

ICAT Eswatini Phase 2 Validation Workshop Report

Initiative for Climate Action Transparency - ICAT Eswatini Phase II Project Validation Workshop

Deliverable P

AUTHORS

Vuyolwethu Mahlalela, Samkelisiwe Maphalala, Zethu Dlamini, Dr N T Zwane, Dr G Mavimbela

Affiliation: UNESWA-Centre for Sustainable Energy Research

Date: 29 November 2024

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 the Kingdom of Eswatini. Otherwise, material in this publication may be used, shared, copied, reproduced, printed and/or stored, provided that appropriate acknowledgement is given of the Kingdom of Eswatini as the source. In all cases the material may not be altered or otherwise modified without the express permission of the Kingdom of Eswatini.

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:



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

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

Table of content

List of Figures	3
Abbreviations	4
1. Introduction	5
2. Workshop objectives and expected outcomes	5
3. Workshop format	6
4. Workshop participants	6
5. Workshop Proceedings	6
5.1. Introductory session	6
5.2. Remarks from Project Partners	7
Remarks from ICAT:	7
Remarks from the GHGMI Technical Team	8
5.3. Implementation of the Project	9
5.4. Remarks from different sector Directors.	10
Energy and Health Sectors	10
Water Sector	10
5.5. Presentation on Lessons Learnt	11
Lessons learnt for the Bioenergy sector.	11
Lessons learnt for the Water sector.	12
Lessons learnt for the Health sector.	13
5.6 Open discussion on out-puts	14
5.7 Closing Remarks.	17
ANNEX 1: VALIDATION STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP AGENDA	18

List of Figures

Figure 1: Director of Meteorology, Ms Duduzile Nhlengethwa-Masina giving opening remarks.	7
Figure 2: Mr Oleg Bulanyi (ICAT) made his presentation on the processes in the project.	8
Figure 3: Dr Luanne Stevens (GHGMI) making her remarks.....	8
Figure 4: Mr Mike Bess (GHGMI) making his remarks.	9
Figure 5: Dr Gcina Mavimbela (CSER) making his presentation on the processes in the project.	10
Figure 6: Mr Vusi Malinga (DWA) making remarks on the Water sector on behalf of the Director of DWA.	11
Figure 7: Dr Nosiphiwo Zwane (CSER) presented the lessons learnt for the Bioenergy sector.	12
Figure 8: Dr Gcina Vilakati (CSER) presented the lessons learnt for the Water sector.	13
Figure 9: Dr Gugu Sibandze (CSER) presenting the lessons learnt for the Health sector.	14
Figure 10: Dr Gcina Mavimbela (CSER), moderating the open discussion on the workshop outputs..	15
Figure 11: Ms Sindy Mthimkhulu (JRBA) making her comments during the open discussion.	16
Figure 12: Mr Mfankhona Msibi (ERS) giving his remarks during the open discussion..	16

Abbreviations

BTF	Bioenergy Task Force
CCU	Climate Change Unit
COP	Conference of Parties
CSER	Centre For Sustainable Energy Research
CSO	Central Statistics Office
CSO	Central Statistics Office
DWA	Department Of Water Affairs
ECGA	Eswatini Cane Growers Association
EEA	Eswatini Environmental Authority
EEC	Eswatini Electricity Company
EHD	Environmental Health Department
EPR	Emergency Preparedness And Response
ERS	Eswatini Revenue Authority
ESA	Eswatini Sugar Association
ESERA	Eswatini Energy Regulatory Authority
ETF	Enhanced Transparency Framework
EWADE	Eswatini Water And Agricultural Development Enterprise
EWSC	Eswatini Water Services Corporation
EWSC	Eswatini Water Services Cooperation
GHGMI	Greenhouse Gas Management Institute
GoE	Government Of Eswatini
ICAT	Initiative For Climate Action Transparency
JRBA	Joint River Basin Authority
MCIT	Ministry Of Commerce Industry And Trade
MDA	Ministries, Departments And Agencies
MEPD	Ministry Of Economic Planning And Development
MNRE	Ministry Of Natural Resources And Energy
MoA	Ministry Of Agriculture
MoF	Ministry Of Finance
MRV	Monitoring, Reporting, And Verification
MTEA	Ministry Of Tourism And Environmental Affairs
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NDMA	National Disaster Management Agency
NTD	Neglected Tropical Diseases
PPCU	Policy And Programme Coordination Unit
RES	Royal Eswatini Sugar
SID	Siphofaneni Irrigation District
UNESWA	University Of Eswatini
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention On Climate Change
UNOPS	United Nations Office For Project Services
WASH	Water, Sanitation, And Hygiene

1. Introduction

The Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini, through the Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs (MTEA), received support from the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) under the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT). This collaboration has been instrumental in supporting the implementation and advancement of the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) agreements in Eswatini.

