



2023 ICAT Partner Forum: Summary Report

25 - 27 April

14:00 - 17:00 CEST

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Introduction

Building on the experience of the previous ICAT Partner Forums in 2021 and 2022, as well as the in-person 2022 Community Meetings, the 2023 ICAT Partner Forum was organized on 25-27 April 2023 with the purpose of providing a space for an open exchange and sharing of knowledge and experiences on key topics of climate action transparency. This year, the ICAT Partner Forum welcomed over 200 representatives from ICAT's 50+ partner countries; implementing, supporting and regional partners; the ICAT governance bodies, i.e. the Advisory Committee (AC) and the Donor Steering Committee (DSC); and representatives of other transparency and capacity building initiatives. Delivered over three days, in 3-hour sessions, the ICAT Partner Forum provided a space for interactive engagement, allowing ICAT's partners to share practical experience based on insights and learnings.

Anticipating countries' needs ahead of the deadline for submission of the first BTRs at the end of 2024, the 2023 Forum concentrated on **“Supporting country readiness for effective implementation of the ETF”**. For each of the three days, the Forum zoomed in on priority areas such as accelerating BTR readiness, supporting NDC implementation and the SDGs, and working with data, covering essential topics such as setting up MRV frameworks, tracking climate finance, developing M&E frameworks for loss and damage and many more.

The ICAT Secretariat thanks those partners involved in the organization and delivery of the Partner Forum. Special appreciation goes to Ms. Veronica Ndetu and Mr. Libasse Ba for their excellent moderation, and particular acknowledgement also goes to those who generously committed their time and energy as speakers (both plenary and breakout), breakout session moderators, and rapporteurs.

Based on the positive experience from this and the previous years' ICAT partner knowledge-sharing events, the Partner Forum will return in 2024, this time probably in an in-person format.

Main take-aways

The ICAT Partner Forum highlighted important messages regarding country readiness for the implementation of the ETF.

Much has already been achieved by ICAT countries in terms of building and strengthening their transparency frameworks. While acknowledging the progress and accomplishments made, there is a lot that remains to be done, especially in light of the first BTRs due by the end of 2024. The urgency to meet the reporting deadline is recognized. However, significant challenges persist, with data availability, institutional arrangements, stakeholder engagement and sustained capacity being the most commonly encountered and hardest to face challenges. Lack of resources and capacity also represent significant obstacles to countries' efforts to submit their first BTRs. Countries are pushing forward, trying to find solutions and learning important lessons along the way.

Data was once again at the centre of discussions, with consistent data of good quality being a core necessity for everything related to transparency of climate action. Legal arrangements and clear methodological frameworks for data flows, quality assurance/quality control exercises, operational data management systems and targeted tools were highlighted as best practices for collecting, analysing and archiving the data needed for transparency reporting. Data from the private sector and subnational governments, and data related to finance pose particular challenges.

Transparency on NDC implementation was a universal priority for participating countries, and it sits at the centre of the BTRs. Countries are actively working on NDC tracking, with most having put in place a framework to track their NDC, even if additional support is required in some cases. It was generally acknowledged that adaptation is more challenging to track compared to mitigation. Stakeholder engagement is essential, especially for countries moving to more advanced and complex aspects of climate action transparency, such as just transitions and climate finance. Stakeholders should already be engaged in the planning process to enable NDC implementation. There are many tools available free of charge to support transparency efforts, and the different sessions gave a good insight on countries' experiences with these tools.

Finally, effectiveness of support was another key topic at the Forum, recognizing the important role that transparency support providers play in getting countries ready to implement the ETF. Support provided by ICAT and other transparency initiatives has been instrumental in enabling countries to build the transparency frameworks necessary not only to report to the UNFCCC, but also to develop effective policies for climate action and sustainable development on the domestic level. Additional support is needed for countries that are continuing and advancing their work on transparency, taking on new areas, challenges and opportunities in climate action, such as carbon markets, climate finance and just transitions. Targeted technical support, adapted to a country's needs and national context, is crucial, while peer-to-peer learning is very effective, and methodological support is essential for building knowledge and capacity.

