# ICAT Community Meetings

**ICAT**
Initiative for
Climate Action
Transparency

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# Introduction

Following a similar approach as previous ICAT Partner Forums and Community Meetings, the ICAT Community Meetings were organized from 27 to 29 February 2024 in Bonn as in-person events. The event welcomed over **80 participants**, including representatives from **30 ICAT partner countries,** representatives of ICAT's implementing partners, members of ICAT's Advisory and Donor Steering Committees, and other transparency stakeholders.

The ICAT Community meetings were organized as a series of meetings and workshops, including the following workshops on:

- Building a tracking framework for nationally determined contributions (NDCs) with the Greenhouse Gas Abatement Cost Model (GACMO);
- Future transparency support needs and ICAT's contribution;
- Policy assessments for strong NDCs;
- Climate finance transparency;
- Greenhouse gas emission projections;
- Needs assessment for capacity building on the IPCC software.

In addition, meetings of ICAT Committees and some smaller consultation meetings were held.



Image 1: ICAT community photo taken after the joint plenary. Source: ICAT Secretariat

The programme prioritized the most pressing areas for meeting both international transparency reporting standards and national implementation activities. It provided hands-on workshops on the application of several tools and methodologies that could help countries track and report on progress made in

implementing and updating NDCs, and assessing the climate impacts of their policies and actions. It included dedicated sessions on several tools and methodologies from the ICAT Toolbox, including GACMO, the upcoming climate finance transparency guide, and the ICAT Policy Assessment Guides. It also looked at the IPCC Software and its interoperability with the UNFCCC Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) reporting tool.

The ICAT Secretariat expresses its gratitude to the partners that contributed to the planning and execution of the event. The Secretariat extends special appreciation to all individuals who devoted their time and expertise as moderators, speakers, panelists, and rapporteurs, sharing invaluable insights and experiences to propel global transparency efforts forward.

# Main take-aways

The 2024 ICAT Community Meetings provided valuable insights into transparency efforts undertaken by ICAT partner countries. Common needs, challenges, and priorities—both current and anticipated—were emphasized and provided essential inputs for ICAT's ongoing reflection on how to optimize its support.

Country experiences were featured predominantly, enabling the ICAT community to learn from the experiences of countries and regions, understand their priority needs, as well as the gaps that participants identified in the global transparency support landscape. The following main messages were gathered:

- Countries will have to report on NDC implementation tracking for the first time. This poses challenges for some countries, particularly related to selecting meaningful indicators.
- ICAT's support, with tools such as GACMO, may help to alleviate some of the challenges.
- Countries that invested some efforts in the past in policy impact assessment and projections are much better equipped for reporting on their NDCs.
- The community meetings provided a unique opportunity for peer-to-peer exchange.

Through the workshops and meetings, the ICAT Secretariat also collected feedback from experts and countries on ICAT's soon to be published climate finance tracking guide.

Finally, the event enabled a discussion, also involving members of its Advisory Committee and Donor Steering Committee, to advise on ICAT's plans and priorities, including on its potential extension beyond 2026.

| List of workshops and meetings |
|---|
| **Day 0 - 26 February**<br>The ICAT Advisory Committee meeting 1/2024 *(closed meeting)*<br>**Day 1 - 27 February**<br>A workshop on building an NDC tracking framework using GACMO<br>The ICAT Advisory Committee meeting 1/2024 *(closed meeting)*<br>A cross-regional hubs exchange meeting *(closed meeting)*<br><br>**Day 2 - 28 February**<br>A plenary session on future transparency support needs<br>A workshop on policy assessments for strong NDCs<br>A workshop on climate finance transparency<br><br>**Day 3 - 29 February**<br>A workshop on climate finance transparency<br>A workshop on GHG emission projections<br>A workshop on IPCC software capacity-building needs assessment<br>A climate finance country meeting *(closed meeting)*<br>The 33rd meeting of the ICAT Donor Steering Committee *(closed meeting)* |

## Workshop: Building an NDC tracking framework using GACMO

The workshop examined how countries could use GACMO to carry out rapid, accurate scenario analyses on how mitigation actions impact greenhouse gas emissions; and track the implementation of NDCs in a transparent manner.

