



# ICAT-A NATIONAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP: SOUTH AFRICA

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CSIR, PRETORIA**

**Report prepared for:**  
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## **Table of Contents**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Introduction  | 4 |
| 2. Workshop proceedings - Overview of presentations                      | 4 |
| 2.1. Overview of ICAT-A project  | 4 |
| 2.2. Overview of ICAT-A: South Africa                                    | 4 |
| 2.3. Overview of NFCS  | 5 |
| 3. Key discussion points   | 5 |
| 3.1. Linkages with NFCS  | 5 |
| 3.2. Considerations regarding focus area selected for the ICAT-A project | 6 |
| 3.3. M&E related gaps  | 6 |
| 3.4. Project advisory committee and key stakeholders to include          | 7 |
| ANNEX 1 - Programme  | 8 |
| ANNEX 2 – List of participants   | 9 |

## **1. Introduction**

The first National Consultation Workshop for the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency in Adaptation (ICAT-A) project, held on 25 March 2019 at the CSIR in Pretoria, was hosted by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) who are leading South Africa's involvement in the ICAT-A project.

The focus area selected for South Africa in the ICAT-A project is early warning systems in coastal regions with the aim of enhancing efficiency in monitoring and tracking effectiveness of adaptation actions of early warning systems in South Africa towards supporting the country's NFCS and the Desired Adaptation Outcomes. The country has committed itself to developing the early warning system and monitoring system for climate vulnerable sectors as one of the objectives of its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and it has been identified as one of the key strategic interventions in the Draft National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. The National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS) is seen as the key strategic vehicle to deliver on the early warning and monitoring system, and ICAT-A will contribute a significant component of this.

The purpose of the workshop was to:

- Introduce the ICAT-A project to stakeholders,
- Provide an overview of the NFCS and progress in implementation, and highlight linkages to the ICAT-A project
- Discuss current adaptation projects and gaps within the project's focus area which can be used to inform the project objectives

This report provides an overview of the presentations and key discussion points. Annex 1 provides the programme for the workshop and Annex 2 shows the list of participants and contact details.

## **2. Workshop proceedings - Overview of presentations**

### **2.1. Overview of ICAT-A project**

Henry Neufeldt, UNEP-DTU, provided an overview of the broader ICAT project, and highlighted the overall and specific objectives of the ICAT-A project and planned outcomes, including partner countries, how they differ, and briefly outlined the project theory of change.

### **2.2. Overview of ICAT-A: South Africa**

Sasha Naidoo, CSIR, introduced the project and outlined the purpose of the first national consultation workshop for the ICAT-A project to the workshop participants. The focus area for the project, early warning systems in coastal regions, was introduced within the context of the National Framework for Climate Services, which is seen as a key strategic vehicle to deliver on the early warning and monitoring system in the country. The relevance of the

project focus area in the context of the country's climate change priorities was highlighted, specifically in terms of the country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) (Goal 4: Develop an early warning, vulnerability and adaptation monitoring system for key climate vulnerable sectors and geographic areas); the Sustainable Development Goals (Goal 13 Target: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters); and the Desired Adaptation outcomes (DAOs) (which structure the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of South Africa's adaptation response). An outline of Phase 1 of the project was provided in terms of the activities for stakeholder mapping, needs assessment, development of the basic toolbox and capacity building needs assessment.

### **2.3. Overview of NFCS**

Sibonelo Mbanjwa, Department of Environmental Affairs, presented an overview of the National Framework for Climate Services, provided an update on the progress towards its implementation, and highlighted potential linkages between the ICAT-A project and the NFCS, along with next steps. The National Framework for Climate Services for South Africa (NFCS-SA) is the country's response to the declaration of the World Climate Conference-3 (WCC-3), held from 31 August to 4 September 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland. The vision of the NFCS-SA is "To enable society to better manage the risks and opportunities arising from climate variability and change, especially for those who are most vulnerable to climate related hazards". It was emphasised that there are multiple organisations working in the climate change space and that NFCS aims to coordinate these activities. The overarching goals of the NFCS-SA were outlined, along with priority sectors (which included Disaster Management and Reduction, as well as Coasts and Oceans), and an overview of the climate services landscape. The approved operational structure of the NFCS was presented. The DEA and Department of Science and Technology (DST) lead the NFCS; however, the South Africa Weather Services (SAWS) will need to co-ordinate activities and the various pillars of the NFCS will guide the creation of sub-committees.

