Initiative for Climate Action Transparency - ICAT -

Scoping report for the first phase of ICAT Guinea

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Deliverable #1

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July 2023

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.

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

Contents

1. Introduction

This Scoping Report presents an overview of the activities and expected results for the implementation of the first phase of the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) in the Republic of Guinea.

The report begins with a description of the country context, followed by an introduction on the role of ICAT under Phase I in Guinea. The specific activities and expected results of ICAT Phase I are then described in more detail. In the final chapter, the report takes a forward-looking approach to outline how the results of the activities developed under ICAT Phase I could impact the national reporting/transparency framework in Guinea.

1.1 The country context

The Republic of Guinea is a coastal country in West Africa. In 2022, the country's population was 13.53 million. As the country's largest employer, the agriculture sector plays a key role in poverty reduction and rural development, providing income for 57% of rural households, and employment for 52% of the labor force. Rice is a major culture of the country. The different types of forest formations originally covered 13,189,000 ha, or 54% of the national territory. Forest ecosystems and their resources undergo a generalized degradation process due to anthropogenic and climatic factors. The degradation is particularly pronounced at mining sites, agricultural areas, and around large agglomerations. This is reflected by a drastic reduction in forest areas, biodiversity, and agricultural soil fertility. Climate change has serious implications for all aspects of food security and nutrition, through its impact on the availability of water, crops, livestock, forests, fisheries, and the ecosystems in general.[1]

The Paris Agreement (PA) became effective in 2020, five years after its adoption in Paris during the COP21 of the UNFCCC. Science regularly demonstrates the extent of the collective efforts to be made to achieve the overall purpose and long-term temperature goals set out in Article 2 of the Paris Agreement of holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C.

The Republic of Guinea ratified the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol, and the Paris Agreement in 1993, 2005, and 2016 respectively. Since then, Guinea has developed different climate change reports, including its Initial National Communication in 2001 (based on 1994 emissions data) and its Second National Communication (based on 2000 emissions data). The Republic of Guinea developed its National Action Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change (NAPA) in 2007 and initiated several projects to implement this plan. The country is also currently engaged in the process of drafting its Third National Communication (TCN) and its First Biennial Updated Report, which should be completed in 2023 and 2024 respectively. Recently, the government decided to establish a National Committee for Climate Change. Its exact composition and role still need to be defined but this Committee will be ultimately responsible for overseeing and guiding the strategic actions taken by Guinea to tackle climate change.

The Republic of Guinea, after having ratified the Paris Agreement, reaffirmed and strengthened its commitment to contribute to the global response against the threat of climate change through the revision of its NDC submitted in July 2021.

[1] International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), 2021. L'avenir de l'agriculture en Guinée: 2030-2063.

As part of the work on the TCN, a third greenhouse gas inventory based on 2018 emissions data was developed in the first half of 2021. This greenhouse gas inventory constitutes the basis of the reference data for the review of the NDC. The reference year of the NDC 2021 is thus the year 2018. The sectors considered are energy - including industries (mining), households, and transport -, waste, agriculture, industrial processes, and forestry.

The emissions from the different sectors estimated in the third greenhouse gas inventory are as follow:

Sector	2018 Emissions (ktCO2eq)
Energy (including Transport)	3,863
Waste	298
Agriculture	7,537
IPPU	136
TOTAL (excluding LULUCF)	11,834

The mitigation target of the NDC is established as a relative reduction of GHG emissions by 2030 in different sectors of the economy compared to projected emissions according to a reference scenario (BAU). The target consists of an unconditional contribution and a conditional contribution. Given the different methodologies used to establish the reference situation between the LULUCF sector and the other sectors, the commitments are treated separately. The Republic of Guinea set its unconditional target at 2,056 ktCO2eq/year, i.e. a 9.7% reduction in its emissions in 2030 compared to the trend scenario (excluding LULUCF). The conditional target stands at 3,929 ktCO2eq/year, i.e. 17.0% compared to the trend scenario (excluding LULUCF). To establish the greenhouse gas projections and mitigation targets, Guinea has used the Greenhouse gas Abatement Cost Model (GACMO). **The ICAT project will include a component on strengthening the capacities of national experts on greenhouse gas emissions modelling and on the use of the GACMO tool.**

The mitigation target of the NDC is then declined into sectoral objectives for energy (electricity production), transport, mines, waste, and LULUCF.

