Debates and Results of the Kick-off Workshop for the ICAT Samoa Project

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Matagaluega o le Puna'oa Faalenatura ma Siosiomaga

UN environment programme
copenhagen climate centre

ICAT Initiative for Climate Action Transparency

Initiative for Climate Action Transparency - ICAT

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1.0|Introduction

The Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) project was established in 2015 during the Conference of the Parties (COP) that adopted the Paris Agreement. The Paris Agreement introduced the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), requiring countries to provide more robust, detailed, and transparent reporting on their climate actions and progress toward achieving their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Recognizing the capacity challenges many countries face in meeting these requirements, ICAT was designed to support countries in building or enhancing the systems and methodologies needed for effective climate transparency.

This report summarizes the findings and recommendations from the ICAT Inception Workshop held at Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) Conference Room Level 3 on Tuesday 3 December 2024.

2.0|Workshop Objective

The workshop was organized by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) to engage key stakeholders and introduce ICAT activities in Samoa.

The objectives of the workshop were to provide an understanding of the role of ICAT and climate transparency in advancing Samoa's climate goals, discuss the country's climate context, national priorities, and the project's expected outcomes, and assess initial gaps and sectoral needs for Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) systems in climate action. Additionally, the workshop aimed to facilitate group discussions to identify and prioritize sectoral needs for improved climate action tracking.

3.0|Summary of Key Presentations

The presentations included an introduction to ICAT and the role of climate transparency, and an overview of Samoa's climate context and priorities. Key discussions covered the project scope, expected outcomes, and timeline for implementation. Participants engaged in group activities to identify key sectoral priorities for MRV, with outcomes presented in plenary. The event concluded with a wrap-up and closing remarks, followed by lunch. The workshop served as a foundational step in refining Samoa's MRV framework to align with UNFCCC transparency requirements and strengthen climate resilience efforts. All presentations are included in Annex 2.

The presentation by KVAConsult outlined four main types of MRVs i.e. MRV of GHG Emissions, which tracks national inventory and sectoral trends; MRV of Mitigation Actions, which monitors renewable energy adoption, electric vehicle (EV) uptake, and energy efficiency; MRV of Adaptation Actions, which assesses the outcomes of resilience projects and adaptation strategies; and MRV of Support, which tracks financial flows and capacity-building outcomes. Subcategories of MRV systems include sub-national MRV for regional and district-level data, sectoral MRV for sectors like energy, transport, and agriculture, and lifecycle MRV for emissions tracking across product lifecycles.

The development of MRV systems involves several key steps. Institutional arrangements must define roles and responsibilities. Existing processes should be reviewed to identify data sources and current methods. Legislation is essential to establish a legal framework for formalizing MRV systems. Data collection and management should standardize templates and create a central data hub. Verification and quality control are crucial to ensure data accuracy and reliability. Capacity building is needed to train stakeholders on tools and methods. Finally, iterative improvement using feedback can refine these systems over time.

The workshop highlighted MRV system examples from Kenya and Vanuatu. Kenya has achieved successful sectoral integration and data verification processes, while Vanuatu has implemented efficient tracking of renewable energy projects and adaptation strategies.

Samoa's climate action framework includes key commitments and achievements. These include alignment with SDG 13 (Climate Action) and the Pathway for the Development of Samoa (2021–2025), a pending Climate Change Bill to formalize institutional arrangements, the submission of the First Biennial Update Report (BUR) in 2023, an updated GHG inventory for 2021–2022 (pending validation), and NDC targets for renewable energy and emissions reductions.

Samoa's current MRV systems include several mechanisms. The GHG Inventory tracks emissions but lacks a centralized database. Mitigation Actions are tracked on a sector-specific basis, such as EV pilot projects. Adaptation Actions are monitored through Community Integrated Management Plans (CIMPs). Climate finance is tracked by the Ministry of Finance but lacks integration with specific climate finance data.

The MRV system's institutional setup is coordinated across various agencies. GHG Inventory MRV coordination is led by the MNRE Climate Change and GEF Division. Mitigation MRV coordination is linked to NDC implementation by the MNRE Renewable Energy Division. Adaptation MRV coordination is managed by the MNRE with support from divisions like Disaster Management Office. Climate finance MRV coordination is led by the Ministry of Finance.

The workshop identified several gaps and needs in the current MRV framework. Data remains fragmented across ministries, and there is a lack of systematic quality assurance measures. Capacity gaps exist due to insufficient training and resources, and the Climate Change Bill, which will formalize roles and responsibilities, is still under development.

To address these challenges, the workshop recommended several actions. A centralized MRV system should be developed to integrate data from all sectors. Capacity building should provide stakeholders with the necessary training and resources. The Climate Change Bill should be finalized and implemented to provide clear mandate for data collection and processes. Continuous improvement should be encouraged through feedback from BURs and GHG inventories.

