

7 November 2022

Call for Expressions of Interest

[The Initiative for Climate Action Transparency \(ICAT\)](#) is seeking Expressions of Interest from new partner countries to join the Initiative and receive support from ICAT to enhance domestic capacity for mitigation and adaptation action transparency, guided by the Enhanced Transparency Framework of the Paris Agreement (ETF). Support will be provided in the form of resources for a project coordinated by a national focal point and implemented by national experts. Additionally, each ICAT project will be supported by international expert advisory services.

Background

The Initiative for Climate Action Transparency was established in 2015 at the COP that adopted the Paris Agreement to support implementation of the Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework.

ICAT provides countries with tailored support and practical tools and methodologies to build robust transparency frameworks needed for effective climate action in sync with national development priorities. The projects ICAT supports relate to: building or enhancing transparency systems for mitigation actions; building a monitoring approach for adaptation actions; implementing and further delivering nationally determined contributions; assessing the impacts of policies related to climate action; integrating and/or aggregating climate actions at the subnational level and for non-state actors; and identifying and increasing domestic benefits and synergies from enhanced climate action.

ICAT offers a range of methodologies and tools to assist countries. The Initiative works with over 40 developing countries ranging from large countries, like China, to small islands, such as Antigua & Barbuda.

ICAT is an unincorporated multi-stakeholder partnership steered by the Donor Steering Committee (DSC), conformed by its donors, the Children Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF); ClimateWorks Foundation (CWF); Germany and Italy, and the UNFCCC Secretariat 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.

ICAT concentrates its efforts in four areas:

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- [Direct country support](#);
 - [Regional Climate Action Transparency Hubs](#);
 - [The ICAT Toolbox](#); and
 - [Knowledge sharing](#).

To address the countries' needs ICAT's support has built on the following core features:

- Policy focus, aimed at enabling transformational change;
- Agility in responding to country needs, anchored in sustainable development assessments;
- Flexibility to innovate and create replicable approaches;
- Sound methodologies and tools; and
- Peer-to-peer collaboration and knowledge sharing.

ICAT's support offer to countries

Country support will be delivered through focused and time-bound (12 to 18 months) projects with resources provided for work by national experts or a national expert institution, training activities, stakeholder workshops and related activities. In addition, there will be dedicated international expert advice supporting the activities at the national level. ICAT collaborates with partner countries to design the project workplan or to build it from a menu of project modules. The project modules are based on already implemented ICAT country projects and each module is aimed to address one or few requirements of the ETF. The modules can be combined and tailored to address country's needs and priorities:

1. A sectoral and/or economy wide MRV framework;
2. A framework to track progress made in implementing and achieving NDCs submitted under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement and evaluate them;
3. Frameworks and tools necessary to estimate projections of GHG emissions and removals;
4. Assessment of policies and measures for their expected or achieved impact on:
 - a. GHG emissions/removals;
 - b. Sustainable development; and/or
 - c. Transformational change;
5. Impact assessment of subnational and/or non-state actions, for instance in the context of implementing and achieving NDCs;
6. A framework to track climate finance (ex ante and ex post);
7. A framework for monitoring and evaluation of just transition processes;
8. A national or sectoral climate data system applying:

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- a. ICAT's Transport Climate Action Data (TraCAD) tool¹; or
 - b. Costa Rica's SINAMECC system;
 9. A framework for monitoring and evaluation of adaptation actions in one or several sectors.

ICAT is open to engaging with countries with a different level of readiness for implementation of the ETF requirements. Modules one to three would allow countries to develop and implement the necessary foundation for effective NDC implementation, whereas modules four to nine would require some MRV framework be in place prior to engagement. If a country already has clearly defined requirements for support within the scope of ICAT's mandate, the project can be tailored to meet those needs.