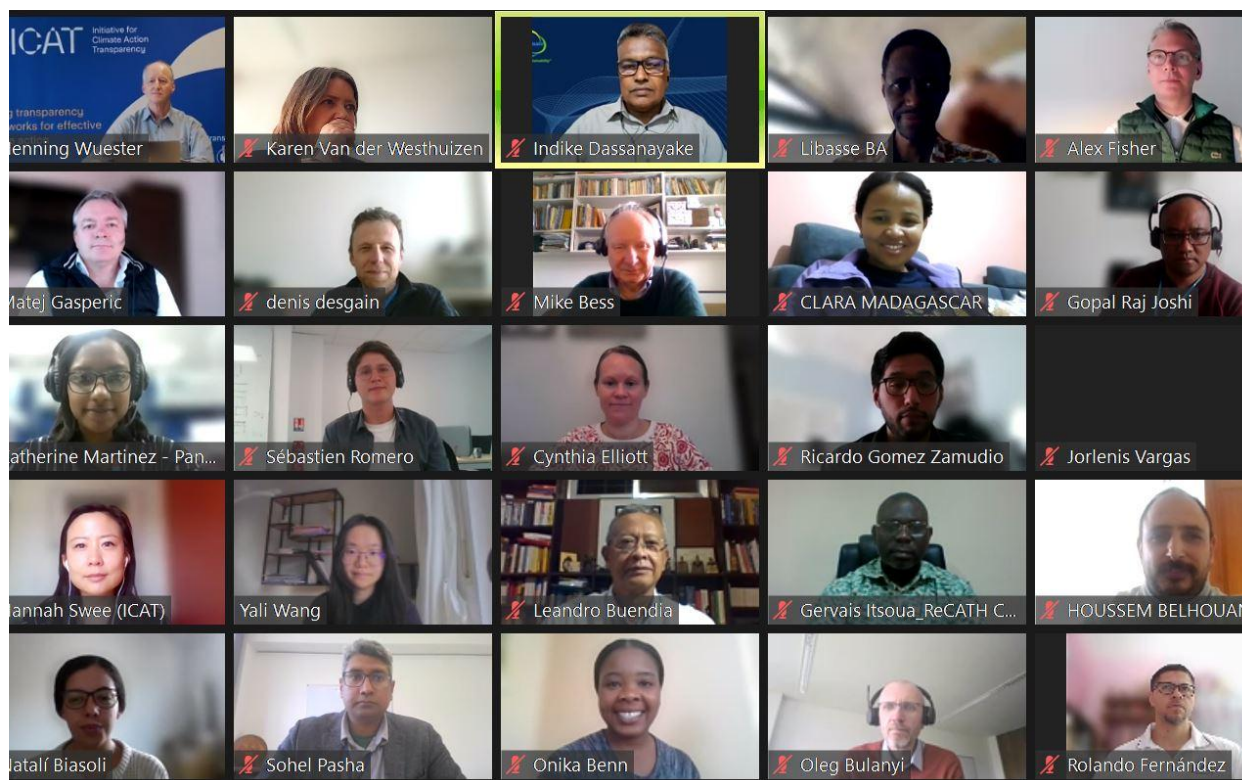


Image 1: Partial group photo from Day 3

The main discussion focus and key take-aways for each session are featured below in more detail.

Day 1: Planning for NDC Implementation

Welcoming partners to Day 1, Dr. Henning Wuester, Director of ICAT, highlighted that this Partner Forum came at a key point in time, one year before all Parties to the Paris Agreement must submit their first BTRs to the UNFCCC. The question of readiness was, therefore, crucial. Dr. Wuester further emphasized that the first Global Stocktake was taking place this year, and the Global Goal for Adaptation and a new global goal for climate finance were meant to be defined. All three processes needed data and information, the availability of which remained to be ascertained. This would mean that the world was not on track to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement. Transparency could not resolve all challenges present in the fight against climate change, which needed strong political will for mobilizing sufficient resources and driving the fundamental changes required. However, without transparency, it was not possible to achieve what was required. Transparency provided the raw material needed for the Paris Agreement machinery to work. Transparency allowed countries to understand where they were in terms of emissions, resilience, progress toward their development objectives, and to define and implement efficient policies and measures. A country with knowledge of its financial flows and needs could mobilize resources more effectively. While collecting data and information was a technical task, it contributed to a big and important agenda. Through the contribution of transparency practitioners and

stakeholders like the ones involved in this ICAT Partner Forum, transparency would help to make the Paris Agreement deliver. The ICAT Director concluded his remarks, urging participants to actively share their experiences - good and bad - and learn from each other.