4.0|Feedback from Group Discussions

Group discussions explored several key questions. These included the necessity and scope of a centralized MRV system, sector-specific training and resource needs, priorities for legal reforms, the adequacy of institutional frameworks, and the allocation of limited funding across priorities. A summary of feedback is outlined in Table 1 below:

Key Question	AFOLU	Energy	Waste
Centralised System Do we need a national MRV hub to integrate data from all sectors, and what should it include?	Yes, we do!	Yes, a national MRV hub is essential.	Yes, absolutely!
	- **Data**: Land loss, sea level rise, land degradation, land use mapping	- Should integrate data from all sectors (e.g., transport, electricity).	- Centralised database integrating all sectors.
	- **Stakeholders**: MNRE (DEC, Waste, MET, Climate Change, Forestry, RE, Water), MAF, NGOs, private sectors	- Cover targets, progress, baselines, and mapping data flows into national communications.	- Quarterly MNRE steering committee reviews.
	- **Projects**: Kobo Toolbox for site-specific data		- Online platform to streamline updates, data input, and sharing.
	- **Targets**: Review Samoa's 2nd NDC targets		- Engage third-party verification processes.
	- **Data Sharing**: Strengthen cross-sectoral sharing mechanisms.		
Training Needs Is additional training and resourcing for stakeholders necessary to enhance data collection, reporting, and verification processes? Provide examples per sector.	- Comprehensive training at all levels.	- Training for sector coordination focal points.	- Yes, training is critical.
	- Climate Change courses (short-term).	- Data-specific criteria.	- Address gaps like GHG calculations.
	- IT personnel training.	- Data collection, analysis, and MRV tool usage.	- Train waste providers and sector coordinators.
	- Standardised templates for MRV requirements.	- Clear sector ownership of datasets.	- Provide training for all data providers.
	- Data analysis skills.	- SBS data integration for stakeholders.	
Legal Framework Is implementing the Climate Change Bill essential for strengthening MRV systems, and what should be prioritized?	- Yes, it is crucial.	- Yes, enact a Climate Change Bill and policy/regulatory framework.	- Include reporting and monitoring within the Waste Management Act to enforce effective processes.
	- Clarify sector roles and responsibilities.	- Prioritize enforcement via SBS sector coordination and MOUs.	
	- Ensure the framework is legally binding.	- Foster partnerships and awareness.	

Institutional Frameworks Are the existing institutional frameworks for MRVs in Samoa adequate, or do they need changes to better support national climate goals?	Adequate as is.	- Institutional frameworks need enhancement.	- Establish a waste sector.
		- Emphasize structured collaboration and incentives.	- Improve reliability of waste data (e.g., medical waste).
			- Strengthen district-level enforcement (DDP Plan).
Prioritisation If funding is limited, what should be prioritized—centralizing data, capacity building, legal reforms, or enhancing stakeholder participation and feedback mechanisms?	1. Training and capacity building.	- Centralized data systems via MNRE.	- Focus on a National Waste Segregation Program.
	2. Centralised systems.		- Consolidate sectors under designated focal points before developing a central database.
	3. Institutional frameworks.		
	4. Stakeholder participation.		
	5. Legal frameworks.		

Table 1: Workshop Group Feedback

5.0|Conclusions

All sectors emphasized the need for a centralized MRV hub to integrate data from various stakeholders. This includes creating comprehensive databases, facilitating regular reviews, and streamlining data-sharing mechanisms. Specific requirements include land degradation and use mapping (AFOLU), sub-sectoral data integration (Energy), and an online platform with third-party verification processes (Waste).

Training is critical across sectors to enhance data collection, reporting, and verification processes. Key needs include capacity building for IT personnel, sector coordination focal points, and waste providers. Standardized templates and tools for MRV processes and data analysis are also highlighted.

Implementing a Climate Change Bill is viewed as essential to strengthen MRV systems. Recommendations include establishing legal clarity on roles and responsibilities, enforcing regulatory frameworks, and fostering partnerships to ensure compliance and accountability. While existing institutional frameworks are deemed adequate, improvements are necessary to better support climate goals. Suggested enhancements include structured collaboration, incentives for stakeholders, and the establishment of a dedicated waste sector to address data reliability and enforcement gaps.

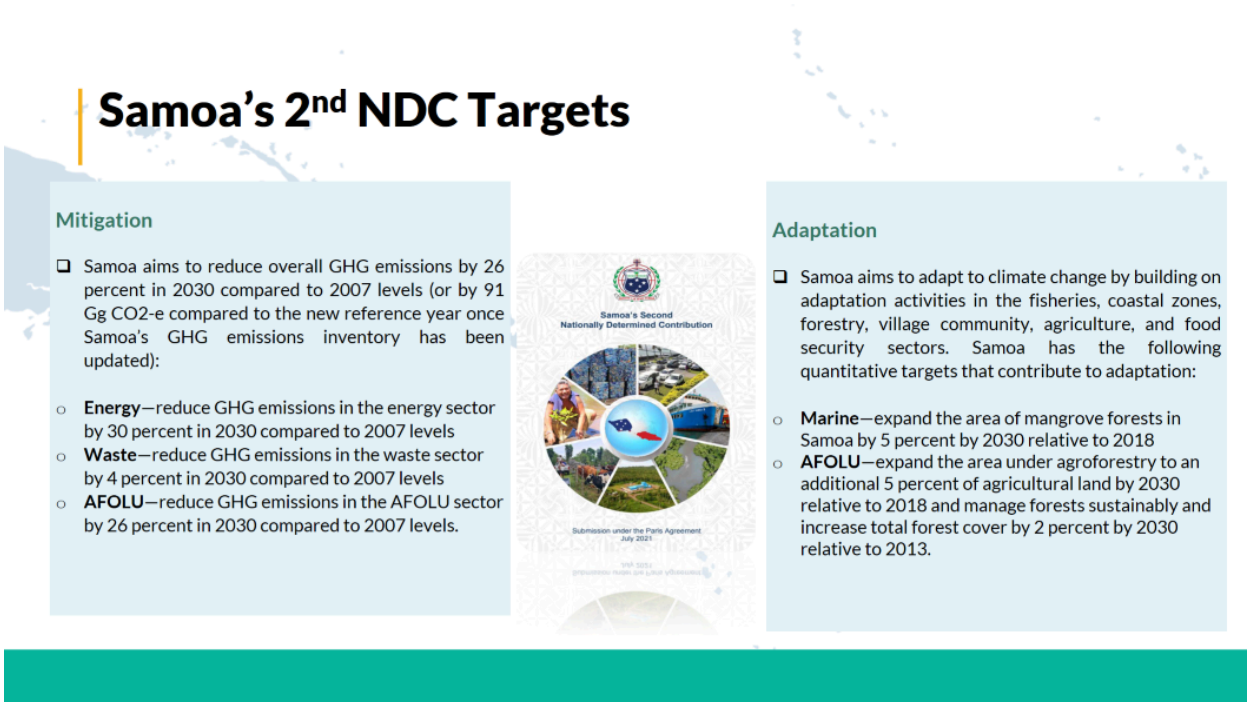
In scenarios of limited funding, the focus should be on foundational elements such as training and

