



REPORT

Initiative for Climate Action Transparency Liberia Project: NDC tracking and policy
impact assessment

Inception Meeting



Organized By:

Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia

With Support From:

Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT)

Held at:

Executive Conference Room, Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia
4th Street Sinkor, Monrovia-Liberia

Prepared By: *Arthur R.M. Becker- National Project Facilitator*

ICAT Liberia Project Inception Report:

DISCLAIMER

“All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, photocopying, recording or otherwise, for commercial purposes without prior permission of UNOPS. Otherwise, material in this publication may be used, shared, copied, reproduced, printed and/ or stored, provided that appropriate acknowledgement is given of UNOPS as the source and copyright holder. In all cases the material may not be altered or otherwise modified without the express permission of UNOPS”.

PREPARED UNDER

Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) supported by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety, the Children’s Investment Fund Foundation, the Italian Ministry for Ecological Transition, and ClimateWorks.



The ICAT project is ~~led~~ supported by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)





Background

The Government of Liberia through the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia engaged the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) in 2018 on the margins of the 3rd Global Coordination meeting for Focal Points of the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) projects been implemented globally of which Liberia is a part. A follow up meeting was held with ICAT a year later (2019) in Bonn, Germany with Liberia's National Focal Point for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to cement discussions of securing possible funding to enhance Liberia's Transparency elements as well as increase climate actions on the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) targets as outlined in the revised NDCs of the country. Following series of virtual meetings and the development of a work plan to support Liberia; Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) and the Government of Liberia finally signed a Project Cooperative Agreement in October 2020 to jumpstart the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency Liberia Project aimed at enhancing NDC tracking and policy impact assessment.

After the Project Cooperative Agreement (PCA) was signed, an engagement meeting was held between the Government of Liberia through the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia and the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency to discuss the details of the project implementation modalities. This meeting was held in January 2021.

Delays in commencing the project were due to the change of leadership at the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia in October 2020 and the recruitment of a National Project Facilitator.

The official inception meeting for the commencement of the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency: NDC Tracking and Policy Impact Assessment took place on Friday February 26, 2021 bringing together 20 sectoral experts from line Ministries, Agencies and Commissions including the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia whose work relates to the ***Transport, Energy and Waste sectors***. The meeting was held as the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia main office on 4th Street Sinkor Monrovia, Liberia and brought together 20 representatives from The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia, Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Services, Ministry of Mines and Energy, Liberia Petroleum Refinery Company, Liberia Electricity Corporation, Rural Renewable Energy Agency of Liberia, Monrovia City Corporation, Ministry of Transport, Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation, Liberia Maritime Authority, University of Liberia, Liberia Private Sector Climate Change Initiative, Ministry of Public Works.



The Initiative for Climate Action Transparency Global Intervention

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 upon existing MRV systems and knowledge in countries, and complement previous or on-going activities by other initiatives, where applicable.

Support provided is tailored to fit 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 an unincorporated multi-stakeholder partnership steered and funded by the Donor Steering Committee (DSC), conformed by its donors, the Children 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), as well as the UNFCCC and UNOPS as ex-officio members. The Initiative is managed by UNOPS on behalf of the DSC. Within UNOPS, the ICAT Secretariat manages ICAT day-to-day activities, coordinating and guiding the work of the implementing partners.



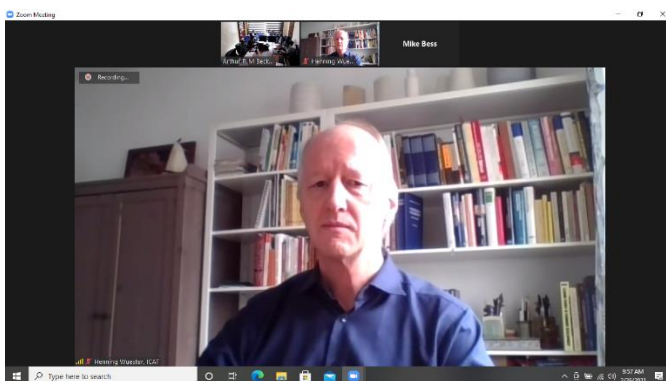
Opening Proceedings of the Inception Meeting

The Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) Liberia project inception meeting began at 10:13 am Liberia time.

