



# **Capacity Building to Enhance the National GHG Inventory Process and Track NDC Progress in Vanuatu**

Inception Workshop Report

December 2023

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# Vanuatu ICAT Project Inception Workshop Report

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## Introduction

The Republic of Vanuatu has negligible GHG emissions and the forest sector act as a net sink; however, the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu is fully committed to effective, and transparent implementation of the Paris Agreement (PA). In order to comply with its treaties under the UNFCCC and the PA, Vanuatu prepared and submitted National Communication (NC) reports – NC1 (30 Oct 1999), NC2 (30 Aug 2016), and NC3 (22 Mar 2021), the First Biennial Update Report (BUR), (16 Dec 2021); Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC), (29 Sept 2015).

Reporting requirements under the enhanced transparency framework (ETF) for action and support (Article 13) of the Paris Agreement require more frequent reporting and tracking of mitigation action impacts. Vanuatu, as a small island state, is taking a lead in capacity building of national experts in various sectors, enhancing GHG inventory process, and carefully tracking the NDC progress in Vanuatu.

The Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) aims to help countries better assess the impacts of their climate policies and actions and fulfil their transparency commitments. It does this by 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 methodological information and tools to support evidence-based policymaking. ICAT's innovative approach is to integrate these two aspects.

ICAT focuses on countries that can highlight the benefits of increased transparency to demonstrate policy impact and evidence-based action. ICAT generates evolving methodological guidance and extracts best practices, to be publicly available to all actors, increasing the global knowledge base. ICAT's work is country-driven, efforts build on existing MRV systems and knowledge in countries and complement previous or ongoing activities by other initiatives, where applicable. Support provided is tailored to the country's context and priorities. ICAT's work is aimed at engaging national expertise as much as possible while encouraging peer-to-peer learning.

ICAT is supporting Vanuatu in building national capacity for compiling GHG inventories, building a foundation for the NDC targets and tracking, and creating the evidence platform for the climate policies through improving Vanuatu's national inventory system for collecting GHG-related data and estimating GHG emissions from the categories prioritized by Vanuatu.

ICAT is assisting Vanuatu in building national capacity in Vanuatu in GHG and sustainable development (SD) policy assessment (the agriculture sector) using ICAT tools.

The project will discuss the potential for extending the sectoral coverage and fine-tuning the national targets by using the national data as the evidence base. The project will propose the potential indicators for the NDC tracking in light of the potentially extended targets and identify the required data sets and the applicable institutional arrangements to enable the relevant data.

The project focuses on four main sectors, namely, Agriculture sector, Forestry and other Land Use (AFOLU), Energy sector and waste sector. These sectors are the key GHG sources contributing to the emissions in the island state of Vanuatu.

The workshop's goal is to introduce ICAT project to relevant stakeholders, create dialogue and establish arrangements between stakeholders so we could successfully achieve the deliverables of the project.

# Workshop Programme

The Inception Workshop of ICAT project was held in Port Vila on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at the Melanesian Hotel. The workshop gathered key stakeholders from Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Environment, Energy, NAB and other relevant sectors, to initiate a collaborative effort aimed at building national capacity in addressing GHG inventory and track NDC in Vanuatu (See Annex 1: Workshop Agenda, Annex 2: Workshop Participant List).

The workshop commenced with the introduction of participants from different stakeholders in Vanuatu and also those who joined virtually.

## Opening Remarks and Introductions

- Welcome remarks from Nelson Kalo (Senior Mitigation Officer), introducing the stakeholders in country.
- Opening remarks from Director DOCC, Mike Sam Waiwai
- Opening remarks from Dr. Olia Glade – GHGMI, Director for GHG MRV systems.
- Opening remarks from Olga Lyandres – GHGMI, Project Manager
- Opening remarks from Alissa Benchimol – GHGMI, Senior Program Officer

## Speaker 1 presentation

Dr. Glade presented opening remarks on behalf of the ICAT Director, who could not be present during the inception workshop due to time difference, introducing ICAT and discussing the importance of transparency. Dr. Henning Wuester ICAT Director, sent along his greetings and, conveyed his enthusiasm for ICAT- working with Vanuatu and GHGMI on this exciting project.

