SD Policy Impact Assessment Training Report for ICAT Eswatini Phase 2

Initiative for Climate Action Transparency - ICAT

Policy Impact Assessment Training Report

Deliverable H

AUTHORS

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PREPARED UNDER

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Abbreviations

CSO	Central Statistics Office
CBIT	Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency
CSER	Centre for Sustainable Energy Research
EEA	Eswatini Environmental Authority
EEC	Eswatini Electricity Company
ESA	Eswatini Sugar Association
ESERA	Eswatini Energy Regulatory Authority
ETF	Enhanced Transparency Framework
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GHGMI	Greenhouse Gas Management Institute
GoE	Government of Eswatini
ICAT	Initiative for Climate Action Transparency
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
MNRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
MTEA	Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs
NC	National Communication
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NEP	National Energy Policy
NIR	National Inventory Report
QA	Quality Assurance
RE	Renewable Energy
SRA	Eswatini Revenue Authority
UNESWA	University of Eswatini
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services

Introduction

The Government of Eswatini has prioritised enhancing national capacities to meet its reporting obligations under the enhanced transparency framework (ETF) of the Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC. The Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs (MTEA) has received support from the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) to improve institutional arrangements and data collection processes to assist Eswatini to meet the accelerated reporting requirements under its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) under the Paris Agreement.

The University of Eswatini's (UNESWA's) Centre for Sustainable Energy Research (CSER) was granted funding by ICAT (through UNOPS) to work on the ICAT Eswatini Phase II Project. The specific objectives of the project are to:

1. Develop a MRV framework (including data collection templates, guidance documents, roles and responsibilities, links to the national MRV online system) for tracking adaptation actions in the health and water sectors which can provide information necessary to compile the Adaptation section of the biennial transparency report;
2. Build capacity within Eswatini to conduct policy impact assessments (particularly Sustainable Development impacts, but also transformational change) and to incorporate inputs from non-state actors into projections and planning;
3. Assist with designing a draft national Bioenergy Policy, through the establishment of a Bioenergy Task Force, which will provide an enabling environment for enhancing the renewable biomass electricity generation in Eswatini and thus, contributing in the reduction of energy sector emissions;
4. Support the implementation of Eswatini's NDC.

This report gives details of a capacity building workshop on the ICAT Sustainable Development (SD) guide that was held to satisfy the second objective of the project. The guide can be useful in future policy formulation in Eswatini. It is noted that the guide will be useful in guiding the finalisation of the Bioenergy Energy Policy that is being developed under objective 3 of the project.

Workshop objectives and expected outcomes

The main objective of this workshop was to build capacity within Eswatini to conduct policy impacts assessments and use the results in the development of new policies or in the improvement of existing policies. The specific objectives of this capacity building workshop were to:

1. Introduce the ICAT Sustainable Development Methodology for assessing the environmental, social and economic impacts of a policy.
2. Provide hands-on training through the use of relevant examples and exercises for both adaptation and renewable energy participants.
3. Build capacity amongst renewable energy and adaptation stakeholders (MTEA, other government departments, private sector, etc).
4. Contribute to an improved Bioenergy Policy design for Eswatini.

The workshop was expected to:

1. Build capacity on conducting policy impact assessments amongst adaptation (health and water) and renewable energy stakeholders.
2. Build awareness around the usefulness and importance of a policy impact assessment.
3. Enhance interactions amongst stakeholders.

4. Highlight issues that should be considered during the development and implementation of the Bioenergy Policy.

Workshop format

This was a full day in-person training on the 14th of May 2024 and was held at Sibane Sami Hotel in Ezulwini, Kingdom of Eswatini. The training was presented by the Greenhouse Gas Management Institute (GHGMI) with participants from relevant ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs), national experts from academia, NGOs, other civil society players and representatives of the private sector across the relevant sectors.

The morning session was used to introduce the ICAT Project, gain an understanding of the objectives of the training and to introduce the ICAT Policy Impact Assessment for Sustainable Development Methodology. This was followed by breakout sessions for renewable energy and adaptation where relevant policy examples and exercises were done by participants and presented to plenary for further discussion. The workshop agenda is in Annex 1.

