Initiative for Climate Action Transparency

Introduction to ICAT Adaptation in South Africa

23 February 2023
MS Teams

Overview of ICAT

Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT)

- The Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) supports improved transparency and capacity building under the Paris Agreement.

- ICAT focuses on increasing the overall transparency capacities of countries, including the capacity to assess the contribution of climate policies and actions on countries' development objectives, and providing appropriate methodologies and tools to support evidence-based policy-making.

- ICAT's approach is country-led working closely with its partner countries to develop policy-focused projects that develop the information systems and capacity required to improve the implementation, tracking, reporting and enhancement of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Overview of ICAT

Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) - Adaptation:

- Funded through UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre (UNEP CCC)
- Partners from five countries – India, Bangladesh, Dominican Republic, Kenya and South Africa
- South Africa's involvement in the project is led by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

- The overarching goal of the ICAT Adaptation project is to strengthen the capacity of countries to implement, monitor, and evaluate effective and efficient adaptation actions in a transparent manner

- Main activities in ICAT include
  - 1) development of tools and methodologies;
  - 2) testing, refinement, and uptake of the tools;
  - 3) building capacity for assessment and reporting of adaptation action

Overview of ICAT in South Africa

- The possibility of increased disaster risk is one of the most concerning and potentially costly impacts of future climate change in South Africa.

- Disaster risk management is viewed by the country as one of the key areas where action is needed to ensure that lives are protected, and it is one of the climate-sensitive sectors identified in the National Climate Change Response Policy.

- To support this, in consultation with DFFE, two focus areas that were considered priorities for the country were selected for South Africa as part of the ICAT Adaptation project

Overview of ICAT in South Africa

ICAT Adaptation Phase I

- Phase I of ICAT's adaptation support to South Africa focused on strengthening the monitoring and evaluation of multi-hazard early warning systems (MH-EWS), with an initial focus on South Africa's coastal regions.
- The work aimed to enhance efficiency in monitoring and tracking effectiveness of adaptation actions of early warning systems (EWS) in South Africa towards supporting the country's National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS) and desired adaptation outcomes.

ICAT Adaptation Phase II

- Phase II focused on developing and testing a framework to monitor and evaluate the impacts of weather and climate related disasters in South Africa.
- This framework is intended to serve as a guiding tool to systematically record human and economic loss data arising from meteorological, hydrological, and climatological related disasters.
- This will help to support and inform climate action aimed at reducing disaster impacts and will support South Africa in fulfilling its international reporting requirements

Relevance of ICAT in South Africa

- The ICAT Adaptation project contributes to the pillars of the NFCS and other DFFE-lead programmes through providing an understanding of gaps in early warning systems through its linkage to the DFFE M&E system and support of capacity building and increased transparency of country reporting under the Paris Agreement.

- Developing an M&E framework on impacts of weather and climate-related disasters will contribute to informing a baseline for monitoring and evaluating the loss and damage from weather and climate events.

- The framework can support establishing the country's progress towards achieving targets prioritized in the country's Medium Term Strategic Framework for 2019-2024 which highlights a need to reduce the impact of climate change disasters on human life, livestock and crop yield, houses and shelter, infrastructure, and species. The framework will also enable South Africa to collect, assess and report data on loss and damages related to climate change impacts under the UNFCCC reporting requirements.

ICAT outcomes in South Africa

- **Needs assessments** were conducted to identify two focus areas that constitute country priorities on adaptation to inform the development of tools to support M&E of adaptation

    - **First focus area:** The needs assessment for the first focus area identified the need to refine existing measures for M&E in the area of disaster risk reduction. A Multi-hazard Early Warning System (MH-EWS) M&E Framework was developed for South Africa. This framework was used to develop a list of indicators which address monitoring, observation and forecasting of hazards, and aligned with existing policy, legislation and reporting requirements in South Africa.

    - **Second focus area**: The needs assessment for the second focus area included an overview of South Africa's policy framework and alignment with international agendas, policy directives on the impacts of weather and climate disasters in the country, a review of historical hazards in South Africa and how they are covered domestically, as well as data challenges and the gaps. This information was used to develop a draft framework for the M&E of impacts of climate and weather-related disasters.

ICAT outcomes in South Africa

- **Stakeholder mapping** included identification, prioritisation and continuous engagement
  - Stakeholder mapping process built on the process of mapping the climate landscape for the NFCS, with further detail provided for stakeholders specific to the area of disaster risk reduction and early warning systems
  - Stakeholders identified are key roleplayers in national government, local government, academia/research institutions, research councils

- **Capacity needs assessment** to understand M&E activities undertaken by stakeholders and barriers, and identify what they need to strengthen their capacity going forward.

- Provision of **communication materials** for implementing the tools and approaches developed
  - Reports
  - Factsheets
  - Guidance documents

ICAT outcomes in South Africa

- **Stakeholder mapping** included identification, prioritisation and continuous engagement
  - Stakeholder mapping process built on the process of mapping the climate landscape for the NFCS, with further detail provided for stakeholders specific to the area of disaster risk reduction and early warning systems
  - Stakeholders identified are key roleplayers in national government, local government, academia/research institutions, research councils

- **Capacity needs assessment** to understand M&E activities undertaken by stakeholders and barriers, and identify what they need to strengthen their capacity going forward.

- Provision of **communication materials** for implementing the tools and approaches developed
  - Reports
  - Factsheets
  - Guidance documents