The Eswatini ICAT Phase II Project builds on the priorities established during its first phase, with a strong emphasis on capacity building among technicians in the MTEA, line departments, national experts, and stakeholders. A major outcome of this phase is the establishment of a robust Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) framework for the health and water sectors. This framework includes an implementation plan, reporting templates, and guidance documents that are essential for tracking adaptation actions pivotal components in preparing Eswatini's biennial transparency report.

Furthermore, the project facilitated the formation of a Bioenergy Task Force (BTF) to assist with drafting a National Bioenergy Policy to provide a clear direction for Eswatini's bioenergy sector. The policy aims to create an enabling environment to enhance development of renewable biomass energy and attract investment.

Key outputs of the project include:

- The development of a robust MRV framework with data collection templates, clearly defined roles and responsibilities, and integration with Eswatini's national MRV online system to track adaptation efforts in the health and water sectors.
- Capacity-building initiatives designed to empower Eswatini stakeholders in conducting policy impact assessments, with a particular focus on Sustainable Development impacts.
- A draft National Bioenergy Policy and implementation plan which will foster an enabling environment for renewable biomass energy and contribute to reducing emissions in the energy sector.

By delivering these outputs, the ICAT Phase II Project has established a solid foundation for enhancing Eswatini's energy security, fulfilling its climate commitments, and promoting sustainable development.

2. Workshop objectives and expected outcomes

The ICAT Eswatini Phase II Validation Workshop aimed to convene stakeholders to formally conclude the second phase of the project and review its key deliverables.

Specific Objectives of the workshop:

1. Formally conclude the ICAT Eswatini Phase II Project.
2. Raise awareness among key stakeholders in Eswatini about the project's major outputs and achievements.

The expected outcomes were as follows:

3. A formal conclusion to the ICAT Eswatini Phase II Project, marking the successful delivery of its objectives.
4. Enhanced understanding among stakeholders of the project's key outputs, including the MRV framework for health and water sectors and the National Bioenergy Policy Draft.
5. Strengthened stakeholder awareness of Eswatini's progress in meeting Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) commitments.
6. Reinforced collaboration and alignment among government ministries, agencies, private sector players, and civil society to support Eswatini's climate and energy objectives.

3. Workshop format

The one-day workshop took place on November 29, 2024, at the Hilton Garden Inn Hotel, Mbabane, raising awareness amongst key stakeholders in Eswatini about the key outputs of the project. Participants included project partners as well as representatives from relevant sector 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 workshop format included presentations and moderated discussions. The morning session featured remarks from representatives of ICAT, various government ministries and project partners. This was followed by a presentation from the Centre for Sustainable Energy Research (CSER) on the lessons learned during the project. Later, moderated discussions were conducted to engage stakeholders and refine insights. The meeting agenda is included in Annex 1.

4. Workshop participants

The workshop was attended by 44 representatives from various government ministries, departments, agencies, academia, NGOs, civil society, the private sector, and project partners. It is noted that of the 44 participants, 17 were female and 27 males.

5. Workshop Proceedings

5.1. Introductory session

The ICAT Eswatini Phase II Project Validation Workshop was held on November 29, 2024, at the Hilton Garden Inn Hotel and commenced at 10:00 AM. The session began with remarks to welcome stakeholders to the workshop and a word of prayer from Programme Director, Ms Zethu Dlamini, the Project Facilitator for the Health Sector. After the prayer, participants briefly introduced themselves, allowing stakeholders to familiarize themselves with each other. Ms Dlamini then provided a background of the project before inviting the Director of Meteorology, Ms Duduzile Nhlengetfwa-Masina, from the Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs (MTEA) to deliver opening remarks.