The sectoral commitments made under the NDC will be implemented through the National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES) 2021-2025 and 2026-2030, which is the main planning tool of the Republic of Guinea, developed under the leadership of the Ministry of Planning and in close collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment, Waters, and Forests.

The agriculture sector is the most emitting sector as per the third greenhouse gas inventory. The emissions from this sector are estimated at 7,537 ktCO2eq in 2018, i.e., approximately 63% of the total excluding LULUCF. The emissions from agriculture are divided among the following activities:

Activity	2018 Emissions (ktCO2eq)	% emissions agriculture
Enteric fermentation	5,215	69.2
Manure management	172	2.3
Rice cultivation	0	0
N2O from agricultural soil	2,105	27.9
Field burning of agricultural residues	43	0.6
Total	7,537	100

It has to be noted that emissions from rice cultivation have not been assessed under the third greenhouse gas inventory due to the absence of reliable data.

Considering the importance of the agriculture sector in the total emissions for the country, **this sector will be the object of one of the components of the ICAT project.**

The updated NDC submitted in 2021, acknowledges the importance for the Republic of Guinea to increase its capacities and prepare for the new reporting modalities that will become mandatory in 2024. Those include the preparation and submission of the Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) that countries must submit from 2024. The 2021 NDC already included some improvements such as:

- Clarity on quantifiable information about the target(s) baseline, including a baseline year.
- Clarity on implementation timelines and/or periods, scope and scope, and planning processes.
- Clarity on the assumptions and methodological approaches used to estimate and account for GHG emissions.
- Explanations to say how the NDC is fair and ambitious, and how it contributes to the global 2°C objective.
- Improvement in the data quality making it possible to establish the baseline situation in terms of GHG emissions and the assumptions used for the construction of the scenarios.
- Definition of sector indicators and quantified targets for all the commitments made.

Other advances have been made in recent years to improve the national transparency framework in the country. The Statistics Law adopted in 2014 and the regular publication of statistical directories published by the National Institute of Statistics have strengthened national data-sharing processes and data quality. The Republic of Guinea is currently conducting, as part of the development of its TCN and its BUR1, a process to improve the greenhouse gas inventory system and the skills of the team in charge of the inventory. A team responsible for the development of the inventory has been established within the "Direction Nationale des Pollutions, Nuisances et Changements Climatiques" (DNPNCC) under the Ministry for the Environment and Sustainable Development. This team includes sectoral focal points who collect and compile relevant data for preparing the inventory in their respective sector. In addition, a network of climate focal points / climate referents within the sectoral Ministries has been established. The mandate of the focal points is, among other things, to contribute to collecting data with a view to carrying out greenhouse gas inventories. Nevertheless, to date, there is still no robust and centralized MRV system and processes for Guinea's NDC. Such a system remains to be built, building it up on the monitoring of the implementation of the PNDES.

Significant challenges remain for the Republic of Guinea to apply all the provisions provided for Decision 1/CP.21, Decision 18/CMA1, or Decision 5/CMA3. To this end, it requires the support of the international community to strengthen its capacities. Among the urgent challenges which remain to be overcome, we can mention:

1) Strengthening the system for producing and updating national GHG inventories.
2) Strengthening the institutional framework for implementing and monitoring the climate actions and commitments made under the NDC.
3) Establishing a legal framework to enforce the operationalization of the transparency system.

4) Strengthening the capacities for the ex-post monitoring and evaluation of the commitments made under the NDC, including the review of the specific indicators and targets stated in the 2021 NDC for each commitment.
5) Establishing a system and processes for monitoring the support received under the NDC.
6) Improving the consistency of public policies on climate action, and the transversal integration of the objectives of the NDC in all the public policies and sectoral strategies concerned.

As of now, there are no international projects under implementation in Guinea supporting the strengthening of its national climate transparency framework. In this context, it is expected that the ICAT project that will support the Republic of Guinea in addressing some of the challenges listed above, in particular the numbers 1, 2, 4, and 5, can make a significant contribution in building national capacities on those topics.

2. Objective of the ICAT project in the Republic of Guinea:

The ICAT project in Guinea aims to strengthen national capacities for the development and monitoring of the NDC from an institutional and methodological point of view, as well as for the preparation of the biennial transparency reports based on the existing national context.

