Report summarizing progress and accomplishment on preparation and entry of data

ICAT Initiative for Climate Action Transparency

Initiative for Climate Action Transparency – ICAT
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Introduction

Belize has been engaging with the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) to develop a robust national monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) system for climate change. This has involved several activities including the development of GHG and non-GHG indicators that can allow the tracking of progress and achievement of Belize's Nationally Determined Contribution. Additionally, institutional arrangements were established which identified sector leads. Sector leads are point of contacts for each sector that will be responsible for providing information for their respective sector to the National Climate Change Office – the overall coordinating entity for the national MRV System.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all consultations were held virtually therefore creating a surplus of funds that were allocated to the consultations. This gave the National Climate Change Office an opportunity to go beyond the original work plan and implement additional activities. One of these additional activities allowed the procurement of three data entry technicians to collect data and information respective to the developed indicators. The specific objective of the data entry technicians was to assist in the preparation of data needed to be used to track progress of implementation of NDC and other identified non-GHG, missing and progress impact indicators for the different sectors. They were responsible for organizing and digitizing data and information within key/ministries/departments involved in the MRV process as identified by the National Climate Change Office, and to commence data entry into the MRV system upon completion.

Due to the limited time and resources, only four sectors were selected for this activity. They were prioritized based on gaps in information that were identified from previous consultations during the project. The four sectors chosen for this activity were the waste, transport, forest and agriculture sectors. Therefore, each data entry technician was assigned a sector, with a senior sector lead having two sectors, and was responsible to work with the appropriate sector lead. Through this medium, it is expected that these sectors would have a better understanding of their responsibility and of the data needed for future tracking of the indicators.

Overall, it is envisioned that their internal MRV arrangements would have been enhanced to

improve the quality and access to relevant climate change information and data that will be needed to lead an informed assessment of climate policies and improve decision making. For all applications, MRV systems are key elements to guarantee transparency, precision, and comparability on climate change information. MRV facilitates sharing information and lessons learnt and allows assessing whether set targets have been achieved. Transparency is a key element of these MRV systems and shows the continuity of a country's actions, indicates progress towards national and global emission targets, and enhances trust for sound climate finance and investment.

Methodology

Three data entry technicians were procured for a period of 3 months, and each assigned a sector with one of them being responsible for two sectors. One of the technicians was assigned as team lead based on his qualifications therefore considering him a senior data entry technician. It was, therefore, this senior data entry technician that was assigned two sectors. The four sectors that were involved in this activity were waste, transport, forest, and agriculture.

An overview of the project was introduced, and their responsibilities explained so that they could become oriented with the importance of their tasks. Each technician then developed a template within excel to assist and monitor the information that needed to be collected as it related to the indicators. Within the template, it was indicated whether the indicator is already being monitored and whether baseline information existed. The template can be seen in Annex 1.

Challenges

- One of the biggest challenges was the COVID-19 pandemic. At the time of this activity, Belize was experiencing another wave of the coronavirus. One of the data entry technicians had tested positive for COVID-19 which resulted in all of the technicians needing to isolate and get tested. As per Belize's protocols, this took 10 days.
- In addition to the above, several of the sector leads or persons who were the contacts for the needed information were also positive with COVID-19. This coupled with the first pointer resulted in delays for the data collection.

Progress/Data collected

Despite the challenges faced and the delays that occurred, the data entry technicians were able to contact and collect information for their assigned sectors. As previously mentioned, each of the data entry technician developed a template within excel. This template included

the indicators that were developed in earlier stages of the project. It also included the key related policies, objectives, and targets in relation to the indicators. It was also indicated within the template whether the information was already being monitored and if any baseline information existed. The template included two sections, one for GHG and one for non-GHG indicators. The completed templates for each sector were too large to include in this report therefore it is attached to this report in an excel file.

It is important to note that the work conducted by the data entry technicians was built on previously accomplished activities within the project. Previous completed deliverables were taken into consideration and assisted to guide the data entry technicians in completing their tasks. Previous deliverables accomplished by the National Expert, Mr. John Paul Alvarez, had already identified gaps in data and information and hence assisted in choosing which sectors to work with. Therefore, this activity allowed assistance to be provided to the waste, transport, forest, and agriculture sector so that they can be better prepared and have a better idea of the type of information that will be required for the developed indicators.

Unfortunately, not all of the fields for all indicators within the template could have been completed due to insufficient time as a result of the challenges previously discussed. However, discussions about them did occur between the data entry technicians and the sector leads. Therefore, the sector leads are aware of the limiting data and where attention needs to be prioritized.

In addition to the templates, the data entry technicians also collected documents that assisted them to complete to the template. In cases where it was required, the technicians also digitized information that was only available as hard copies.

Conclusion

While there were several challenges that prevented the data entry technicians from fully collecting information for all the indicators, many was still collected. One of the tasks of the technicians were to input the collected information into the online MRV platform that was to be developed. However, at the time, the online platform was not yet developed and instead the excel templates were used as an alternative. The blank template can be found in Annex 1 and the completed templates for the different sectors are attached to this report as an excel file.

Overall, the information on each indicator collected was helpful. It helped to provide a basis or status of the situation in terms of data availability. This is especially important as we move toward the implementation of the national MRV system after the project closes. Based on the completed templates, it is evident that these sectors will still a lot of assistance when it comes to data collection and determining a baseline for some of the indicators. However,

the MRV system is designed to provide support to these sectors where applicable and possible ensuring that the sector leads are aware that they will not be left alone. It is the hope that Phase II of the ICAT-Belize project will assist in filling some of these gaps as we aim to develop sector-level MRV systems.

Annex 1

Table 1. CC MRV Template to track progress for NCCPSMP, NDC, GHG, missing and progress impact indicators for the **Name Sector**

MRV System (Informal)	GHG Indicator (NDC)	Key related policies	Objectives	Results (Align with NDC)	GHG Impacts Category	Target Description	Target Tracking/Already monitored/ Baseline	NDC Target	NDC Mitigation Activity	Institution to monitor	Comments	Source of Data
GHG												

Table 2. CC MRV Template to track progress for NCCPSMP, NDC, Non GHG, missing and progress impact indicator for the **Name Sector**

MRV System (Informal)	Non GHG Indicators	Key related policies	Objectives	Results (Align with NDC)	Non GHG Impacts	Target Description	Target Tracking/Already monitored	NDC Target	NDC Mitigation Activity	Institution to monitor	Comments	Source of Data
non-GHG												