The Director of Meteorology officially kick-started the workshop by welcoming all stakeholders and expressing gratitude for their attendance and commitment to the project. She emphasized the critical role of the bioenergy sector in addressing climate change, particularly in the context of the Paris Agreement. She highlighted how bioenergy initiatives help reduce reliance on fossil fuels and advance both mitigation and adaptation strategies. The Director noted that the outputs from this project, particularly from the health and water sectors, will contribute valuable information for developing adaptation projects. She acknowledged the prioritization of adaptation by developing countries, especially in Africa, where climate impacts are most severe. She also stressed the need to balance adaptation and mitigation efforts, as both are vital for achieving climate resilience.

Furthermore, the Director remarked about the validation process, pointing out that while the bioenergy sector had already validated its policy, this workshop provided an opportunity to understand the work that has been done across all sectors. She explained that although representatives from the health sector were unable to join due to other commitments, their validation session would take place during their upcoming training workshop. She encouraged stakeholders to place additional emphasis on the water sector while continuing to assess the outputs from the bioenergy and health sectors, emphasizing that these are not just sector-specific efforts but are crucial for the entire nation.

The Director also highlighted the importance of climate finance in implementing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Referring to COP29 discussions, she mentioned that developing countries require approximately 1.3 trillion US dollars for effective NDC implementation. She underscored that projects like these demonstrate to funding entities, such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the nation's readiness

and capability to manage and utilize resources effectively. She stressed the need for accreditation, sustainable planning, and reliable data collection to secure such financing.

In closing, the Director expressed her hope that the workshop would showcase the value of the work accomplished and provide an opportunity for meaningful engagement. She urged participants to actively contribute to the validation process and to recognize the broader significance of these efforts in addressing climate change. Her remarks set the tone for the workshop, emphasizing collaboration, shared responsibility, and the importance of adaptation and mitigation strategies in combating climate change.



Figure 1: Director of Meteorology, Ms Duduzile Nhlengethwa-Masina giving opening remarks.

5.2. Remarks from Project Partners

Remarks from ICAT:

The second presentation of the day came from Mr Oleg Bulanyi, who was representing the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT). In his presentation, Mr Bulanyi emphasized the critical role of data in addressing the global climate crisis. He highlighted the need for countries to embrace and effectively utilize data to inform decision-making and drive impactful climate action.

Mr Bulanyi underscored the importance of scaling up both mitigation and adaptation efforts, particularly in promoting food security, which remains a pressing concern in the face of climate change. He stressed that data must be supported by robust Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) frameworks to ensure its accuracy, reliability, and relevance. These frameworks, he noted, are essential for tracking progress, identifying gaps, and demonstrating transparency in climate actions.

In addition, he discussed the pivotal role of government finance in supporting climate initiatives. While acknowledging the challenges of securing funding, he emphasized that it is a necessary step to implement and sustain impactful climate projects. Mr Bulanyi urged stakeholders to prioritize resource mobilization and strengthen collaboration across sectors to enhance the effectiveness of climate responses.

His remarks served as a call to action, encouraging participants to leverage the outcomes of the ICAT project to address Eswatini's unique climate challenges and contribute meaningfully to global efforts in combating climate change.