**Presentations:**

- *NDC Tracking Requirements for the BTR* and *An Introduction to the New Version of the GACMO Tool,* Denis Desgain, Head of Section, Mitigation Analysis and Data Management, UNEP-Copenhagen Climate Centre.
- *Reporting on Progress in Implementing NDCs,* Tugba Icmeli, Team Lead, Transparency Division, UNFCCC.
- *NDC Tracking Tool: the Experience of Ghana*, Daniel Tutu Benefoh, Lead, Mitigation, GHG Inventory and Reporting Program, Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana.
- *Country Experiences with GACMO,* Enrique R. Landa Burgos, CUBAENERGIA, Cuba.
- *GACMO Implementation In Ethiopia,* Benti Firdissa, Director, National MRV system, Ethiopia.

**Key takeaways:**

NDC tracking indicators

- Indicators to track and report on progress made in implementing and achieving NDCs should ideally be selected already by the time of the NDC update, not when reporting is due. Indicators can be quantitative or qualitative. Not all indicators need to be reported in the BTR. Some of them are useful for national processes, e.g. policy refinement.
- A significant challenge for countries is to mainstream climate change into sectoral policy-making, where the ministry of environment is not involved.

GACMO

- GACMO is an excel-based modeling tool, using IPCC inventory and CDM mitigation methodologies. It encompasses over 120 integrated mitigation options. It can be used to analyze the mitigation options of a country, a region, or a city. It evaluates impacts related to greenhouse gas emission reductions.
- GACMO is relatively easy to use and can be adapted and expanded based on country needs. Country-specific input data is needed to set up the tool and to establish a baseline scenario for the mitigation scenarios.
- GACMO has been used by ICAT countries to assess the potential of planned mitigation measures and NDC ambition, and to set up a tracking framework for the NDCs. It also integrates sustainable development indicators.
- One limitation of maintaining GACMO in a relatively simplistic form is its restricted applicability, particularly in sectors like agriculture, forestry, and other land use (AFOLU). Hence, the best results can be achieved by using a combination of tools: LEAP for greenhouse gas projections, EX-ACT for tracking NDCs in the AFOLU sector, and GACMO for tracking NDCs in the energy and industrial processes and product use sectors. LEAP requires significant amounts of data.

Countries' experiences

- Data accessibility challenges are common, and can be solved through collaboration with other departments, and using existing, implemented data streams (e.g. environmental risk assessments in industrial sectors).
- Considering that GACMO is not the most appropriate tool to target the AFOLU sector, for instance in Central Africa, countries with significant land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) sectors use a combination of GACMO and EX-ACT.
- Institutional arrangements may exist on paper but are not always functional. For example, while often the ministry of environment is mandated to report

to the UNFCCC, data generally reside in sectoral ministries. Some countries have addressed such issues via:

- The establishment of ad-hoc working groups (e.g. Ghana, which later transformed the working group's status into a legal binding arrangement to facilitate data collection and sharing);
- Inter-ministerial committees (e.g. Nigeria, which changed the law in 2021 to establish The National Council on Climate Change tasked with providing a platform for collaboration and coordination among various government agencies, and stakeholders); or
- A national statistical agency.

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## Plenary: Future transparency support needs and ICAT's contribution

The second day of the ICAT Community Meetings kicked off by a joint plenary session on future transparency support needs and ICAT's contribution in addressing them.

The plenary session started off with welcoming words from Traude Wollansky (Chair of the Donor Steering Committee). Ms. Wollansky acknowledged the progress made in implementing the ETF and cautioned about the persisting hurdles concerning fragmented climate policies and incomplete implementation plans. She emphasized the need for more data, increased involvement of stakeholders, the development of evidence-based implementation plans, and the elevation of these efforts to the global stage through the BTRs.
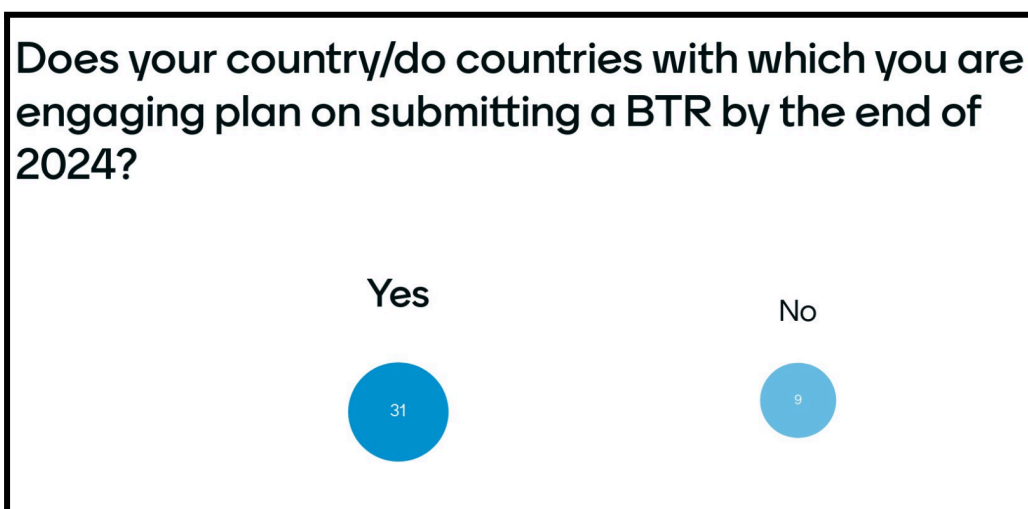