Submission process

Interested countries are invited to submit a formal Expression of Interest issued by an official entity (ministry or agency) with competency in the matter, by email to icat@unops.org. The following information should be included:

- Status of reporting under UNFCCC and status of submission of NDC, and relevant ongoing activities in this regard;
- Potential areas of interest and priorities for transparency support, such as defined by the project modules (listed above), that ICAT can support. Please indicate the 1-3 areas that are of highest priority;
- Other ongoing initiatives in the country related to climate action transparency and other support projects expected;
- Contact information of the national focal point for the ICAT project.

Countries which intend to submit an Expression of Interest should be informed that joining the Initiative will imply commitment from a designated focal point to ensure swift project preparation and coordination of the work at the national level for a successful project.

Submission timeline and next steps

Submissions received by 15 January 2023 will be given priority.

The submitted Expressions of Interest will be reviewed based on approved selection criteria:

- Diversity of ICAT countries (e.g. geography, size, economic development, significance of GHG emissions and main GHG emitting sectors);
- Ongoing efforts on MRV/transparency;
- Support needs (in particular, clarity in terms of work to be covered in an ICAT project based on selected priority areas from the list above);

¹ TraCAD can be modified for application in other sectors, such as agriculture, energy, or waste.

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- Maximum ICAT impact (countries where ICAT can best apply its tools and methodologies);
 - Workability (e.g. political stability, existing in-country partnerships and connections with the implementing entities, existence of functioning institutions/procedures).

A list of selected countries will be finalized within ten weeks after 15 January 2023. The ICAT Secretariat will then send out the invitations to the selected countries and will lead the initial discussions with country focal points on country priorities, gaps in capacity and the interest in ICAT methodologies and tools. A period of five weeks will be given to countries to formally confirm the invitation to join ICAT. A country scoping phase will then follow. Based on this, a work plan and budget will be developed by a country with support from the International Implementing Partner funded by ICAT. The engagement will then be formalized by concluding a Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) between the responsible government entity and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). A summary outlining the steps to prepare for an ICAT project can be found in annex II.

Implementation of the work plan is envisaged to start in mid-2023.

The country engagement timeline:

1. Selection process (2-3 months)
 - a. ICAT opens Call for EoIs from new partner countries to join the Initiative (6 weeks)
 - b. Submission of EoIs by countries
 - c. Selection Panel reviews EoIs
 - d. ICAT Secretariat invites selected countries to join the Initiative
2. Preparation (2-3 months)
 - a. Initial discussions
 - b. Work plan development
 - c. Project Cooperation Agreement formalization
 - d. Hiring of national consultants/expert institution
3. Implementation (12-18 months)
 - a. Inception workshop
 - b. Implementation of activities according to work plan
 - c. Closing workshop
 - d. Development of final report (and possible review of the need for and eligibility of an additional project phase)

Note

ICAT will be present at COP27 from 9-17 November. Country focal points can contact Ms. Eleni Patra (elenipa@unops.org) to arrange for a meeting with ICAT's Director, Mr. Henning Wuester

or ICAT's Senior Programme Manager, Mr. Oleg Bulanyi. ICAT will also be available to hold virtual discussions with interested countries before the deadline for submission.