## **3. Key discussion points**

Following the presentations, the workshop participants discussed the ICAT-A project in terms of linkages to the NFCS, considerations regarding the focus area selected for the ICAT-A project, gaps related to the M&E system which the project can contribute towards, and potential stakeholders to include going forward.

### **3.1. Linkages with NFCS**

The ICAT-A project was considered a potential contributor to pillars of the NFCS and other DEA-lead programmes though providing an understanding of gaps in early warning systems, though its linkage to the DEA M&E system, and support of capacity building and increased transparency of country reporting under the Paris Agreement.

### **3.2. Considerations regarding focus area selected for the ICAT-A project**

- What are the hazards (e.g. floods) and risk and vulnerability index in coastal areas (South African Earth Observation Network (SAEON) and South African Risk and Vulnerability Atlas (SARVA) as resources)?
- The disaster atlas is a database that could assist in identifying status of knowledge about hazards in coastal areas.
- Overview of the overall status of what is available nationally in terms of early warning systems
- Assess disaster management plans, as well as climate change related-projects and programmes, for the areas where disasters are documented to understand the extent to which these plans address these disasters.
- Impact based early warnings systems are being piloted by the South African Weather Services – to discuss with SAWS
- Pilot studies should, where possible, be community focussed. Engagement with the oceans and coast department of the DEA to guide selection of potential pilot studies

### **3.3. M&E related gaps**

Desired Adaptation Outcomes (DAOs) for Monitoring and Evaluating climate resilience have been developed to complement the building blocks of the South Africa's monitoring and evaluation framework and to facilitate and focus the M&E of the country's progress towards resilience. Nine generic DAOs have been developed, each of which is of cross-cutting, cross-sectoral relevance and describes, in a general sense, a desired state that will enhance South Africa's transition towards climate resilience. The DAOs provide a means of assessing the capacity of 'at risk' sectors and their stakeholders to adapt to climate change and whether the measures being taken are appropriate, efficient and effective. According to the DEA, the Desired Adaptation Outcomes are not all based on indicators per se and can include the use of maps, videos, etc. so that varying forms of evidence provided is used. More detail is needed in defining what indicator is required, as well as a need to refine existing measures for M&E in the area of disaster risk reduction.

The ICAT-A project intends to contribute to DAO G3, which is "Accurate climate information (e.g. historical trend data, seasonal predictions, future projections, and early warning of extreme weather and other climate-related events) provided by existing and new monitoring and forecasting facilities/networks (including their maintenance and enhancement) to inform adaptation planning and disaster risk reduction". What is needed is an understanding of what is being done in terms of monitoring and evaluating early warning systems, as well as what can be improved.

### **3.4. Project advisory committee and key stakeholders to include**

Additional stakeholders, in addition to those initially invited to the workshop, to include in the project advisory committee or as reference groups to guide project as part of specific work packages:

- Oceans and Coast Department of the Department of Environmental Affairs
- Coastal Research Group at the CSIR
- Built Environment Group at CSIR
- Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME)
- Statistics South Africa (Stats SA)
- South African Local Government Association (SALGA)
- Cooperative Governance & Traditional Affairs (COGTA) – the National Spatial Development Framework (NSDF) working group
- Sector Departments – settlement planning and development planning

## ANNEX 1 - Programme



### The Initiative for Climate Action Transparency in Adaptation (ICAT-A) workshop

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019

9:00 – 15:30

CSIR Building 33, Kingfisher Boardroom

| The Initiative for Climate Action Transparency in Adaptation (ICAT-A) |  |
|---|--|
| 08:30 – 09:00   | Registration and tea   |
| 09:00 – 9:15  | Introduction and purpose of workshop                                   |
| 9:15 – 9:30   | Overview of ICAT-A project   |
| 9:30 – 10:00  | Overview of ICAT-A: South Africa                                       |
| 10:15 – 10:30   | Tea  |
| 10:30 – 11:00   | Overview of NFCS   |
| 10:45 – 11:45   | Group discussion - Implementation and future needs of NFCS             |
| 11:45 – 13:00   | Group discussion - Pilot case studies and data availability for ICAT-A |
| 13:00 – 14:00   | Lunch  |
| 14:00 – 15:00   | Group Discussion - Pilot case studies and data availability for ICAT-A |
| 15:00 – 15:30   | Wrap-up and Way Forward  |

