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# Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) Project

Capacity building to Enhance the National GHG Inventory  
Process and Track NDC Progress



*Inception Workshop Report - 29th October 2024*



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## PREPARED UNDER

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





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### **Introduction**

The Enhanced Transparency (ETF), outlined in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, is designed to build mutual trust and promote the effective implementation of climate commitments under the Paris rulebook. To assist countries in achieving the ETF's goals, the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT), managed by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), was established. ICAT supports over 40 countries by providing tailored guidance, methodologies and practical tools to improve the transparency and impact of climate policies. The projects supported by ICAT focus on enhancing transparency systems for mitigation actions, monitoring adaptation efforts, implementing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), assessing the impacts of climate-related policies, and fostering collaboration among various stakeholders at the subnational level. Tonga has been recently selected to receive ICAT support, with the United Nations Environment Programme Copenhagen Climate Centre (UNEP-CCC) serving as the technical partner to help implement the project.

On the 29th of October, 2024 the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) Project held its Inception Workshop and was conducted in a face to face mode. This marks an important milestone in Tonga's climate journey. Jointly organized by the Department of Climate Change and the Department of Energy, the workshop brought together representatives from government ministries, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and international partners to set the foundation for Tonga's climate goals. The workshop agenda is attached as *Annex 1*, and the list of participants as *Annex 2*.

### **Prayer**

A word of prayer was delivered by Mr. Mohulamu Lolomaia, a representative from the Prime Minister's Office.

### **Opening Remarks by Acting Director Department of Energy**

Mr. 'Eliate Laulaupea'alu, Acting Director of Energy, began the opening remarks by expressing special acknowledgement for the presence of generous donors from the International Energy Institutions who were joining virtually; the United Nations Office for Project Service (UNOPS), the United Nations Environment Programme, Copenhagen Climate Centre (UNEP-CCC), and the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT). He also acknowledged the stakeholders and welcomed the directors, deputy directors, senior officers from various government line ministries and non-government line ministries. In his remarks, he highlighted the project's critical role in strengthening Tonga's national transparency framework. He acknowledged the ICAT Project's efforts in establishing reliable systems to monitor greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in accordance with the Paris Agreement's enhanced transparency guidelines.

### **ICAT Remarks by Ms. Celeste Gonzales, ICAT's Secretariat**

Ms. Gonzales praised Tonga's strong commitment to transparency, noting the critical role of cross-sector collaboration. She emphasized that the workshop initiates a meaningful process aimed at strengthening Tonga's MRV systems, particularly in electricity generations and road transport. Additionally, she highlighted that the project will contribute to Tonga's progress toward its NDC targets by enabling accurate data collection and fostering dedication to sustainable growth.

### **UNEP-CCC Remarks by Mr. Abdulmutalib Yussuff**

Mr. Yusuff mentioned that UNEP-CCC takes pride in providing vital technical support and guidance. UNEP-CCC is also looking forward to supporting the institutional set up and capacity for the corresponding tasks to go into the GHG Inventory together with the reporting and tracking. He also elaborated that transparency is at the core of confidence that is required to leverage more resources for implementation of climate action in various countries.

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Why transparency? Because transparency is not limited to just GHG Inventory and tracking but includes tracking of climate action implemented by countries and covers the element of support that countries have requested and received. He also affirmed UNEP-CCC's dedication to helping Tonga build systems that strengthen local capacity for sustainable climate initiatives, with a particular focus on maintaining data integrity and effective tracking in the electricity, road transport, maritime, and aviation sectors.

**ICAT Project Overview by Mr. Samisoni Tupou (Department of Climate Change) and Mr. Laulaupea'alu**

Mr Tupou provided a brief overview of the project's objectives and timeline, explaining that the aim is to enhance data capabilities for tracking NDC targets and GHG inventory reporting. This will be achieved by building technical skills using standardized tools and templates for emissions calculation based on the Tier 1 methodology in the 2006 IPCC Guidelines under the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement frameworks, which set the stage for a dynamic discussion. He noted potential challenges in keeping up with reporting requirements but assured that guidance would be provided on the necessary information. Mr. Tupou also discussed the MRV system's importance for meeting international commitments, supporting national policy development, and accessing climate finance. He also mentioned that the project is set to run for nine months, with a possibility of extension.

**Project Component**

The ICAT Project Team delivered an in-depth work plan detailing

- technical assistance, data collection approaches
- collaboration strategies necessary to move the project forward.
- Projects overall work plan in *Annex 3*.
  