capacity building, centralized data systems, enhancing stakeholder participation, and implementing a National Waste Segregation Program. These measures are critical to ensuring progress toward Samoa's climate goals.

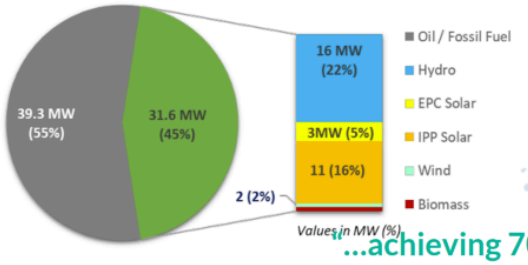
In conclusion, the workshop prioritized actions to establish a centralized MRV data hub, enhance capacity through targeted training programs, accelerate the passage of the essential legislation such as the Climate Change Bill, and foster stakeholder participation and feedback mechanisms.

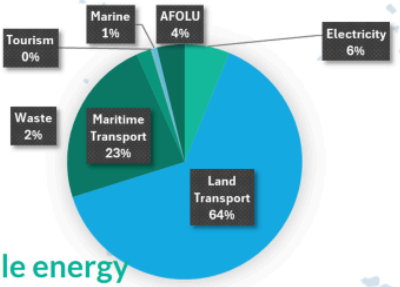
Annex 1: Workshop Presentations

MNRE – Toiata Uili



Current Status, Policies & Investment Needs





...achieving 70% renewable energy use by the end of 2031"...

Total Investment needs: USD $135,413,598

Way Forward

Detailed Assessment of Carbon Offset Projects

- Identify and list verified carbon offset projects (national) that users can contribute to.
- Establish mechanisms for project verification, monitoring, and reporting to ensure transparency.

App Design and Development

- Design and develop a mobile app that allows users to calculate their carbon footprint, purchase carbon offsets, and track their contributions.
- Seamless integration with national carbon registries for verified carbon offset projects.
- Build functionalities for secure payments and donation tracking, in line with national payment systems and regulations.

Reporting and Analytics

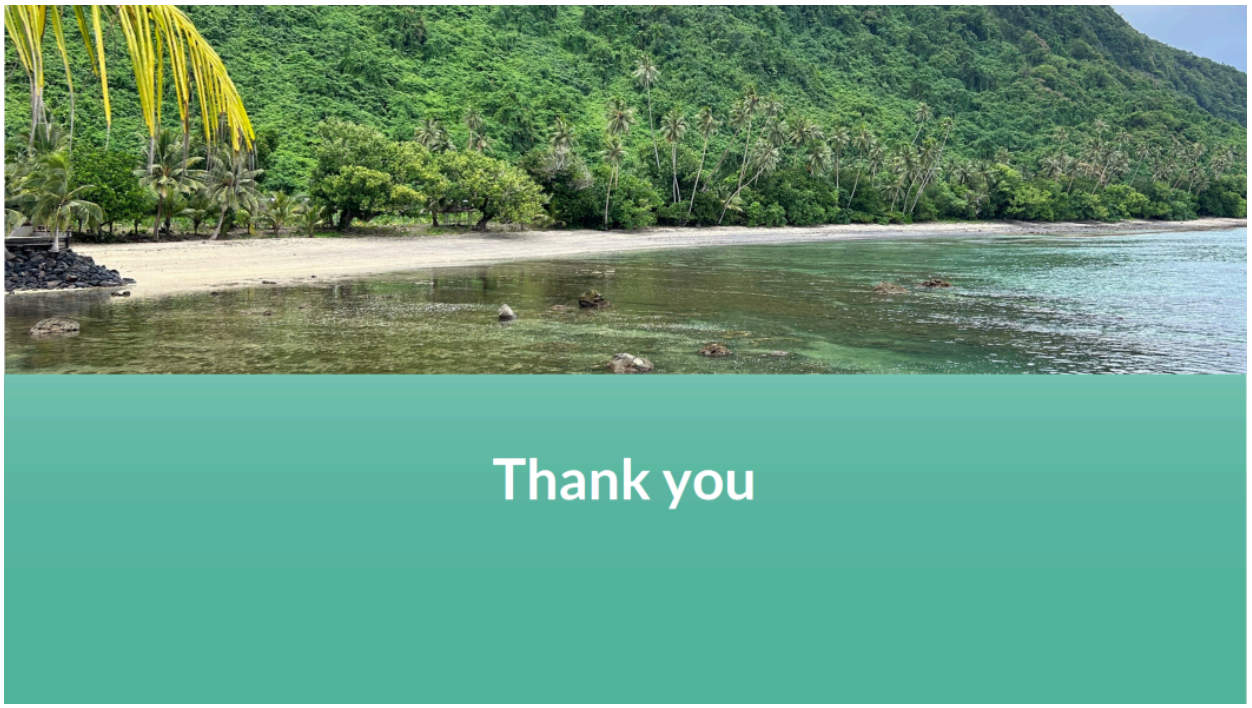
- Develop back-end systems for real-time reporting on carbon offsets, program participation, and project funding.
- Create dashboards for government and program administrators to monitor app performance and impact.
- Create a plan for monitoring and evaluation to assess the success of the program

Public Engagement, Awareness and Program Launch

- Educate the public on the importance of carbon offsets.
- Provide interactive tools for users to assess their carbon footprint across various

Expected Launch of Program Q2-2025.