In this sense, the ICAT project is developed around 4 main components whose aim is to respond to some of the challenges identified in the NDC.

An overview of each component is provided below:

2.1 Analysing and identifying institutional arrangements that will enable effective and sustainable data sharing.

Although a basic institutional structure for carrying out GHG inventories has been put in place with the establishment of a network of climate focal points / climate referents within the sectoral Ministries, the country does not yet have any institutional arrangements enabling it to institutionalize neither the implementation and monitoring of climate action and commitments made under the NDC, nor the systematic preparation of national reports such as national communications or BURs/BTRs.

The objective of this ICAT component is to establish a proposal for institutional arrangements for a national MRV system in Guinea. An analysis of the current national context will be carried out with regard to the institutional framework and the legal framework for the MRV of policies and actions. The objective is to identify the gaps that need to be filled to build an effective and sustainable national MRV/transparency system. Based on the previous analysis, a mapping of existing relevant institutions that will play a role in the institutional arrangement to implement the MRV system will be developed, including recommendations to improve existing institutional arrangements and processes.

2.2 Capacity building of national experts on the use of the GACMO tool for establishing mitigation scenarios and monitoring mitigation options in the context of the NDC.

The emissions scenarios developed for the energy (including transport) and waste sectors in the last NDC were established using the GACMO tool. However, there is no long-term established expertise on the use of this tool.

The objective of this ICAT component is to train a pool of national experts who will be able to use the GACMO tool so as to be able to update the emission scenarios. The use of GACMO as a tool for monitoring specific mitigation actions will also be considered.

2.3 Strengthening the methodological framework for monitoring actions and policies identified in the context of the NDC.

The updated 2021 NDC includes a few indicators and specific mitigation targets for each commitment. However, to date, there is still no robust and centralized monitoring, reporting, and evaluation mechanism for the NDC of the Republic of Guinea.

The objective of this ICAT component is to define specific indicators allowing the monitoring of the implementation of energy policies (from a GHG point of view) as well as the monitoring of its impacts on sustainable development, also taking into account the PNDES. The work will be based on the use of the ICAT Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development methodologies.

2.4 Capacity building for the collection of GHG inventory data and improvement of the AFOLU component of the CDN

The Republic of Guinea is committed to improving its national transparency framework, so as to be able to prepare and submit its first biennial report on transparency and its national inventory report, by December 31, 2024 at the latest.

The objective of this ICAT component is to build the capacities of a pool of national experts on the new modalities, procedures, and guidance linked to the development of biennial transparency reports as well as on the methodologies for the development of greenhouse gas inventories (IPCC2006 methodology and QA/QC).

Moreover, the calculation of accurate and reliable estimates of emissions from the AFOLU sector, which is the main emitting sector in Guinea, still has many gaps.

As part of the objective of this ICAT component, the project will work on updating the agriculture component of Guinea's NDC by identifying the needs in terms of missing data for the agriculture sector, by estimating the emissions linked to agriculture activities not quantified in the NDC, and by establishing a plan for improving the compilation, management and archiving of agriculture sectoral data for an inter-ministerial purpose.

At the end of the ICAT project, the Republic of Guinea should have strengthened its institutional and methodological capacities to prepare biennial transparency reports as well as its greenhouse gas

inventories, and should have improved the quality of the emission estimations for the agriculture component of its NDC.

These results will be reflected in a number of ICAT KPIs, supporting the impact of ICAT Guinea as part of the ICAT initiative. Those KPIs include:

- KPI 5 :

ICAT Guinea implements a refined GHG inventory (KPI 5a), a refined MRV framework (KPI 5b), and a refined NDC tracking framework (KPI 5 c).

- KPI 6:

ICAT methodologies, guides and tools, such as GAMCO and the ICAT assessment guides, will be used as a part of this project to impact climate actions and policies.

- KPI 11:

The project is expected to involve political will and local ownership (KPI 11 a) and should result in improved knowledge and awareness of climate action transparency, as well as increased capacity for climate action transparency (KPI 11 c & d). Concordantly, evidence of effectiveness is shared among ministries through the use of successful country examples (KPI 11 e), while ensuring activities are sustainable (KPI 11 f).