In opening remarks, Mr. Jefferson F. Nyandibo- Manager for Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change national Focal point noted that it was a pleasure to have sectoral experts gathered together as well as the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) team joining virtually for the project inception meeting. Mr. Nyandibo took off time to thank ICAT for their support to Liberia through the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia and looked forward to a meaningful collaboration now and in the future.

In separate remarks, the Monrovia City Corporation represented by Mr. Sennay Carlor III, thanked the Environmental Protection Agency for its continuous support in providing capacity building support to sector experts at the Monrovia City Corporation in the area of GHG inventory. He was also quick to mention the level of collaboration that the Monrovia City Corporation is harnessing to ensure proper waste management in Liberia. He assured the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia and the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) of the Monrovia City Corporation fullest support to the ICAT Liberia project implementation. He ended by thanking ICAT for the support to Liberia.

Making remarks On behalf of Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) was Henning Wuester, Director of Initiative for Climate Action Transparency. He expressed pleasure to join the inception meeting virtually though he would have loved to be physically present in Liberia. Henning then welcomed Liberia to the ICAT Partnership. Later participants were briefly introduced to the work of ICAT as well as getting to understand how ICAT gets its funding support.



Henning Wuester
Director, Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT)



Mr. Wuester was quick to mention that there are many opportunities that do exist through the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT). He mentioned that ICAT's funding was quite recently extended to 2026. Henning informed sectoral experts that ICAT partnership cuts across 40 countries of which Liberia is a part. In terms of what **“Transparency”** is, Henning stated that the concept of “Transparency” is a core element of the Paris Agreement and as such it is relevant both at the national and international levels. He further stated that Transparency is important for stakeholder engagement and integrating all the relevant sectors and actors involved with Transport, Energy and Waste. Additionally, Mr. Wuester noted that Transparency enhances the development of evidence based policies and ensures accountability for climate actions.

He noted that the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency places keen interest on the Nationally Determined Contributions and hopes that there can be practical linkages found to enhance climate actions to national development.

In terms of the opportunities that ICAT has, Mr. Wuester mentioned that ICAT's project are short and focused projects and encourages Peer-to-Peer exchange that ICAT can provide additional resources for if Liberia so desires. He also encouraged sector experts from Liberia to see the need in advancing innovation for climate action. He thanked Liberia through the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia for an excellent engagement in the development of the work plan. In a special way, Henning thanked the leadership, headed by Prof. Wilson K. Tarpeh and the project team at the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia for their pro-activeness in getting the project started.

On behalf of the Executive Director/CEO of the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia, Hon. Wilson K. Tarpeh, the Deputy Executive Director- Hon. Randall M. Dobayou, II made special remarks. In his opening remarks, Hon. Dobayou informed the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) team and participants that Prof. Tarpeh would have loved to attend the inception meeting but unfortunately couldn't be present as a result of pressing national engagements with the President of Liberia. Hon. Dobayou reinforced Henning's statement on ensuring that “Transparency” becomes core to enhancing climate action in Liberia. He was quick to note that the Energy, waste, and Transport sectors are critical to Liberia's socio-economic development agenda.

Hon. Dobayou mentioned the enormous challenges that the three (3) sectors face which include but not limited to the availability and access to renewable energy, sustainable low emissions in the transport sector as well as effective waste management. He furthered that the ICAT project wouldn't have been initiated in Liberia at a time better than now to compliment the revision of Liberia's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and looks forward to additional support for Liberia. He assured the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) that Liberia will successfully implement the project.

Finally, Hon. Dobayou declared the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT): NDC tracking and policy impact assessment inception meeting officially opened.



The opening formalities were climaxed with self-introduction.