Image 2: Digital audience survey. Source: ICAT Secretariat

ICAT Director Henning Wuester then provided an overview [presentation](#) outlining the forthcoming transparency needs and the prospective trajectory of ICAT, beyond its current foreseen end-date in 2026. The Director reminded participants of global transparency milestones expected until 2030, and outlined how, in case of extension, ICAT could support countries in building domestic capacity for continuous reporting.
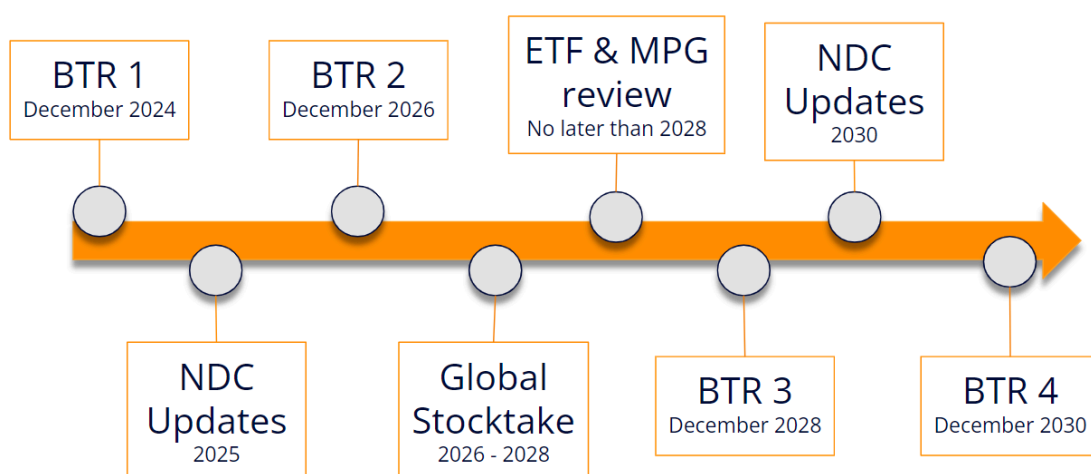


Image 4: Global transparency milestones up to 2030. Source: ICAT Secretariat

Oleg Bulanyi (ICAT Secretariat) provided a brief overview of the plans for ICAT's country support offer, with an increased focus on bridging the gap between planning and implementation in climate action, supported by evidence-based policies. He also explained ICAT's intention to strengthen the regional hubs so they became self-sustaining hubs of expertise. This involves supporting them in facilitating knowledge-sharing and peer-to-peer exchanges, developing a train-the-trainer capacity-building approach, expanding the network of regional and local experts, fostering closer collaboration with partners engaged in the region to implement transparency roadmaps, and aiding fundraising endeavours.

## What are the reasons behind a potential delay in submitting the BTR on time?
86 responses



Image 3: Digital audience survey. Source: ICAT Secretariat

Regional perspectives were provided by the coordinators of the three ICAT hub: Gervais Itsoua - ECCAS/Central Africa Hub, Zafar Makhmudov - CAREC/Regional Hub Central Asia, and Lennox Gladden - SICA/Regional Hub Central America. Key highlights include:

- The Central Africa Regional Hub:
  - is emerging as a pivotal reference point in the region for climate transparency. It has set a precedent for other support providers seeking to aid the region.
  - Among its 11 member countries, 10 have developed national transparency action plans, streamlining the process for external support providers to pinpoint areas requiring capacity building.
  - The commitment of high-level policymakers underscores the significance attributed to transparency actions.
  - The success of the hub has led to its institutionalization as a permanent entity within the Economic Community for Central African States (ECCAS).
  - The Hub is ready to play a central role in coordinating partners and support providers, facilitating resource mobilization, and fostering synergistic efforts.
- Through the Central Asia Regional Hub:
  - Capacity is being built in the region, leveraging the network of experts developed, with the support of the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC).