Samoa's National Carbon Offset Program


Thank you


INCEPTION
WORKSHOP
ICAT project
Samoa
Celeste Gonzalez , Programme Officer
03-12-2024
ICAT

Contents

1 Who is ICAT?
2 Why ICAT?
3 What ICAT does?

Who is ICAT?


Who is ICAT?
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Donors
Federal Ministry Republic of Austria Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology
Environment and Climate Change Canada
Environnement et Changement climatique Canada
IKI
CHILDREN'S INVESTMENT FUND FOUNDATION
Hosted by
UNOPS
Implementing Partners
UN environment programme
UNOPS
WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE
ghg management institute
ISPRA
FOKABS
RICARDO
CCAP
CITEPA
GAUSS
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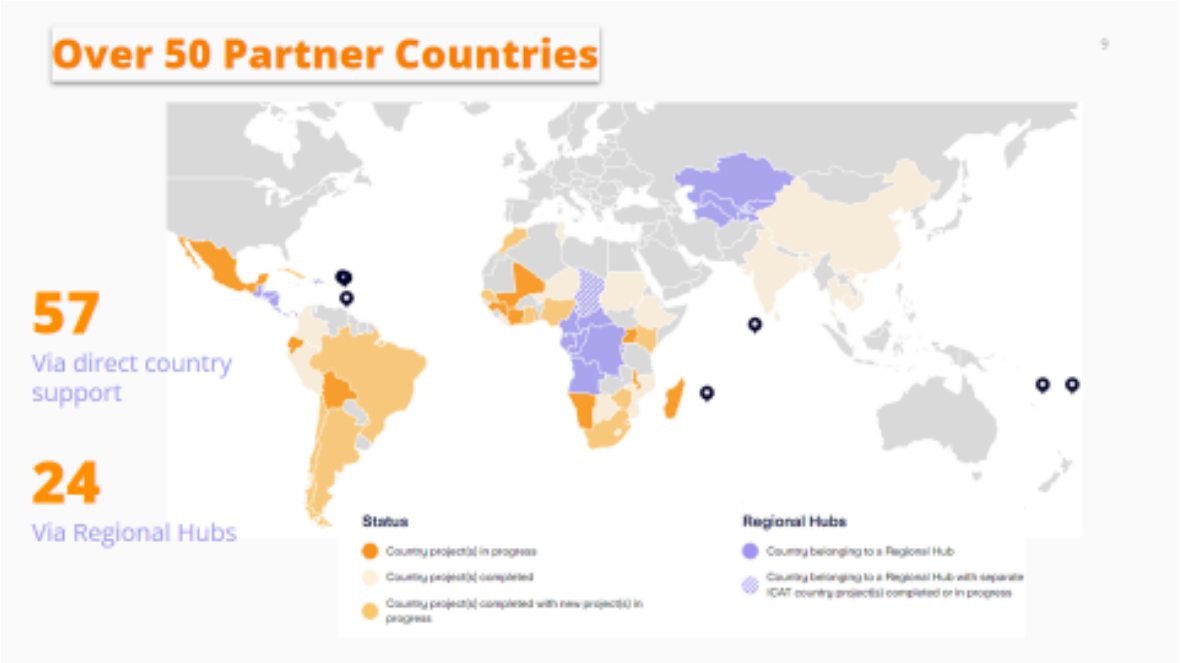
Regional Partners
carec
CCAD
SICA
Supporting Partners
United Nations Climate Change
NEW CLIMATE INSTITUTE


Over 50 Partner Countries
9
57
Via direct country support
24
Via Regional Hubs
Status
Country project(s) in progress
Country project(s) completed
Country project(s) completed with new project(s) in progress
Regional Hubs
Country belonging to a Regional Hub
Country belonging to a Regional Hub with separate ICAT country project(s) completed or in progress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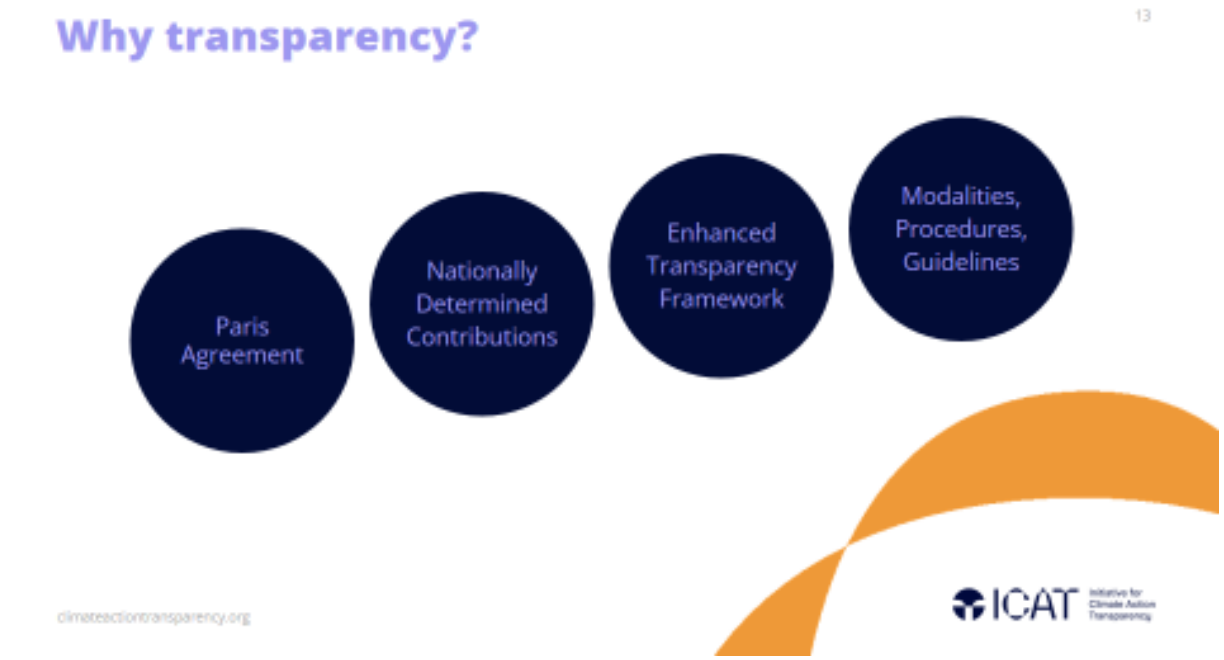
The need for climate action transparency
ICAT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Why transparency?
Paris Agreement
Nationally Determined Contributions
Enhanced Transparency Framework
Modalities, Procedures, Guidelines
climateactiontransparency.org
ICAT