## Speaker 2 presentation

Dr. Glade presented ICAT Project Introductions, outlining the project objectives are:

- a. Implementing elements of the GHG inventory MRV systems for: the prioritized categories based on a sustainable institutional arrangement for managing GHG data aiming to institutionalize sectoral inventories, and creating a robust evidence base for agriculture policy impact analysis based on ICAT methodology,
- b. Conducting assessment of the targeted climate policies and actions for livestock with ICAT Ag methodology, and
- c. Develop recommendations for including agriculture sector policies in Vanuatu's enhanced NDC.

The project scope of work includes:

- Improve the capacity of Vanuatu to estimate emissions from the prioritized key categories using the best available data and information in the following sectors:
  - Energy: calculating reference approach from the National Energy Balance, transport emissions
  - Agriculture: livestock emissions (enteric fermentation and manure management)
  - Waste: solid waste disposal and domestic wastewater
  - IPPU: consumption of fluorinated gasses from refrigeration and air conditioning
- Develop a basic understanding of relevant ICAT tools for GHG and sustainable development policy impacts in agriculture to use such tools for other policies in the future.
- Perform an impact assessment of up to two agriculture policies prioritized by Vanuatu.
- Design indicators to track the impacts of the prioritized agricultural policies, and identify the required data sets and the relevant institutional arrangements to enable the relevant data collection and processing in the future.
- Investigate the ways the agriculture sector can be included in the scope of Vanuatu's enhanced NDC and provide relevant recommendations to Vanuatu's Government.

The deliverables are outlined in Annex 3.

The project team was outlined to include:

- A project coordinator will provide organizational and technical leadership to carry out the project activities and ensure the delivery of the outputs.
- Consultants to carry out project activities and deliver outputs.
- Vanuatu's Department of Climate Change Division and other government agencies will be involved at all phases to provide inputs and data and review procedures and outputs
- Greenhouse Gas Management Institute (GHGMI) will provide guided support services to the Vanuatu government and national consultants with online training, webinars/workshops, Q&A sessions, and other support.

Dr. Glade further explained the roles and responsibilities for the project coordinator, project experts, and stakeholders. The roles and responsibilities are as follows:

- Department of Climate Change – Agency overseeing Climate Change policies and programs, and coordinating the compilation of the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory.
- Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, and Department of Livestock – Collating, compiling, and analysing agricultural statistics to assist in the formulation of policies – Coordinating and facilitating the training of staff.
- Department of Energy – Energy policies, legislations, regulations, and data collection on energy consumption and use.
- Vanuatu National Statistics Office – Core statistical data on Vanuatu, including urban and rural



statistics, and Agriculture Census.

- UNELCO Vanuatu – Producer and distributor of electrical energy on the island of Efate – Producer and distributor of drinking water in the urban centre of Port-Vila.
- Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation – Leading Vanuatu to a clean, resilient, and sustainable environment.
- Port Vila Municipality – Managing the affairs of the urban areas – Port Vila.
- Project Coordinator – Organizational and technical leadership to the project on behalf of Vanuatu encompassing the development of climate MRV systems for the prioritized categories, and Policy Assessment.
- Project experts – Technical support to the project on behalf of the Vanuatu Project Coordinator.

She ended the presentation mentioning the project status to date including next steps moving forward. The inception workshop triggers the beginning of the implementation phase of the project and the project is expected to be completed in September of 2024.

## Workshop Discussion

### Question/comment 1

Mr. Michel Sisi from the Energy Department raised a few questions, firstly regarding adding other institutions and sectors apart from the ones chosen in this Project. In response, Dr. Glade emphasised that institutional arrangements are the heart of any MRV systems, quality control and quality assurance of data is fundamental. If there is no agreement between two institutions, there is no guarantee that the data shared is of quality. The project will engage and work with other departments to begin establishing arrangements to collect, manage, and share data. It's important that the team involved in the inventory understands why we want the data, when do we want it and what we are using it for. Answering those questions will help the institutions to have a clear view of the transparency process.

Then, Mr. Sisi asked about the project roles and responsibilities relating to each department. Dr. Glade continued by stating the importance of the departments stressing that their opinions and expertise in their respective roles is essential in understanding where the data comes from, what they are and how they are used in Vanuatu.

Mr. Sisi finished with a question regarding the high contributions to emissions from enteric fermentation. Upon completion of the project, is there any project that will look to reduce or eliminate enteric fermentation (CH<sub>4</sub>) into the atmosphere. Dr. Glade emphasised baseline establishment in terms of: (a) understanding emissions and their sources, e.g. enteric fermentation, manure management and (b) how much is being emitted currently by each. This enables Vanuatu to assess emissions with and without mitigations measures and compare whether the level of emissions is increasing, decreasing or at a steady rate. In result, mitigation methods can be implemented wisely.