Workshop participants

A total of 56 stakeholders were invited to attend the Workshop. This included the Ministry of Tourism and Environment Affairs (MTEA), which encompasses the Department of Forestry and Department of Meteorology, with its Climate Change Unit, and government personnel within the respective project thematic areas including the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), the Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy (MNRE), with its Department of Energy, the Ministry of Finance (MOF), the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development (MEPD), the Public Policy Coordination Unit (PPCU) under the Prime Minister's Office, sugar companies, timber companies, and sugar and timber out-growers. In addition, the Eswatini Energy Regulatory Authority (ESERA) was also invited.

From the total of 56 invitees, 40 participants attended physically (Figure 1) and two participants attended online. Of the 40 participants, 24 were male and 16 were female. The online participants were, however, not able to participate fully in the training due to technical problems with the Wi-Fi connection at the venue. The list of workshop participants is in Annex 2.

Figure 1: Group photo of the workshop participants.

Workshop Proceedings

The agenda for the day is provided in Annex 1 and the sections below provide details of the workshop proceedings.

1.1. Introductory session

The workshop started with opening remarks by Ms. Simangele Mahlinza (Figure 2), an Agrometeorologist in the Department of Meteorology at MTEA, on behalf of Duduzile Masina-Nhlengetfwa, the Director of Meteorology. She extended a warm welcome to all the participants. She described Eswatini as being in an exciting phase with numerous large climate change projects currently underway and stressed that it was a good time to ensure synergies between the projects. Ms Mahlinza said one of the objectives of the ongoing ICAT project is capacity building on policy impact assessments. She noted that this is important in ensuring that Eswatini can conduct assessments on policies before and after implementation to ensure policies are having a positive impact and meeting their objectives. Finally, she wished participants a productive day.

Figure 2: Ms Simangele Mahlinza from MTEA making her welcoming remarks.

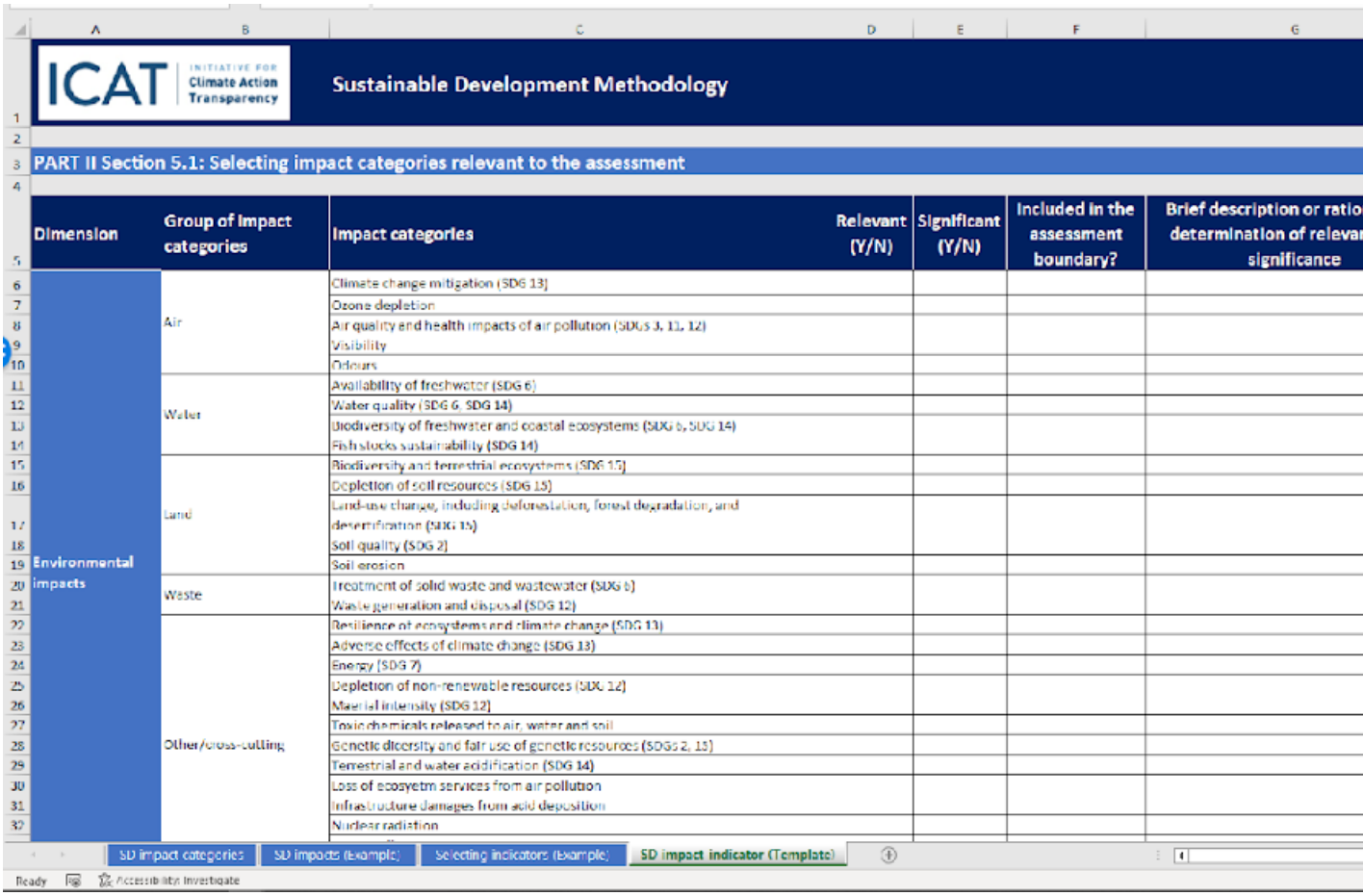
After opening remarks by MTEA's representative, Dr. Gcina Mavimbela (Figure 3) from the Centre for Sustainable Research (CSER) at the University of Eswatini (UNESWA) gave a brief introduction to the ICAT Eswatini Phase II project and outlined the purpose of the workshop. He highlighted that ICAT has a number of assessment tools and examples available on their website which stakeholders can use and encouraged participants to browse through these tools. He indicated that the training will be hands-on and encouraged participants to engage during the various exercises. Dr. Mavimbela said the CSER is receiving technical support from GHGMI during the project and introduced the project support technical expect who had come to conduct the training, Dr. Luanne Stevens.