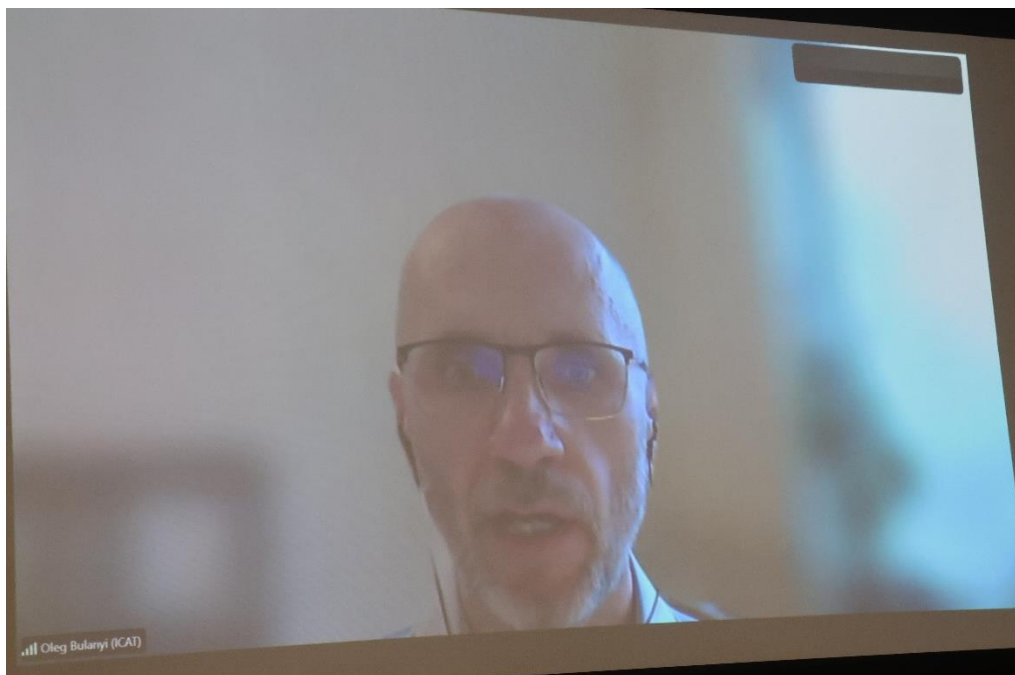


Figure 2: Mr Oleg Bulanyi (ICAT) making his presentation on the processes in the project.

Remarks from the GHGMI Technical Team

The ICAT Eswatini project had technical support from Dr Luanne Stevens and Mr Mike Bess from the Greenhouse Gas Management institute, with both experts making remarks at the workshop. Dr Luanne Stevens expressed gratitude to the project team for their dedication and collaboration in achieving key milestones. She commended their efforts in supporting the Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs (MTEA) and advancing Eswatini's climate action through robust MRV frameworks. Dr. Stevens reaffirmed GHGMI's commitment to providing technical expertise to enhance Eswatini's capacity to address climate challenges and manage greenhouse gas emissions effectively.

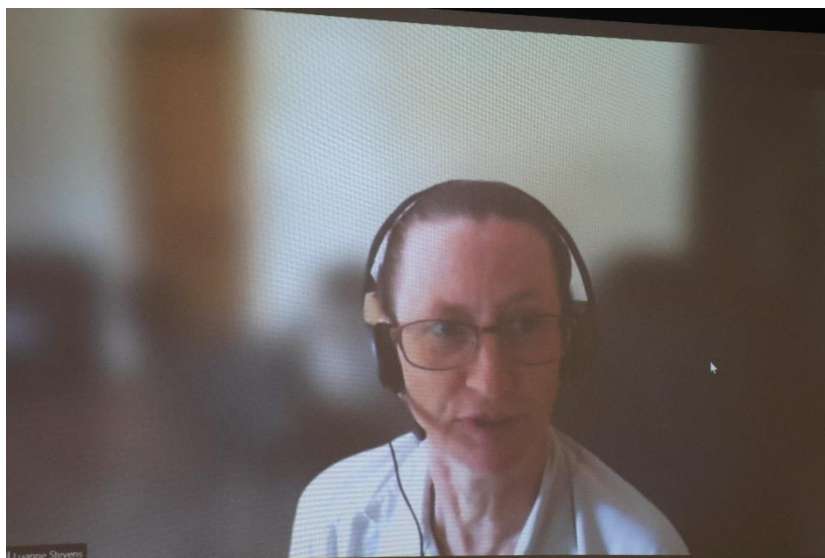


Figure 2: Dr Luanne Stevens (GHGMI) making her remarks.

Mr Mike Bess expressed his sincere thanks to all stakeholders for their active engagement and commitment to the projects with the ministry. He acknowledged the invaluable contributions of all involved,

recognizing their dedication and collaboration in advancing the initiatives. Mr Bess emphasized the importance of these partnerships in driving progress and ensuring the success of the projects.

