ICAT South Africa Inception Workshop Report

April 2024

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DISCLAIMER

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.

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ICAT South Africa

Institutional strengthening support to South Africa on the Institutionalisation of the Climate Change Mitigation System tools to support the implementation of its NDC.

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Inception Workshop Report

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1. INTRODUCTION OVERVIEW

The Republic of South Africa ratified the United Nations Framework on Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The main objective of the UNFCCC is to stabilize greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous human-induced interference with the climate system. The ability of South Africa to contribute to achieving this objective is highly dependent on the accurate knowledge of emissions trends and on our collective ability to alter these trends. As part of its response, the South African government is in the process of enacting the Climate Change Bill. The bill is a key step towards a coordinated, integrated national response to climate change and a just transition to a low-carbon economy. The Bill sets out the institutional arrangements to ensure harmonization of climate-related policies, plans, programmes, and decision-making processes. Implementation takes center stage, with provincial and municipal governments required to establish Climate Change Needs and Response Assessments to serve as blueprints for climate action.

One of the most significant features of the Bill is the determination of SA's GHG emissions trajectory. This provides emissions reduction targets, which align policy with SA's international obligations, including sector-specific targets to guide the economic transition. It is imperative that sub-national governments (provinces) adopt their targets to assess their level contribution in achieving national targets. It also provides for setting up of sectoral and sub-sectoral emission reduction targets (SETS); and the allocation of carbon budgets (CBs) to companies conducting listed activities and meeting the stipulated emission threshold.

South Africa received support from the World Resources Institute (WRI) in 2018 to develop the National Climate Change Information System (NCCIS) as part of a national effort to enhance domestic MRV frameworks. The NCCIS is a national platform for tracking the country's transition to a lower carbon economy and climate resilient society. The NCCIS tracks information on emission reductions, achieved, observed, and projected climate change, impacts and vulnerabilities, the impact of adaptation and mitigation actions, financial flows and technology transfer activities. South Africa's monitoring and evaluation approach accords high priority to continuous learning and improvements, and puts emphasis on a bottom-up approach to gather data from sub-national governments and other stakeholders to feed into the national monitoring and evaluation system.

The current key capacity constraints areas have been identified in collaboration with sub-national governments (provinces), and this ICAT (Initiative for Climate Action Transparency) project seeks to address these gaps. The project will provide crucial tools for the provinces to comply with the Climate Change Bill. Key amongst these are the development of the GHG emissions trajectory and the Sectoral Emissions Targets (SETs) defined in the bill.

An inception workshop (described in this report) was held to introduce the project to a wide range of stakeholders.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

The specific objectives of the workshop were to:

1. Introduce the ICAT project to participants.
2. Provide information to participants on the requirements of the Climate Change Bill and importance of GHG inventories.
3. Present the preliminary results of the Provincial Climate Change Response Situational Analysis.
4. Present the ICAT project plan and timelines.

3. WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

The online workshop, held on March 6th, 2024, marked the official launch of the project, featuring opening remarks by DFFE representatives and delegates from all nine provinces, along with representatives from United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), World Resources Institute (WRI), and Gondwana Environmental Solution International (Pty) Ltd. Discussions centred on key topics including the implications of the Climate Change Bill for provinces, setting GHG reduction targets, MRV processes, and an overview of the ICAT project. The workshop's agenda is attached as Annexure 1.

4. PARTICIPANTS

The target audience for the workshop were representatives of relevant government ministries, departments and agencies at both national and sub-national level. A majority (81%) of the invited participants were from National and Provincial Governments, the other participants included members from the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), World Resources Institute (WRI) and consultants from Gondwana Environmental Solutions International (GESI). A detailed workshop register has been attached as Annexure 2.

Of the 25 participants that completed the registration form 52% were female and 48% were male.

5. WORKSHOP ACTIVITIES

5.1. OPENING SESSION

The workshop was opened at 08:45 am by the Director of the Gondwana Environmental Solutions International (Pty) Ltd, Dr Martin van Nierop, who led the proceedings in the first phase of the engagement. Dr. van Nierop welcomed all the participants present online and requested

that they complete the online attendance forms.

Ms Sindisiwe Mashele from the DFFE team then provided a short discussion the ICAT Project, a collaboration with ICAT and the WRI aimed at strengthening climate action transparency and effectiveness in South Africa. The project focuses on empowering provinces and municipalities to play a pivotal role in climate mitigation efforts and aligning actions with international commitments under the Paris Agreement.

The meeting began with Ms. Sindisiwe Mashele orchestrating a series of introductions, allowing participants to provide their names, affiliations, and roles within their organizations.

5.2. EARLY MORNING PRESENTATIONS

5.2.1. Climate Change Bill, implications for provinces and the importance of provincial GHG inventories

Ms Mashele presented an overview of the Climate Change Bill (figure 1), focusing on the roles for provinces and municipalities, and discussed the parliamentary process, the purpose of the bill, policy alignment, institutional arrangements, and the expected actions from provinces and municipalities, these actions include the publication of a National Adaptation Strategy and Plan with amendments every five years and conduct a climate change needs and response assessment. This assessment would include identifying climate change responses, identify the unique climate change needs as well as vulnerabilities, risks, ecosystems and communities that are vulnerable to climatic changes. She also discussed the importance of GHG inventories and addressed questions. Finally, she discussed the national GHG emissions trajectory, emphasizing the importance of developing provincial and municipal emissions inventories to meet emissions targets and recommended that provinces use the Greenhouse Gas Protocol for Community-scale Inventory guidelines for the development of their inventories.