- ○ The hub has helped countries to strengthen institutional arrangements for greenhouse gas inventories, through facilitating knowledge exchange and networking among member states.
  - ○ The hub's efforts were directed towards enhancing climate finance tracking.
  - ○ National action plans have also been developed, highlighting country needs and priorities.
- The Central America Regional Hub:
  - ○ Is located within the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD). This location underscores the unified political commitment of all member countries of the Central American Integration System (SICA) to prioritize and integrate transparency initiatives into both national and regional policy-making frameworks.
  - ○ To ensure long-term sustainability, it is imperative that the hub's activities extend beyond individual project cycles and become integral components of the existing CCAD programme, thereby eliciting genuine commitments from member nations.
  - ○ Given resource limitations, avoiding duplication is paramount. Effective coordination and engagement with partners are therefore essential to optimize resources and enhance collective impact.

There was an interest in creating regional hubs in other (sub-)regions. ICAT highlighted the necessity for countries to come up with a formal expression of their interest for such hubs. The identification of the hosting entity would then be defined together with interested countries.

Lastly, Hannah Swee (ICAT Secretariat) presented an overview of the ICAT toolbox highlighting the planned approach to developing additional tools, methodologies and training offers in response to country needs in the coming years.

# What tools or methodologies do you foresee your country/other developing countries needing the most in the next few years
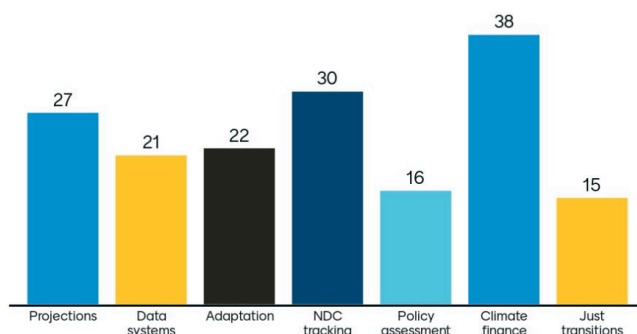
Image 5: Digital audience survey. Source: ICAT Secretariat

Throughout the plenary session, participants were engaged by means of interactive Mentimeter exercises and open discussions on their anticipated needs in terms of capacity-building and support to build national transparency frameworks. Participants were invited to exchange on their current and anticipated challenges in building and using transparency, and the type and modalities for support from which they can most benefit.
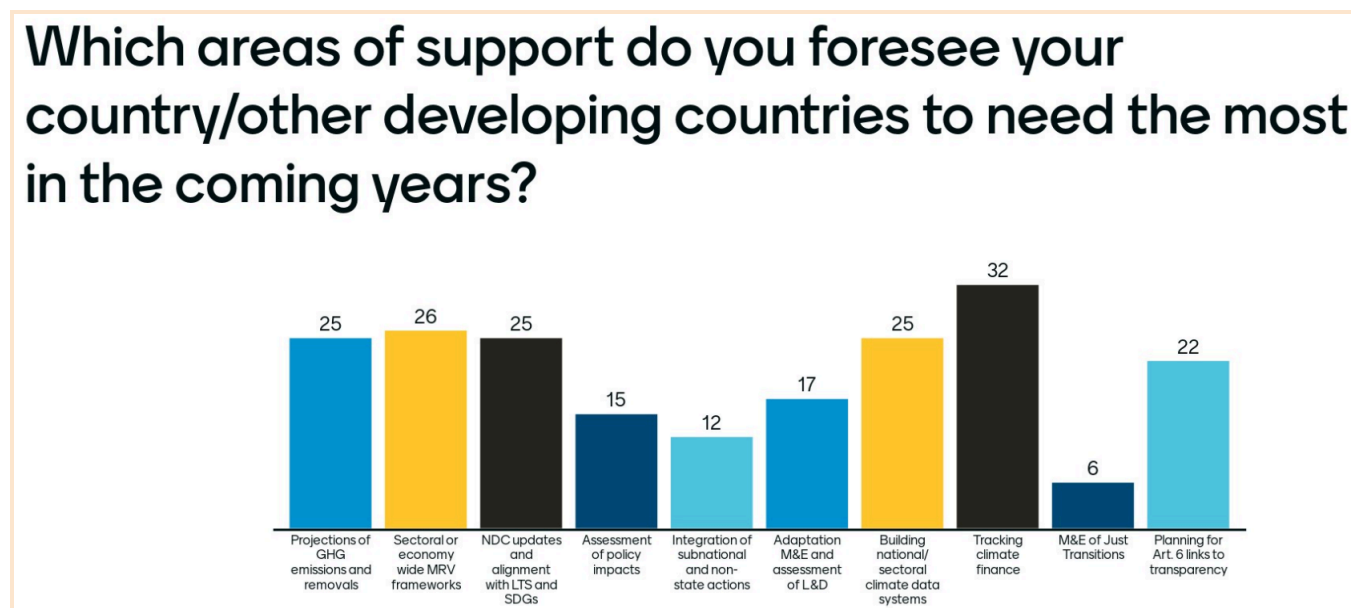


