

Accelerating climate action through enhanced transparency

The unprecedented challenge of climate change requires rapid and deep transformations – in virtually all sectors and all parts of society – away from the prevailing, carbon-intensive, high-emission modes of production and consumption. The urgency of policy action for a transition towards sustainable development and net zero global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions was underlined in the 2018 Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Climate and development policies need to tackle GHG emissions effectively to ensure alignment with the Paris Agreement's temperature objective and the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Paris Agreement sets out an enhanced transparency framework for countries, in order to build mutual trust and confidence, and to promote effective implementation. The Paris Agreement also requires countries to prepare nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and successively raise their ambition towards achieving the objectives of the Agreement. NDCs outline the policies and actions each country intends to take. The Paris Agreement rulebook adopted in 2018 sets out the procedures and modalities to operationalize the enhanced transparency framework.

To support countries in this regard, the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) was created as a multi-stakeholder partnership bringing together countries worldwide, experts from all sectors, and public and private stakeholders at all levels of governance.

Our mission

To help countries better assess the impacts of their climate policies and actions and fulfil their transparency commitments, thereby contributing to greater transparency, effectiveness, ambition and trust in climate action worldwide.

Our vision

To become an integral component of the delivery mechanisms of the Paris Agreement by supporting capacity for the effectiveness and ambition of climate policies and action through enhanced transparency tools and efforts.

Who we are

ICAT is an unincorporated multi-stakeholder partnership of: the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF); ClimateWorks Foundation (CWF); the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (BMU); and the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS). The UNFCCC secretariat as the dedicated UN body with a climate change policy mandate is a special partner and represented on ICAT's board. UNOPS provides management and support services through the ICAT Secretariat, which coordinates day-to-day activities and guides the work of ICAT's implementing partners: the UNEP-DTU Partnership, Verra, World Resources Institute (WRI), and the Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA).

ICAT was founded to respond to the critical need of improved transparency and capacity building for evidence-based policymaking under the Paris Agreement. ICAT works to increase the overall transparency capacities of countries, including the capacity to assess the contribution of climate policies and actions on countries' development objectives, and provide appropriate methodological information and tools to support evidence-based policy-making.

ICAT's approach

ICAT integrates country support, methodological work, and knowledge sharing to strengthen the transparency and effectiveness of climate policies and actions.

Country support

Capacity building in countries for mitigation and adaptation action transparency based on the needs and priorities defined by these partner countries is at the heart of ICAT's work. Focus is placed on supporting countries to build and enhance their MRV/transparency systems and help them assess the impacts of policies and measures on projected emissions and social, economic and other environmental parameters. Work also encompasses support to the aggregation/integration of subnational and non-state action and the use of transparency to mobilize finance.

ICAT provides support in the form of resources for national experts and through international expert advice. ICAT focuses on countries that can highlight the benefits of increased transparency to demonstrate policy impact and evidence-based action. ICAT's work is country-driven, efforts build on existing MRV systems and knowledge in countries and complement previous or on-going activities by other initiatives, where applicable. Support provided is tailored to the country context and priorities. ICAT's work is aimed at engaging national expertise as much as possible, while encouraging peer-to-peer learning. ICAT is currently working with over 30 countries worldwide - see the map on the back page.

The ICAT toolbox

In collaboration with technical experts from around the world, ICAT is developing globally applicable methodologies and tools. Focus is put on developing the toolbox based on experience in countries, for example taking tools that were successful in one country and adapting them to other countries that face similar needs.

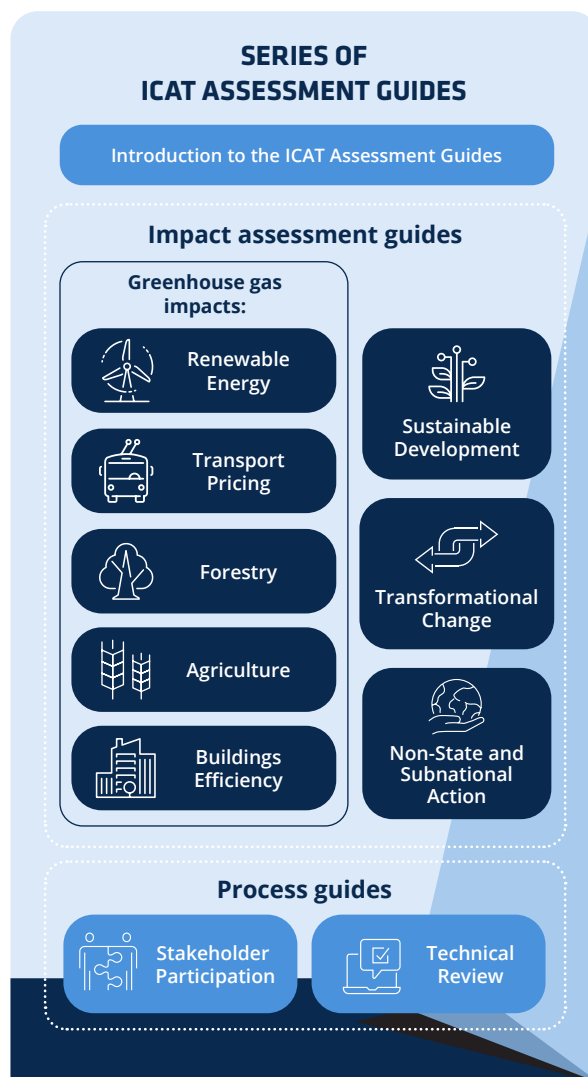
ICAT series of assessment guides

The ICAT assessment guides are a series of methodologies for assessing the GHG, sustainable development and transformational impacts of policies and actions in an integrated and comprehensive manner at all levels, from national to city level, and encompassing non-state actors.