She emphasized that as the country is moving towards net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, policies that will be climate responsive are needed to ensure that there is sustainability on implemented programs meant to combat the effects of climate change. Further, she mentioned that the establishment of the bioenergy draft policy will be a remarkable milestone which will benefit the country in terms of mitigation strategies and sustainable development at large.

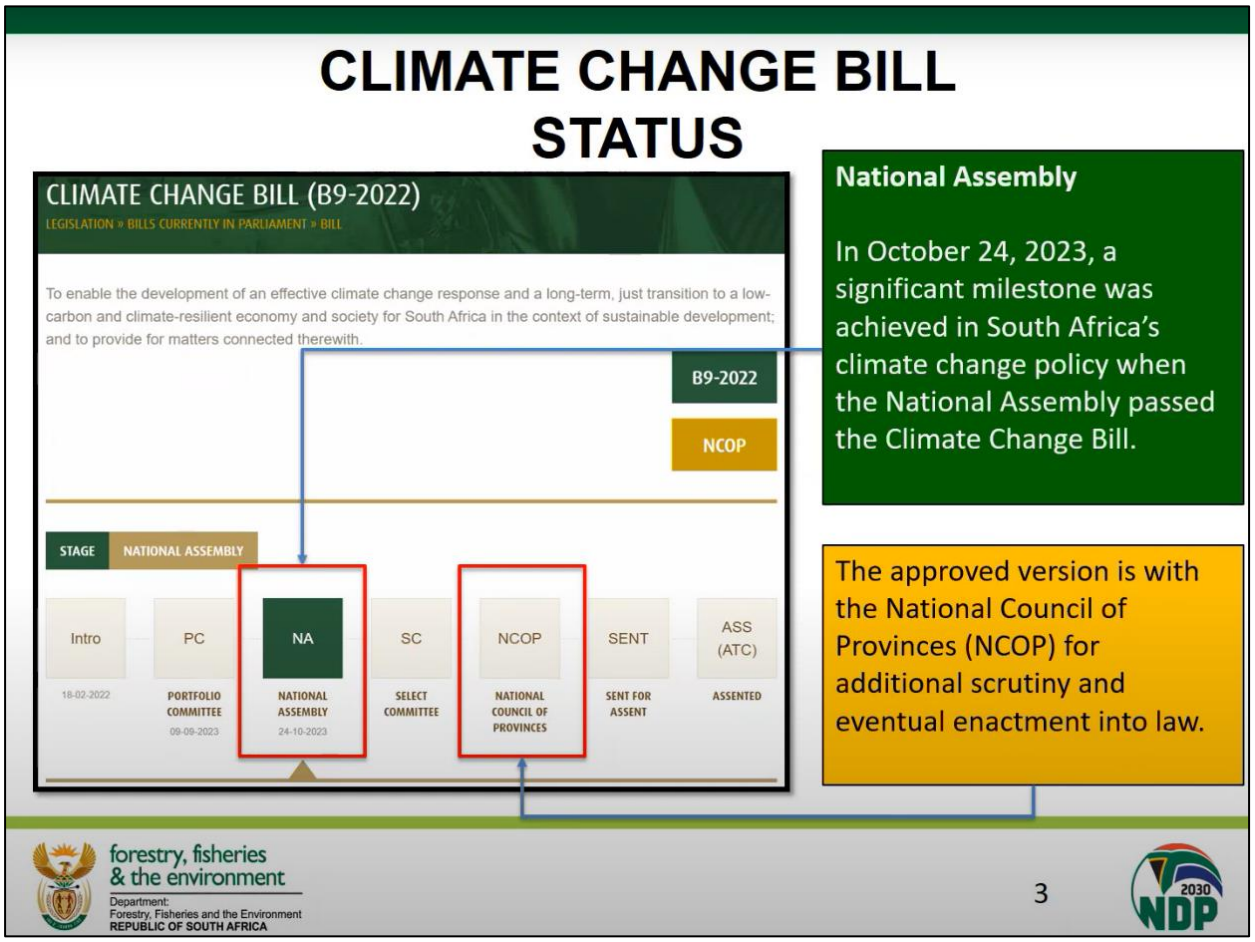

Figure 1: The status of the Climate Change Bill as presented by Ms. Mashele

5.2.2. Provincial and local government target setting

Mr. Samuel Mabena, from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE) team, presented the "Draft guidelines for the development of emission targets for provinces and local government." This presentation delved into the essential components of mitigation strategies, encompassing concepts such as carbon budgets, desired emissions reduction outcomes, sectoral emission targets, and the National Emission Trajectory. Mr. Mabena provided valuable insights into the foundational elements of South Africa's mitigation framework, which comprise a greenhouse gas (GHG) emission inventory, mitigation potential analysis, trajectory, and pathways (as illustrated in Figure 2).