- Electricity Generation MRV Officer delivered by Ms. Mele 'Akau
  - Mele's role focuses on building Tonga's capacity to accurately measure, report and verify GHG emissions specifically from the electricity sector.
  - Conduct a gaps and needs analysis on national documentation from Tonga's Energy Balance
  - Data collection and GHG emission estimation and calculations.
  - Perform Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC) checks on collected data to ensure accuracy and reliability.
  - Provide regular updates to the Project coordinator and participate in project meetings to report on progress and challenges
  
- Maritime Transport Officer delivered by Fakatu'amelie Ha'unga
  - Mr. Ha'unga's role focuses on building Tonga's capacity in improving data foundation for NDC targets
  - Calculating GHG time series for energy production and maritime categories
  - Enhancing the NDC tracking for the maritime transport sectors
  - Data collection and emission estimation
  - Perform QA/QC checks on collected data
  - Provide regular updates to project coordinator to report the progress and challenges of the project
  
- Land/Road Transport Officer delivered by Mrs. Asela Taufu
  - Mrs. Taufu's role is to provide technical support to the project encompassing the development of climate MRV Systems for the energy sector, which will establish an evidence base for NDC Tracking and the future assessment of GHG Policy impacts on the energy policies
  - Do a gaps and needs analysis support on national documentation and data from Tonga's National Energy Balance, and Emission estimation using Tier 1 method

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- Perform QA/QC checks on the data collected
- Provide regular updates on the progress of the project
- Work in progress
  - ❖ Inception meeting done
  - ❖ Gaps and needs analysis is ongoing; analysis of relevant data on Land Transportation that is needed for Tonga's national energy balance
  - ❖ Data collection: MOI, MORC, MTED, Total Energy & Pacific Energy

**Workshop Discussions**

**Land/Road Transport**

Statistics

- Further breakdown of the HIES to request from the Statistics department
- There was a concern raised by a representative from the Statistic department regarding data collection. They wanted clarification on whether the ICAT Team would need any specific data directly from them. However, as mentioned by the representative from the Revenue and Customs, that the data that can be provided by the Statistic department is available online, which is easy to access

Customs & Revenue Department

- In terms of verification of the numbers, data is requested from Revenue and Customs
- Customs maintains records of all fuel imports into Tonga

Pacific Energy

- The representatives from Pacific energy mentioned that they keep track of the exact diesel volume data supplied to aviation
- He also mentioned that there will be complications when it comes to sharing their data with NGOs

**Electricity Generation**

Tonga Energy Commission (Transitional)

- Very important to look at the numbers of energy used when collecting data from the Tonga Power Limited and compare it to the numbers from the Energy Commission for verification

**Maritime Transport**

Aviation

- Regarding the data needed from airlines and aviation, it was suggested by the representative from civil aviation that it's better to get estimated data of fuel supplied to the airlines from Pacific Energy.
- Civil aviation is reporting on an MRV System data to the international airlines as part of its activities
- MRV System to be set up in the end of the project is important and who will be responsible for it

**Data Sharing Concern**

- Consider protecting the interest of the private sectors and stakeholders when it comes to data sharing
- Put more perspective in what the project needs and put into mind what the stakeholders also wants
- Must keep track of the key data metrics such as emissions figures and energy usage and identify reasons behind issues in processing this data.
- Helpful to provide format on how the ICAT Project want data to look like

**Key Takeaways**

- How effectively are we ensuring that stakeholders are transparently informed, engaged, and given



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opportunities to contribute to the project?

- Lots of complications when it comes to sharing data with the NGO's
- Data sharing should create a WIN-WIN outcomes for both side
- Customs have an Online system to extract data from but it has limited access
- Audit data presented from customs but may not get correct raw data (would also take a while to get correct data)
- Aviation could possibly have the data needed for the project, but they are not sure if it would be relevant or useful for the data collection requirements.

**Next steps**

Moving forward, the project will strengthen collaboration with stakeholders to ensure ongoing communication and collaboration in terms of updating available data. Also, schedule follow-up meetings to discuss data needs and ensure everyone is aligned on project objectives. Additionally, consider developing a clear data sharing framework to protect stakeholder interests and ensure ease of data access for project needs.

**Closing Remarks**

Mr. Laulaupea'alu conveyed his appreciation for the active participation of all attendees, underlining the importance of continuous collaboration. The workshop concluded with a unified commitment from stakeholders, creating a solid foundation for reaching Tonga's NDC's and fostering a sustainable energy future.

