



ICAT'S WORK IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Since ratifying the UNFCCC in 1998, the Dominican Republic has made good progress on integrating climate change into its policy and introducing the principles of climate change and sustainability into different aspects of society, the economy and the environment.¹

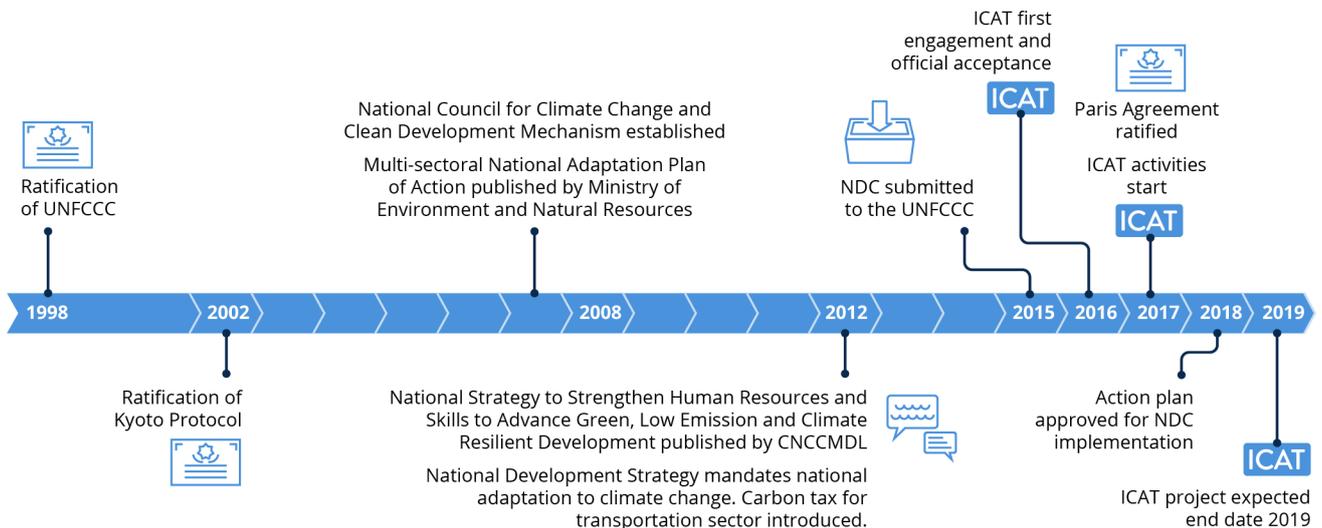
The Dominican Republic is currently in the process of updating its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement, and is approving a national Action Plan to support NDC implementation.



Heading 2

Mitigation commitments: Reduction of 25% of base year emissions by 2030, conditional upon favourable and predictable support, feasible climate finance mechanisms, and corrections to the failures of existing market mechanisms. The base year is 2010. Base year estimated emissions are 3.6 tCO₂e per capita.

Adaptation commitments: Adaptation is a constitutional priority for the country. Sectors identified as most vulnerable are drinking water, energy (power generation component), the national system of protected areas, human settlements and tourism.



¹ Dominican Republic (2017)

In the Dominican Republic, ICAT support is helping to establish a national legal framework to guide and underpin national level Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) to meet the country's objectives under the Paris Agreement.

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

ICAT integrates guidance, capacity building and knowledge sharing to engage countries in the use of a common framework to assess the impacts of their policies and actions and report progress, fostering greater transparency, effectiveness and ambition. The initiative will improve the availability and quality of climate related data and enable countries to promote efficient, cost-effective policies. ICAT's approach is country led.

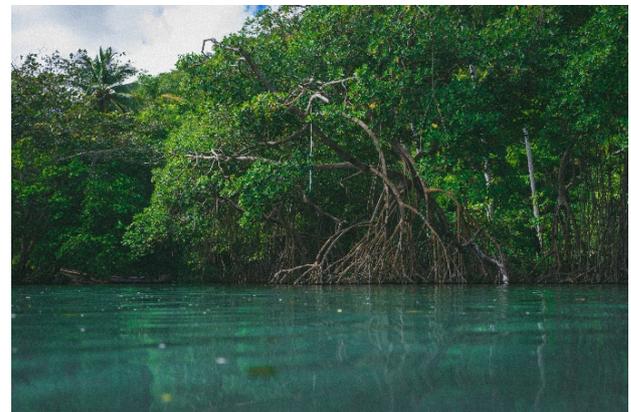
"ICAT is well aligned with country needs and priorities, this has allowed the Dominican Republic to really go after what it needs in relation to climate action transparency"

Jose Carlos Fernandez, Environmental Lawyer and ICAT Coordinator, 2019.