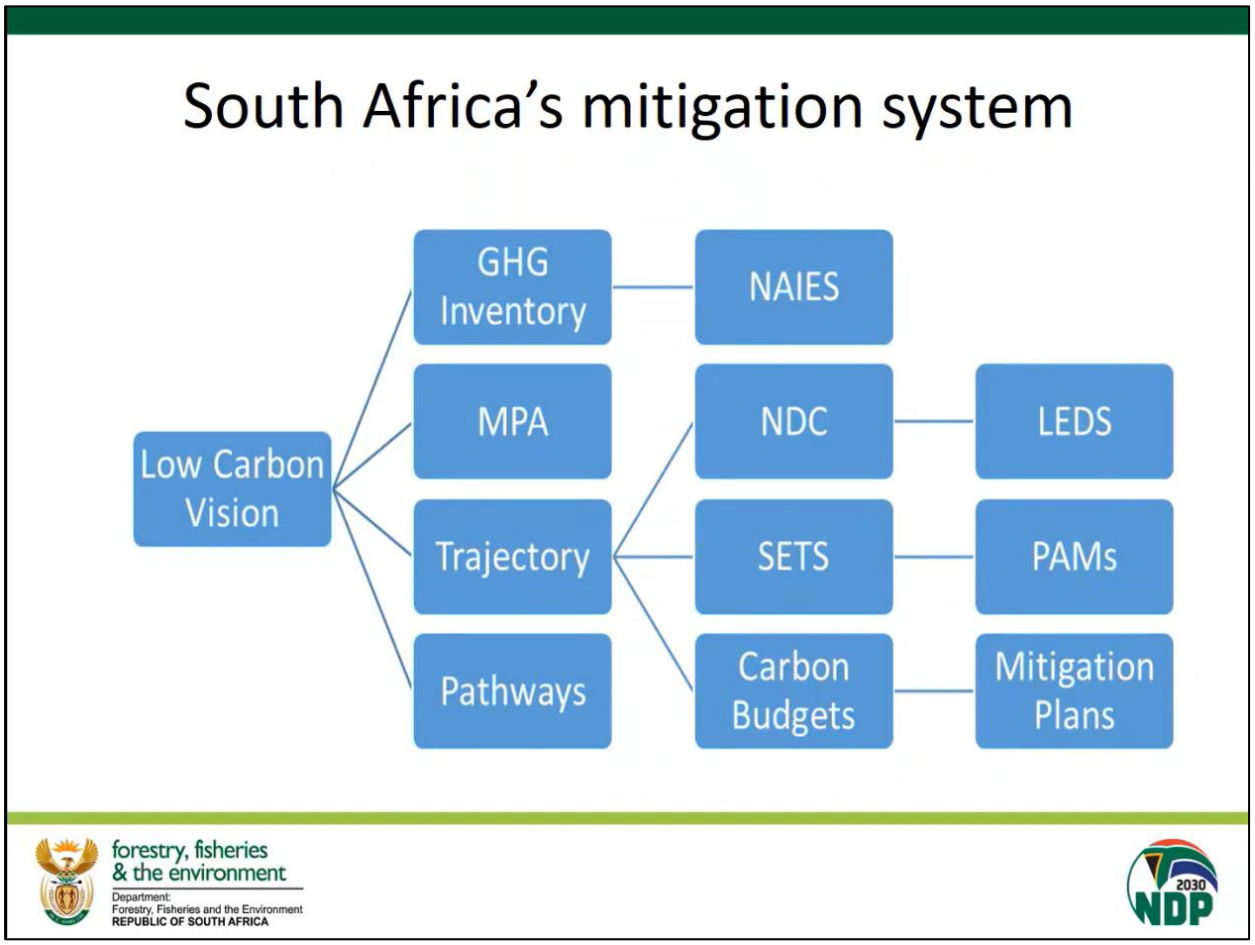

Figure 2: South Africa's Mitigation Systems as presented by Mr. Mabena.

The guidelines aim to bring clarity and articulate the roles of provinces and local governments within the national mitigation framework. They serve to delineate the relationship between these entities and sectoral emission targets, ensuring alignment and coherence in mitigation efforts. During the discussion, the structure of the guidelines was outlined, highlighting the framework and criteria for selecting policies and measures for sectoral emissions. These criteria encompass various mitigation elements, emphasizing governance frameworks and aligning with climate change mitigation goals.

Mr. Mabena identified a structured approach to implementing the guidelines, comprising several steps. The initial step involves compiling a comprehensive greenhouse gas emissions inventory to establish a baseline understanding of emissions sources. Step two would be the development of a greenhouse gas emission baseline that provides a foundation for assessing progress and setting targets. Step three involves formulating a robust climate change strategy to guide mitigation efforts effectively. Step four emphasizes the importance of provincial and local governments in the target-setting process, ensuring their active participation and ownership. Lastly, step five would identify the consideration of environmental and socio-economic benefits associated with emission targets, fostering holistic decision-making.

Furthermore, Mr. Mabena provided clarity on the role of the DFFE in implementing Sectoral Emission Targets (SETs). This includes providing support to provinces and municipalities in developing their climate change response implementation plans, capacity building initiatives, and offering technical assistance.

Mr. Mabena highlighted that the draft guidelines are currently open for comments and feedback before finalization.

5.2.3. Climate change and MRV

Ms. Malebo Seeletse from the DFFE team discussed the importance of Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems in monitoring greenhouse gas emissions. The MRV system relies on accurately measuring emissions, tracking actions taken, and providing support such as climate funding and capacity building.

Ms. Seeletse highlighted the draft guidelines, which suggest that provincial and local governments should conduct regular monitoring and evaluation to help meet emission targets. This involves creating a greenhouse gas inventory, understanding how to reduce emissions, and assessing the impact of mitigation actions.

The presentation emphasized the crucial role of greenhouse gas inventories. They are the first step in planning and prioritizing actions, and they are essential for tracking changes in emissions over time to gauge progress towards emission targets. Tracking emissions also helps evaluate the effectiveness of actions and identify areas for improvement to further reduce emissions.

Various sources and tools, including mitigation standards and protocols, along with tools like the Climate Action Aggregation Tool, Greenhouse Gas Abatement Cost Model, and Low Emission Analysis Platform, are used to assess mitigation efforts effectively. These tools aid in making informed decisions to achieve broader greenhouse gas reduction goals.

5.3. MID-MORNING PRESENTATIONS

5.3.1. Overview of the ICAT project

During this presentation, Mr. Mabena from DFFE introduced the ICAT project and highlighted its importance in addressing critical needs. The project's objective is to bolster South Africa's technical capabilities in incorporating climate actions into national policies and decision-making processes (Figure 3).

