Support for the delivery of a blended training course on Climate Transparency in French

ETF Training Report

November 2023

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I/N

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1. Context and objectives

1.1 Background

The Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) aims to help countries assess the impacts of their climate policies and actions and fulfil their transparency commitments. It does this by increasing the overall transparency capacities of countries, including the capacity to assess the contribution of climate policies and actions on GHG levels and on countries' development objectives, and providing appropriate methodological information and tools to support evidence-based policymaking. ICAT's innovative approach is to integrate these two aspects.

ICAT focuses on countries that can highlight the benefits of increased transparency to demonstrate policy impact and evidence-based action. ICAT will generate evolving methodological guidance and extract best practices, to be publicly available to all actors, increasing the global knowledge base. ICAT's work is country-driven, and efforts build on existing Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems and knowledge in countries and complement previous or on-going activities by other initiatives, where applicable.

In order to strengthen climate action, countries will need to ensure that their policies are effective in advancing both national priorities and global climate objectives. To assess the effectiveness of such policymaking, relevant data and information are required. In this context, the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), as the backbone of the Paris Agreement, is essential for global cooperation as well as for planning and implementing effective climate actions and policies at the national level. In addition to improving credibility and facilitating the tracking of progress, effective national transparency frameworks also enable countries to capture the sustainable development impact of their climate actions and thereby develop evidence-based policy responses that serve domestic needs and priorities.

Countries worldwide have to prepare for the ETF, under which they will have to submit their first Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) no later than 31 December 2024. In order to do this and contribute to effective climate action, there is a need and demand for capacity building so that all countries regardless of their level of development, can contribute to the global efforts to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change. In response to this need, the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat, the United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC) and the UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre (UNEP-CCC) have collaborated to develop a blended course on Climate Transparency and the ETF. The aim of this course is to support developing countries to boost their national capacity to implement the ETF under the Paris Agreement. In particular, this course helps countries to enhance their technical capacity in assessing and developing mitigation policies to advance domestic and international climate objectives and enable the realization of national priorities and Sustainable Development Goals. This course targets senior government officials and technical practitioners and is composed of an in-person workshop, as well as a facilitated online course with e-learning modules, exercises and weekly virtual interactive sessions with subject matter experts.

1.2 Project Objectives

The main objective of this project was to develop the course mentioned above in French to increase the capacity building options for Francophone countries.

The project was divided into three main activities:

Activity 1. Review and enhancement of e-learning content in French

This online course was composed of 9 modules, each being a week in duration

Activity 2. Facilitation and moderation of the e-learning course in French

To each online course was associated 1 virtual interactive session guided by a facilitator. Throughout the course, participants were also expected to complete short assignments and were able to post questions to technical experts on the online form.

Activity 3. Facilitation and moderation of an in-person workshop in French

The in-person workshop was planned in Bonn, Germany over 3 days. The participants were selected based on successful completion of the core modules of the online course and the relevance of their roles, with those involved in policy decision-making processes prioritized. The objective of the workshop was to focus on peer-to-peer learning, sharing of experiences and short presentations and exercises.

2. Activities and discussions

2.1 Activities agenda and deliverables

2.1.1 Core modules – Modules 1 to 5 – February 27th-April 3

These modules provide a basis for the understanding of the ETF system. The online modules in English and in French (pre-translation) were sent for translation in French at the beginning of February. They were all translated by the 24th of February.

These online courses started on the 27th of February until 3 April 2023. During these 5 weeks, the facilitation of the associated virtual sessions was conducted by 4 Citepa experts: Julien VINCENT (Mitigation and adaptation department manager), Houssem Belhouane (Mitigation team manager), Ludivine Cozette (Adaptation consultant) and Ghislaine Tandonnet Guiran (Adaptation team manager).The powerpoint materials provided by ICAT were reviewed and adapted into French by the Citepa team, then used during the online sessions.

After these 5 weeks, the Citepa team conducted the evaluation of the assignments associated to these courses and answered technical questions of the participants via the online platform or via e-mail.

2.1.2 Technical modules – modules 6 to 9 – July 10-August 7

The aim of these modules was to address more technical issues related to the ETF: agriculture, transport, sustainable development and transformational change. This second round of modules was sent for translation and review to the Citepa team in the beginning of June. They were all translated by early July.

These online courses started on July 10 until August 7. During these 4 weeks, the facilitation of the associated virtual sessions was conducted by 5 Citepa experts: Julien VINCENT (Mitigation and adaptation department manager), Etienne MATTHIAS (Agriculture department manager), Houssem Belhouane (Mitigation team manager), Ludivine Cozette (Adaptation consultant) and Ghislaine Tandonnet Guiran (Adaptation team manager). The powerpoint materials provided by ICAT were reviewed and adapted into French by the Citepa team, then used during the online sessions.

2.1.3 In-person workshop in Bonn – August 30-September 1st

In order to put into practice the lessons learned during the modules, a 3 days workshop was organized in Bonn from August 30 to September 1st. Focused on peer-to-peer sharing of experience, presentations and exercises, the workshop gathered about 40 people from French-speaking countries.