Why transparency?
15
1
Global Objectives
2
Evidence-based Policymaking
3
Implementation
4
NDC Tracking
climateactiontransparency.org
ICAT


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Thank you!
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ICAT

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1 Project Scope
2 Implementation framework
3 Implementation timeline
4 Implementation Specifics
5 Expected outcomes

ICAT Initiative for Climate Action Transparency

Project Scope

Project aims:

to support the Government of Samoa in establishing a comprehensive **framework for tracking Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)** in both mitigation and adaptation actions.

Focus:

This initiative focuses on developing a robust MRV system that aligns with international standards under the Paris Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF).

ICAT Initiative for Climate Action Transparency

Implementation framework

Technical coordinating partner:

UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre (UNEP CCC) will provide technical guidance and expertise throughout the project's implementation.

In collaboration with:

- the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Samoa (MNRE)
- relevant national and local institutions
- local and international experts (consultants)
- stakeholders from the private sector and civil society

ICAT Initiative for Climate Action Transparency

Implementation timeline

	Primary outputs of the ICAT-Samoa Project	Implementation timeline
Output 1.	Gaps and need assessment of climate change reporting requirements at international and national level	Oct. 2024 to Dec. 2024
Output 2.	Impact assessment of selected policies and actions for tracking progress of NDC implementation with the GACMO tool	Dec. 2024 to Feb. 2025
Output 3.	GHG impact assessment of selected mitigation policies/actions in the energy sector – including the design of a monitoring plan	Mar. 2025 to May 2025
Output 4.	Sustainable Development **OR** Transformational Change impact assessment **of one selected policy/action** – including the design of a monitoring plan	June 2025 to Sep. 2025
Output 5.	Establishment of an NDC tracking framework for adaptation actions in a selected subsector (Marine [Coastal region] and AFOLU)	Oct. 2024 to July 2025
Output 6.	The project outputs validated in a stakeholder workshop	Aug. 2025 to Sep. 2025

Implementation specifics

Output #1

Initial stakeholder consultations and desk reviews

Output #2

Compilation of existing data to be used in training for the application of the GACMO model

Output #3

Compilation of relevant data to be used in training for the application of the ICAT RE Methodology

Implementation specifics

Output #4

Compilation of relevant data to be used in training for the application of the ICAT SD **or** TC Methodology

Output #5

Mapping of existing M&E priorities & systems based on initial consultations and desk reviews

Follow-up consultations to develop an M&E framework for the tracking of prioritised adaptation action (based on NDC and NAP*)

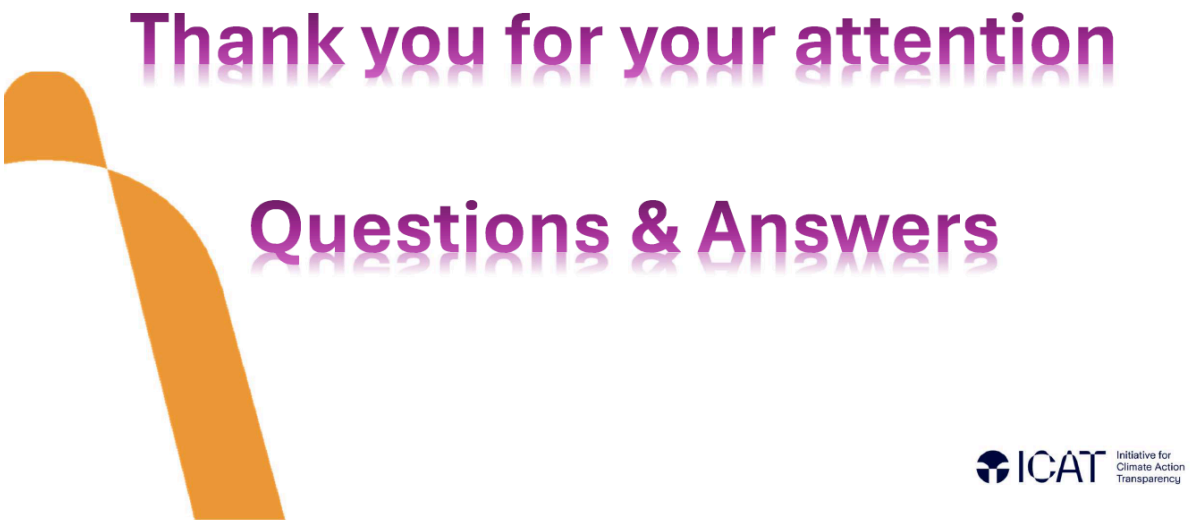
Output #6

Stakeholder Validation of all project outputs (national workshop)