Designed to enhance capacity building, the project focuses on several key areas, including target setting, compiling greenhouse gas inventories, and establishing a monitoring and evaluation framework. Additionally, it includes the implementation of a SharePoint system, aimed at aiding provinces and local authorities in managing the project effectively.

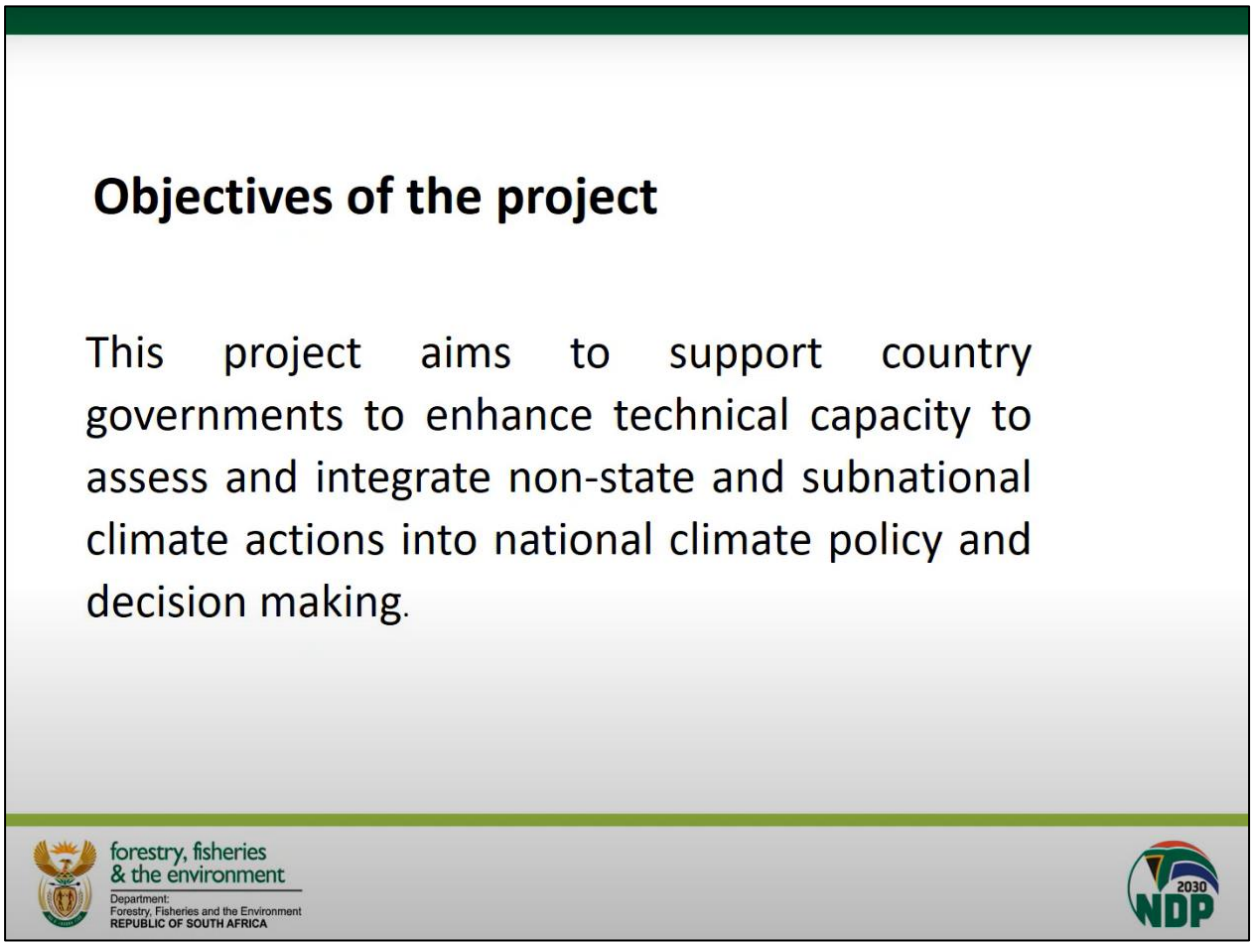

Figure 3: Objectives of the ICAT project as presented by Mr. Mabena.

5.3.2. Introduction to ICAT

Mr. Bulanyi from UNOPS provided an overview of the ICAT project, initiated in 2015 through a partnership between donors from Austria, Germany, Canada, and Italy, operating globally to enhance climate change capacity (figure 4). ICAT currently supports over 50 partner countries worldwide, primarily collaborating with governments. They offer capacity-building capabilities, tools (including those presented in Figure 5), and guides to assist in impact assessment, sustainable development, transformational change, stakeholder participation, and technical

review.

Figure 4: ICAT Partners and doners as presented by Mr. Bulanyi.

