Health and Water
Adaptation
Workshop Report
28 April 2022







# Initiative for Climate Action Transparency – ICAT Stakeholder Workshop Report

Deliverable C

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#### PREPARED UNDER

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# Introduction

# Background

The Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) project aims to improve institutional arrangements and data collection processes to assist Eswatini to meet the accelerated reporting requirements for its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) under the UNFCCC's Paris Agreement. This is because the Government of Eswatini has prioritized enhancing national capacities to meet its reporting obligations under the enhanced transparency framework (ETF) of the Paris Agreement. The project covers both mitigation measures (mainly in the energy and AFOLU sectors), as well as adaptation measures (Activity 1) in the health and water sectors.

Activity 1 has already conducted an assessment to determine the state-of-play of adaptation measures in both the water and health sectors where an awareness raising workshop was conducted for the health sector on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2022. Stakeholder consultations for both the health and water sectors were done on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February 2022, where information about adaptation measures in these sectors was gathered. A State-of-Play report was generated as a result of stakeholder engagement and literature review. The State-of-Play report also covered adaptation measures implemented to address water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). The exercise identified the gaps in the adaptation actions which need to be addressed to enable Eswatini to meet its NDC's in these sectors.

The gap analysis and action plan report (which was also a deliverable for Activity 1 of the ICAT project) illustrated the gaps, as well as recommended actions to address the gaps. The recommendations were then used to come up with Action Plans for both the health and water sectors, including WASH. This workshop was therefore intended to present, to the relevant stakeholders, the proposed Action Plans, a process which would then lead to the development of the roadmap for both sectors.

# Objectives of the Workshop

The objectives of the workshop of the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022 were:

- To present the state-of-play report
- To present the gap analysis report and proposed action plan
- To engage the water and health stakeholders on the practicality of the proposed action plan
- To use the outcomes of the discussions to come up with a road map to implement the adaptation measures identified for these two sectors.

# **Proceedings of the Workshop**

The workshop was held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Mbabane and was attended by 29 participants, who included stakeholders from the health and water sectors (**Figure 1**). In addition to these, the four consultants from the University of Eswatini, as well as members from the Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs (MTEA), were in attendance. The attendance register is provided in Annex 1 while the workshop agenda is presented in Annex 2.







Figure 1: A section of some of the stakeholders who attended the workshop

## Welcome Remarks

The workshop was opened with a word of prayer followed by welcoming remarks from Ms Khetsiwe Khumalo (Figure 2) from MTEA. In her remarks, Ms Khumalo emphasised the importance of monitoring all climate actions in the country. She further remarked that the country needs baseline data which can be used to identify gaps and opportunities. She highlighted the importance of monitoring which will help Eswatini determine the impacts of any mitigation and adaptation measures implemented, all of which rely on data availability. She expressed her wish that data obtained from such studies can be shared with university students, especially since the team implementing this project was mainly from the University of Eswatini (UNESWA). She encouraged stakeholders in attendance to critically assess the reports which were presented, as this would lead to an implementable road map for both the health and water sectors.



Figure 2: Ms Khetsiwe Khumalo making her opening remarks at the workshop





# **Activity 1 Objectives**

Dr Thabile Ndlovu (**Figure 3**) presented the objectives of the workshop. She explained that the workshop was a continuation of the stakeholder engagement which was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022. The objectives of Activity 1 of the ICAT project were also summarised as follows:

- Development of an inventory of past and current climate adaptation plans, policies and activities in the health and water sector, including:
- Identification of key indicators for adaptation in health and water sector;
- Identification of key criteria for success for these adaptation indicators;
- Identify key gaps (institutional, monitoring, tracking) in health and water adaptation sectors;
- Development of a draft action plan recommending how to fill gaps to enable measuring and tracking progress towards achieving these indicators;
- Develop a draft Roadmap reflecting gap analysis and findings from workshop.