Image 6: Digital audience survey. Source: ICAT Secretariat

## Workshop: Policy Assessments for strong NDCs

The day continued with a workshop on policy assessments for strong NDCs, co-organized with the Greenhouse Gas Management Institute (GHGMI).

**Presentations:**

- *Role of Policy Assessments for NDC Tracking*, Celeste Gonzalez, Programme Officer, ICAT Secretariat.
- *Assessing the Greenhouse Gas Impacts of Polices*, Matej Gasperic, Senior Project Manager, Mitigation Program, GHGMI.
- *Strengthening the MRV framework for the RE Sub-sector in Cambodia*, and *Design of the MRV System for the Transport Sector of Cambodia*, Hak Mao, Director of the Department of Climate Change, Ministry of Environment Renewable Energy policy, Cambodia.
- *ICAT Assessment of Agroforestry Policy in Niger*, Colas Robert, Head of LULUCF team, CITEPA.

- *Synergies of Adaptation & Mitigation Policies in the Agriculture Sector*, Henry Neufeldt, Head of Impact Assessment and Adaptation, UNEP-CCC.
- *Policy Assessments for the Agriculture Sector, the Experience of Kenya*, Patrick Kibaya, Head of Climate Change Unit, Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock development, Kenya.
- *ICAT Agriculture Methodology*, Olga Lyandres, Project Manager, Mitigation Program, GHGMI.

**Key takeaways:**
- Stakeholder engagement is a necessary element of climate policy development and assessment.
- Climate risks can be better anticipated and addressed through a comprehensive planning of strategies.
- Examining the interplay between the effects of climate policies on both adaptation and mitigation is crucial.
- It is important to consider the co-benefits of mitigation and adaptation actions. An example from Kenya demonstrated how the country had maximized these benefits in its agriculture sector.

The workshop concluded with practical exercises and discussions in breakout groups, aimed at developing causal chains and an example policy.



Image 8: Breakout group exercise on causal chain development. Source: ICAT Secretariat

Throughout the session, participants engaged in collaborative discussions, reflecting on the interconnectedness of policies and their impacts. The exercise aimed to foster a deeper understanding of policy assessments in the context of shaping stronger NDCs. The session concluded with insightful reflections and a collective appreciation of the importance of robust policy assessments in guiding effective climate action strategies.

## Workshop: Climate Finance Transparency

Organized by ICAT together with The Center for Clean Air Policy and Gauss International, the climate finance workshop brought country representatives, practitioners, researchers, and climate finance experts together to discuss and collect feedback on the draft ICAT climate finance transparency guide. It also provided an opportunity for sharing knowledge, experiences, and ongoing work related to climate finance transparency.

The workshop began with welcome remarks by Traude Wollansky, Chair of the ICAT Donor Steering Committee, highlighting the importance of climate finance transparency and the need for a coherent and concerted approach, to supporting developing countries to get the information they need to unlock further engagement, for example from private investors. Henning Wuester, ICAT Director, then followed with welcome remarks, reflecting on the overall role of transparency as an enabler, and more specifically on climate finance transparency as central to the implementation of NDCs. The objective of the ICAT climate finance guide is to serve as a flexible, accessible framework to support developing countries to track climate finance through a holistic approach that is integrated with national development priorities.

The workshop was divided into sections, reflecting the sections of the draft guide.

Image 9: The Climate Finance Transparency Workshop in full swing. Source: ICAT Secretariat

## Introduction to the Guide and Country Applications

**Presentations:**

Presentations have been compiled into an integrated file available [here](#).

- *An Introduction on the Climate Finance Transparency Framework,* Michel Köhler, Founding partner, The Greenwerk.
- *Introduction to Country Applications of the Climate Finance Transparency Framework,* Sander Akkermans, Principal Environmental Consultant, Gauss International.