After the opening for the day, a plenary session on BTR readiness took place, before the participants moved to breakout groups for a deeper discussion on topics related to reporting for the BTR.

Plenary Session: **BTR Readiness - status, needs, gaps and challenges**

How prepared are you for the first BTR, due by the end of 2024?

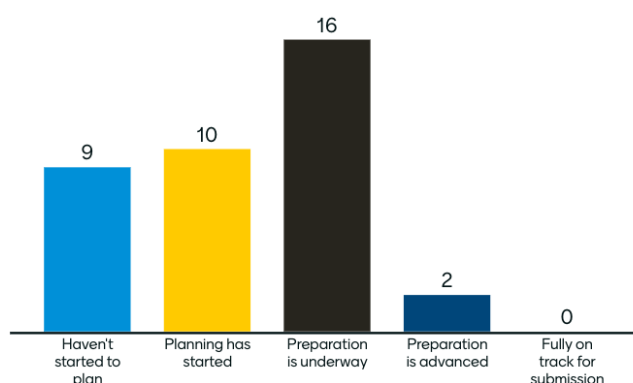


Figure 1: Mentimeter poll on BTR readiness

This interactive plenary session offered a space for countries to exchange their experience, needs and progress towards submitting their first Biennial Transparency Report (BTR), due by the end of 2024.

Jigme, UNFCCC Secretariat Transparency Division Manager, outlined the main reporting requirements in the BTR and evolution from the previous framework. Transparency was a core commitment in the Paris Agreement and essential for building mutual trust and confidence that countries were delivering on their pledges. The first BTRs, due by the end of 2024, would represent the first progress report on the implementation of the Paris Agreement. The UNFCCC Secretariat was eagerly awaiting the BTR submissions, which would send the strong message to the world that countries were taking concrete steps towards implementing the Paris Agreement.

In anonymous mentimeter polls, the participants shared their perspectives and experience regarding their countries' status of preparation for the BTR, and their main needs and challenges. While most respondents indicated that some degree of

planning was underway, there were some who indicated that no planning had been initiated. No respondents found that their country was fully on track for submission by the end of 2024. In terms of areas where more work is needed, NDC tracking came at the top, followed by support needed/received, emission inventories, emission projections and reporting on adaptation. Finally, countries were asked to indicate their biggest BTR-related challenges; the most common challenge highlighted was data and capacity for the BTR.

Which BTR area(s) do you need to work on the most?

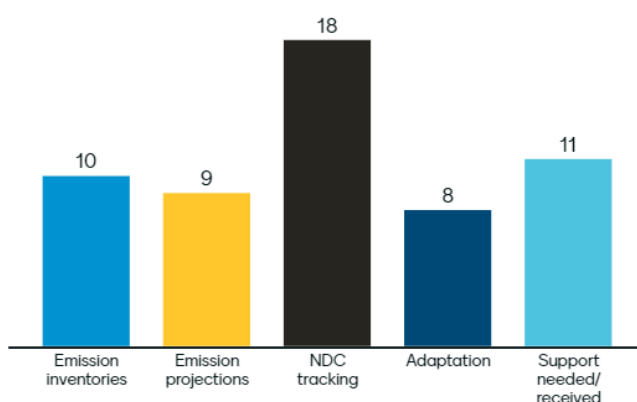


Figure 2: Mentimeter poll on BTR readiness

In one word, what is the biggest challenge for the preparation of the BTR?



Figure 3: Mentimeter word cloud on BTR readiness

Breakout Session 1: Sectoral or economy-wide MRV frameworks

The session gave the opportunity to countries to exchange experience on preparing measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) frameworks on the national level, covering one or several sectors, or the full economy. It featured a presentation from the Greenhouse Gas Management Institute (GHGMI) on the subject of MRV, and interventions from country representatives on insights and lessons learned from ICAT projects in Nigeria, Cambodia and Sri Lanka.