The Citepa team was composed of 3 people: Julien VINCENT, Etienne MATTHIAS and Ludivine COZETTE. They moderated the different exercises during the 3 days. They also provided 3 presentations to explore certain topics in greater depth:

- Transitioning to the ETF (Julien VINCENT)
- Assessing the impact of climate policies and actions for the agriculutre sector (Etienne MATTHIAS)
- Assessing climate finance needs & tracking financial flows (Ludivine COZETTE)

2.2 Discussions

2.2.1 Core modules – Module 1 to 5

These modules formed the basis of the training. Broad discussions were led on how to improve the setting up of harmonized systems for climate transparency.

The participants mainly raised the issue of a lack of clear governance regarding monitoring and reporting system, for example on the GHG inventories. There is a lack of access and sharing of data, which leads to insufficient data collection. A need of capacity building among the data collectors was also raised.

Regarding the financing of monitoring and reporting systems, the participants noted that it was often based on donors fundings and not integrated to long-term national planning.

On Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it seems to be an issue well understood and considered by the different countries' stakeholders. However, it is rarely integrated into a systemic model that could lead to transformational change. For example, the collaboration between ministries is often very weak.

2.2.2 Technical modules – 6 to 9

These modules allowed the participants to deepen their knowledge and to apply the ICAT methodologies on the impact of mitigation policies & measures in different sectors: agriculture, transport, sustainable development and transformational change.

In terms of agriculture, the presentations and exercises highlighted the major challenges facing the sector. Discussions focused on the agricultural sector's contribution to GHG emissions, enabling participants to identify the main types of agricultural emissions in their country. They also enabled participants to identify the most relevant policies for assessing the impact of agriculture on emissions and to understand the evaluation methodology.

Regarding the transport sector, the online module and the virtual session allowed the participants to link their own national transport policy to the impact of mitigation measures thanks to the ICAT methodology. It was associated with practical exercises to monitor these impacts.

The last two modules were developed more broadly during the virtual sessions thanks to the use of two case studies. The first one was a review of the use of the ICAT methodology on the impacts of mitigation on sustainable development in Kenya. It allowed the participants to better understand what information was needed to do this type of evaluation and to associate the different impact categories (social, environmental and economic) to indicators, based on the information they have access to. The second one was a review of the use of the ICAT methodology on the impacts of mitigation on transformational change in Uganda. They were able to identify the limits to transformational change and to evaluate the relevance of the characteristics of transformational change for the evaluation.

2.2.3 In person-workshop in Bonn

The 3-days workshop allowed to deepen the knowledge and skills required to develop a robust and sustainable national ETF system that supports national priorities and international obligations.

The discussions whether it was during the presentation or during the exercises, all focused on how to develop an optimal national monitoring and reporting system. Through role-playing and practical exercises, participants were able to discuss their various national issues and share their experience of climate transparency. They were mainly all facing the same problematics regarding the development of national transparency systems: disengaged decision-makers, lack of institutional arrangements, work carried out on a project scale and not as part of a policy, lack of expert training or lack of access and sharing of datas. Some feedbacks are shown in Annex.

3. Participants feedback

3.1 Onlines modules

3.1.1 Level of satisfaction

Overall, the participants were very satisfied with the online modules. Over 80% of the participants completed the core modules and the technical modules and obtained their certificate, 98,57% of the participants recommend the training. In the final evaluation they submitted, 91,23% of the participants considered that the program built their capacity in climate transparency significatively or completely. More than 80% considered that they developed a better understanding of the modalities, procedures and guidelines of the Paris Agreement, in particular the Enhanced transparency framework, but also that they have acquired good practices in terms of climate transparency and that they now understand better the challenges of the topic and the role of funding partners and tools in the development of transparency system. Overall, the online modules have been very well understood by the participants.

The participants also mentioned that they liked the expert team of the online modules and the fact that they received help anytime they needed it.

3.1.2 Comments and areas for improvement

The participants appreciated the teaching approach and the format of the modules with a part with lessons, another with exercises, and then virtual sessions to deepen the knowledge. They also liked the accessibility to the platform, even though weak internet connection can sometimes prevent them from seeing some images of the modules. Most of the participants would like to keep their access to the modules so that they can come back to them whenever they need it.

Among the topics they would like to see covered by the future edition of the program, the following are the one that come back most often:

- Better understanding of the application of a transparency system at a local level
- Adaptation and vulnerability transparency
- Loss and damages transparency
- Carbon accounting transparency
- A more in-depth look at GHG transparency and climate projections
- Gender and climate transparency
- Climate data processing and analysis software: GACMO, LEAP…
- Climate finance transparency
- Practice on tools for monitoring progress in implementing NDC
- BTR content

3.2 In-person workshop

3.2.1 Level of satisfaction

Overall, the participants were very satisfied with the 3 days workshop. In the final evaluation they submitted, on a total of 27 answers, the average score for every question asked was always higher

than 5/6, which means that participants answered that they were significantly or fully satisfied. They agree with the fact that they gained knowledge on how to develop a robust ETF system that will allow them to support and advance their national and international priorities. They also appear to be very satisfied with the fact that the workshop represented an opportunity to exchange ideas and forge links with other regional climate transparency experts. The overall relevance of the training is scored 5.6/6.

Regarding the relevance of the specific sessions, each session received a score of 5/6 or more which represents again a very high level of satisfaction. The group sessions is the type of session which receives the better score with 5.44/6 which shows that peer-to-peer exchanges were at the heart of the 3-days workshop.