ICAT began working with the Dominican Republic in 2017. The initiative is partnering with the Dominican Republic National Council for Climate Change and the Clean Development Mechanism (CNCCMDL). The project purpose is to support the country to develop a national level institutional framework for MRV of climate actions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The project will end in December 2019, following delivery of a draft Presidential decree that aims to enshrine the framework into national law.

While the national MRV framework will only become operational after this current phase of ICAT support has ended, the project has already helped to enhance climate action transparency. Perhaps the greatest impact of ICAT's work to

date is the increased awareness and momentum around transparency that the project has generated in the Dominican Republic. ICAT workshops to sensitize national stakeholders to the MRV framework, for example, have greatly enhanced understanding of climate action transparency issues across different levels of government, civil society and the private sector. Those closely engaged with the project report that ICAT support has enabled a thorough process of sensitization from the bottom up, creating a greater sense of national ownership for transparency and building momentum for the forthcoming MRV framework.



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Awareness raising and ownership has been complemented by ICAT's support to technical knowledge and capacity building across key government institutions and non-state actors.

ICAT training on the processes and data analysis required for developing national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories has helped create a core pool of technicians within the Dominican Republic that better understand their role within the MRV system and are better prepared to track, monitor and report climate action and greenhouse gas emissions reductions. These technicians include individuals from the National Statistics Office (ONE), the Ministry of Finance, relevant line ministries and private industry associations.

Other benefits of ICAT's support may be less tangible but no less important. ICAT's strong focus on clarifying and agreeing institutional roles and responsibilities relating to climate action transparency, for example, has resolved uncertainties around role clarity and division of

² Image by Gabriel Genereux, [link](#).

labour between all relevant stakeholders, including between the Ministry of Environment and CNCCMDL.

“Transparency wise we have taken it up a notch with ICAT ICAT has given each institution a role and has supported better knowledge or MRV. ICAT has written the script for implementation of MRV.”

Jose Carlos Fernandez, Environmental Lawyer and ICAT Coordinator, 2019.

Other benefits of ICAT’s support may be less tangible but no less important. ICAT’s strong focus on clarifying and agreeing institutional roles and responsibilities relating to climate action transparency, for example, has resolved uncertainties around role clarity and division of labour between all relevant stakeholders, including between the Ministry of Environment and CNCCMDL. Support to ONE to enhance its technical capability as lead agency for the collection and management of climate-related statistics has in turn helped to strengthen its

broader role and standing at national level. Next steps for the Dominican Republic will be implementing the national MRV system once enshrined into law. This may require further capacity building and institutional strengthening to support relevant government and non-state actors to put their climate action transparency knowledge into practice. While ICAT’s support has helped the country to develop its high level institutional framework for MRV, more detailed institutional arrangements are still needed beneath this, for example within individual institutions themselves. The Dominican Republic is currently in discussions with ICAT regarding a second phase of funding that would identify and support key priorities for implementing the MRV framework.



Peer-to-peer exchange with Costa Rica:

ICAT has supported a learning exchange between Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic. Costa Rica has been implementing a similar ICAT project, focused on establishing a legal framework for MRV, and was slightly ahead in terms of project delivery. Recognizing the regional and project similarities between the two countries, ICAT arranged for a team of three people to travel from the Dominican Republic to Costa Rica in April 2019 to learn more about the work being done there.

This exchange provided a timely opportunity for the Dominican Republic team, supporting key stakeholders engaged in the ICAT project to gain valuable insights and knowledge from Costa Rica’s experience. Counterparts in Costa Rica shared techniques for unlocking institutional challenges to MRV, highlighting for example the importance of creating multiple opportunities for stakeholder engagement, awareness raising and capacity building to sensitize individuals and institutions to the benefits of MRV and to support negotiations around prime responsibilities. This learning informed the Dominican Republic’s approach to stakeholder engagement on MRV.

An additional benefit was that Costa Rica also shared information on its electronic data management platform, developed to support implementation of its MRV system. As a result, the Dominican Republic is now developing a similar platform, intended for use across all sectors that will support collection, management and reporting of mitigation actions. Overall, the Costa Rica exchange brought new issues and ideas to the attention of the Dominican Republic ICAT team, providing an additional layer of technical expertise and support to the country’s MRV framework development process.

³ Image by Asael Peña, [link](#).