By helping policymakers assess the impacts of policies, the ICAT assessment guides can help countries track progress in implementation and further develop their NDCs towards enhanced ambition. The ICAT assessment guides can also help provide the necessary information for countries to report under the Paris

Agreement's enhanced transparency framework. This enables countries to plan their actions, account for their contributions, and track progress towards implementation and achievement of their NDCs.

The guides are a result of collaboration with technical experts from around the world. They have been used to support capacity-building for transparency in more than 20 countries and incorporate experience from these applications.



Knowledge sharing

Working in partnership with other institutions and programmes, and building on the experience of ICAT's own work, ICAT is developing a suite of globally applicable knowledge and educational products, including capacity-building materials and publications, e-learning and training courses, and webinars.

To facilitate knowledge sharing between practitioners, ICAT supports, as a matter of priority, regional and subregional meetings and country-to-country exchanges to encourage peer-to-peer learning and South-South cooperation.

ICAT's impact – some examples

ICAT provides country-driven support in a holistic and flexible manner that reinforces climate change and sustainable development impacts. ICAT's focus is on empowering countries to advance policies and actions in the most effective manner, both from a domestic and a global perspective.

ICAT's support to transparency goes well beyond reporting and encompasses evidence-based policy-making, integration across sectors and levels of governance, and stakeholder engagement. By working with countries based on their existing transparency frameworks, ICAT also promotes harmonization with other transparency efforts and in-country strategies to help maximize the impact of country efforts.

Some examples of ICAT's impact:

Costa Rica

Costa Rica's aspiration is to become a carbon neutral economy by 2021 with total net emissions comparable to total emissions in 2005.

As part of the ICAT project, Costa Rica:

- Designed the legal framework for opening climate change data
- Further developed the data management protocol for the National Climate Change Metrics System (SINAMECC) and contributed to a tool for formalizing the data sharing processes with SINAMECC
- Further developed the MRV system for the transport sector for the Great Metropolitan Area of Costa Rica and drew up a proposal for integrating co-benefits indicators.

ICAT's work with Costa Rica focused on bridging existing gaps related to consistent climate data collection and integrating sustainable development and transformational change indicators in the national climate transparency system. For example, to map

the linkages between NDCs and SDGs, Costa Rica used ICAT support to assess sustainable development benefits and potentially negative impacts of certain climate policies and actions in order to promote synergies and minimize trade-offs.

Ghana

Ghana's emission reduction goal is to lower its GHG emissions by 15% relative to a business-as-usual scenario emission by 2030. With the external support, made available to Ghana to cover the full cost of the mitigation action, including finance, technology transfer, capacity building, a total emission reduction of 45% emission levels can be achieved by 2030.

As part of the ICAT project, Ghana:

- Established a system to estimate the impacts of the implementation of the Renewable Energy Act through the renewable energy sector mitigation options
- Contributed to the strengthening of Ghana's Climate Ambitious Report Programme (G-CARP), the domestic MRV system of Ghana
- Created an NDC tracking tool which engaged stakeholders from different national agencies and helped to define baseline assessment.

Sri Lanka

As part of its NDC, Sri Lanka intends to reduce GHG emissions by 20% in the energy sector and by 10% in transport, industry, forests and waste sectors by 2030.

ICAT in Sri Lanka:

- Helped to bring together all national ministries and agencies engaged in the transport sector to develop and agree upon a protocol for data sharing for a national transport MRV system
- Facilitated data-sharing for the assessment of cost-effective climate actions and policies in the transport sector to determine possible updates to the country's NDCs.

Opportunities for engagement

As a multi-stakeholder partnership, ICAT closely engages with different partners worldwide, including public and private actors. ICAT is open to broaden its engagement and bring on board additional partners, including:

- Partner countries interested in joining ICAT to receive support, resources and advice to enhance domestic capacity for mitigation and adaptation action transparency can respond to a Call for Expressions of Interest on ICAT's website: climateactiontransparency.org/call-for-expressions-of-interest-for-countries-to-join-icat/

- Donor countries wishing to become an ICAT funder to support further work on enhanced climate action transparency can contact the ICAT Secretariat
- Other initiatives and programmes supporting countries on transparency-related efforts are welcome to suggest to the ICAT Secretariat areas for collaboration
- Experts on climate policies and transparency are welcome to provide their feedback on the work of ICAT, including the ICAT methodologies and tools.

Interested parties who seek to collaborate with ICAT are invited to contact the ICAT Secretariat at ICAT@unops.org.

ICAT countries

More than thirty countries participate in ICAT. Countries are selected based on existing MRV capacity and the ambition of their climate and sustainable development goals.



* Collaboration is conducted through a national institute

ICAT partners

Donors



Federal Ministry for the
Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety



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ClimateWorks

Management and support



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Supporting partners



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