3.2.2 Areas for improvement

In the final evaluation of the workshop, participants were asked to specify topics or areas that they would have liked to expand. Mainly 6 topics were brought up by the participants:

- They would have liked to know more about the tools and technologies used to develop a national ETF systems: GACMO, EX-ACT, LEAP (Low-Emissions Analysis Platform)…
- The climate finance aspect could have been more developed.
- They would have liked to deepen the topic of Article 6.
- The adaptation aspect was not part of the training, and it would be great if it could be included.
- They would have liked to have presentations on the MRV of NDCs and the development of indicators.
- Finally, they would have liked to have more case studies for the training to be even more concrete and linked to their national challenges.

3.2.3 ICAT methodologies

During the workshop, the participants expressed their interest in the translation of more ICAT methodologies in French in order to use them and adapt them to their country specificities.

3.2.4 Knowledge sharing

At the end of the evaluation, the participants expressed the fact that they would easily share their knowledge and this training with their colleagues in the ministries and in the offices working on the ETF aspects. Overall, they highlighted the fact that this training represents a very good basis to get to grips with the ETF topics and that it could motivate the team to develop a robust national system. It is also a very relevant training in the context of the forthcoming submission of the BTR.

4. Recommendations

4.1 Online modules

4.1.1 Translation work

The modules were all sent already translated in French. The role of the Citepa was to do a technical review of these translation based on our own climate transparency expertise. However, if the first translation made in French was a very useful basis for work, it contained a lot of grammatical mistakes and we had to do a lot of double check with the English version of the modules in order not to change the meaning of the sentences.

The use of a translation professional online tool could be useful for the technical experts to focus on the technical aspects of the translation.

4.1.2 Assignments

The questions asked to participants each week to apply the knowledge of the modules were very spot on and generic enough for the participants to provide answers based on the extent of their knowledge of their country specificities. Paragraph answers were also a very suitable format for encouraging participants to expand their knowledge. Hence, some answers were very detailed and informed us on the ETF challenges faced by the participants.

However, some of the participants did not understand the questions that were raised, especially the fact that they had to answer with their own information and not just take the words from the lessons. Precisions could be given on this aspect so the participants can give more adapted answers to the questions asked.

4.1.3 Virtual sessions

Overall, the format of the virtual sessions was very well thought-out, with a short presentation followed by group exercises. In particular, it enabled us to emphasize the participation of participants and, through exercises, to address any points of misunderstanding.

ICAT provided English materials from previous sessions for Citepa to adapt them to the French version. The examples of ICAT methodology case studies provided were very helpful for the Citepa team to understand the type of case studies needed for each session. However, ICAT methodologies were not already applied to a lot of French-speaking countries, and we had troubles finding documents in French for the participants to go and find out more about these case studies.

4.2 In-person workshop

4.2.1 Presentations

The presentations were fully in line with the online training already provided. Tackling more specific topics such as Article 6 or climate finance was particularly relevant, especially as these are complex subjects and the presence of experts on site enabled participants' questions to be answered directly.

What could have improved their appropriation by participants, however, was the fact of linking them to the exercises that followed, notably through the use of case studies.

4.2.2 Exercises

The exercises were very well thought out to encourage the active participation of all participants. Lively exchanges took place, in particular thanks to the fact that group discussions played on the "challenge" aspect in relation to the other teams, and enabled comparisons to be made between the different answers.

On one hand, the exercises enabled them to consolidate the knowledge acquired during the online modules. Nevertheless, the objectives of the exercises were sometimes a little redundant, leading to answers that were sometimes very similar to the previous exercises. Based on the participants' responses to the workshop evaluation, it would certainly be appropriate to integrate case studies and concrete examples into these exercises, to enable them to put themselves into practice in the context of implementing an ETF system.

4.2.3 Lessons learned

The workshop was designed specifically for the participants to get to grips with the principles of an optimal and robust ETF system. To this effect, the different group exercises, from the role play to the exercise with the “transparency boat”, helped them bring out the common challenges they face despite different starting points, as well as successes that can be learnt from each other. It also helped them to project towards the future climate transparency agenda.