She further narrated the expected outputs from the project which are the development of a:

- National Health and Water Adaptation State-of Play Inventory and Map
- Gap analysis report and Action Plan
- Roadmap that sets out the steps and actions that need to be taken to achieve adaptation in the health and water sectors

She introduced the other consultants from the University of Eswatini, which are Dr Gugu Sibandze, Dr Lihle Mafu and Dr Gcina Vilakati. She mentioned that these, together with herself, were going to lead the consultative meetings which would be run parallel.



Figure 3: Dr Thabile Ndlovu presenting the objectives of the project and the workshop





# Report presentations

From this section of the agenda, two parallel sessions were run in order to allow the stakeholders from the health and water sectors to receive their relevant reports and further allow for maximum consultation. The state-of-play reports for the health and water sectors were presented by Dr Gugu Sibandze and Dr Lihle Mafu (Figure 4), respectively. In both cases, summaries derived from the state-of-play report for the two sectors were presented. Stakeholders were then requested to interrogate the reports and make additions and/or suggestions.





Figure 4: Dr Mafu (left) and Dr Sibandze (right) presenting the state-of-play reports

# State-of-Play inventory and map report

### Health sector

The State-of-Play report was discussed to determine if it had captured all the activities on the ground in the health sector. A few suggestions and corrections were immediately incorporated into the report. The participants expressed a wish that the reports should be shared with the Principals in the Ministry of Health, particularly the Directors, as this would expedite the discussion on integration of climate change into the health sector plans and activities. It was also noted that projects and programmes within the sector that are funded by the World Bank and the US Agencies made it mandatory to have an environmental aspect where the impacts of the project and the mitigation measures to be employed must be outlined. These measures include taking into consideration matters that border on climate change. This was deemed as a good opportunity to model projects and plans and take climate change into consideration in planning in the health sector.

#### Water sector

The state of play presentation outlined how the data was gathered and verified with respective stakeholders to achieve the objective, the projects that are advancing climate change adaptation for the sector, responsible organisations and the status of implementation. It further linked the current work to the updated NDC, how and why the adaptation measures from the NDC were adopted and specific projects that are being implemented through various organisations were aligned to climate adaptation in the water sector. The extent of implementation of the adaptation measure through the various specific projects was also discussed and verified briefly. The stakeholders verified the presented state of play as a true reflection of the activities in the water sector.





# Gap- Analysis report

## Health sector

Dr Sibandze (**Figure 5**) proceeded to present the gap analysis for the health sector while Dr Gcina Vilakati presented the gap analysis for the water sector.



Figure 5: Dr Sibandze presenting the gap analysis to the stakeholders

Dr Sibandze noted that the biggest barrier in the health sector is that the sector is more curative than preventative, which also accounts for the huge financial burden on the health system of the country. The gaps presented were clustered into four broad categories:

- 1. Legal and institutional gaps, such as the lack of policies and strategies for mainstreaming climate change into the health sector, poor intergovernmental collaboration, etc.
- 2. Capacity gaps, such as lack of understanding between climate change and health outcomes, human resource gaps in climate sensitive disease programmes, etc.
- 3. Infrastructure and technology gaps, e.g., health facilities not climate-proofed, inaccessibility of some health facilities/services during extreme weather events, etc.
- 4. Financial gaps, such as donor reliance of the health sector, government fiscal challenges.

One of the gaps that was highlighted, especially in terms of establishing a multi-hazard early warning system, is that of incorporating possible health impacts with daily weather updates. This was seen as a missed opportunity as warnings that would sensitise the public on expected health impacts, such as possible heat stroke during extremely hot temperatures as well as allergens during windy days, should be disseminated alongside the daily weather updates. It was also suggested that the use of technology should be upregulated, particularly using mobile phones to disseminate important weather alerts and associated health impacts to the public.

#### Water sector

The gap analysis presentation included a discussion of the background to the objective, the methodology to gather the data and analysing the gaps and presented the gaps identified for deliberations with the stakeholders. The method of developing the gaps was based on the findings of the current state of play and literature analysis on best





practices for a climate smart water sector as well as hurdles that are being experienced by stakeholders in the implementation of climate change adaptation measures. It was noted that the gaps may be categorised into; financial, legislative framework, infrastructure and technology and human capacity.