WORK SESSION

- a. Objectives of the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency(ICAT) Liberia Project- Arthur R.M. Becker- **National Project Facilitator, Initiative Climate Action Transparency(ICAT) Liberia Project**

The Presentation had the following outline:

- Brief Background of Initiative Climate Action Transparency(ICAT) global intervention
- Initiative Climate Action Transparency(ICAT) Liberia Project Objectives
- Initiative Climate Action Transparency(ICAT) Liberia project outcomes
- Conclusion

Objectives of the Project include:

The project will focus on building capacities of technical experts in the Environmental Protection Agency, relevant sector ministries and other stakeholders to be able to assess the impact of mitigation policies, measures, actions and plans and track and monitor progress in NDC implementation.

This project will focus on 3 priority sectors: **energy, transport and waste** with the specific objectives to:

1. Contribute towards ongoing efforts to build a national transparency framework that meets international standards and is tailored to domestic needs
2. Strengthen the EPA's and relevant stakeholders' capacities to apply methodologies and tools to assess GHG and sustainable development impacts and the effectiveness of policies, measures, actions and plans included in the NDC
3. Contribute towards ongoing efforts to improve the availability and quality of data required for measuring GHG and sustainable development impacts and the effectiveness of policies and measures included in the NDC
4. Support the formulation of NDC targets and actions in a manner that allows consistent monitoring and evaluation of progress (in collaboration with relevant existing initiatives that support the NDC update in the framework of the NDC roadmap)
5. Contribute towards ongoing efforts to develop frameworks that facilitate tracking of progress on NDC implementation and strengthen capacities to construct and apply indicators towards that end

Project Outcomes

- Strengthen the capacity of EPA technicians and other relevant stakeholders to assess GHG and sustainable development impacts of mitigation policies, measures, actions and plans;



- Define and set-out indicators, and other elements and tools, needed to track and monitor progress on achieving the targets set out in the updated NDC

- b. Presentation on the ICAT Liberia Project Work plan as well as defining the roles and responsibilities of the project team: Benjamin S. Karmorh, Jr.- **Chief Technical Advisor, EPA**

Prof. Benjamin S. Karmorh, Jr.- Chief Technical Advisor at the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia began by outlining the engagements that the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia initiated to get the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) Liberia project approved in Liberia. He later presented to participants the activities to be implemented as per the project work plan which include:

- Activity 1: Inception phase
- Activity 2: Capacity building for climate modelling
- Activity 3: Impact Assessment Climate mitigation policies
- Activity 4: Capacity Building Paris Agreement Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF)
- Activity 5: NDC Target Trackability
- Activity 6: Indicator for Tracking NDC Progress in the energy, transport and waste sectors
- Activity 7: Capacity building for applying the indicators sets
- Activity 8: Validation and Knowledge Sharing

Professor Karmorh then informed participants that since the project implementation was a little behind schedule in commencing, the project team would revise the work plan timelines and share with sectoral experts including the inception meeting report soonest.

Questions/Comments

Some of the questions asked by participants during the inception meeting were as follows. The National Project Facilitator, Arthur R.M. Becker then provided responses as you will see below.

No	Name	Institution	Question	Response
1	Atty. Stephen Lavalah	Liberia Maritime Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the duration of the project? • What is the cost of the Project? • Who are the beneficiaries? 	<p>10 months</p> <p>\$168,815 USD</p>



				Sector technicians (Transport, Energy and Waste, EPA Technicians and ultimately the people of Liberia.
2	Jocelia Tarplah	Ministry of Public Works	Beyond the Monrovia City Corporation are there other city municipalities/governments that will benefit from the ICAT Liberia project?	Yes. It is a small project with a short duration but the project output is anticipated to benefit other city corporations
3.	Franklin Jackson	Liberia Private Sector Climate Change Alliance	In as much as the Energy, Transport and Waste sectors are important the Agriculture sector is core to Liberia's growth and development. Why the Agricultural sector wasn't considered for this project?	This project focuses only on the three (3) mitigation sectors of Liberia's NDC.
4	Abraham Bility	Rural Renewable Energy Agency of Liberia	How is the Rural Renewable Energy Agency of Liberia involved in this project?	Because you are key to the energy sector of Liberia as part of stakeholders targeted to drive the project activities. That's why you were invited.
5	Anselm Diggs		How will locals benefit from the interventions made in the three(3) sectors	This is going to be a national driven process and obviously locals are expected to benefit from the outcome of the project.