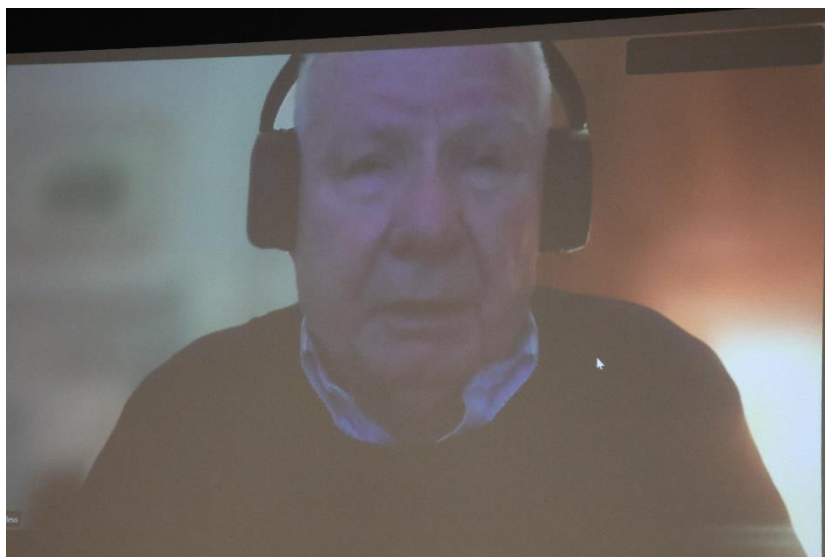


Figure 4: Mr Mike Bess (GHGMI) making his remarks.

5.3. Implementation of the Project

The Centre for Sustainable Energy Research, represented by Dr Gcina Mavimbela, the Coordinator, presented a summary of the project implementation. Dr Mavimbela began his presentation by extending heartfelt gratitude to all stakeholders for their support and contributions throughout the process of compiling the project outputs. He particularly thanked the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) team, especially Mr. Oleg Bulyani, for their ongoing support and patience. He also acknowledged the Greenhouse Gas Management Institute (GHGMI) and UNOPS for their technical and logistical assistance, recognizing their essential roles in the project's success.

In his presentation, Dr Mavimbela outlined the key processes involved in the project, focusing on the development of Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) frameworks for adaptation and the expansion of biomass-generated renewable electricity in Eswatini.

Key Phases and Activities

1. Inception Phase

- **Stakeholder Engagement:** The project began with outreach to government departments and stakeholders through meetings and workshops, ensuring alignment with national priorities and active participation.
- **Refinement of Objectives:** Collaborative discussions helped to refine project deliverables and align them with Eswatini's goals.

2. Collaboration with Technical Experts

- The GHGMI team provided vital technical guidance, particularly in the development and validation of MRV frameworks and tools.

3. Capacity Building and Training

A comprehensive training program was implemented to strengthen stakeholders' capacity to apply MRV systems effectively, including:

- **Adaptation Reporting Training:** Focused on documenting and reporting adaptation measures comprehensively.
- **Policy Impact Assessment Training:** Addressed the evaluation of Sustainable Development Impacts of proposed and implemented policies.

- **MRV Guidance Training:** Provided insights into the practical application of MRV frameworks and data collection templates.
- 4. **Development of Key Outputs**
The project achieved several critical milestones, including:
 - Drafting the National Bioenergy Policy and its Implementation and Monitoring Plan.
 - Developing MRV frameworks for adaptation in the health and water sectors.
 - Preparing templates and MRV guidance documents for the health and water sectors, contributing to enhancing reporting through the Biennial Transparency Report (BTR).
- 5. **Validation and Finalization**
All project deliverables underwent a rigorous validation process to ensure their accuracy, relevance, and suitability for integration into Eswatini's national systems.

Tribute to the Late Dr. Mduduzi Mathunjwa

Dr. Mavimbela concluded by paying tribute to the late Dr. Mduduzi Mathunjwa, who had played an instrumental role in the project's early phases. Dr. Mathunjwa, described as a humble and hardworking individual, was honoured for his invaluable contributions, which laid the foundation for the project's success. Despite his withdrawal due to health issues before his passing on November 21, 2024, his legacy and efforts remain deeply appreciated by the project team.

Dr. Mavimbela's presentation set the stage for further discussions, providing a comprehensive overview of the project's progress, achievements, and impact on Eswatini's bioenergy and adaptation strategies.



Figure 5: Dr Gcina Mavimbela (CSER) making his presentation on the processes in the project.

5.4. Remarks from different sector Directors.

Energy and Health Sectors

Planned remarks from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy (MNRE) on the National Bioenergy Policy Draft and the Ministry of Health (MoH) on the Health Adaptation MRV Framework could not be delivered due to the absence of high-level representation from these entities, attributed to other departmental commitments.