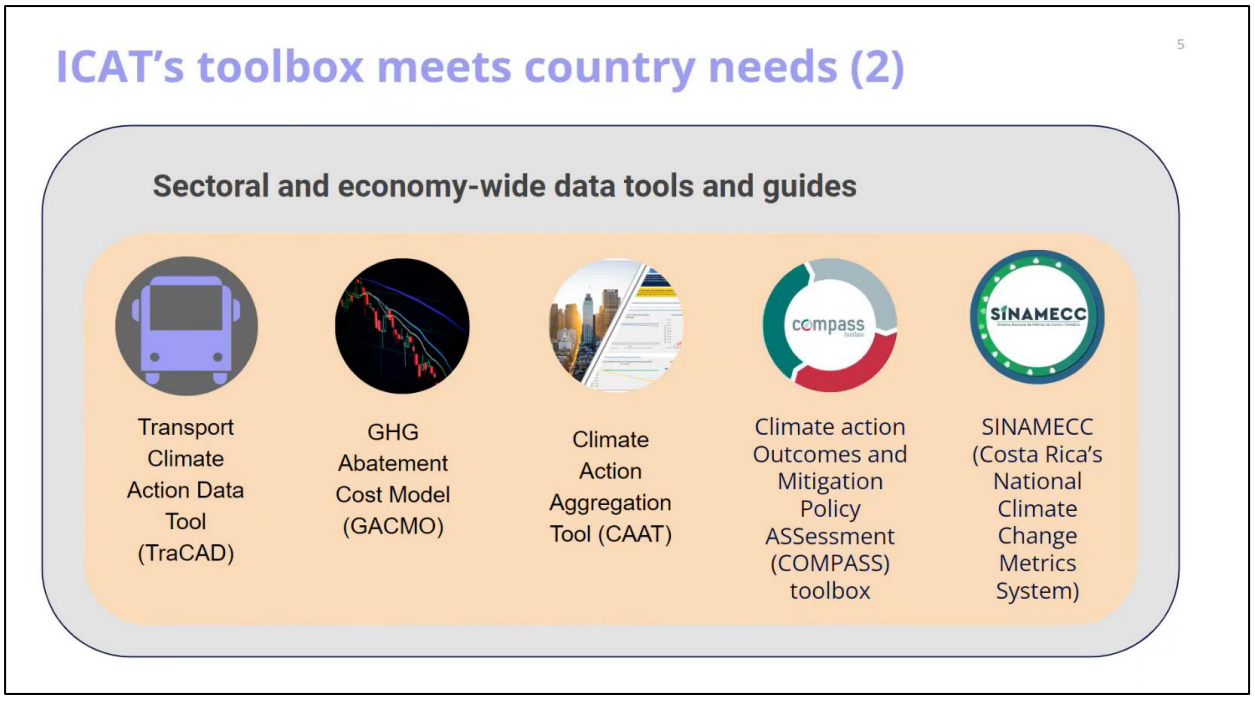

Figure 5: Some of the many tools and guidelines provided by ICAT.

5.3.3. Implementing partner introduction

The introduction for the World Resources Institute (WRI), presented by Neelam Singh via a pre-recorded video, involves their partnership with ICAT, where they serve as technical advisors in South Africa, focusing on capacity building at the provincial level. Specifically, they are tasked with assisting with capacitating provincial personnel on "The ICAT Non-State and Subnational Actions Guide." This guide aids in estimating the sector-wise impacts and contributions at a provincial scale, ultimately facilitating the calculation of collective impact.

5.3.4. Introduction to ICAT project

Dr. van Nierop introduced the Gondwana Environmental Solution International Team and discussed national-level climate change efforts in South Africa. It was highlighted that there are numerous activities at the national level, however the Climate Change Bill puts more emphass on provincial level activities. This ICAT project, therefore aims to support provinces to develop and enhance their GHG inventories, develop sectoral targets and track mitigation activities (figure 6).