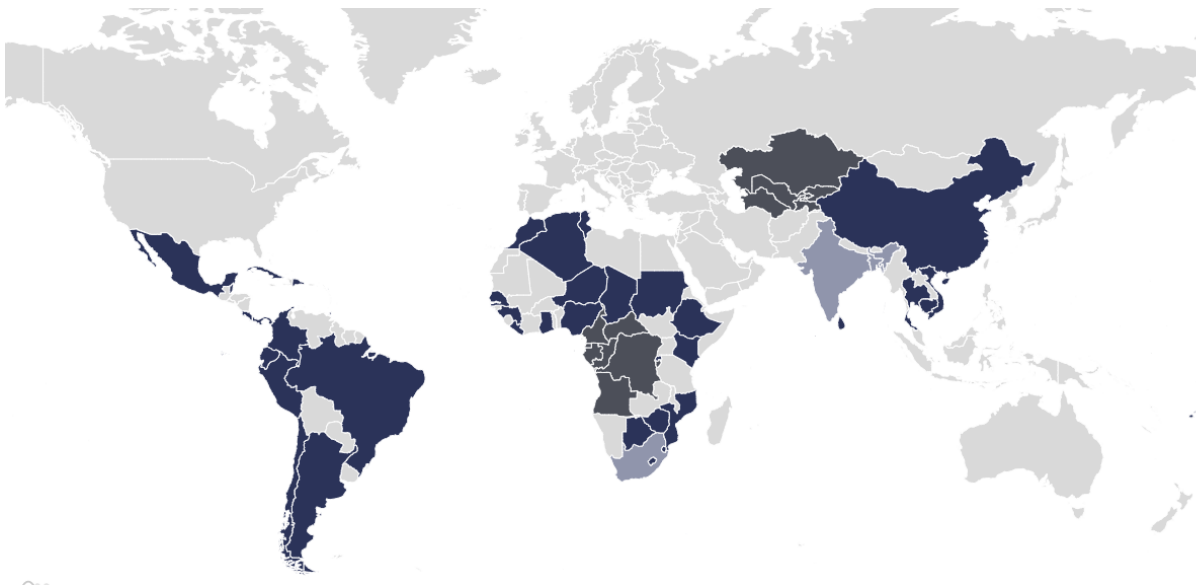
Annex I: ICAT background information

ICAT's mission

The Initiative for Climate Action Transparency 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 policy-making. 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 will generate evolving methodological guidance and extract best practices, to be publicly available to all actors, increasing the global knowledge base. ICAT's work is country-driven, efforts build on existing MRV systems and knowledge in countries and complement previous or on-going activities by other initiatives, where applicable. Support provided is tailored to the country context and priorities. ICAT's work is aimed at engaging national expertise as much as possible, while encouraging peer-to-peer learning.

ICAT works with over 40 countries across the globe:



Status of country engagement:

- Agreement to collaborate by a government entity signed
- Countries belonging to a Regional Climate Action Transparency Hub
- Agreement to collaborate by a non-governmental entity signed
- Formal letter to collaborate by a government entity issued, work plan under development

The ICAT Toolbox

To provide effective support to countries, ICAT has developed a set of methodologies and tools, and collaborates with its partners on other tools. ICAT prioritizes countries that need support which can be addressed using ICAT's tools and methodologies. Links to these tools and methodologies are as follows:

ICAT Assessment Guides:

[Renewable Energy Methodology](#)

[Transport Pricing Methodology](#)

[Forest Methodology](#)

[Buildings Efficiency Guidance](#)

[Agriculture Guidance](#)

[Sustainable Development Methodology](#)

[Transformational Change Methodology](#)

[Non-State and Subnational Action Guide](#)

[Stakeholder Participation Guide](#)

[Technical Review Guide](#)

Modelling and Data Tools:

[The Climate Action Aggregation Tool \(CAAT\)](#)

[The Climate Action Outcomes and Mitigation Policy Assessment \(COMPASS\) toolbox](#)

[The Greenhouse Gas Abatement Cost Model \(GACMO\)](#)

[National Climate Change Metrics System \(SINAMECC\)](#)

Upcoming additions to the ICAT toolbox in 2022:

- **Guide on voluntary cooperation under Article 6 and its integration into the Enhanced Transparency Framework**

This guide aims to support countries exploring their possible involvement and beginning their journey towards participation in Article 6 of the Paris Agreement on international carbon markets and non-market approaches. It also highlights the strong interlinkages with other elements under the Paris Agreement, in particular Article 13 and the Enhanced Transparency Framework. The guide will help countries who are evaluating and preparing their participation in Article 6 by outlining the requirements and decisions regarding their engagement. Additionally, the guide will report on the need for integration of the international transparency requirements and national accounting and reporting systems for different options provided by Article 6.