Water Sector

Mr Vusi Malinga delivered remarks on behalf of the Director of the Department of Water Affairs (DWA), who was unable to attend due to other commitments.

Representing the Director, Mr Malinga began by acknowledging and greeting the key stakeholders in attendance, including representatives from the United Nations, the Meteorology Department, private sector entities, the University of Eswatini (UNESWA), civil societies, and climate change stakeholders. He highlighted the opportunities afforded to the water sector through partnerships with the Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs (MTEA) and other development agencies. He noted that these partnerships have enabled the DWA to design and implement response mechanisms to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change.

Mr Malinga elaborated on the sector's efforts in collaboration with the MTEA to sustain water resources and combat climate change. These efforts include:

- Reporting to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on programs addressing climate change.
- Contributing to the development of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by the water sector.
- Implementing water adaptation activities such as improved water governance, enhancements in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), and the adoption of water harvesting techniques.

He acknowledged the significant support from the MTEA and the Climate Change Unit under the ICAT Phase I and II projects, which have assisted the water sector in:

- Enhancing reporting capabilities on the progress of adaptation measures.
- Developing and validating indicators for tracking adherence to climate action commitments.
- Improving communication of progress and accountability to stakeholders.

As the ICAT Phase II project nears completion, Mr Malinga expressed hope that the validation of adaptation indicators and outcomes would accurately represent the water sector's contributions to climate action. He emphasized the importance of these indicators in ensuring accountability and achieving sector goals.

In closing, Mr. Malinga reaffirmed the DWA's commitment to actively participate in programs, collaborations, and partnerships that advance climate change action. He extended gratitude to all stakeholders for their continued support and reiterated the sector's dedication to driving meaningful change in Eswatini's water management and climate resilience.



Figure 6: Mr Vusi Malinga (DWA) making remarks on the Water sector on behalf of the Director of DWA.

5.5. Presentation on Lessons Learnt

Lessons learnt for the Bioenergy sector.

A lessons learnt presentation from the Bioenergy Policy component of the project was delivered by Dr Nosiphiwo Zwane. Dr Zwane highlighted the key achievements and lessons learned from the bioenergy sector work, which resulted in two major outputs: The **National Bioenergy Policy Draft** and the **National Bioenergy Implementation and Monitoring Plan Draft**. She presented that the development process was guided by a structured approach, starting with the formation of the Bioenergy Task Force (BTF), which held regular working meetings to draft the policy. In between meetings of the BTF, stakeholder consultations, conducted through bilateral meetings and workshops, played a crucial role in refining the draft. A Policy Assessment Training Workshop was also held to build stakeholder capacity. Stakeholder contributions were incorporated into the drafts, culminating in workshops to present and validate the finalized National Bioenergy Policy Draft.

Dr Zwane remarked that the project underscored the importance of stakeholder engagement in raising awareness of biomass electricity's potential to enhance energy security and sustainable practices. Capacity-building initiatives equipped stakeholders with the skills to assess policies and support development efforts. Promoting bioenergy investment opportunities helped create a conducive investment climate, although challenges related to outdated legal and regulatory frameworks highlighted the need for reforms. Flexibility in scheduling consultations ensured broader participation from stakeholders, enriching the policy development process. These lessons provide valuable insights for future energy and sustainability initiatives in Eswatini.



Figure 7: Dr Nosiphiwo Zwane (CSER) giving a presentation on the lessons learnt for the Bioenergy sector.

Lessons learnt for the Water sector.

Dr. Gcina Vilakati introduced the ICAT Eswatini project water sector component, emphasizing its alignment with the **Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF)**. He noted that the framework requires systematic tracking and reporting of climate commitments. The MRV system developed under the project focuses on monitoring progress, fulfilling international commitments, and attracting climate finance through credible and evidence-based reporting.

Dr Vilakati presented that the project's objectives included strengthening institutional capacity to monitor and report climate adaptation in the water sector, developing a robust MRV system to track water-related adaptation interventions, and supporting evidence-based decision-making to enhance resilience to climate impacts. These objectives were designed to ensure reliable, actionable data for policy decisions and effective climate adaptation efforts.