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Annexes

Annex 1: Workshop Agenda

Inception Meeting Agenda		
9:30am - 10:00am	Participant Registration	
10:00am – 10:05am	Opening Prayer	<i>Stakeholder Representative</i>
10:05am – 10:10am	Opening Remarks	‘Eliate Lailauepa’alu <i>Acting Director for Department of Energy</i>
10:10am – 10:15am	ICAT Remarks	<i>ICAT Director (TBC)</i>
10:15am – 10:20am	Group Photo	
10:20am - 10:35am	Morning Tea	
10:35am – 11:00am	Remarks from UNEP-CCC Technical Support Team	<i>UNEP-CCC</i>
11:00am - 11:15am	ICAT Project Overview	‘Eliate Lailauepa’alu (Department of Energy) & Samisoni Tupou (Department of Climate Change)
11:15am – 11:45am	Q&A Discussion	
11:45am – 12:15pm	Presentation of Work Plan and Project Component	<i>ICAT Project Team</i>
12:15pm – 12:45pm	Q&A Discussion	
12:45pm – 12:55pm	Next Steps & Closing	<i>ICAT Project Team</i>
12:55pm – 1:00pm	Closing Remarks	Mr. ‘Eliate Lailauepa’alu <i>Acting Director of Energy</i>



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<b>1:00pm</b>	<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Mr. 'Eliate Lau Laupea'alu
	<b>LUNCH</b>	

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Annex 2: Workshop Participant List

Name	Organization	Position	Gen der	Attendance (In-person or Virtual)
1. Mohulamu Lolomana'ia	PMO-NPD	Principal Economist	M	In-person
2. Peni Taimani	MOI-CAD	S. Aviation Officer	M	In-person
3. 'Ofa Taulani	TSD	Statistician	F	In-person
4. Falemasiva Fonua	TSD	Statistician	F	In-person
5. Gortegh Singh	TSD	Principal Statistician	M	In-person
6. Samisoni Tupou	DCC , MEIDECC	NDC Officer	M	In-person
7. 'Alifeleti Lynch	Customs	SRO	M	In-person
8. 'Ifalemi Ma'u	PE(SWP) Ltd	TM	M	In-person
9. Sandra Fifita	MTED	Director Consumer	F	In-person
10. 'Asita Langi	TEC	Energy Technical Manager	M	In-person
11. 'Asela Taufu	MEIDECC/Energy Department	Land/Road Transport Officer	F	In-person
12. 'Eliate Laulaupea'alu	MEIDECC/ Energy Department	Principal Energy Planner	M	In-person
13. Filimone Fifita	MEIDECC/Energy Department	Energy Officer	M	-
14. Fakatu'amelie Ha'unga	MEIDECC/Energy Department	ICAT Project Officer	M	In-person

15. Mele 'Akau	MEIDECC/Energy Department	ICAT Project Officer	F	In-person
16. Tevita Lavemai	MOI		M	-
17. Kelela Tonga	MOI		F	-



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18. Ma'ata Mafi	PMO			F	-
19. Siale Kauhalaniua	Lulutai Airlines			M	-
20. 'Isikeli Taoe	Total Energies			M	-
21. Viliami Palaki	TPL			M	-



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Annex 3: Project's Work plan

Resp. Party					2024												2025					
Out	Description	Lead	entity 1	entity 2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Inception phase																					
A	Inception meeting	PMU	TA	DCC																		
	Inventory capacity building for prioritized categories (Energy sector)																					
A	Gaps and needs analysis support	TA	PMU	may identify additional trainers																		
B	Training and delivery support. Assignment 1: documenting Tonga's national AD (National Energy Balance and other sources);	TA	PMU	may identify additional trainers																		
C	GHG Inventory calculations for prioritized categories using data collection tools and templates for Energy production and Road transport	PMU	TA	DCC																		
D	Assignment 2: GHG Inventory Instruction manuals for prioritized categories	PMU	TA	DCC																		
E	Assignment 3: Road map for Improvement of Tonga's MRV system In relation to Electricity production and Road transport + workshop	PMU	TA	DCC																		
	Building Tonga's capacity to enhance the national climate MRV frameworks for the Electricity production and Road transport sectors to provide the evidence base and progress tracking for Tonga's NDCs																					
A	Investigate data sources and coordinate data vendors and stakeholders	PMU	TA	DCC																		
B	Assignment 4: Identify and map relevant data flows, including timeframe, roles, and responsibilities for each step in the process;	PMU	TA	DCC																		
C	Based on the results of assignment 4, create a Guidance workbook to track NDC targets in the Energy sector + workshop	PMU	TA	DCC																		
	Project wrap up																					
A	Lessons learned workshop	PMU	TA	DCC																		
B	Final project report & closing workshop	PMU	TA	DCC																		
C	Outreach materials & events	PMU	TA	DCC																		

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Annex 4: Workshop photos