Figure 3: Dr Gcina Mavimbela from UNESWA-CSER presenting the objectives of the workshop.

1.2. Introduction to SD Impact Assessment Methodology

Dr Stevens started this session with a presentation highlighting the different ICAT tools before delving into the key concepts of the Sustainable Development Impact Assessment Methodology (Figure 4). Some of the key highlighted elements of an assessment is whether the assessment is done before or after implementation of a policy; groups of impact categories; assessing significance of impacts, among others. This was followed by a breakout session in which the groups were given a policy action and asked to identify the main sustainable development impact categories relevant to the policy action by considering relevance, significance, and indicators/remarks for each impact. The groups were provided with an excel template to assist them with the process (Figure 5). Each group reported back to the plenary after the exercise where participants reflected on the process and asked questions.

Figure 4: Dr Luanne Stevens from GHGMI conducting the training.



Sustainable Development Methodology

PART II Section 5.1: Selecting impact categories relevant to the assessment

Dimension	Group of Impact categories	Impact categories	Relevant (Y/N)	Significant (Y/N)	Included in the assessment boundary?	Brief description or ratio determination of relevan significance
Environmental impacts	Air	Climate change mitigation (SDG 13)				
		Ozone depletion				
		Air quality and health impacts of air pollution (SDGs 3, 11, 12)				
		Visibility				
		Odours				
	Water	Availability of freshwater (SDG 6)				
		Water quality (SDG 6, SDG 14)				
		Biodiversity of freshwater and coastal ecosystems (SDG 6, SDG 14)				
		Fish stocks sustainability (SDG 14)				
	Land	Biodiversity and terrestrial ecosystems (SDG 15)				
		Depletion of soil resources (SDG 15)				
		Land-use change, including deforestation, forest degradation, and desertification (SDG 15)				
		Soil quality (SDG 2)				
		Soil erosion				
	Waste	Treatment of solid waste and wastewater (SDG 6)				
		Waste generation and disposal (SDG 12)				
	Other/cross-cutting	Resilience of ecosystems and climate change (SDG 13)				
		Adverse effects of climate change (SDG 13)				
		Energy (SDG 7)				
		Depletion of non-renewable resources (SDG 12)				
		Material intensity (SDG 12)				
		Toxic chemicals released to air, water and soil				
		Genetic diversity and fair use of genetic resources (SDGs 2, 15)				
		Terrestrial and water acidification (SDG 14)				
		Loss of ecosystm services from air pollution				
		Infrastructure damages from acid deposition				
		Nuclear radiation				

SD impact categories | SD impacts (Example) | Selecting indicators (Example) | SD impact indicator (Template)

Ready

Figure 5: Excel template to assist break-out groups identify relevant impact categories.