**Key takeaways from the discussion:**
- Stakeholder involvement should be prioritized, including consideration of gender and vulnerable groups, for comprehensive climate action.
- Information gathering is crucial to stimulate private investment and ensure alignment of domestic budgets with climate finance objectives.
- Robust tracking and verification systems for multilateral flows should be implemented, integrating best practices and various stakeholders for transparency and accountability.

- Both quantitative and qualitative indicators are essential for informed decision-making and assessment of climate finance effectiveness.
- A strong linkage between climate finance outcomes and policy formulation should be established, using transparent mechanisms to drive actionable results and inform future regulations.
- Adaptation efforts should be aligned with NDCs, and adaptation finance needs to be tracked.
- The draft guide, currently under development, recommends setting up a holistic national framework that is robust and granular, and goes beyond tracking and reporting. Its application has the potential to unlock private sector engagement in climate action. The guide will be finalized in both English and French in the second half of 2024 and draw on feedback gathered during the workshop.

## Phase 1: Scoping and Planning

This session focused on the first steps to take in setting up a climate finance transparency framework.

**Presentations:**

Presentations have been compiled into an integrated file available [here](#).

- *Preparing for Climate Finance Transparency in Thailand,* Wissarut Muangpluem, Environmentalist, Department of Climate Change and Environment, Thailand.
- *Landscape of Climate Finance in South Africa,* Chavi Meattle, Climate Finance Specialist, CPI.

**Presenters were then joined by the following panelists:**

- Halima Bawa-Bwari, Director, National Council on Climate Change, Nigeria
- Kamil Salazar, MRV officer, National Climate Change Office, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, Belize

**Key takeaways:**
- A climate finance transparency framework is critical as a foundation for implementation of climate action. It should include identifying relevant parameters and impact indicators, and plans for multi-stakeholder engagements.
- Developing a definition for climate finance and scoping of climate finance transparency needs at the outset is essential to ensure consistency of parameters and climate impact indicators.
- Because substantial investment is required for climate change activities to meet NDC targets, support is needed from international funds and agencies.

- Collaboration with other ministries and the establishment of institutional frameworks are key components.
- Most countries face challenges in terms of climate finance data coverage from the private sector.
- Interoperability of sustainable taxonomies, aligning guiding principles and methodologies with international standards while addressing country-specific needs, is critical.
- Countries should leverage existing resources and work they already have, or are engaged in, rather than reinventing the wheel.

## Phase 2: Defining institutional arrangements

This section focused on challenges and good practices in strengthening institutional arrangements for climate finance transparency. The moderator for the panel discussion was Badma Purevsuren, Climate Finance Research Analyst, CCAP.

**Presentations:**

Presentations have been compiled into an integrated file available [here](here).

- *Implementation of a Climate Finance Transparency Framework at National Level and Corruption Risk Assessment in Climate Governance,* Dafy Faramalala Andriamparany, Environment Project Officer, Transparency International Initiative Madagascar.

**Presenters were then joined by the following panelists:**
- Mohammed Sanogo, Coordinator, National Climate Change Programme, Ministry of the Environment, Sustainable Development and Ecological Transition, Ivory Coast.
- ☐Claudia Ramirez, NDC Compliance Specialist, Agreements and Climate Change, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, El Salvador.
- Paola Sánchez, Technical advisor for climate finance MRV, National Department Planning, Colombia.

**Key takeaways:**
- Some climate finance mechanisms pose corruption risks in the country. Therefore, it is one of the factors that countries can consider when establishing these mechanisms and they can mitigate this by strengthening related governance.
- Most countries are facing challenges to collect data from the private sector. In Colombia, private sector data is collected through a national survey by the statistics office.
- Clear definition of roles and responsibilities are needed to ensure flow of information between institutions (e.g. banks, ministries), and other stakeholders.

- Having an oversight body in climate finance at the national level is essential.

## Phase 3: Climate Finance Needs Assessment

This session focused on NDC costing methodologies and approaches to accurately estimate finance needs, because methodologies differ by thematic areas and sectors. The moderator for the panel discussion was Sebastián Lema, Climate Finance Director, CCAP.

**Presentations:**

Presentations have been compiled into an integrated file available [here](#).

- *Climate Finance Needs Assessment in Antigua and Barbuda,* Garth Simon, Monitoring and Evaluation Associate and Project Technical Officer, Antigua and Barbuda.
- *Climate Finance Needs Assessment in Morocco,* Rachid Tahiri, Head of Climate Change and Green Economy Division, Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, Morocco.