Expected outcomes

- Capacity Building and Training
  - Develop a comprehensive understanding of various tools from the ICAT toolkit
- Stakeholder Engagement and Knowledge Sharing
  - Involving the active participation of all relevant sectors – ensuring context
- Policy and MRV Framework Improvement
  - Guide the development and improvement of current and future policies through the improvement of national MRV systems
- Use of ICAT Methodologies
  - Develop and understanding of the ICAT methodologies and application in Samoa
- Transformational Change
  - Putting in place the necessary elements to support positive change that is transformational

ICAT Initiative for Climate Action Transparency



ICAT Samoa Inception Workshop

INITIAL GAPS AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

3 DECEMBER 2025, MNRE LEVEL 3 TATTE BUILDING

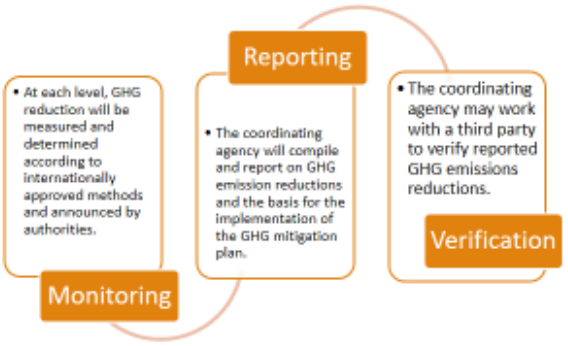
OVERVIEW

1. Introduction to ICAT Project & MRV
2. Types of MRV Systems
3. Key Steps for MRV Development
4. Examples of MRVs in Vanuatu & Kenya
5. Approach to Mapping Existing MRV in Samoa
6. Samoa Climate Action Framework
7. Samoa MRV Systems
8. Example of Key Sources of Data for GHG Inventory MRV
9. Samoa Climate Framework Institutional Setup
10. MRV Specific Institutional Setup
11. Strengths of Current MRV Framework
12. Identified Gaps and Needs
13. Path Forward
14. Group Work & Discussion

INTRODUCTION

ICAT Samoa Project Overview:

- ❑Established in 2015 to support countries under the Paris Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF).
- ❑Focuses on capacity building for robust MRV systems to align with NDC requirements.
- ❑Role of KVAConsult: Project Coordinator & CC Adaptation Specialist to support MNRE



TYPES OF MRV SYSTEMS

MRV of GHG Emissions: Regular updates to national inventory and integration of sectoral trends.

MRV of Mitigation Actions: Real-time tracking of renewable energy, EV adoption, and efficiency measures.

MRV of Adaptation Actions: Monitor outcomes of resilience projects and adaptation strategies.

MRV of Support: Comprehensive tracking of financial flows and capacity-building outcomes.

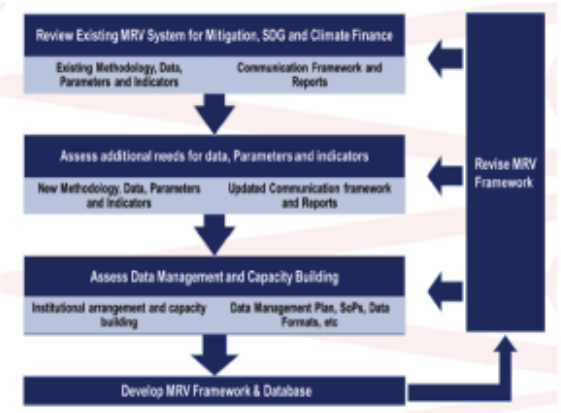
Subcategories:

- Sub-national MRV (regional/district-level data).
- Sectoral MRV (e.g., energy, transport, agriculture).
- Lifecycle MRV (product lifecycle emissions tracking).