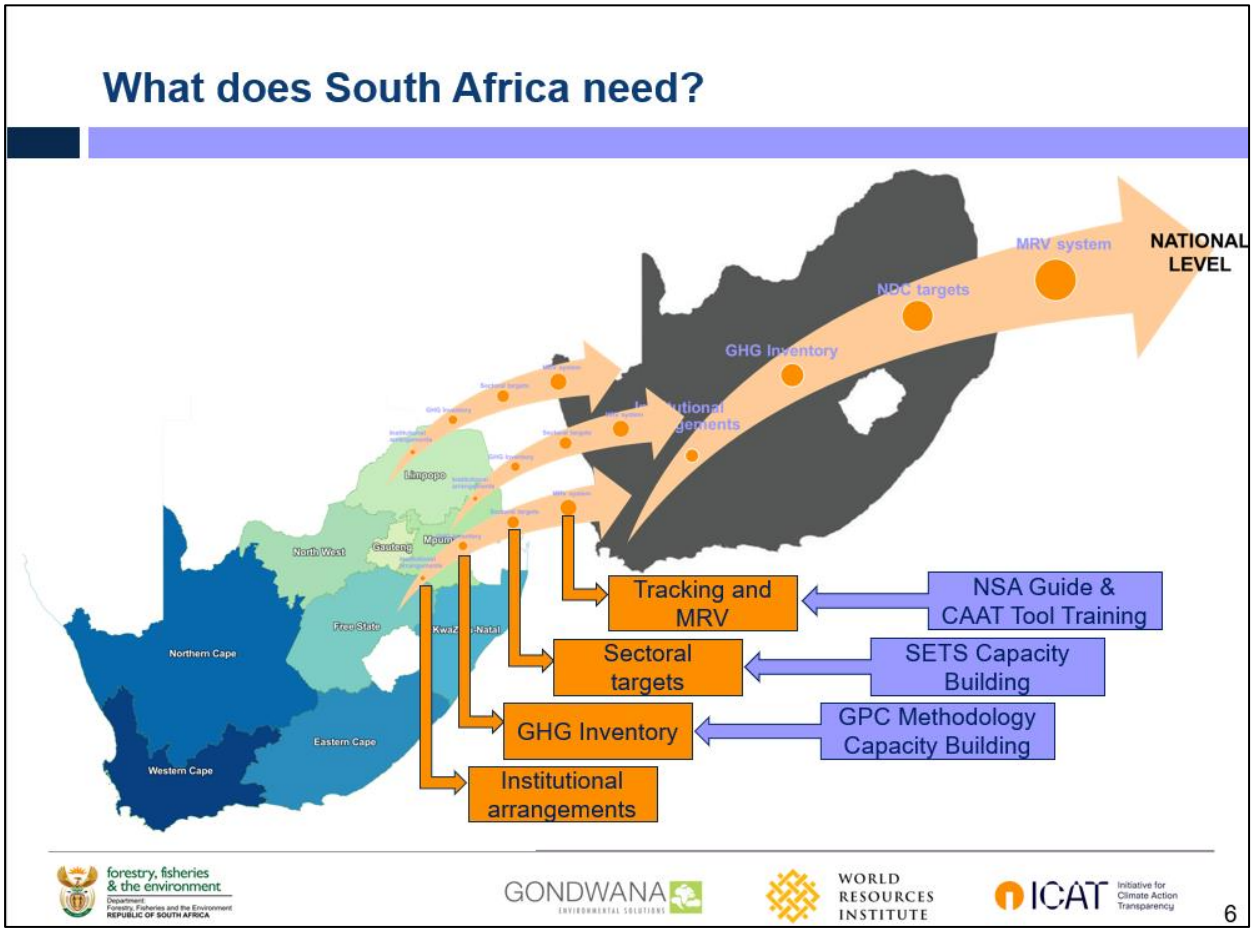

Figure 6: The needs of South Africa (orange blocks) and how the ICAT project (purple blocks) will address these gaps.

The ICAT project has 5 main components:

- Inception phase
- Activity 1: Capacity building on provincial GHG inventory, addressing constraints and challenges in developing MRV framework, and conducting a four-day training workshop on the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories for technical experts from all provinces. This also includes support for provinces in developing institutional, legal, and procedural arrangements, and capacity building on QA/QC frameworks for sub-national GHG inventories. The training will be held back-to-back with the inception workshop to allow provincial participants to attend in-person. The session will cover all sectors, hands-on examples, and exercises, and will include discussions on linkages between provincial GHG inventories and target-setting. Participants will provide feedback through registration forms and surveys, and a training workshop report will be compiled. The next tasks involve providing technical support to provinces to develop institutional, legal, and procedural arrangements, including data collection procedures (Activity 1.2) and QA/QC procedures (Activity 1.3), engaging with provincial stakeholders through hybrid meetings and trainings over a 3-month period to capacity the provinces to develop these procedures. This approach ensures better buy-in and improved sustainability.

- Activity 2: Training on the Climate Action Aggregation Tool (CAAT) for all or selected provinces, The aim of this activity is to train provincial experts on the ICAT Climate Action Aggregation Tool (CAAT) for non-state and sub-national actions, accompanied by the ICAT Non-state and Subnational Action Guide (ICAT NSA Guide). A 3-day virtual training program will be designed and presented separately to each province to ensure manageable online participation. Dr. Luanne Stevens, experienced with ICAT tools, will conduct half-day training sessions on the guidance document and CAAT tool, with exercises provided for reinforcement. Participants will convene on the third day to present results and address queries. Pre- and post-workshop surveys will be conducted, and a registration list compiled. A training workshop report, including survey outputs, will be provided after the completion of training in all provinces (Deliverable 2.1).

- Activity 3: Capacity building on developing and reporting provincial and local emission targets according to national sectoral guidelines, including organizing an informational webinar on South Africa's climate change policies and conducting training workshops for selected provinces to develop sector-specific indicators for monitoring emissions targets. The main aim of this activity is to raise awareness of climate change mitigation policies in South Africa and support provincial governments in developing sectoral

emission targets. Key guiding documents include the Climate Change Bill and Sectoral Emission Targets (SETS), though these are yet to be finalized. If not finalized at the activity's start, general guidance will be provided based on available information, with plans to meet with DFFE for clarity.

The first component involves designing an informational webinar series on South Africa's mitigation system, including an overview of Mpumalanga's M&E system. The series will cover core elements of the Climate Change Bill and gather input from provinces via a survey. Each themed session, spread over four weeks, will feature presentations and Q&A sessions with speakers from national and provincial departments, as well as potential guest speakers. A stakeholders awareness report will document the webinar series.

The second component entails providing support to selected provinces in developing sector-specific indicators for monitoring SETS through training workshops. Guidance documents will be developed based on the ICAT NSA Guide and CAAT tool requirements, informed by the Climate Change Bill and SETs. Virtual workshops will kick off the process, followed by engagements with provinces to develop targets and MRV plans. A capacity-building report will document these efforts.

- Activity 4: Sharing of knowledge and lessons learned, involving compiling a report on lessons learned from the project and organizing a validation workshop for all stakeholders. The final activity will be to compile a Lessons learnt report (Activity 4.1) and hold a project validation workshop (Activity 4.2). The lessons learnt report will include recommendations for provinces with regards to different issues covered under the project (e.g., emissions, MRV, climate actions, target setting and sectoral indicators, and data collection and institutional arrangements). It could also include suggestions for future areas of work in this area. The lessons learnt report will also include feedback from provinces regarding training and how this can be improved in future projects. A questionnaire will be designed and sent out to stakeholders to obtain information to include in the lessons learnt report. The Lessons learnt report will be Deliverable 4.1. Once all project activities have been completed a validation workshop will be held to inform all stakeholders of the outputs of the project and present the lessons learnt. As with the inception workshop, this will have in-person (40 participants) and virtual participants. It is likely that this workshop will be held in Johannesburg or Pretoria where the national DFFE offices are, but this can be decided in consultation with DFFE. This workshop will be a half-day workshop and all information will be shared with participants on a shared file.