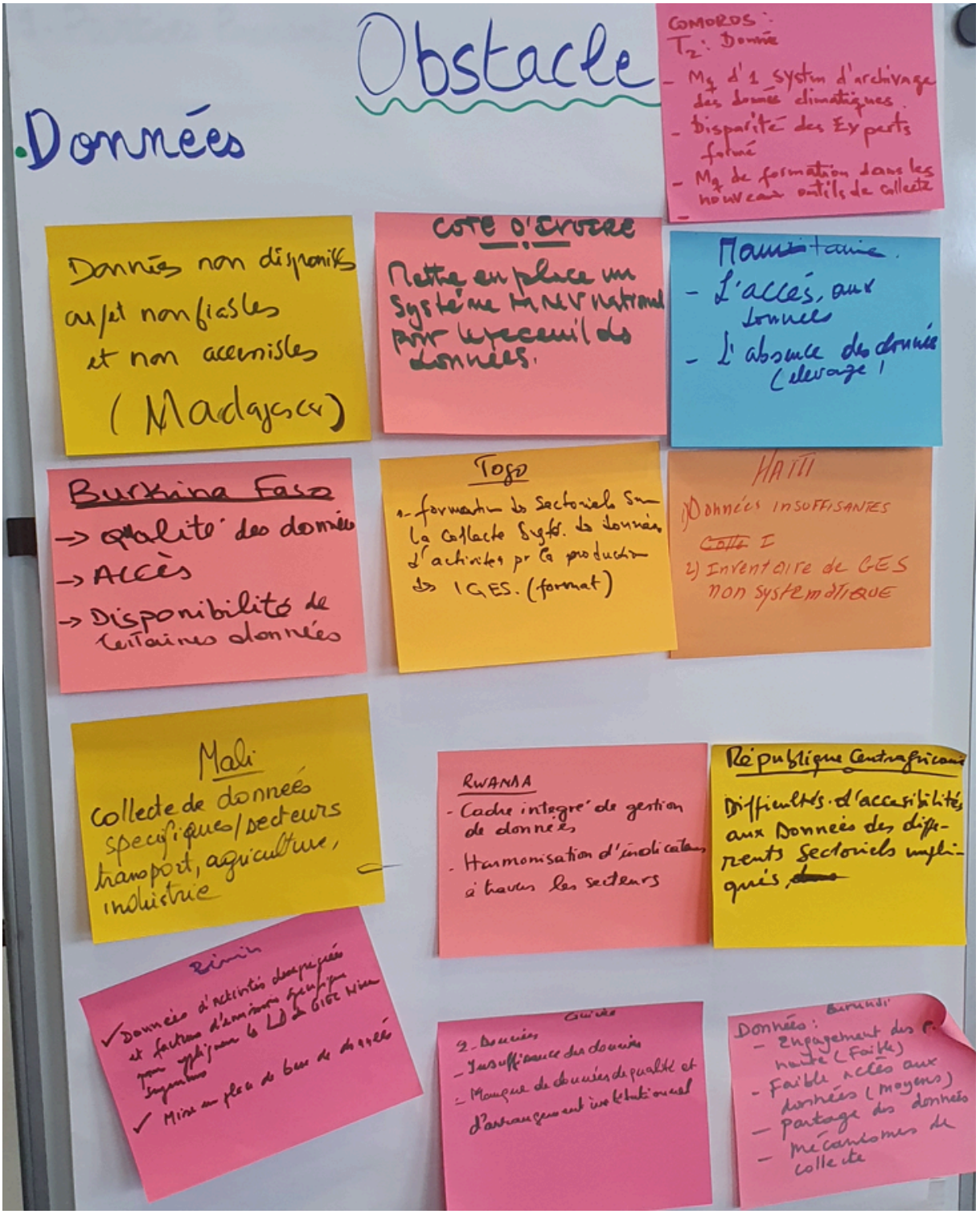
The main principles that emerged from the exercises were as follows:

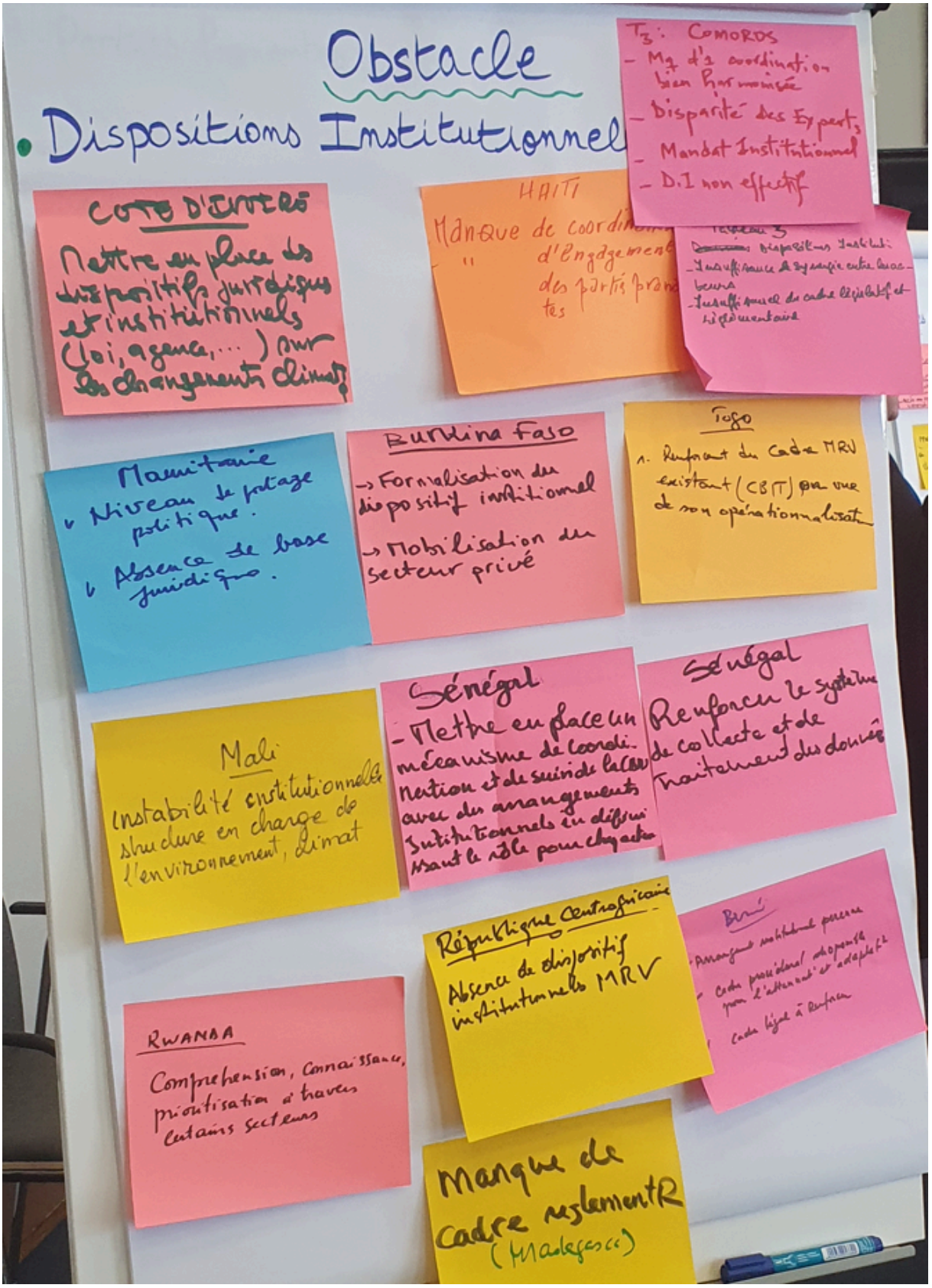
- Engage decision-makers;
- Improve institutional arrangements;
- Encourage stakeholder buy-in (understand stakeholders' priorities and needs);
- Build on what already exists;
- Increase dedicated financial resources;
- Increase the proportion of own funds;
- Ensure availability of technical resources;
- Keep resource people in place and in the country;
- Increase skills in the field (training);
- Disseminate acquired knowledge (in particular to avoid overloading resource persons);
- Fight demobilization;
- Improve access to data;
- Increase data accuracy;
- Ensure archiving;