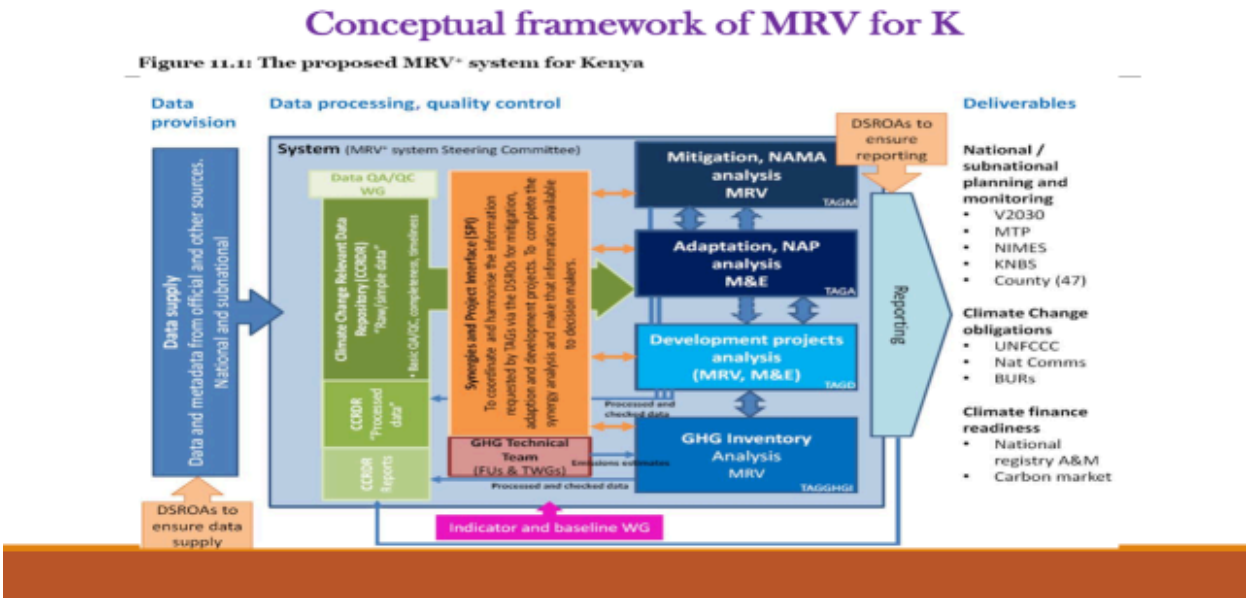
KEY STEPS TO DEVELOP MRV SYSTEMS

Key Steps to Develop MRV Systems

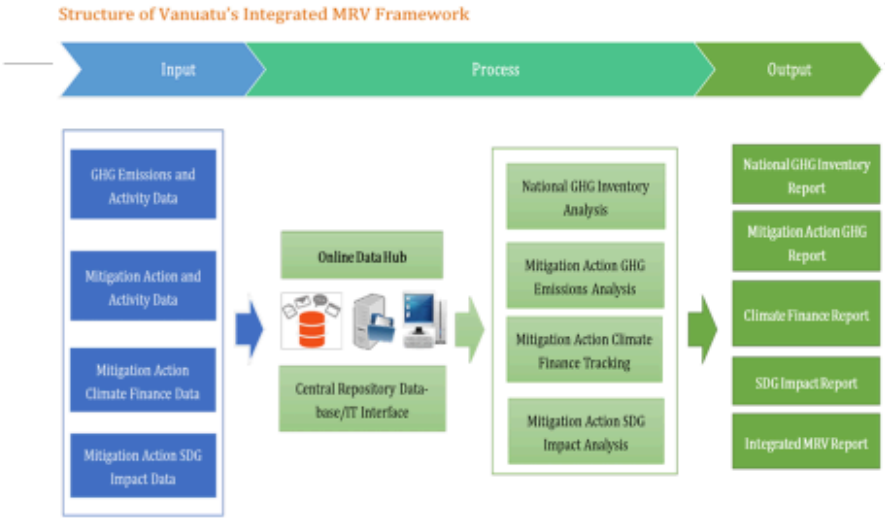
1. **Institutional Arrangements:** Define roles and responsibilities for MRV implementation.
2. **Review Existing Processes:** Identify data sources and assess current monitoring methods.
3. **Legislation:** Establish legal frameworks to formalize MRV systems.
4. **Data Collection and Management:** Standardize templates and protocols; create a central data hub.
5. **Verification and Quality Control:** Regular reviews to ensure data accuracy and reliability.
6. **Capacity Building:** Train stakeholders on tools, reporting methods, and data analysis.
7. **Iterative Improvement:** Incorporate feedback for continuous system refinement.



KENYA MRV EXAMPLE



VANUATU MRV EXAMPLE



APPROACH TO MAPPING EXISTING MRVs

Collaborative Process:

- Comprehensive review of climate-related plans, NDC updates, and sector strategies.
- Identified existing MRV mechanisms and their alignment with national targets.
- Categorized indicators into two types:
  - **GHG Indicators:** Emissions reductions (e.g., renewable energy, EV usage).
  - **Non-GHG Indicators:** Resilience and adaptation (e.g., disaster risk management, community awareness).

Stakeholder Validation:

- Draft matrix shared with sector coordinators for review and feedback.
- Stakeholder input needed to better capture formal and informal MRVs for identified mitigation and adaptation indicators

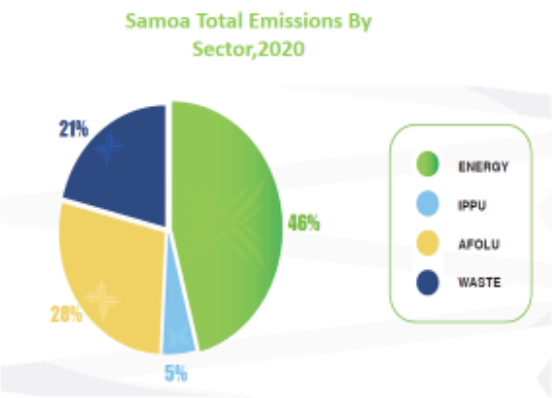
SAMOA CLIMATE ACTION FRAMEWORK

Commitments to Climate Action:

- ❑ Aligning with SDG 13 (Climate Action) and the Pathway for the Development of Samoa (PDS) 2021–2025.
- ❑ Pending Climate Change Bill to formalize institutional arrangements and MRV compliance.
- ❑ Climate Change Policy 2020–2030 integrates mitigation, adaptation, and resilience goals.

Recent Achievements:

- ❑ Submission of First Biennial Update Report (BUR) in 2023.
- ❑ Updated GHG inventory for 2021–2022 (pending validation).
- ❑ NDC targets for renewable energy, energy efficiency, and emission reductions.