### Question/comment 2

The director of Agriculture Mr. Ravo applauded Dr. Glade on a very comprehensive presentation. In addition, Mr. Ravo pointed out some success within the department itself which is the completion of the



agriculture census where the data's collected can be shared with ICAT project in achieving the project deliverables. In terms of mitigation policies, Mr. Ravo stated that it is very timely having the project as an opportunity to help review the agriculture policies and strategies to strengthen climate action and mitigations within the agriculture sector. Mr. Ravo proposed that the project also assist in creating sub-sectoral policies in the livestock sector for effective mitigation purposes.

## Conclusion and Next Steps

In moving forward, Dr. Glade outlined the initial capacity building and training activities for the project coordinator and the project experts in country, which include online courses on IPCC methods – cross-cutting and sector specific and ensuring that all related sectors addressed by the project are being covered. As the implementation phase begins, the team will hold regular meetings to carry out capacity building activities, trainings, and implementation of project deliverables.

In conclusion, Nelson Kalo (senior mitigating officer, DOCC) acknowledged the presence of the different department heads who joined in person and also virtually and stressed that the Department of Climate Change through the ICAT project looks forward in working closely with all sectors and experts to achieve the project deliverables. The timely achievement of deliverables will have an impact on enhanced transparency framework for Vanuatu, and meeting the reporting under the Paris Agreement.

## Annex 1: Workshop Agenda

<b>Inception Meeting Agenda</b>		
<b>9:00 – 9:15</b>	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	Nelson Kalo – Senior Mitigation Officer, DOCC
<b>9:15 – 9:30</b>	<b>Opening Remarks</b>	Mike Sam Waiwai – Director, DOCC
<b>9:30 – 9:50</b>	<b>ICAT Remarks</b>	Dr. Olia Glade – Director for MRV Systems, GHGMI, on behalf of ICAT.
<b>9:50 – 10:00</b>	<b>Remarks from GHGMI Technical Support Team</b>	Dr. Olia Glade – Director for MRV Systems, GHGMI
<b>10:00 – 10:05</b>	<b>Photo</b>	Nelson Kalo – Senior Mitigation Officer, DOCC
<b>10:05 – 10:15</b>	<b>Morning Tea</b>	Nelson Kalo – Senior Mitigation Officer, DOCC
<b>10:15 – 10:45</b>	<b>ICAT Project Introduction &amp; next steps</b>	Dr. Olia Glade – Director for MRV Systems, GHGMI
<b>10:45 – 11:15</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	Dr. Olia Glade – Director for MRV Systems, GHGMI
<b>11:15 – 11:30</b>	<b>Closing</b>	Nelson Kalo – Senior Mitigation Officer, DOCC
<b>11:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	All (in person Participants)

## Annex 2: Project Deliverables

### Project technical activities

<p>GHG inventory capacity building (directly contributes to NC4, BUR2, &amp; BTR1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Output 1.A</b> – Training and delivery support provided to technical experts</li> <li>• <b>Output 1.B</b> – GHG inventory estimates for prioritized source categories: reference approach from the National Energy Balance, Transport, Consumption of fluorinated gases from refrigeration and air conditioning, Livestock emissions (manure management &amp; enteric fermentation), Solid waste disposal, &amp; Domestic Wastewater</li> <li>• <b>Output 1.C</b> – Instruction manual for calculating emissions for the above categories</li> </ul>
<p>Applying the ICAT tool for Agriculture policy assessment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Output 2.A</b> – Report on estimated GHG and sustainable development impacts of two agriculture sector policies, technical guidance on tracking policy impact indicators, and recommendations for including agriculture sector policies in Vanuatu’s enhanced NDC</li> <li>• <b>Output 2.B</b> – Workshop report</li> </ul>
<p>Development of the elements for the Institutional Climate MRV system for the prioritized categories</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Output 3.A</b> – National systems guidelines manual for the prioritized categories, to cover at a minimum the current institutional arrangements and recommendations for improving the national reporting system and design. This will include QA/QC plan for the agriculture sector in Vanuatu</li> <li>• <b>Output 3.B</b> – Training and delivery support provided to the project coordinator, and government representatives from Vanuatu’s Department of Climate Change, and other participating agencies</li> </ul>