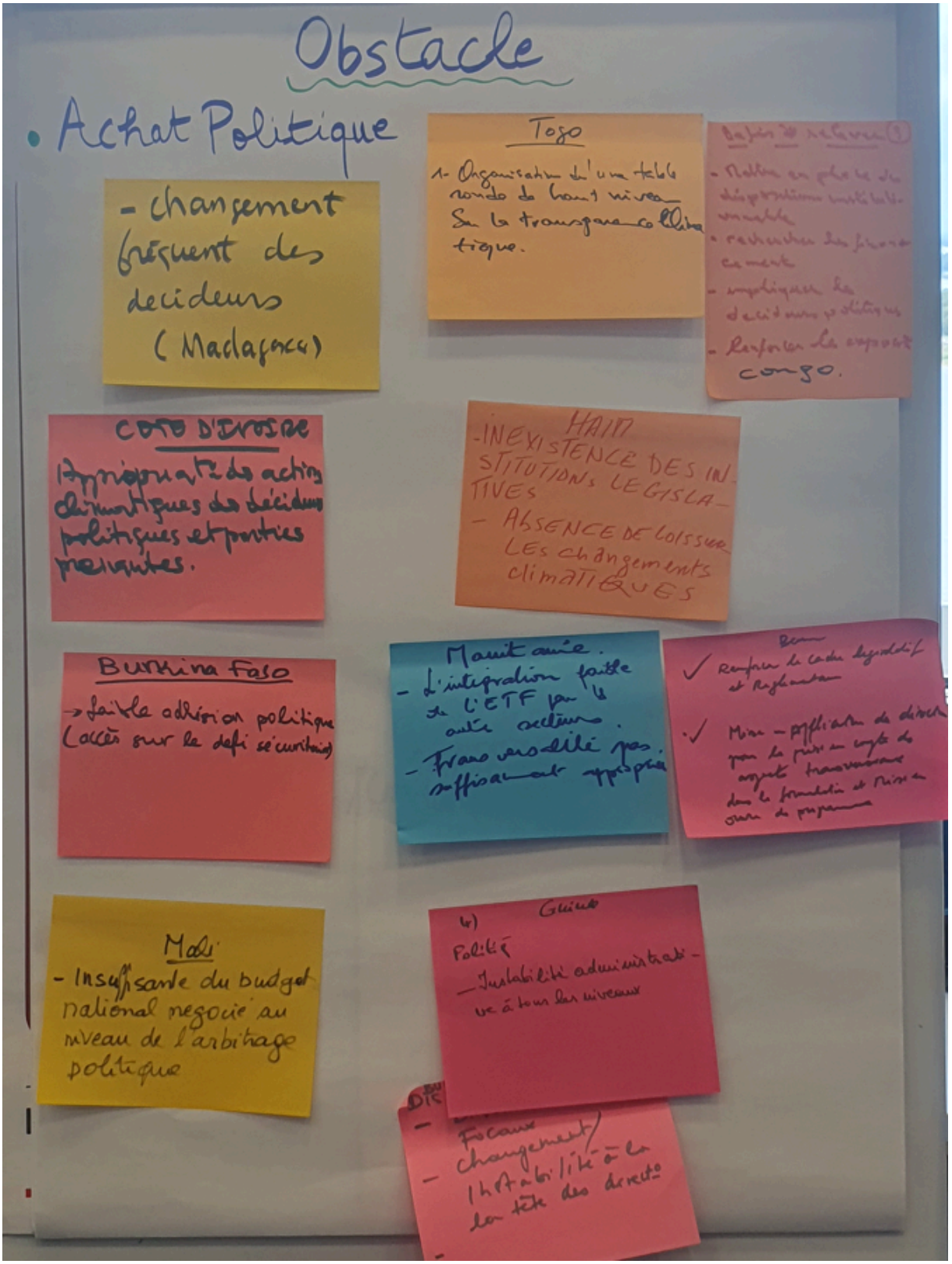
- Improve system digitization;
- Capitalize on progress already made