- **Good practice guide on integrating gender mainstreaming in the Enhanced Transparency Framework**

The Guide aims to identify good practices in gender mainstreaming within the ETF, with the purpose of facilitating the incorporation of gender lenses in the transparency framework as a means to identify and promote the synergies between the climate and gender agendas. The guide will include a selection of good practices from countries across the world for gender mainstreaming in the context of greenhouse gas inventories, climate change mitigation, adaptation and support provided, as well as a series of key steps and implementation tips for gender integration.

- **Integrating Short-Lived Climate Pollutants and Air Pollution into Climate Change Monitoring and Transparency Frameworks: A Practical Guide**

The guide aims to provide a practical approach for how countries can integrate the assessment and tracking of the climate change, air pollution and public health impacts of policies and actions into their climate transparency or Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) frameworks. The guide aims to provide planners and decision makers with a practical document that outlines specific ways in which the integration of air pollutants and short-lived climate pollutants in Monitoring, Reporting and Verification frameworks can be achieved, drawing on examples from countries and cities where this integration has already been made.

- **Transport Climate Action Data Tool**

The TraCAD Tool will support and facilitate countries to systematically assess the impact of climate actions in the transport sector. It will achieve this by streamlining all aspects of the data collection process and offering standard methodologies, calculations and reporting in one single platform. It will also guide users through the process, making it more straightforward to connect actions and policies with outcomes and costs to effectively design and track the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs). This will provide a more consistent and structured approach to data collection and assessment, which will improve the credibility of impact evaluation of policies and actions to boost the country's capacity to meet its national climate and sustainable development targets, as well as provide the required information to deliver high quality reporting under the Paris Agreement.

Annex II: Steps to prepare for an ICAT project

I. Introduction

To set up an ICAT project, two elements must be coordinated, and should proceed ideally in parallel: the Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) and the work plan/budget. The PCA will formalize the collaboration with a country and allow ICAT to make resources available for implementation. Since ICAT is managed by UNOPS, a standard UN template is used. The PCA includes a work plan (annex A) and a budget (annex B). The work plan and budget must be developed by the country in collaboration with the ICAT Secretariat and with support from the International Implementing Partner funded by ICAT. The responsible ministry or national agency must review the PCA template from a legal point of view and flag any questions, any special provisions that need to be included or other matters to be addressed. Once the legal review is completed and both annexes are finalized, the PCA can be signed, resources can be provided, and the project can begin.

In terms of the project team, ICAT projects are implemented by national consultants/experts hired by the ministry (or the national agency in charge) using resources provided by ICAT. The consultants can be individual contractors or part of an institutional consultancy hired. In certain cases, a country can request ICAT to directly contract a national expert institution (e.g. university or think tank) to implement the work. This can be discussed at the introductory calls with the ICAT Secretariat.

In addition to the resources for the in-country support, ICAT will also fund one of its international technical implementing partners² to support project implementation in terms of advising the national team and providing training. ICAT partners have extensive expertise in MRV/Transparency, GHG management, climate change policies, sustainable development, and assisting developing countries in building capacities to implement the Paris Agreement. A number of partners have also contributed to the development of [ICAT's tools and methodologies](#), and countries are encouraged to apply these tools and methodologies in ICAT projects according to defined priorities.

ICAT aims at preparing projects within two to three months in order to allow for a quick transition to the implementation phase. In terms of the timeline, country support will be delivered through a focused and time-bound (12 to 18 months) project. Once an ICAT project has successfully completed its first phase, an assessment can be conducted to determine the need and possibility for deepening the work in an additional phase. The decision will be taken based on various factors such as the outcome of the initial phase(s), additional needs that can be met by ICAT and the availability of resources for such activities.

