



ICAT'S WORK IN GHANA

Climate change is expected to affect a number of Ghana's key sectors, including agriculture, water and forestry. Since ratifying the UNFCCC in 1995, Ghana has created a number of policy frameworks to address climate change and enhance the country's resilience. Climate change is also integrated into Ghana's national development agenda.

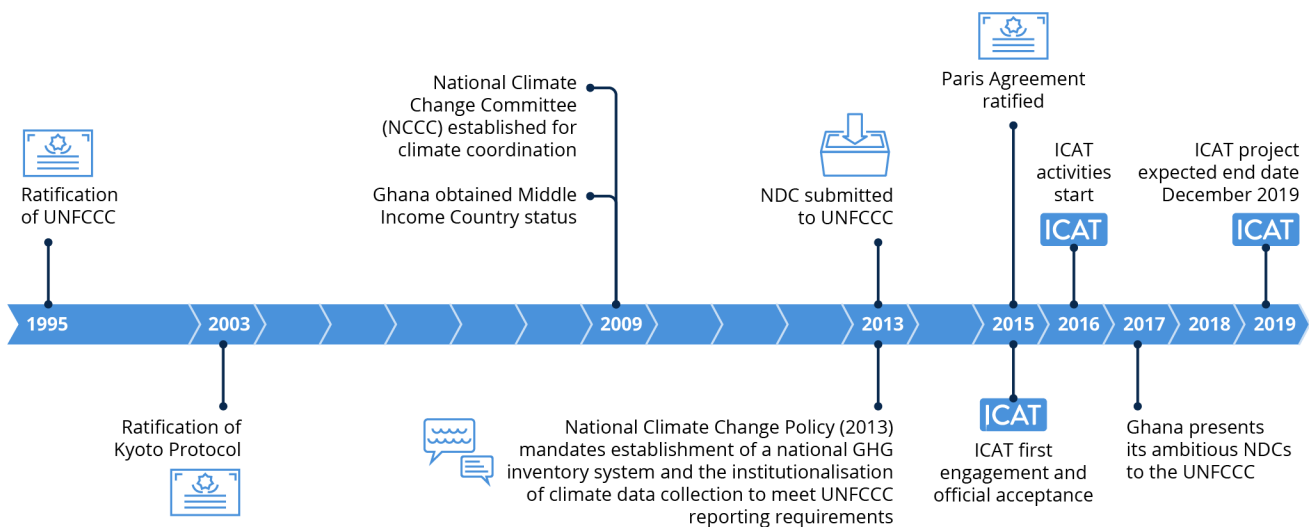
Ghana ratified the Paris Agreement in 2016 and has already prepared an investment strategy for its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC). Steps taken in recent years to integrate climate change into the national agenda demonstrate the seriousness that Ghana attaches to the climate challenge. Much work will be needed, however, to translate the INDCs into concrete and timely climate actions.



Headline NDC commitments (2016):¹

Mitigation commitments: Ghana has committed to unconditionally lowering its GHG emissions by 15% relative to a business-as-usual (BAU) scenario of 73.95 MtCO₂e by 2030. An additional 30% emissions reduction could be attainable provided external support is made available. Priority sectors include transport, energy, forestry, waste and industry.

Adaptation commitments: Ghana's long-term adaptation goal is to increase climate resilience and decrease vulnerability for enhanced sustainable development. Priority sectors include agriculture and food security, sustainable forest management, resilient infrastructure, health and water.



¹ Republic of Ghana (2016) Ghana's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution, [link](#).

In Ghana, ICAT support is helping to develop and operationalize the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system, with a focus on developing the legal framework and institutional arrangements for MRV.

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.

Ghana's existing MRV system

Ghana adopted the GCARP as its domestic MRV system in 2013. GCARP aims to put in place a workable climate data management system to support regular national and international reporting of information on GHG emissions and climate actions. Although the GCARP system is well designed, implementation of its various components has progressed at different speeds and levels. As a result, there is a need for the system to become better embedded and more functional.