Key achievements of the project include the development of a sector-specific A-MRV framework with indicators for water availability, infrastructure resilience, and adaptation effectiveness. Institutional arrangements were also established, including a proposal for formation of data collection teams and adaptation committees to ensure accurate and consistent reporting. Capacity building was a major focus, with workshops and training sessions conducted to equip stakeholders with MRV tools and data

management skills. Additionally, data quality was improved through standardized protocols and quality control mechanisms, ensuring reliable reporting aligned with international climate goals.

Dr Vilakati went on to highlight that the project encountered challenges such as difficulties in stakeholder engagement, data gaps, capacity constraints, and delays in timelines. These issues were addressed through individual consultations, localized actions, tailored training, and adjusted timelines. For instance, scheduling conflicts with stakeholders were resolved by combining individual meetings with broader workshops, while technical knowledge gaps were bridged through customized training sessions.

Dr Vilakati presented that several lessons were learned from the project: Stakeholder inclusivity was critical for fostering ownership and ensuring high-quality input; Tailored capacity-building initiatives empowered stakeholders to engage effectively in MRV processes; Flexibility in the approach allowed the project to adapt to challenges and refine MRV tools and methodologies; Collaboration across sectors enhanced data reliability and integration, while the importance of robust baseline data was highlighted as essential for measuring success and future reporting.

Dr Vilakati concluded by emphasizing that the ICAT project has established a strong foundation for climate adaptation in Eswatini's water sector. By overcoming challenges and delivering key achievements, the project has provided valuable insights to guide ongoing efforts to monitor, report, and verify climate adaptation actions.



Figure 8: Dr Gcina Vilakati (CSER) giving a presentation on the lessons learnt for the Water sector.

Lessons learnt for the Health sector.

Dr. Gugu Sibandze began her presentation for the health team by welcoming all stakeholders to the session and acknowledging the absence of some representatives from the health sector, noting that a follow-up meeting would be held the following week for comprehensive validation of the work. She provided an overview of the accomplishments in the health sector, starting with an inception workshop and a joint training session with the water sector. This training, facilitated by the Greenhouse Gas Management Institute (GHGMI), aimed to build capacity for reporting on climate adaptation measures. Additionally, an extensive two-day consultation workshop with stakeholders was conducted, which helped shape and refine the final outputs to ensure their relevance and practicality.

Dr Sibandze presented that key milestones achieved include the development of an MRV Implementation Framework, which provides a structured approach for tracking and reporting climate adaptation efforts in the health sector. A Health Sector Reporting Template was also created to standardize and enhance consistency and reliability in data collection and reporting. Furthermore, an MRV Guidance Document was drafted to equip stakeholders with the necessary tools and knowledge for effective implementation.

Dr. Sibandze highlighted several lessons learned during the project. Stakeholder engagement was identified as crucial, as climate change adaptation had not been a primary focus in the health sector before

the ICAT project. Early phases involved raising awareness and addressing gaps to foster collaboration and understanding. Allowing stakeholders to guide the process ensured that outputs were practical and avoided creating unnecessary responsibilities while encouraging ministry ownership. Moreover, existing interest in climate change adaptation within the health sector, including its integration into the National Health Strategy, facilitated smoother processes and greater alignment with sectoral priorities.

Building strong relationships within the sector was also emphasized, given the Ministry of Health's significant workload and competing priorities. These connections were instrumental in advancing project activities. Flexibility in adapting workflows to accommodate stakeholder schedules and needs further contributed to maintaining engagement and achieving the project's objectives.

In conclusion, the ICAT project has established a strong foundation for MRV systems and climate adaptation efforts in the health sector. The lessons learned underscore the importance of stakeholder engagement, leveraging existing strategies, fostering collaboration, and maintaining flexibility. These insights will continue to guide efforts to integrate climate change considerations into the health sector effectively.



Figure 9: Dr Gugu Sibandze (CSER) giving a presentation on the lessons learnt for the Health sector.

5.6 Open discussion on out-puts.

The workshop included an open discussion on key topics related to the project outputs. The discussion provided valuable insights into addressing data gaps, improving data sharing, and scaling up bioenergy to support climate action.



Figure 10: Dr Gcina Mavimbela (CSER), moderating the open discussion on the workshop outputs.