5.3.5. Preliminary results of the Provincial Climate Change Response Situational Assessment

Dr. Stevens then presented the Provincial Climate Change Response Situational Assessment, conducted as part of the ICAT project's inception phase. This assessment involved a provincial

stocktaking exercise to gauge the progress of provinces in terms of emissions MRV, GHG inventories, climate action articulation, and target setting.

Dr. Stevens discussed the findings, revealing that all provinces had implemented climate-related plans, with two provinces having plans in draft. The presentation also highlighted the status of GHG inventories across provinces, including the tools used (figure 7) and the challenges faced in inventory creation and target setting (figure 8). Moreover, Dr. Stevens outlined which stakeholders they rely on for assistance in developing their inventories and climate change responses.

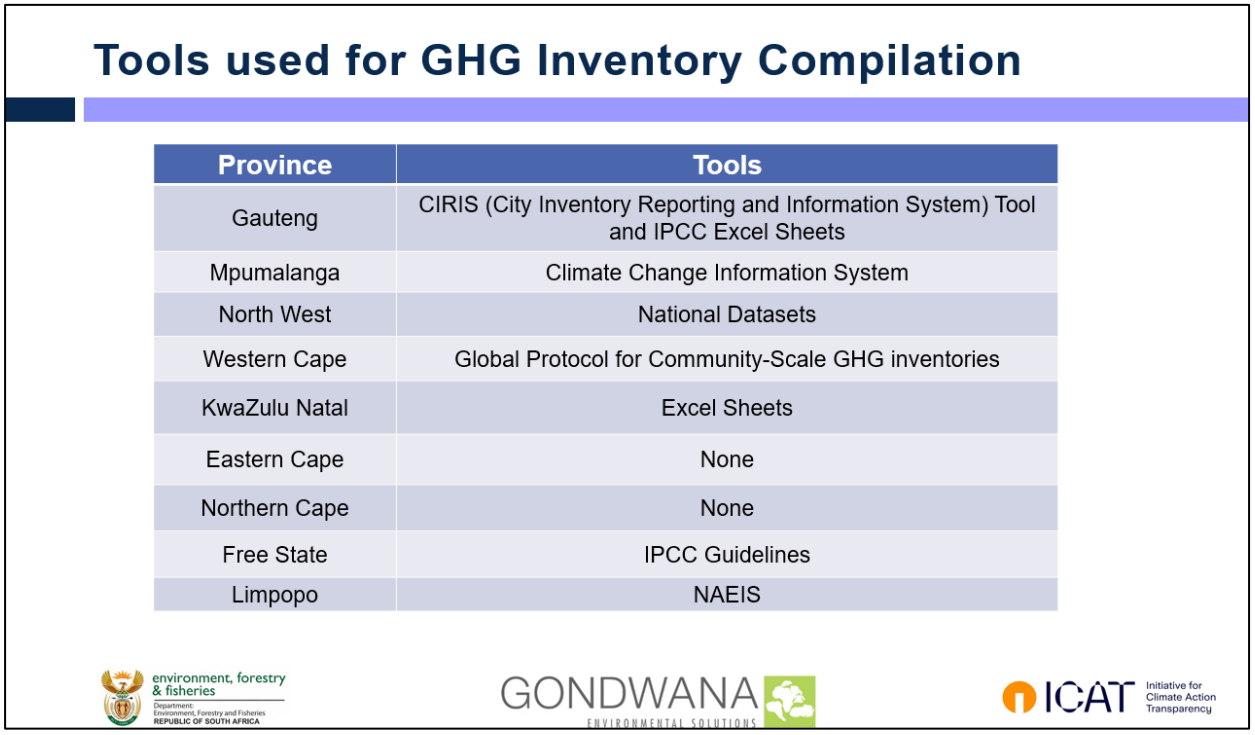

Figure 7: Tools used by the various provinces for GHG inventories.