SAMOA MRV SYSTEMS

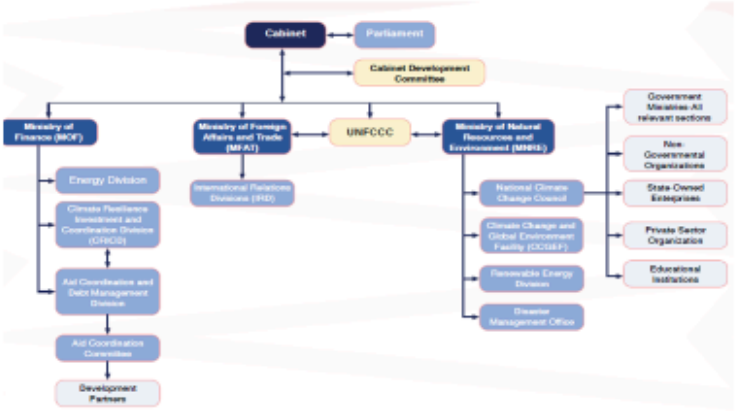
Existing Mechanisms:

1. **GHG Inventory:** Tracks emissions but lacks a centralized database.
2. **Mitigation Actions:** Sector-specific tracking (e.g., EV pilots, renewable energy adoption).
3. **Adaptation Actions:** Community Integrated Management Plans (CIMPs) monitor local resilience.
4. **Climate Finance:** MoF tracks funding but lacks integration with specific climate finance data.

KEY SOURCES OF DATA: MRV GHG INVENTORY

Energy Sector	IPPU Sector	AFOLU Sector	Waste Sector
Electric Power Corporation (EPC)	Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Labour	MNRE – Forestry Division	MNRE – Division of Environment and Conservation
Land Transport Authority (LTA)	Samoa Chamber of Commerce	MAF – Livestock Division	MOH
MNRE- Renewable Energy Division	Samoa Association of Manufacturers and Exporters	MAF – Crop Division	Samoa Recyclers and Waste Management Association
MOF- Energy Division	Small Business Enterprise Centre		Blue Bird Transport Co. Ltd
Samoa Ports Authority (SPA)	Samoa Breweries Ltd		Jaffa Sanitary System Ltd
Samoa Shipping Corporation (SSC)			Apia Lua Co. Ltd
Samoa Tourism Authority (STA)			Tama ole Mau
Scientific Research Organization of Samoa (SROS)			LA painters
Samoa Bureau of Statistics			Jed's Star Ltd
Petroleum Products Supplies Limited (PPS)			2.4. MRV
Clipper Oil			
Origin Energy			

SAMOA CLIMATE FRAMEWORK INSTITUTIONAL SETUP



SAMOA MRV INSTITUTIONAL SETUP

1. GHG Inventory MRV

Coordination:

- Managed by the MNRE Climate Change and GEF Division.

Key Responsibilities:

- Collect data from energy, transport, agriculture, and other sectors.
- Develop and update GHG inventory databases.
- Prepare technical reports and ensure data consistency.

2. Mitigation MRV

Coordination:

- Linked to NDC implementation, led by MNRE Renewable Energy Divsion with sectoral ministries.

Key Responsibilities:

- Monitor the effectiveness of mitigation policies, such as renewable energy projects and NAMAs.
- Track progress on emissions reductions against sectoral targets.

3. Adaptation MRV

•Coordination:

- Managed collaboratively by MNRE and Disaster Management Office.

•Key Responsibilities:

- Track progress on resilience-building projects, including Community Integrated Management Plans (CIMPs).
- Monitor and report adaptation outcomes and alignment with national adaptation plans.

4. Climate Finance MRV

•Coordination:

- Led by the Ministry of Finance.

•Key Responsibilities:

- Monitor financial flows for climate actions.
- Report on funding sources (e.g., Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund) and their impacts on NDC implementation.

STRENGTHS OF CURRENT MRV FRAMEWORK

Integration with Existing Institutions:
- Leverages the expertise of MNRE and other line ministries, reducing duplication of efforts.

Alignment with International Commitments:
- Ensures compliance with ETF reporting requirements through clear institutional roles.

Sectoral Engagement:
- Includes specialized contributions from ministries such as MWTI, MAF, STA and SBS for data collection and analysis

IDENTIFIED GAPS AND NEEDS

Lack of a Centralized Database:
- Data remains fragmented across ministries, hindering integration.

Limited Verification Processes:
- Absence of systematic quality assurance and control measures for reported data.

Capacity Gaps:
- Insufficient training and resources for agencies involved in MRV processes.

Pending Legal Frameworks:
- The Climate Change Bill, which will formalize roles and responsibilities, is still under development

PATH FORWARD

Centralized MRV System:
- Develop a national MRV hub to integrate data from all sectors and streamline reporting.

Capacity Building:
- Provide training and resources to stakeholders for effective data collection, reporting, and verification.

Legislation:
- Finalize and implement the Climate Change Bill to formalize the institutional framework.

Iterative Improvement:
- Use feedback from the Biennial Update Report (BUR) and GHG inventories to refine processes over time.

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GROUP WORK: KEY QUESTIONS

1. **Centralized System**: Do we need a national MRV hub to integrate data from all sectors, and what should it include?
2. **Training Needs**: Is additional training and resourcing for stakeholders necessary to enhance data collection, reporting, and verification processes? Give specific examples per sector.
3. **Legal Framework**: Is implementing the Climate Change Bill essential for strengthening MRV systems, and what should be prioritized?
4. **Institutional Frameworks**: Are the existing institutional frameworks for MRVs in Samoa adequate, or do they need changes to better support national climate goals?
5. **Prioritization**: If funding is limited, what should be prioritized—centralizing data, capacity building, legal reforms, or enhancing stakeholder participation and feedback mechanisms?