ICAT began working with Ghana in 2017, following an initial scoping phase to identify the country's climate action transparency priorities. The initiative partners with Ghana's Environment Protection Agency and is focused on operationalizing Ghana's existing MRV system, the Ghana Climate Ambition Reporting Program (GCARP). To date, the ICAT project has assessed the status of domestic MRV, reviewed the roles of data champions, and trained national stakeholders to better assess the full effects of climate actions.

ICAT is supporting the government of Ghana to develop an integrated climate data management system to track national policy implementation and facilitate timely data sharing at the national level. This system will be underpinned by clearly identified reporting structures and integrated into Ghana's existing national development monitoring and evaluation (M&E) superstructure. A network of data champions has been established to support climate action tracking and is already operational, made up of 20 champions from across public sector organisations and civil society organisations (CSOs). This network has been devised so that each data champion is responsible for a specific NDC, with 10 'lead' and 10 'back up' champions.



²

ICAT's work in Ghana has included a strong focus on capacity building. In 2018, Ghana's newly identified data champions and other key stakeholders were trained to apply the Greenhouse Gas Abatement Cost Model (GACMO). 40 people attended the training workshop from across government, academia and civil society. Subsequent application of the GACMO tool in Ghana has made it possible to assess the emissions reductions and cost implications of individual mitigation actions in the country's NDC. It has also helped stakeholders to aggregate the effects of these individual actions to develop robust emissions reduction targets. A wider benefit is that the training has helped to build a shared understanding of role clarity between different institutions.

² Photo by Virgyl Sowah, [link](#).

Application of the GACMO tool is already having an impact in Ghana, providing the data and statistics needed to support arguments for accelerating climate related policies and actions. This is helping the Government of Ghana to make increasingly compelling arguments for further climate-related investment. GACMO was the main tool used by Ghana in the assessment of mitigation actions when compiling the country's second biennial update report (BUR) to the UNFCCC in 2018. It is also expected to contribute to Ghana's NDC revision in 2020.

"GACMO is simple and adaptable, and can be adapted to address complicated issues. It has the utility to fit into our own unique circumstances"

Antwi-Boasiako Amoah, Ph.D, Principal Programme Officer, Environmental Protection Agency Ghana.

Next steps for Ghana will be fully operationalizing and maintaining its strengthened domestic MRV system, with a particular focus on the data champions network. This will require stakeholders to continue building their capacity and putting their ICAAT training into practice. ICAT is currently exploring a second phase of support to Ghana. This may include support to adapt the GACMO tool to meet local government MRV requirements, and assessment of energy efficiency interventions and support to better communicate and translate climate-related results to a wider audience, this encouraging further action. Discussions with national partners are ongoing.



3

Applying ICAT's Sustainable Development Methodology:

ICAT's **Sustainable Development Methodology** has been applied in the renewable energy sub-sector in Ghana to assess the sustainable development impacts of Ghana's solar rooftop programme. The programme aims to provide 200MW peak load relief on the national grid through solar PV technology. The ICAT study identifies sustainable development benefits of the programme across three key dimensions: environmental, social and economic.

The study has helped Ghana to evaluate the full effects of its NDC actions in the renewable energy sub-sector, moving beyond assessments focused purely on emissions reductions. This has highlighted a number of benefits from the solar rooftop programme that are usually not identified or shared with policy-makers. These benefits include reduced air pollution, increased jobs in solar PV and increased household incomes as a result of reduced energy costs.

The ICAT study not only helps to strengthen analytical rigour in the renewable energy sub-sector, but also provides a basis for changing Ghana's messaging and communications around renewable energy projects. Changing the conversation to include a focus on the socio-economic and financial benefits of renewable energy is likely to appeal more to both policy-makers and the general public, in turn increasing public appetite and desire for renewables. Moving forward, findings from the study are also expected to inform the national team responsible for revising Ghana's NDCs in 2020.

³ Photo by Michael Behrens, [link](#).