1. Addressing Gaps in Data Systems and Improving Data Sharing for Effective Climate Action

A question was raised during the discussions on how countries can address the existing gaps in data systems and improve data sharing to support effective climate action and policy. The Director of Meteorology responded by emphasizing the importance of not only international agreements but also strong national legislation to ensure effective data management and sharing. She pointed out that robust legal frameworks are critical to enforce data standards, ensure consistency, and facilitate cross-sectoral collaboration. Such legislation would provide a clear mandate for data collection, sharing, and transparency, ensuring that climate-related data is accessible, reliable, and used effectively in decision-making and policy development. The Director concluded that a strong legal foundation would help close gaps in data systems and support long-term climate action goals.

2. Scaling Up Bioenergy for Climate Change Mitigation and Energy Security

The discussion also addressed how bioenergy can be scaled up to ensure a reliable and sustainable supply while contributing to climate change mitigation and energy security. The consensus was that diversifying feedstocks is crucial to ensuring a reliable bioenergy supply. By incorporating agricultural residues, forest biomass, algae, and organic waste, countries can reduce dependence on a single source of bioenergy, thereby enhancing sustainability and resilience in the bioenergy sector. This approach will also help support the global effort to mitigate climate change and improve energy security.

3. Comments from Stakeholders

The Joint River Basin Authority (JRBA) (figure 11) emphasized the need to establish effective mechanisms for data sharing across sectors to enhance collaboration. They highlighted the importance of analysing and manipulating data to create comprehensive national reports that provide a holistic view of climate action. Additionally, they underscored the necessity of ensuring that data remains dynamic and extends beyond regional boundaries. The representative also suggested involving citizens in adaptation efforts and the development of science-based solutions. Engaging the public, they noted, would help ensure that data reflects real-world experiences and supports climate resilience.



Figure 11: Ms Sindy Mthimkhulu (JRBA) making her comments during the open discussion.

- A representative from the Eswatini Revenue Service (ERS) (figure 12) proposed incentivizing local power generation while imposing taxes on high-emission activities. This dual approach was highlighted as a means to support Eswatini in achieving its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and climate targets. Encouraging clean, locally generated energy was emphasized as a critical step toward sustainable development and reducing the country's carbon footprint.



Figure 12: Mr Mfankhona Msibi (ERS) giving his comments during the open discussion.



The open discussion concluded with a renewed commitment from stakeholders to continue collaborating in data sharing, bioenergy development, and climate action efforts.

5.7 Closing Remarks.

The Director began by expressing her gratitude to the program director, the entire team, and all participants who stayed until the end of the workshop. She acknowledged the initial agenda was expected to extend beyond lunchtime but commended the team's efficiency in managing time effectively while addressing all relevant questions. Key discussions included the bioenergy policy and data-related issues for the health and water sectors.

She emphasized the importance of collaboration in the upcoming efforts to report through the Biennial Transparency Report (BTR). The Director noted that stakeholders would soon be approached to provide necessary data and expressed optimism that they would be willing to collaborate and assist in this critical endeavour.

Furthermore, she highlighted her hope that the reporting process would benefit not just individual sectors but all stakeholders collectively. Concluding her remarks, she thanked everyone for their participation and reiterated her enthusiasm for continuing engagement in future initiatives.

ANNEX 1: VALIDATION STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP AGENDA

08:30 -08:55	Checking in and registration	Project Facilitator
08:55– 09:00	Welcome Remarks	Programme Director
09:00 – 09:15	Opening Remarks	MTEA
09:15 – 09:30	ICAT Remarks	Dr Oleg
09:30 – 09:45	Remarks from the GHGMI Technical Team	Dr L. Stevens/Mr M. Bess
09:45—10:00	Processes in the Project	CSER-G. Mavimbela
10:00 – 10:30	Tea break-Group Photo	All
10:30 – 10:45	Remarks by MNRE-Energy on the National Bioenergy Policy Draft	Director-Energy
10:45 – 11:00	Remarks by MNRE-DWA on the Water Adaptation Framework	Director-DWA
11:00– 11:45	Remarks by MoH on Health Adaptation MRV Framework	Director-Health Services
11:45 – 12:15	Remarks by MTEA	MTEA
12:15 – 12:45	Lessons Learnt	CSER (Water Adaptation, Health Adaptation, Bioenergy)
12:45 – 13:00	Q/A	all
	Lunch	All
14:00 – 14:45	Open discussion on out-puts	all
14:45 – 15:00	Closing Remarks	MTEA
15:00 – 15:15	Tea and Departure	