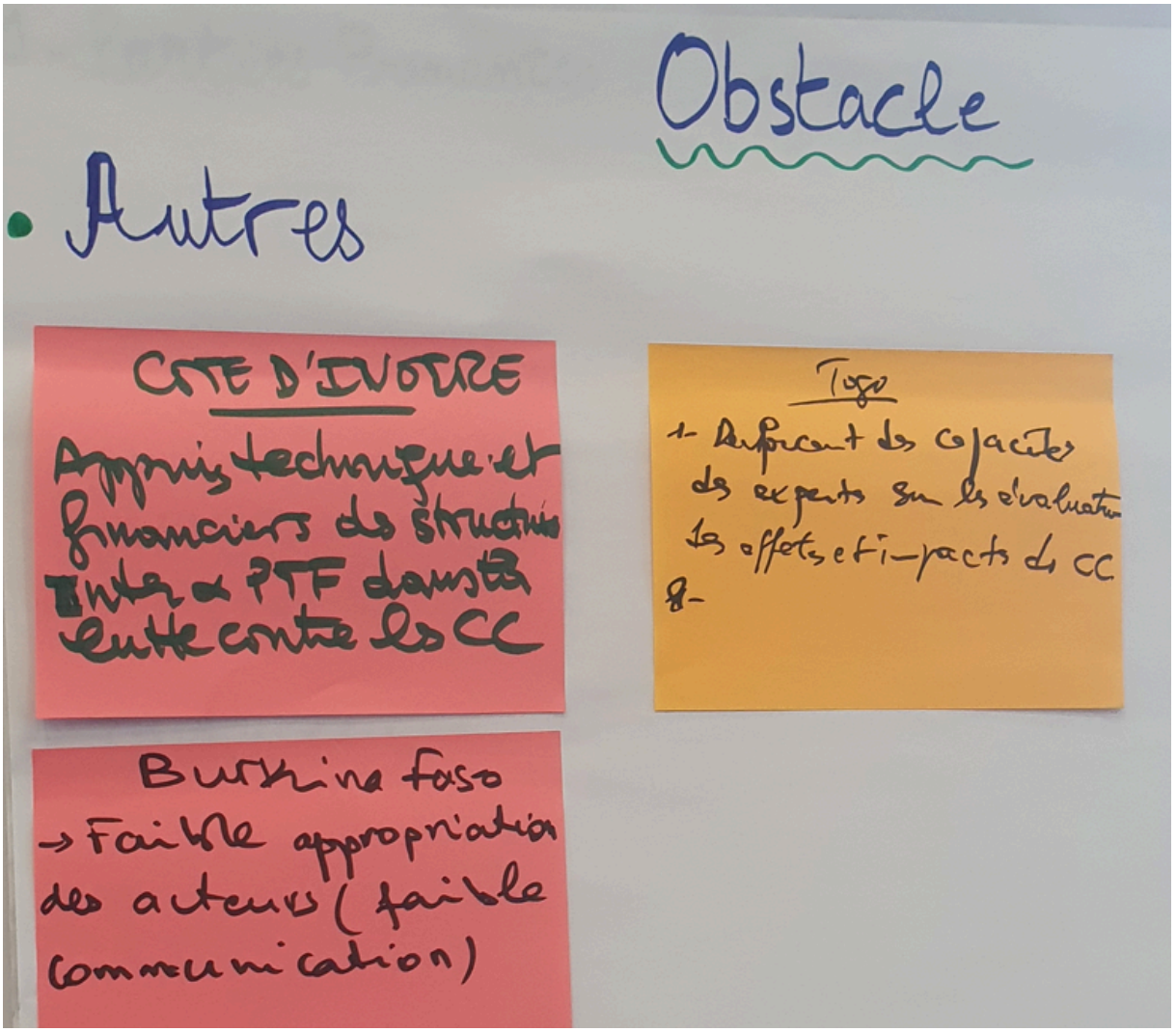
Among these principles, one in particular appeared to be at the heart of the lack of progress in setting up an ETF system in the participants countries: the access and sharing of data. In fact, data is perceived as particularly strategic in these countries and the collaboration between sectors and institutions can sometimes be limited. It prevents them from having harmonized system that would improve relevance and effectiveness of their climate transparency. To this effect, a work on the mobilization of stakeholders and the development of their cooperation could be useful.

