in this publication may be used, shared, copied, reproduced, printed and/or stored, provided that appropriate acknowledgement is given of Belize and ICAT as the source. In all cases the material may not be altered or otherwise modified without the express permission of Belize.

Prepared Under:

The Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT), supported by Austria, Canada, Germany, Italy, the Children's Investment Fund Foundation and the ClimateWorks Foundation.



Supported by:



on the basis of a decision
by the German Bundestag



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

The ICAT project is managed by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)



1. INTRODUCTION

On the 10th day of May 2023 an inception workshop was held at “The Dreams Valley Resort, Teakettle Village, Cayo District, Belize. This workshop launched two ICAT projects – ICAT-Belize Phase 2 and the ICAT for Enhancing the National Capacities in Belize to Track and Report on Climate Finance (also referred to as the CF MRV Project). This inception report focuses on the ICAT Climate Finance MRV project. The project aims to develop a Climate Finance MRV (monitoring, reporting and verification) system for Belize in line with the UNFCCC’s ETF (Enhanced Transparency Framework). In attendance were multiple public sector agencies who are directly involved in some manner with climate finance.

As it relates to the ICAT-Belize Phase 2 project, the workshop provided an update on Phase 1 while initiating the kick-off of Phase 2. Further more the workshop aimed to update stakeholders on the various activities that are to follow in order to achieve the required output of the CF MRV project as laid out in the “ICAT: Enhancing the National Capacities in Belize to Track and Report on Climate Finance Country Work Plan 2023”¹.

2. STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED

The following Ministries/Organizations were invited to join the workshop

- The Association of Protected Areas Management Organizations
- Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Belize Fisheries Department
- Belize Forest Department
- Belize Livestock Producers Association
- Belize Solid Waste Management Authority
- Beltraide
- Department of the Environment
- Ministry of Economic Development
- Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise
- Ministry of Natural Resources, Petroleum and Mining
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Health and Wellness
- Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy, Logistics & E-Governance
- National Climate Change Office
- National Biodiversity Office
- National Hydrological Service
- National Meteorological Service of Belize
- Belize Social Investment Fund

¹ Dated January 6th, 2023

Of the 19 ministries/organizations 35 individuals participated in the workshop. The focus was on public sector entities as such private sector entities were not in attendance at this time. A full list of the participants can be found in annex 1.

3. INTRODUCTION AND UPDATES

The opening remarks were presented by the CEO of the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management – Dr. Kenrick Williams. Dr. Williams thanked the attendees and encouraged everyone to participate to help in achieving a National Climate Finance MRV system.

As per the agenda, a brief update was provided by the Climate Change MRV Officer on Phase 1 of the ICAT project. The full agenda can be seen in annex 2. The update on phase 1 explained the outcome of the development of the MRV tool and contained the following items:

- The GHG and Non-GHG indicators have been established as per the Paris Agreement.
- Mapping was done on the existing MRV system and what information is currently being collected
- Gaps were identified between what is currently monitored and what is required
- Reporting protocols between institutions, including TORs and QC procedures were done
- A MRV tool was created and is currently being worked on for release to stakeholders and the public
- Lastly a GHG, sustainable development and transformational change assessment was done for the Agroforestry policy

4. CLIMATE FINANCE MRV PROJECT

4.1 Introduction on Climate Finance

An overview of the climate finance MRV project was presented to the stakeholders to provide an idea on what is to come in developing the CF MRV system. A definition of CF was provided to the attendees to provide them context on the workshop as follows:

Climate finance refers to local, national or international financing drawn from public, private and alternative sources of financing that seeks to support mitigation and adaptation actions that will address climate change².

It was elaborated to the attendees that a National working definition needs to be agreed upon for CF, mitigation, adaptation and other climate change related words. Currently a definition is being used as a place holder in the “Climate Finance Strategy of Belize”³, however this has not been agreed upon by all

² Based on definition from UNFCCC - <https://unfccc.int/topics/introduction-to-climate-finance>

³ Chapter 3 of “Climate Finance Strategy of Belize”

stakeholders or nationally accepted. The exercise of defining the terms will be carried out with the stakeholders as part of the CF MRV project.

The significance of CF was elaborated on based on the concept that funding for mitigation and adaptation is a must in order to meet the countries' NDC (Nationally Determined Contributions) by the allotted time frame as stipulated by the Paris Agreement. By extension the CF MRV tool is key in ensuring transparency on funded activities. This transparency mechanism is required by our domestic and international investment partners. The CF MRV tool will also assist the country in garnering additional funding based on our current usage and future NDC deliverables.

The CF MRV will also assist national stakeholders in reporting their NDCs and assist in lobbying for additional funding or seeing where priority must be placed in lacking areas.

4.2 Climate Finance Methodology framework

A simplified illustration was shown to the participants for them to understand the steps required in developing the CF MRV system.