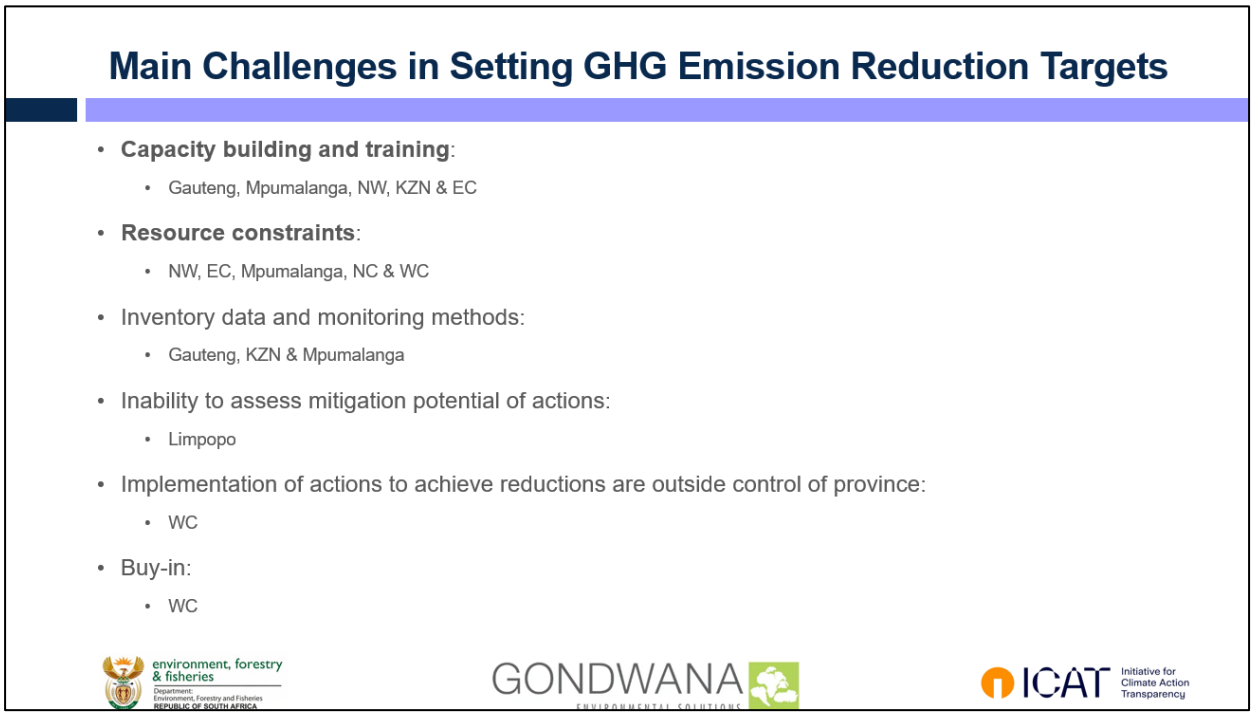

Figure 8: Challenges in GHG emission targets identified by the provinces.

5.3.6. ICAT Project plan and timelines

The project timeline is as follows:

- Stock taking and inception phase: November 2023 to February 2024.

- Capacity building on GHG inventories: January 2024 to April 2024.

- Training in NSA guide and CAAT: April to May 2024.

- Capacity building on provincial sectoral targets: June to August 2024.

- Final phase including sharing knowledge and lessons learned: October 2024.

				2023		2024											
Activity No.	Activity	Task	Deliverable	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	Stock taking and inception phase	Stock taking exercise	A situational analysis report														
		Develop selection criteria and selected provinces for customized training workshops	A set of provinces for the ICAT project														
		Develop a SharePoint system to manage implementation of project activities	SharePoint system for administration														
		Organize an inception workshop and present the scoping report and objectives INCEPTION WORKSHOP: 6th March	Inception workshop report														
1	Capacity building on provincial GHG inventories	Design and hold a training workshop on GPC GHG inventory development INVENTORY TRAINING: 11th - 14th March	GPC inventory capacity building workshop report														
		Support all/selected provinces in developing a set of institutional, legal and procedural arrangements, including data collection procedures, roles and responsibilities	Report on capacitation of provinces to develop institutional, legal and procedural MRV arrangements														
		Capacity building on QA/QC framework, etc. for the sub-national GHG inventory	Report on capacitation of provinces to develop MRV QA/QC framework														
2	Training on NSA Guide and CAAT	Training on NSA Guide and CAAT	NSA and CAAT training report														
3	Capacity buildning on provincial sectoral targets	Awareness raising	Stakeholder training report														
		Support selected provinces on the development of Sector specific indicators for monitoring and evaluation of sectora emissions targets (SETS) through training workshops.	SETS capacity building workshop report														
4	Sharing of knowledge and lessons learnt	Compile a report on lessons learnt	Lessons learnt report														
		Organise and hold a validation workshop for all the stakeholders engaged in the project	Validation workshop report														

Figure 9: Project timeline 2023-2024.

5.4. WAY FORWARD AND CLOSE OF WORKSHOP

After a productive Q&A session, Dr. Stevens outlined the next steps, including an upcoming workshop scheduled from March 11th to 14th, 2024, in Johannesburg, which will feature both in-person and online components. Mr. Mabena concluded the meeting with gratitude to all participating provinces and partners for their contributions to the successful outcomes achieved thus far.

6. OUTCOMES OF THE WORKSHOP

- The ICAT SA project was introduced to the various stakeholders, along with project timelines and activities. It was indicated that the project aims to enhance climate action transparency and effectiveness in South Africa through collaboration with ICAT and the World Resource Institute.
- Participants engaged in discussions regarding the Climate Change Bill, exploring its implications for provinces and municipalities, including roles, policy alignment, institutional arrangements, and expected actions.
- The initial findings of the Provincial Climate Change Response Situational Assessment were presented. This highlighted the progress and challenges that provinces have experienced in developing GHG inventories, emission targets and tracking mitigation impacts. The results give an indication of how far each province has progressed with their climate action planning.

7. Annexure 1- Workshop Agenda

INCEPTION WORKSHOP AGENDA

Time	Activity	Responsibility
08:45 – 09:00	Registration	Gondwana Environmental Solutions
09:00 – 09:10	Welcome and opening remarks	DFFE
09:10 – 09:40	Climate Change Bill, implications for provinces and the importance of provincial GHG inventories	Sindisiwe Mashele (DFFE)
09:40 – 10:00	Provincial and LG target setting	Samuel Mabena (DFFE)
10:00 – 10:15	Climate change MRV	Malebo Seeletse (DFFE)
10:15 – 10:30	Q/A	All
10:30 – 11:00	Tea/Coffee break	
11:00 – 11:10	Overview of the ICAT project and how it addresses the needs	Samuel Mabena (DFFE)
11:10 – 11:30	Introduction to ICAT	Oleg Bulanyi (UNOPS)
11:30 – 11:40	Implementing partner introduction	Neelam Singh (WRI)
11:40 – 12:20	ICAT project: • Workplan • Initial findings of provincial situational assessment • Approach and timelines for capacity building	Gondwana Environmental Solutions (Martin Van Nierop, Brett Cohen, Luanne Stevens)
12:20 – 12:50	Q/A and discussion of project plan	All
12:50 – 13:00	Way forward	DFFE/Gondwana
13:00	Close of workshop	Samuel Mabena (DFFE)