Summary Inputs

Lambert Schneider from Oeko Institute on behalf of the ICAT team and his colleagues at the OEKO Institute Greenhouse Gas Management Institute took time to congratulate Liberia for organizing the inception meeting. He stressed the importance of Transparency at the national and international levels as well as ensuring that it is integrated into national development planning. He further stressed the need that at the national level, there should be a clear understanding of the impact of climate policies. He stated that it is very important that the project focuses on the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) process to enhance sectoral targets, actions and climate policies. He ended by stating that the work plan is built on partnership and cooperation.

Next Steps

Arthur R.M. Becker, National Project Facilitator- Initiative for Climate Action Transparency informed participants attending the inception meeting that the next steps going forward would include finalization of the inception meeting report, revision of the work plan including the implementation of other activities according to the work plan. He was quick however to mention that there would be changes in the initial timeline due to delays in the commencement of the project. He admonished sectoral experts to work with the project team to achieve the project deliverables well in time.

Closing Remarks

In closing remarks Mr. Jefferson F. Nyandibo, Manager Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and National Focal Point, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, EPA Liberia thanked the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) for the support to Liberia and also for joining the inception meeting. He also thanked experts from sectoral line Ministries, Agencies and Commissions of the Government for attending the meeting and looked forward to strengthened coordination in fully implementing the ICAT Liberia Project.

The inception meeting ended at 11:45 am.



ANNEX I
ICAT Inception Meeting in Photos



ICAT Team connected with the Liberia team during the inception meeting



Cross section of sector experts at the inception meeting



(Left- Right)

EPA's Deputy Executive Director- Hon. Randall M. Dobayou, II., Chief Technical Advisor- Benjamin S. Karmorb, Jr., and Liberia's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Coordinator- John Forkpa Kannah



Cross Section of participants



Group photo of sector experts



**ANNEX II
WORK PROGRAMME**

Initiative for Climate Action Transparency Liberia Project: NDC tracking and policy impact assessment
Inception Meeting
EPA Awareness Theatre
Friday February 26, 2021
10:00 am- 12:30 pm

Time	Activity	Responsible Person
09:00 -10:00 am	Participants Registration	ALL
10:00- 10:05 am	Welcome Remarks	Jefferson F. Nyandibo MANAGER, Multilateral Environmental Agreements(MEAs)/UNFCCC Focal Point, EPA
10:05-10:30 am	Special Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MFDP • MME • MCC • MOT • ICAT International Team(Virtually) • Prof. Wilson K. Tarpeh Executive Director/CEO, EPA
10:30 10:40 am	Self-Introduction	ALL
	GROUP PHOTO	
10:45-10:55 am	Objectives of the ICAT Liberia Project	Arthur R.M. Becker National Project Facilitator Initiative Climate Action Transparency(ICAT) Liberia Project
10:55 am-11:10 am	Presentation on the “ICAT Liberia Project work plan as well as defining the roles and responsibilities of the Project Team	Benjamin S. Karmoth, Jr. Chief Technical Advisor, EPA
11:10- 11:55 am	Q/A including feedback to refine project timelines and aspects of the work plan	Participants
11:55- 12:15pm	Summary Inputs	ICAT International Team(virtually)
12:15-12:20 pm	Next Steps	Arthur R.M. Becker National Project Facilitator Initiative Climate Action Transparency(ICAT) Liberia Project
12:20- 12:30 pm	Closing Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MFDP • EPA
	REFRESHMENT	ALL