**Presenters were then joined by the following panelists:**

- [OBJ]Susanne Olbrisch, Climate Policy Specialist, UNDP Climate Promise
- Joaquim Leite, Head of Climate Finance, NDC Partnership

**Key takeaways:**

- Leveraging public funding to attract private investment for climate action is important. Funding climate action requires looking beyond traditional partners.
- Disaggregated data (rather than large numbers giving an estimate of the total) from NDC finance needs assessments are crucial for securing funding and driving action forward.
- There is an urgent need for capacity building across various actors.
- Engagement of the private sector and local stakeholders is vital for effective tracking and monitoring of climate initiatives.
- Taking a holistic approach and integrating climate finance with MRV frameworks is important to improve granularity and prevent double counting.
- A focus on long-term goals is needed. While some unsustainable measures may seem cost-effective in the short term, they can prove far more costly in the long run.
- Coordination is needed amongst support providers to align the approaches and maximize impact for countries.

## Phase 4: Ex-post measuring and verification

This session focused on estimating climate finance flows, and the analysis and assessment of data. The moderator of the session was Lena Dovidat, Advisor for Climate Finance, Greenwerk.

**Presentations:**

Presentations have been compiled into an integrated file available [here](here).

- *MRV Tracking Methodology for Climate Finance in Colombia,* Paola Sánchez, Technical Advisor for Climate Finance MRV, National Department Planning, Colombia.

 **Presenters were then joined by the following panelists:**

- Madeleine Diouf Sarr, Head of Climate change Division, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Senegal
- Sudhir Sharma, GEF Task Manager, CC Mitigation, Asia and the Pacific, UNEP

**Key takeaways:**
- Countries should place emphasis on official climate finance data and understanding data collection as a means for analysis and assessment.
- Inclusion of sub-national actors is crucial for robust data collection on climate finance.
- Establishing focal points within ministries is important, as not all ministry personnel may have the desired knowledge and expertise. Resources are necessary for creating these focal points, along with the need for MoUs concerning data collection and reporting.
- The private sector is not the same in developed vs developing countries. For instance, small enterprises are important for developing countries.
- In many countries, the national statistics agency receives data from the private sector. There is a need for a tool to facilitate data capture and integration with climate change initiatives.
- Participants recommended the ICAT climate finance guides include comprehensive case studies and detailed descriptions of data collection methods.

## Phase 5: Applying Climate Finance transparency results

This session focused on estimating the finance gaps to implement NDCs, optimizing public climate resource management, and reporting, particularly international reporting on support needed and received under the ETF. The moderator of the session was Michel Köhler, Greenwerk.

**Presentations:**

Presentations have been compiled into an integrated file available [here](#).

- *A Case Study on Private Sector Mobilization in Ghana, in Collaboration with CPI,* John Scicchitano, Managing Director, Pangea Global Ventures.

**Presenters were then joined by the following panelists:**

- Knollis Delle, Assistant Research Officer, Climate Change, The Commonwealth Secretariat (virtual)
- Joelle Ravelomanantsoa, JET Project Officer, Transparency International Initiative Madagascar

**Key takeaways:**
- Climate budget tagging is important for both the State as well as for banks.
- Several countries stated that they plan to report on climate finance in their BTR this year.
- Participants recommended the draft climate finance guide include more resources on reporting to the UNFCCC, and further advice on private sector engagement.

## Session on cross-cutting topics

After the sessions focusing on the phases of the guide, the final session of the workshop provided an opportunity for general feedback, as well as looking in greater depth at some of the topics that emerged during the workshop, such as gender and social inclusion, and private sector engagement. The topic of green taxonomies was particularly prominent and led to a more focused discussion on the topic:

- Aligning green taxonomies with MRV systems for climate finance is a significant challenge for many countries.
- Inconsistent knowledge among stakeholders in the public and private sector acts as a barrier to establish a climate finance definition.
- Banks are becoming more interested in being part of this process. There is a need to have something that can be shared with different actors.

The climate finance workshop ended with closing remarks from Henning Wuester, picking up some of the highlights summarized above and emphasizing the overall recommendation to countries to get started, not shying away from following a simple approach initially that can then be refined over time. He reemphasized the importance to take a holistic perspective on climate finance covering domestic and international finance and public and private flows. He closed by thanking all presenters, speakers, the co-organizers and the participants for the engaged discussions.

## Workshop: greenhouse gas emission projections

Organized by ICAT together with Citepa, the main aim of this workshop was to take participants through the approaches and tools for greenhouse gas emission projections, and how these fit with NDC tracking and reporting.