1.2.1. First Breakout Session

The participants were divided into 3 groups – two adaptation groups and one renewable energy group. The groups were given a policy action to assess and they reported back as follows:

Group 1:

This group considered a policy for harvesting rainwater in schools. Some of their outputs are provided in the table below. The group observed that the determination of indicators would be hard without detailed policy objectives.

Impact Category	Specific Impacts	Relevant	Significant	Indicator
Air		No	No	
Water	All water related impacts	Yes	Yes	-Total amount of water harvested -Number of schools harvesting water
Land		No	No	
Waste		No	No	
Cross-cutting	Resilience of ecosystem	Yes	No	
	Adverse effects of Climate change	Yes	Yes	

Group 2:

This group considered a policy for Solar Energy in community clinics. A summary of their outputs is shown in the table below. The group had difficulty determining significance since no time frame was given and so they considered it to be 5 years.

Impact Category	Specific Impacts	Relevant	Significant	Remarks
Air	Climate change mitigation	Yes	Yes	Emissions reduction
Water		No	No	
Land		No	No	Could be relevant if moving away from biomass electricity
Waste		No	No	
Cross-cutting	Resilience of ecosystem	Yes		

Group 3:

This group considered a policy for moving towards electricity generated from biomass. The outputs of the first exercise are shown in the table below.

Impact Category	Specific Impacts	Relevant	Significant	Remarks
Air	-Climate change mitigation	Yes	Yes	
Water	-Availability of water	Yes	Yes	Negatively impacts availability due to increased irrigation
Land	-Land use change -Soil quality	Yes	Yes	Planting of energy crops could result in land use changes
Waste	Waste generation	Yes	Yes	Not all residues are used up, leaving some solid waste
Cross-cutting	Energy	Yes	Yes	Improves energy supply
	Gender, health and education	Yes	Yes	Access to clean energy has positive impact

1.3. Qualitative approach to impact assessment

After a report back session immediately after lunch, Dr. Steven's gave a presentation on the qualitative approach to impact assessments. Her presentation highlighted the importance of identifying both negative and positive impacts of a policy action. The presentation provided information on the methodological steps which include developing causal chains. Causal chains can be developed for one impact or for multiple impacts. She noted that in the case of one impact the process is less complicated compared to a case involving multiple interlinked impacts, but indicated that users often found it difficult to separate out one impact category