The deliberations that followed appraised the presentation to be a well-thought finding and approach to the exercise. However, some sections of the report were modified to better capture the gaps and challenges for better planning going forward. There were observations that the main groupings of the gaps were inter-linked, for instance, the lack of progress in infrastructure development and access to technology was as a result of limited financial resources which also hinders the capacity building drives for the implementation of the climate adaptation aspirations of the country. This and other suggestions were incorporated into the final gap analysis report and further consultations were carried outside the meeting for some stakeholders who could not attend the workshop.

## Presentation of Action Plan

The final presentations were of the action plans (**Figure 6**) for the two sectors which were the major objectives of the workshop. As such, this took the rest of the workshop.



Figure 6: Dr Ndlovu presenting the action plan for the health sector

#### **Health Sector**

The action plan was derived from recommendations in the gap analysis report. Dr. Ndlovu presented the action plan for the health sector. In the deliberations, timelines from the implementers of the proposed actions were determined and incorporated into the action plan. This part of the workshop constituted the majority of the engagement as it was important to develop a roadmap that would have stakeholder input and buy-in, as well as reflect the priorities and timelines as determined by the stakeholders.

## **Water Sector**

The action plan for the water sector was developed from the gap analysis report. As such, the presentation to the stakeholder began with an outline of how the gap analysis was developed through the analysis of the national inventory and the gap analysis. The gap analysis included the adaptation action, the activities that ensures the gaps





are addressed and outlined performance indicators for the success of the activities and assigned responsible institutions. This was done for all adaptation measures that were identified in the state of play report up to the gap analysis. The deliberations with the stakeholders upheld the approach and some additions and rearrangement of the actions were done. The discussions of the timelines were done under the assumption that there will be limited hurdles in resource mobilization.

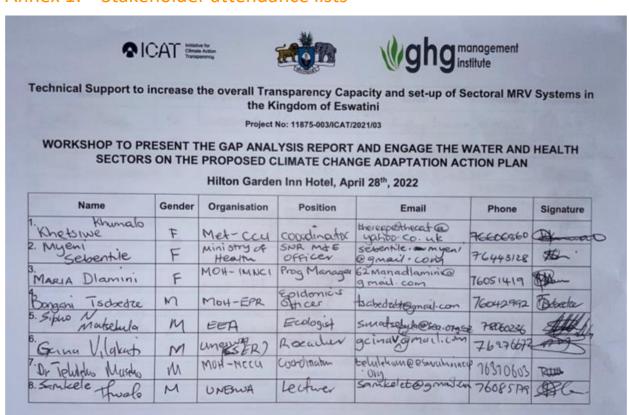
The workshop was then officially closed by Ms Khumalo who thanked the stakeholders for their commitment and support in this project.

The workshop was eventually closed with a word of prayer, after all the deliberations.





# Annex 1: Stakeholder attendance lists



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Name	Gender	Organisation	Position	Email	Phone	Signature
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# Annex 2: Agenda for workshop – Presentation of gap analysis & proposed action plan

Time	Activity	Responsibility	
09:00 – 09:30	Arrival and Registration	All Participants	
09:30 – 09:45	Welcome Remarks	Director MTEA	
09:45 – 10:00	Activity 1 objectives	UNESWA	
10:00 – 10:30	Summary of State-of-Play report	UNESWA	
10:30 – 11:00	Tea Break	All Participants	
11:00 – 11:30	Gap Analysis	UNESWA	
11:30 – 12:00	Discussions		
12:00 – 12:30	Proposed Action Plan	LINIECIAIA	
12:30 – 13:00	Discussions	UNESWA	
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break	All Participants	
14:00 – 15:30	Continuation of discussions with stakeholder	UNESWA	
15:30 – 15:45	Proposed Road Map	UNESWA	
15:45 – 16:00	Closing Remarks	MTEA	