Annex : Peer-to-peer exchange

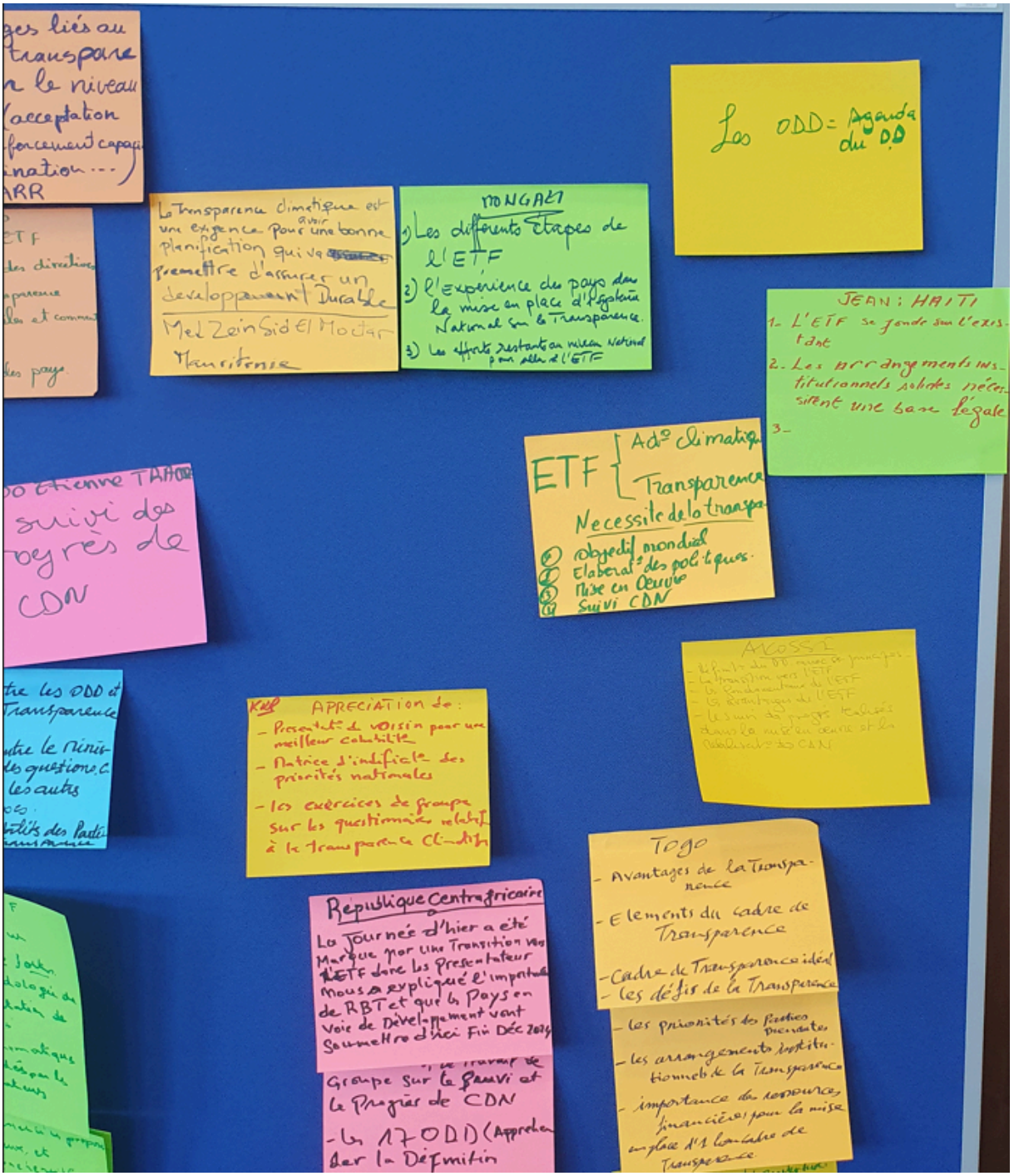



Obstacle
Dispositions Institutionnel
T3: COMOROS
- Mq d'1 coordination bien harmonisée
- Disparité des Expert,
- Mandat Institutionnel
- D.I non effectif
HAITI
Manque de coordin
" d'Engagement
des parti pran
tes
COTE D'IVOIRE
Mettre en place les dispositifs juridiques et institutionnels (loi, agence, ...) sur les changements climat
Mauritanie
Niveau de portage politique.
Absence de base juridique.
Burkina Faso
→ Formalisation du dispositif institutionnel
→ Mobilisation du secteur privé
Togo
1. Renforcer du cadre MRV existant (CBIT) par vue de son opérationnalisat
Mali
Instabilité institutionnelle
Structure en charge de l'environnement, climat
Sénégal
- Mettre en place un mécanisme de coordination et de suivi de l'ac avec des arrangements institutionnels en différ tant le rôle pour chacun
Sénégal
Renforcer le système de collecte et de traitement des donnée
RWANDA
Comprehension, Connaissance, priorisation à travers Certains secteurs
République Centrafricaine
Absence de dispositif institutionnels MRV
Manque de cadre reglementR (Madagasc)


Obstacle
Achat Politique
- changement fréquent des decideurs (Madagascar)
Togo
1- Organisation d'une table ronde de haut niveau Sur la transparence climatique.
- Renforcer les financements
- impliquer les décideurs politiques
- Renforcer les capacités
Congo.
COTE D'IVOIRE
Appropriation des actions climatiques des décideurs politiques et parties prenantes.
HAITI
-INEXISTENCE DES INSTITUTIONS LEGISLATIVES
- ABSENCE DE CONSENSUS LES changements climatiques
Burkina Faso
→ faible adhésion politique (accès sur le défi sécuritaire)
Mauritanie.
- L'intégration faible de l'ETF par les autres acteurs.
- Transversalité pas suffisamment appropriée
Renforcer le cadre législatif et réglementaire
Mise - Affichage de divers pour le suivi en compte de aspect transversaux dans la formulation et suivi en cours de programme
Mali
- Insuffisance du budget national négocié au niveau de l'arbitrage politique
Guinée
b) Politique
- Instabilité administrative à tous les niveaux
Focaux changement/
- l'instabilité à la tête des directe