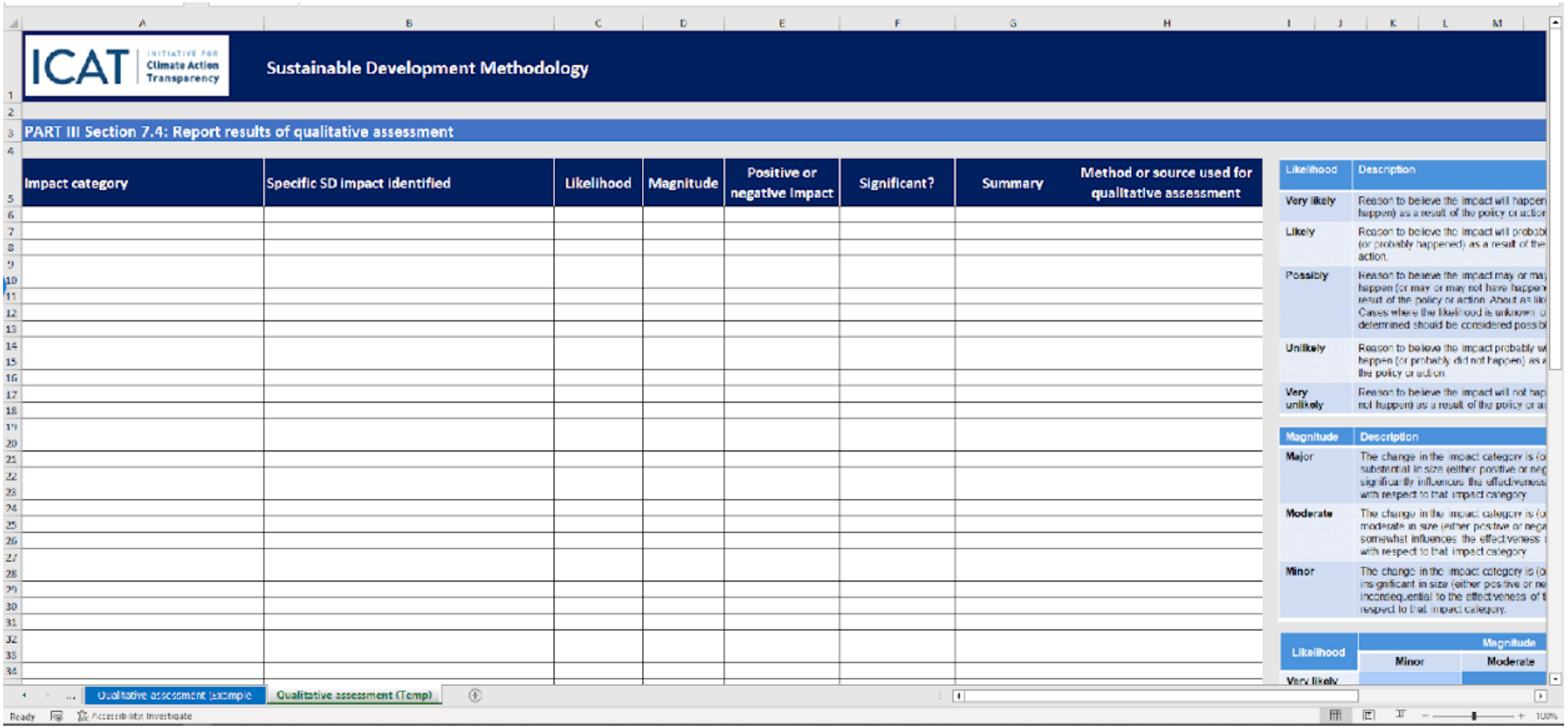


Figure 6: Template provided to participants for the qualitative assessment.

1.3.1. Second Breakout Session

A second break out session started before the lunch break and reporting was done after the lunch break. In this sessions the earlier groups were maintained and the policy actions to be analysed remained the same. In this task, the groups conducted a qualitative assessment of one of the impact categories. The groups deliberated and developed causal chains for impacts of the policy actions using a provided excel template. The session ended with groups reporting back to plenary.

Figure 7: Participants deliberating during break-out sessions.

1.4. Quantitative approach to impact assessment

During this session Dr. Stevens presented the quantitative approach to impact assessments and highlighted that quantitative assessments are data intensive. One of the highlighted approach is the scenario approach in which baseline projections represent the business as usual scenario. Once the baseline is developed, policy actions determine alternative scenarios and the difference quantifies the impact. The presentation concluded with aspects pertaining to monitoring and reporting, decision making and using results. A slide was also presented on the possible activities that the Bioenergy Task Force could consider as they are developing their Draft Bioenergy Policy.

1.5. Question and Answer Session

A question and answer session followed the last presentation of the training. The participants expressed how much they have learnt and that they would have liked an exercise on quantitative assessments as well. The questions asked are as follows:

Q : At what stage of the assessment would one choose to abandon a policy?

A: For a good policy the positives should outweigh the negatives.

Q: Would it be possible to have an exercise on quantitative assessments?

A: It was indicated that this would be taken into consideration in future, but it is quite difficult to develop a quantitative example due to the need for data. Should anyone need assistance with this they could get in contact with DR Stevens. Some examples are provided in the guide.

Q: This was an informative training, which the country needs, would it be possible to get further help later?

A: Yes, if anyone wants to apply the guide in their work then they can contact Dr Stevens via email and she would certainly provide assistance.

One participant commented that they could see a use of these tool in climate change assessment and it was indicated that in the quantitative approach one can develop a baseline from which climate change impacts can be assessed through scenarios. There was also a question/comment about participants seeing the importance of identifying both positive and negative impacts to give a full picture of the impacts. And There was also some discussion about reporting and tracking the impacts of a policy. It was indicated that currently policy impacts are not tracked and that participants could see the value in tracking the impacts. Something to consider in the development of future policies.

1.6. Closing Remarks

Dr. Gcina Mavimbela from CSER closed the Policy Impact Assessment Training Workshop by thanking participants for their engagement and Dr. Luanne Stevens for her expertise. The workshop equipped participants with skills to assess climate policies in Eswatini, emphasizing their application for effective environmental and social impacts. The Bioenergy Policy Draft was highlighted as a key area where these skills will be crucial. Participants were encouraged to keep learning and contribute to Eswatini's climate action efforts. A round of applause concluded the workshop.