II. Development of work plan and budget

The Expression of Interest (EoI) submitted by the country outlines some priority areas or the project module(s) to be covered by an ICAT project. This serves as the basis for the ICAT Secretariat to initiate a first discussion with the country for it to share its needs and priorities for a work plan. Aspects to consider include:

² ICAT works with six Implementing Partners. They are matched with a country based on expertise and work plan priorities.

- Country capacity and status in terms of NDC implementation;
- Reporting to the UNFCCC;
- Other ongoing initiatives in the country related to MRV/Transparency.

Based on these first exchanges and the priorities defined by the country, the ICAT Secretariat summarizes the draft work plan elements discussed, which are then reviewed and discussed internally by the country. Considering comments and feedback from the country, this draft work plan will then be further developed in collaboration with one of ICAT's technical implementing partners according to national priorities and will focus on ICAT support offers that best meet the country's needs. Examples of work plan elements from ICAT projects in other partner countries can be found on [ICAT's website](#)³. It is important that other ongoing activities in the area of climate change MRV/Transparency in the country are considered to make sure ICAT activities fit well and are complementary.

Below is more information regarding the development of the work plan.

Work Plan	
<p>What is it?</p> <p>The work plan outlines the activities and desired outputs and results/impacts of an ICAT project in a partner country and guides the implementation. It has key information about the project and includes an implementation plan with time bound activities. As such it serves both as a planning and a monitoring tool.</p>	<p>Next, an international expert institution (one of ICAT's implementing partners) joins the discussion to provide expert advice and support, helping to scope out activities in detail as a basis for the preparation of a timeline and budget. Once the work plan and budget have been finalized, they are included as annexes in the PCA.</p>
<p>How is it prepared?</p> <p>The work plan is prepared by the partner country before the start of activities, with assistance from the ICAT Secretariat and the international technical expert institution. Initial discussions between the ICAT Secretariat and the country seek to identify which activities offered by ICAT are best suited for the country's priorities. Once there is clarity on the general priorities of the project, initial draft work plan elements are drawn up or the work plan modules are selected for further discussion.</p>	<p>What information does it contain?</p> <p>The work plan usually includes the following elements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overview of ICAT 2. Background, Justification, and Expected Outcomes <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1. Background and Justification for the Project 2.2. Expected outcomes 3. Objectives and scope of work 4. Country coordination <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1. Project team 4.2. Key stakeholders 5. Coordination with other Initiatives 6. Expected activities and outputs 7. Project risks 8. Timeline

³ Specific examples from ICAT's work: [Cambodia](#), [Colombia](#), [Ghana](#)

III. Administrative and legal preparations

Parallel to the development of the work plan, the ministry or national entity in charge will review the standard PCA template with its legal team. The ICAT Secretariat and UNOPS are available to provide clarifications on the template in writing or through a meeting. The PCA is defining the legal terms of collaboration and enables the transfer of funds from ICAT to the partner country. The work plan with deliverables, a budget, and timeline will be annexed to the PCA. Once the PCA has been signed, the partner country can proceed with hiring the national consultant or expert institution that will implement the work.

Resources are usually made available to the ministry in charge (or a designated national entity), and it is expected that the ministry (through a designated ICAT focal point) coordinates work plan implementation and supervises and pays consultants according to the work plan and budget. ICAT resources cannot be used to fund ministry staff or purchase equipment. In case a ministry cannot receive funds, other modalities can be discussed on a case by case basis. The funds will be released to the ministry in tranches conditional on performance, progress and delivery of work plan deliverables.

The country (ministry or national entity) may budget activities for a specified amount (currently in most cases up to USD 170,000) based on the work plan activities defined in consultation with the ICAT Secretariat. The budget may cover the following activities:

- National consultant(s) or an expert institution (e.g. consultancy, research institute) to implement the work;
- In-country workshops;
- Trainings and capacity building activities;
- Stakeholder meetings, and other activities as defined in the work plan.

The budget will be screened for reasonableness of costs to ensure a cost-effective implementation of the project.