4

This was done in an effort for them to understand their role in the overall development of the CF MRV system. They were notified of the need for future consultations with them on what data they are currently collecting, what partners they are working with, what outputs they require for reports and definitions to be used nationally.

The methodology must be done in an easy to use and universal format for all stakeholders to be able to understand the process and emulate it at their respective ministries/organization.

4.3 Road Map of activities and Expected Outcome

Lastly the road map on the CF MRV system was presented to the attendees on the way forward. The road map was provided to give them an idea of when they would be called on and in what capacity. The road map was a simplified version of the activity output required by the program as presented in the ICAT: Enhancing the National Capacities in Belize to Track and Report on Climate Finance Country Work Plan 2023.

The overall objective was described to the participants to obtain buy in from them as their input will be required throughout the process. The National CF MRV system would allow them to have a central repository to report to and track CF funding. Currently this is not being done and the only system in place, the PSIP, is unable to differentiate CF funding.

⁴ Taken from the Inception Workshop Presentation used by the Climate Change MRV Officer

The expected output of the project of having a formalized CF MRV system that would integrate into the National MRV system was emphasized to the participants. The methodology would ensure that the participants understand how to use the tool and what data is required of them for reporting on their NDCs.

5. BREAKOUT SESSIONS AND GROUP PRESENTATION

A breakout session was held with the participants – specifically those that are directly involved in the CF space. A select set of questions were asked of them to ascertain their experience, gaps, challenges and areas for technical assistance for CF.

Experience with CF data collection:

- Limited experience in collecting climate change data was expressed by all participants.
- No experience in separating data by CF mitigation and adaption.

Existing & Foreseen Gaps/Challenges

- No universally accepted definition for CF, mitigation and adaption which would allow for the proper labelling of projects being implemented.
- No formalized methodology is in place to collect or present climate finance data.
- Disconnect between individual ministries on data being collected – which has led to double counting of data.
- A disconnect between the private and public sectors.

Recommendations to Overcome Gaps/Challenges

- Capacity building for officers who deal with CF data
- Nationally accepted terms and definitions for Climate related topics, specifically CF and its sub-components
- Formalized methodology on collecting and reporting data
- Develop a central repository for climate change data to be stored
- Include private sector in climate related discussions as currently there has been a push in the private sector to use more green equipment and reduce waste.

Areas of Need for Technical Assistance

- Capacity building on understanding basic concepts regarding climate change, data collection and reporting on climate change and by extension CF.
- Training when the CF MRV system comes online on its use and reporting formats it would be able to generate.

6. WAY FORWARD

Overall, the session was fruitful with participants providing direct and clear insight on their current take on CF. As can be ascertained from the session CF is still very new and not wholly understood. As such moving forward providing thorough explanations and examples will ensure stakeholders understand the CF MRV system. A simplified and basic understanding of what is to come for the CF MRV system was presented and accepted by the participants and their buy in appears to have been obtained.

The participants presentation showed that CF data collection is currently not being done and their current collected data does not have sufficient labels to separate the CF components for NDC reporting. More capacity building will be required once the methodology for the CF MRV is put in place. As well as regular maintenance of the system to ensure information is being inputted properly.

The immediate way forward includes one on one meetings with the stakeholders to ascertain the data they are currently collecting, reporting and if any MoU's are in place that can be beneficial to the CF MRV system. Thereafter a group session will be held in order to agree on definitions as it relates to climate finance and its sub-components as required. The stakeholders must be kept updated to ensure their continued buy-in and elaboration on the system for full reporting compliance.

7. ANNEX



Draft Agenda



Inception Workshop for ICAT-Belize Phase 2 Project and the ICAT Climate Finance MRV Project

May 10th, 2023

9:30 am – 12:00 pm

The Dream Valley Resort, Teakettle Village

Time	Activity	Presenter
9:30 – 9:35	Registration	Participants
9:35 – 9:45	Opening Remarks	Lennox Gladden, Chief Climate Change Officer
9:45 – 10:00	Overview of accomplished outcomes of Phase 1	Federico Canu, UNEP-CCC
10:00 – 10:15	Overview of the ICAT Belize Phase 2 Project & intended outcomes	Kamil Salazar, MRV Officer
10:15 – 10:25	Q&A	Participants
10:25 – 10:35	Break	
10:35 – 10:50	Overview of the "ICAT for Enhancing Capacities to track and report on climate finance"	Sander Akkermans, Gauss International
10:50 – 11:00	Q&A	Participants
11:00 – 11:30	Breakout groups: 1. Brainstorming on what is needed for a sector-level MRV system? 2. Climate Finance MRV	Kamil Salazar, MRV Officer / GAUSS partners + participants
11:30 – 11:55	Group presentations on brainstorming activity	Participants
11:55 – 12:00	Way forward and next steps	Kamil Salazar, MRV Officer
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch	Participants