Annexures

1.7. Annex 1: Workshop Agenda 14 May 2024 at Sibane Sami, Ezulwini

08:50 - 09:00	Registration	Kuhle Hlophe (Project Facilitator)
09:00 - 09:05	Welcome Remarks	MTEA-Director (Met)
09:05 - 09:10	Purpose of the workshop	Gcina Mavimbela (UNESWA)
09:10 - 09:35	Introduction and key concepts of SD Policy Impact Assessment	Luanne Stevens (GHGMI)
09:35 - 10:00	Defining the assessment	Luanne Stevens (GHGMI)

08:50 - 09:00	Registration	Kuhle Hlophe (Project Facilitator)
10:00 - 10:50	Breakout session and exercises on impact categories and indicators	All
10:50 - 11:15	Tea Break	All
11:15 - 11:35	Report back on outputs from breakout session	All
11:35 - 12:00	Qualitative approach to impact assessment	Luanne Stevens (GHGMI**)**
12:00 - 13:00	Breakout session with a causal chain exercise	All
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch	All
14:00 - 14:30	Report back on outputs of breakout session	All
14:30 - 15:10	Quantitative approach to policy impact assessment	Luanne Stevens (GHGMI)
15:10 - 15:30	Monitoring and reporting	Luanne Stevens (GHGMI)
15:30 - 15:40	Tea break	All
15:40 - 16:00	Decision making and using results	Luanne Stevens (GHGMI)
16:00 - 16:15	Q&A session	All
16:15 - 16:30	Way forward and close of workshop	UNESWA

1.8. Annex 2: Workshop Participants

No.	Name & Surname	Gender	Organization
1.	Rodney Carval	M	MTEA-Climate Change Unit
2.	Thembelihle Maseko	M	MTEA-Climate Change Unit
3.	Nqobizwe Dlamini	M	MTEA/GWPSA
4.	Jabu Myeni	F	The Royal Eswatini Sugar Corporation
5.	Sive Shabalala	M	MTEA-Met

6.	Rex Brown	M	Consultant
7.	Musa Ncongwane	M	MTEA-Met
8.	Ndzimandze Thembinkosi	M	MNRE-Energy Dept.
9.	Setsabile Thwala	F	Joint River Basin Authorities-PB
10.	Gcinile Dlamini	F	Joint River Basin Authorities-PB
11.	Thandiwe Mdluli	F	Eswatini Energy Regulatory Authority
12.	Zethu Dlamini	F	MTEA-Met
13.	Maphalala Samkelisiwe	F	MTEA-Met
14.	Zandisile Howe	F	Hlumisa-Eswatini
15.	Mthokozi Mamba	M	Eswatini Sugar Association
16.	Ntombifuthi P. Simelane-Nyoni	F	Private Cabinet Offices
17.	Seneliso Nkambule	M	Policy and Programme Coordination Unit
18.	Nokuthula Dlamini-Stewart	F	Policy and Programme Coordination Unit
19.	Dube Thulisile	F	MNRE-DWA
20.	Thapelo Hlatshwako	M	MoA-DVLS
21.	Vumelani Dlamini	M	MTEA-Forestry
22.	Lucky Dlamini	M	MTEA-Forestry
23.	Phumelele Mkhonta	F	CENews-Media
24.	Partick Dlamini	M	MoA-Land Use Planning
25.	Sandile Bhembe	M	MTEA-Met
26.	Lindokuhle Dlamini	F	MTEA-Met
27.	Ncamiso Ngcaphalala	M	MEPD-ACMS
28.	Nosimilo Simelane	F	MTEA-GWPSAF
29.	Christopher Mthethwa	M	MoA-DAE
30.	Khulekani Sifundza	M	MNRE-Energy Dept.
31.	Nosiphiwo Zwane	F	UNESWA-CSER
32.	Gcina Mavimbela	M	UNESWA-CSER
33.	Kuhle Hlophe	M	MTEA-UNESWA-CSER
34.	Simangele Mahlinza	F	MTEA-Met
35.	Lihle Mafu	M	UNESWA-CSER
36.	Lucky Sigudla	M	MTEA-Met
37.	Mancoba Zwane	M	Matsapha Municipality
38.	Bafana Simelane	M	MTEA-Met
39.	Dlamini Nqobile	F	EZTC
40.	Xolani Gumedze	M	Ezulwini Municipality