**Presentations:**

- *GHG Emissions Projections,* Julien Vincent, Head of Mitigation & Adaptation Department, CITEPA.
- *Mitigation-Inventory Tool For Integrated Climate Action (MITICA),* Juan Martin, Director, Partner and Consultant, Gauss International.
- *Namibia's NDC - Approaches and Tools, Estimating Emissions under Different Scenarios,* Reagan Chunga, National Project Coordinator, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, Namibia.
- *Lessons Learned on Greenhouse Gas Inventories and Projection from the Central African Region,* Gervais Itsoua, Hub Coordinator, ICAT Regional Climate Action Transparency Hub for Central Africa.
- *Using the Outcomes of the IPCC Inventory Software for GHG Projections;* Lisa Hanle, Independent Consultant, LisaJHanle Consulting.

**Key takeaways:**

- Strong greenhouse gas inventories are key to building robust projections.
- Using a combination of tools and models to prepare projections can bring better results.
- Some countries are still facing significant challenges in reporting projections. They plan on making use of the flexibility offered to developing countries in the context of the BTR submissions. However, they are committed to addressing these challenges in future iterations of the BTRs and they intend to include the enhancement of capabilities in their improvement plans.
- A good management of registers, archives and data is key to transparency, and to consistency between inventories, projections and NDC monitoring.

## Workshop: IPCC software capacity-building needs assessment

This workshop presented the latest version of the IPCC Inventory Software. Lisa Hanle (independent consultant to the IPCC Inventory Support Unit) led the workshop and provided an overview of the latest features and functions of the IPCC Inventory Software and tools available to support users. She was joined by

Nashib Kafle (UNFCCC secretariat) to present the software's [interoperability with](#) the UNFCCC ETF Reporting Tool.

**Key takeaways:**
- The workshop showcased the functionalities of the software. Key features highlighted included:
  - Subnational reporting capability;
  - Flexibility in methodology: The ability to choose between single or mixed tiers;
  - Customizable inputs: Users can input their own values for emission factors and parameters;
  - Simultaneous development of various categories/sectors.
- It is common for countries to combine tools and choose the one that best suits the sectoral teams. The reporting categories are from the refinement of the IPCC guidelines, which helps with interoperability.
- The new version of the IPCC software has functionalities that can facilitate reporting in the common reporting format and help save time, maintain consistency, maintain records and incorporate additional information on flexibility.
- Countries have expressed strong interest in the software, but will need further training and practice.

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# Conclusion and next steps

The 2024 ICAT Community Meetings served as a platform for transparency practitioners and experts to share knowledge and experiences, concentrating on important transparency-related topics. The productive exchanges underscored the significance of face-to-face peer interactions, revealing numerous shared needs and challenges.

While the ICAT Community Meetings highlighted significant progress achieved by partner countries, the Global Stocktake at COP28 revealed that the world is not on track towards achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement. Transparency efforts must be further enhanced and support scaled up. In 2024, transparency assumes paramount importance as countries face a critical deadline—the submission of their first BTRs by year-end. Furthermore, countries need to prioritize progress assessment and reporting on NDCs while planning for the next NDC updates next year. Transparency is pivotal in driving these endeavors forward. Participants are encouraged to leverage the insights gained from workshops and meetings of the ICAT Community Meetings and use the resources presented, as well as [ICAT's](#)

[Toolbox](#) more broadly, to support informed decision-making at the national level.

The ICAT Secretariat is committed to using the insights obtained from the ICAT Community Meetings, and the guidance provided by the AC and DSC, to align ICAT's plans and priorities to effectively support countries in meeting their upcoming tasks and reporting deadlines in the years ahead. Building on the success of the ICAT Community Meetings, the ICAT Community will be invited to reconvene in the future. Further details will be communicated in due course.

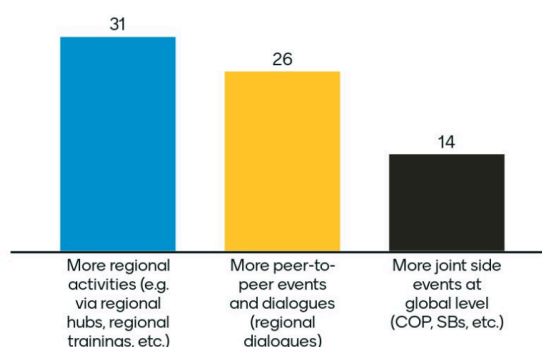# How could ICAT foster further cooperation among countries, and enable more knowledge-sharing of project results?

Image 10: Digital audience survey. Source: ICAT Secretariat