

Validation Workshop Report
Barriers and Gaps hindering
data and information
sharing

Initiative for Climate Action Transparency - ICAT

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AUTHORS

Environment Strategy Group

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Table of Contents

Table of Contents	3
1 Introduction	4
1.1 Aims and objectives	5
2 Main findings or outcomes	5
2.1 Session 1: Opening of the workshop	5
2.2 Session 2: Presentation of the report	5
2.3 Session 3: Strategic Discussion	6
3 Summary of discussion	6
Annex A	8
Annex B	9
Annex C	10

Introduction

Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) project in the Maldives is a project implemented by the Ministry of Environment Climate Change and Technology (MoECCT) in partnership with UNEP CCC and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). The aim of this initiative is to strengthen national institutions to meet enhanced transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement. MECCT is working to enhance the Measuring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system to meet the transparency requirement of the Paris Agreement. Accordingly, the Maldives has periodically submitted relevant reports including GHG inventory to the UNFCCC; for instance, three inventories were submitted under the First and Second National Communications, the first BUR which was submitted in 2019.

At sectoral level, mitigation action in the Maldives is focused on three main sectors: Energy, Waste, and Transport. Under this project, more focus is given to improving the MRV processes of the waste sector. It specifically focuses on enhancing the data collection and data management procedures and methods. This is essential since emissions from waste have been identified as a key category in all the national greenhouse gas inventories.

The Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology is mandated as the key entity to improve the emissions estimates. It is also the authority to report climate actions under the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) of the Paris Agreement. Nationwide, significant changes are being brought under the waste management sector. Waste management and data collection are carried out at several levels, regional and local levels. The data and information collected need to cater to the requirements under the ETF to increase the transparency for climate actions. A strategy or a road map is required for creating the best enabling environment for continuous data reporting and data sharing in the waste sector to support improving the transparency reporting process.

As part of the scope of work, ESG Consultants have carried out an assessment on “barriers and gaps hindering data and information sharing”, which was submitted to MoECCT. A validation workshop was held on 13 June 2023 to finalize the findings. This is the report of the workshop summarizing the discussions.

Aims and objectives

The main aim of the validation workshop was to validate the findings of the assessment on “barriers and gaps hindering data and information sharing”. Other objectives of the workshop are as follows

- Receive feedback from the key stakeholders
- Provide avenues for engagement and discussion between the stakeholders on issues of data collection and sharing.

Main findings or outcomes

Key stakeholders were invited for a half day validation workshop that was held at MoECCT. The agenda of the workshop is attached in Annex A. A total of 16 participants attended the workshop (Annex C).

Session 1: Opening of the workshop

The workshop was introduced by Project Coordinator Ms. Zainab Gulistan, who highlighted the importance of the workshop and thanked the stakeholders for their time and effort in providing input to the consultants. Ms. Gulistan also shed light on the need for data collection and management within the waste sector to ensure Maldives national greenhouse gas inventory reports are more accurate. She also highlighted that the national emissions estimates need to be made more accurate and to improve accuracy, data from the sectors need to be collected in a more systematic manner. The effort of data collection will not only contribute to enhance the national emission estimates, but also will contribute for better planning of the sectors in the future.

Session 2: Presentation of the report

The report entitled “barriers and gaps hindering data and information sharing”, was presented by Mr. Mareer Mohamed Husny, the Waste Management Specialist from ESG. He presented the main findings of the assessment through literature review and stakeholder consultations. The presentation is attached in annex B. Among other important findings, Mr. Husny highlighted the following key main findings.

- Lack of focus on waste data collection and sharing of the information, as more focus is currently given on waste management and disposal.
- There are gaps and overlaps within the existing policies and legal instruments, to properly address these data collection and sharing issues.
- Lack of human resources and equipment for data collection at the islands’ waste management centers.
- The existing data collection platform, KOBOTOOLBOX is at an early stage after trail testing and room for improvement, with training and wider use of this toolbox by other

stakeholders rather than establishing a new platform.

Session 3: Strategic Discussion

The consultant Mr. Mareer Mohamed Husny facilitated strategic discussion with three guiding questions. The stakeholders hence engaged based on the guiding questions as discussed below.

1. Are there any gaps that need to be included?
2. In a scenario where finance is readily available can we address these gaps? If not, what are the main challenges?
3. How can these gaps be bridged?

Summary of discussion

The points from the open-ended roundtable discussion are summarized below.