Obstacle
Autres
CÔTE D'IVOIRE
Appui technique et financiers des structures Inter ou PTF dans la lutte contre les CC
Togo
1- Renforcement des capacités des experts sur les évaluations des effets et impacts des CC
8-
Burkina faso
→ Faible appropriation des acteurs (faible communication)

Obstacle
Ressources financières pour la mise en oeuvre de l'ETF
Burkina Faso
→Faible mobilisation des ressources domestic
→Accès aux ressources internationales
COTE D'IVOIRE
-Recherche de financemt national et international pour la mise en oeuvre
Mauritanie
Ressources financières allouées à d'autre priorités nationales
BENIN
✓Mobilisation des Ressources financ suffisantes
✓Complexité des mécanismes de décaissement
COMORDS
: RF
Ressources financières limitées
Mali
Mobilisat° des ressources nationales
Togo
1- Renforcer les capacités des acteurs sur le financ climat
BURUNDI
Défis
Ressources financières
- Faible capacité
mobilisation
- Données éparpillées
- Engagement des
- Faible coordination des PTF
Sénegal
Ressources pour la mise en place d'un système d'archivage des données
République Centrafricain
Accès aux Fonds destiné
Reste relativement limité
Rwanda
Bas niveau d'investissemt privés
-Limitation de capacités techniques dans l'élaboration des projet, compétitifs
GUINEE
Tableau 1
RF
HAITI
INSUFFISANE DE FINANEMENT


Les ODD = Agenda du DD
MONGALI
1) Les différents Etapes de l'ETF
2) L'expérience des pays dans la mise en place d'Systèm National sur la Transparence.
3) Les efforts restants au niveau National pour aller à l'ETF
La Transparence climatique est une exigence pour une bonne planification qui va permettre d'assurer un développement Durable
Mel Zein Sid El Moctar
Mauritanie
JEAN : HAITI
1- L'ETF se fonde sur l'existant
2- Les arrangements institutionnels solides nécessitent une base légale
3-
ETF
Adº climatique
Transparence
Nécessité de la transpa
1 objectif mondial
2 Elaboration des politiques
3 Mise en Oeuvre
4 Suivi CDN
APPRECIATION de :
- Présentation voisin pour une meilleur lisibilité
- Matrice d'identification des priorités nationales
- les exercices de groupe sur les questionnaires relatifs à la transparence Climatique
TOGO
- Avantages de la Transparence
- Elements du cadre de Transparence
- Cadre de Transparence idéal
- les défis de la Transparence
- les priorités des parties prenantes
- les arrangements institutionnels de la Transparence
- importance des ressources financières pour la mise en place du cadre de Transparence
République Centrafricaine
La Journée d'hier a été Marqué par une Transition vers l'ETF dont les Présentateur Nous a expliqué l'importance de RBT et que le Pays en Voie de Développement vont Soumettre d'ici Fin Déc 2024
Groupe sur le Suivi et le Progrès de CDN
- les 17 ODD (Approche
der la Définition

- Avantages liés au cadre de transparence pour le niveau national (acceptation politique, renforcement capacité, coordination ...)
Dibon SARR
Moussa Diop
Transition Vers ETF
→ Grandes lignes des directives MPGs sur la transparence
→ Definir les obstacles et comment les surmonter
→ Bonnes pratiques des pays
Mongali
1) Les différents Etapes de l'ETF
2) L'expérience des pays dans la mise en place d'système National de la Transparence
3) Les efforts restants au niveau National pour atteindre l'ETF
ETF
Adº climatique
Transparence
Nécessité de la transp
1) objectif mondial
2) Elaborat° des politiques
3) Mise en Oeuvre
4) Suivi CDN
ETF ①
Transparence: on construit sur l'existant, et on améliore.
Transparence du
-Soutien fourni et reçu
- L'action Clim MRV
Le suivi des progrès de la CDN
* le lien entre les ODD et le Cadre de Transparence climatique.
* le débat entre le ministre en charge des questions climatiques et les autres secteurs connexes.
APPRECIATION de :
- Pertinence de l'atelier pour une meilleur capacité
- Nature d'indentification des priorités nationales
- les exercices de groupe sur les questionnaires relatifs à la Transparence Climatique
Défis nationaux
. les données
. les appuis
. La Coordination
- L'engagement
ETF
Togo
- Avantages de la Transparence
- Elements du cadre de Transparence
- Cadre de Transparence
- les défis de la Transp
- les priorités des Parties Prenantes
- les arrangements institutionnels
- importance des ressources financières pour la mise en place du cadre de Transparence
Republique Centrafricaine
La Journée d'hier a été Marquée par une Transition vers l'ETF dont les Présentateurs nous a expliqué l'importance de l'ETF et que le Pays en Voie de Développement vont Soumettre d'ici Fin Déc 2024
Groupe sur le Rapport et le Progrès de CDN
- la 17ODD (Apprendre par la Définition
GUINEE
- CEREMONIE d'ouverture
- LES objectifs de l'atelier
- Présentation des Partenaires
- Exercice de décompte
- Action climatique et ODD.
- Définition des ODD.
- Transmission vers le ETF.
- avantages de la ETF

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