- There is a need for lessons learnt from the islands with good waste management practices to identify the gaps associated with data collection and sharing.
- There is a need to consult with informal parties such as Parley Maldives, Secure Bag and other NGOs that deal with the waste export in the Maldives. These companies operated under the company act which is led by the Ministry of Economic Development.
- There is no further addition to the current gaps and needs for data collection and sharing.
- Participants highlighted that one of the significant barriers for reduced sharing and collection of data is due to lack of collaboration between major key stakeholders. Underutilization of administrative staff within the council; they can be used as focal points who would regularly report on waste generated on the island.
- It was also discussed that the quality of data will improve with overall increase in training and awareness on importance and use of data for planning and development needs.
- Participants also appreciated that there is an increased awareness of the importance of data. There are two major developments related to waste, where waste-to-energy plants are installed in two different locations. They highlighted that data is important for development, assessment of feasibility, operation and maintenance of such projects.
- A simple data collection mechanism needs to be installed to ensure that there is less mistake and data bias. Currently KoboTool was developed with assistance from a World Bank funded project. This tool was demonstrated in the workshop by Maldives Clean Environment Project staff.
- There is a general understanding that, since this tool is already developed and tested, training for use of this tool is needed for other stakeholders, especially for WAMCO and other service providers since they currently do not have proper data collection software.

Annex A: Agenda



Workshop on Barriers and Gaps hindering data and information sharing

Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) Maldives project

Agenda

13 June 2023 | 1000 – 1200 hrs | Auditorium, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology

Time	Description	Responsible person
1000 – 1005	Opening of the workshop	MoECCT
1005 – 1030	Presentation of the Report	ESG Consultant
1030 – 1155	Strategic discussion	Facilitated by the ESG Consultant
1155	Closing of the workshop and next steps	

Annex B: Presentation

**Barriers and Gaps
hindering data and
information
sharing**

ICAT INITIATIVE FOR
Climate Action
Transparency

UN environment
programme | copenhagen
climate centre

All Shareef (Team Leader)

Mareer Mohamed Husny (Waste Management Specialist)

Agenda

- Our approach
- Barriers and gaps
- Strategic Discussion

Our approach



LITERATURE
REVIEW



STAKEHOLDER
CONSULTATIONS



DRAFTING



VALIDATION

3

Major Stakeholders



EPA



URA



MoECCT



WAMCO

4



-  Policy
-  Institutional
-  Finance
-  Geographic
-  Data collection and information management

5

Policy

• **Legal**

- Waste Management Act 24/2022
- Chapter 12 of the Act
- Regulations under the act are under development

• **Implementation**

- SAP focus on 'dealing' with waste disposal
- Waste Management Policy
- Finance is significant barrier

6

Policy

• Enforcement

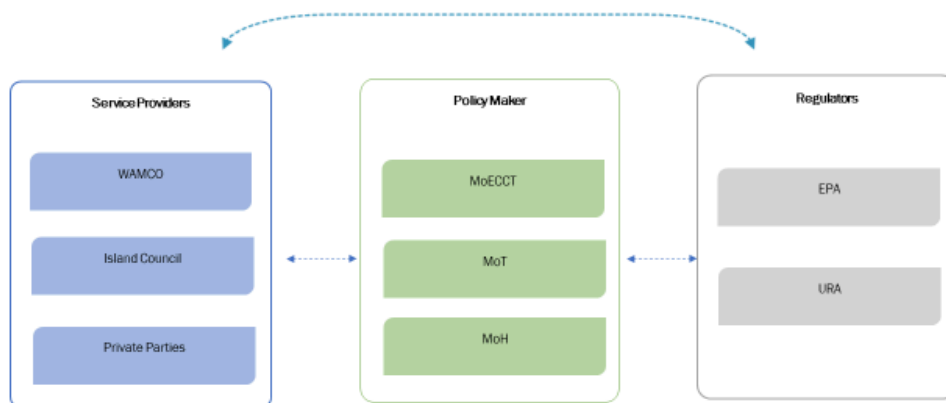
- Who does what is bit unclear on roles and responsibilities
- Agency responsible when pollution is EPA, but regulation of the service providers is URA

• Knowledge

- Lack of depositary or data collection mechanism
- Data collected and stored adhoc or need basis

7

Institutional



8

Institutional

- Mandate overlaps
- Technical capacity within institution
 - Lack of human resources
- Lack of adopted protocols for data collection
 - No waste audits procedures adopted
- Silo operations of institutions

9

Financial

- Limited financing available for waste management
- Waste a huge problem
- Focus on establishing waste mechanism in place
- More finance from donor.. The process is cumbersome and often long

10

Geographic isolation

- Economies of scale
- Removal of legacy waste a problem
- Logistical and transportation costs

11

Data collection and information management

- Waste data not collected regularly or properly
- Thilafushi has a weighing bridge running recently
- No data collection apart from Thilafushi in the Maldives
- KOBOTOOLBOX developed by World Bank funding for data collection and monitoring
- There is no waste collection mechanism within the council (HR capacity – long hours)
- Tourism sector does not have means for segregated data

12

Strategic discussion



Are there any gaps that needs to be included?



A scenario where finance is readily available can we address these gaps? If not, what are the main challenges



How can these gaps bridged?

13

Thank you

Environment Strategy Group

mareer@esg.com.mv

+960 7924244