Moderator: Mike Bess, Non-Executive Director and Climate Change MRV Specialist, GHGMI

Rapporteur: Gopal Joshi, Programme Officer, UNFCCC Secretariat

Presentations:

- **GHGMI:** Mike Bess, Non-Executive Director and Climate Change MRV Specialist, Greenhouse Gas Management Institute
- **Nigeria:** Dr. Bala Bappa, ICAT In-Country Facilitator/ Coordinating Consultant
- **Cambodia/Sri Lanka:** H.M. Buddika Hemashantha, ICAT project consultant

Key take-aways:

- MRV systems are a core and fundamental pillar for climate transparency to effectively track climate actions and their progress and impacts.
- Countries need to take a new approach and perspective on MRV, by integrating it into national processes and institutional arrangements. The MRV system should not be seen as a standalone process set up for only meeting reporting requirements. An integrated MRV system is robust, continuous, and sustainable, and improves over time.
- Strong and solid institutional arrangements allow countries to shift from a project/consultant-based approach to a sustainable, continuous approach for the MRV process, based on domestic/national capacity.
- Building on existing systems/processes and institutions (rather than reinventing the wheel), and progressing over time with modifications and enhancements, taking into account new learnings, experiences and insights was the best approach.
- Introducing legal frameworks for data sharing and improving the data collection process were important.
- As formal legal frameworks took a long time to be adopted, until they are in place, countries may opt for intermediary measures such as memorandums of understanding, ad hoc committees, etc.
- Successful engagement of all the relevant stakeholders is key. For successful engagement of stakeholders it is important to ensure: (i) sensitization and awareness; (ii) early involvement of stakeholders in the process;

- (iii) identification of the right persons and champions within the institutions and engagement/retention of a pool of focal points over time, allowing for institutional memory.
- Domestic and national capacity is enhanced by engaging and building capacity of national consultants, quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) experts, national institutions responsible for data collection (such as national bureau of statistics), and researchers/academics. Their engagement is an integral part of the MRV process to enhance the quality of output. Technological, technical and capacity-building actions for various stakeholders are required to facilitate data collection, analysing and archiving.
 - National budget allocations for the MRV process is important to make it sustainable and operational.
 - Challenges include:
 - COVID-19 pandemic-related restrictions, which impeded the effective engagement of stakeholders;
 - Lack of institutional arrangement to coordinate and have an overview of the MRV process and a lack of the legal institutional frameworks for establishing the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders;
 - Lack of data, lengthy processes to get data, and the unavailability of data;
 - Robust data management systems, based on existing tools, systems and databases and embedded in the national system, can serve as the best solution to collect, analyse and archive data and information.
 - Decentralised, connected systems, where, for example, line ministries are responsible for compiling GHG inventories has proven to be effective and sustainable.
-

Breakout Session 2: **Systèmes MNV au niveau national ou sectoriel**

Cette session a donné aux pays l'occasion d'échanger leurs expériences sur la préparation de systèmes de mesure, notification et vérification (MNV) au niveau national, couvrant un ou plusieurs secteurs, ou l'ensemble de l'économie. Des représentants du CITEPA, de la Côte d'Ivoire, de la Guinée et du Tchad ont partagé leur expertise et les leçons apprises dans le cadre des projets ICAT.

Modérateur: Gervais Ludovic Itsoua, ECCAS-CEEAC, Coordonnateur du Hub Régional de l'ICAT en Afrique Centrale

Rapporteur: Serges Okala, Fokabs

Présentations:

- **CITEPA:** Julien Vincent, Responsable du département Atténuation et Adaptation
- **Niger:** Gousmane Moussa, Secrétariat Exécutif du Conseil National de

l'Environnement pour un développement durable, Cabinet du Premier Ministre (absent, mais avec une contribution par écrit)

- **Côte d'Ivoire:** Mohamed Sanogo, Coordonnateur du Programme National Changements Climatiques, et Aimé Konan N'Dri, Expert en Inventaire de Gaz à Effet de Serre, Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable
- **Tchad:** Mahamat Abdoulaye Issa, Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Pêche et du Développement Durable
- **Guinée:** Oumou Doumbouya, Directrice Nationale Adjointe des Pollutions, Nuisances et Changements Climatiques, Ministère de l'Environnement et Développement Durable

Key take-aways:

- Le cadre réglementaire pour la mise en place d'un système MNV national est très important, par exemple, l'adoption d'une loi climat et d'une loi pour la création et la mise en place d'une agence/comité nationales MNV dans chaque pays. Cependant, en Afrique, la mise en œuvre des systèmes nationaux de certains pays n'est pas adossée sur une agence nationale MNV ou une commission nationale. Au Tchad un projet de loi est en cours d'adoption pour la mise en place d'un système national MNV, basé sur l'exemple du Maroc et couvrant les secteurs impliqués dans la mise en œuvre de la CDN (AFAT, déchets, énergie, Industries, etc).
- Les renforcements de capacité occupent une place primordiale pour la mise en œuvre des systèmes MNV nationaux et sectoriels.
- Au niveau de chaque pays, la programmation budgétaire doit inclure des lignes budgétaires dédiées au climat. Cependant, en dehors des fonds reçus des bailleurs de fonds, les gouvernements nationaux ne prévoient pas de lignes budgétaires nationales uniquement dédiées au climat, à la mise en œuvre des systèmes MNV nationaux et sectoriels.
- Il y a des difficultés de collaboration entre les différentes entités sectorielles autour des questions climatiques nationales, notamment entre le ministère de l'environnement, qui est au centre de la question climatique nationale, et les autres ministères sectoriels qui devraient venir en appui pour la mise en œuvre des systèmes MNV.
- La collecte des données représente un véritable défi pour les systèmes MNV nationaux.
- Pour certains pays ayant accusé un retard dans l'élaboration et la soumission de leurs rapports, notamment les BURs, il se pose un problème de chevauchement entre la production et soumission des BURs et les BTRs dont les premières soumissions sont attendues en 2024.
- La difficulté à maintenir l'expertise dans le temps est un défi majeur. Des changements organisationnels au sein des services gouvernementaux posent des risques pour l'assurance de la continuité des activités.
- Comme il existe une multitude de systèmes MNV, il est important de s'aligner sur les circonstances nationales propres à chaque pays. Il est possible d'avoir plusieurs activités MNV dans un seul pays, soutenus par différents projets (CBIT, ICAT, GIZ, etc.) et couvrant différents secteurs de l'économie, l'atténuation et/ou l'adaptation, les financements climatiques,

- etc.
 - Certains pays africains accusent un retard dans la mise en place de leur système national MNV. Ils essaient donc de compenser en maximisant le renforcement des capacités.
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Breakout Session 3: Indicators for tracking progress in NDC implementation

The session focused on countries' experience with identifying how progress towards the NDC is tracked, specifically focusing on developing indicators. Featuring presentations from Brazil, Belize and Mozambique, the session highlighted best practices, challenges and further needs for NDC tracking indicators.

Moderator: Matej Gasperic, Senior Project Manager, GHGMI

Rapporteur: Barbara de Godoy, ICAT Secretariat

Presentations:

- **Belize:** Gina Young, NDC Update and Implementation Facilitator, National Climate Change Office, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management
- **Brazil:** Carolina Burle S. Dubeux, Centro Brasil no Clima
- **Mozambique:** Eduardo Baixo, Head of Mitigation and Low Carbon Development

Key take-aways:

- Indicators can vary. Absolute emissions, emissions drivers and emissions intensity are all important for comprehensive monitoring.
- Challenges include:
 - Lack of data;
 - Large number of stakeholders;
 - Obtaining data from the private sector, NGOs and subnational governments;
 - Lack of methodological knowledge to implement NDC efforts at regional and local levels when engaging with regional and local governments.
- Good practices include:
 - Including NDC tracking indicators in the NDC implementation plan.
 - Establishing a committee with representatives from every sector included in the NDC charged with the coordination of NDC tracking.
 - Establishing a legal framework to obtain data from different actors (private actors, NGOs, regional and local governments).
 - Identifying and selecting existing NDC tracking indicators to inform the BTR.
 - Piloting NDC implementation efforts in selected states/municipalities

- as a way to kickstart the NDC implementation process at the regional and local levels;
 - Connecting the tracking indicators in one online platform that is able to generate reports in tables and sheets can streamline the process and show the value of data collection.
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Breakout Session 4: Reporting on adaptation

The session explored different experiences and perspectives on reporting on adaptation, including with the first BTR on the horizon. With a background presentation by UNEP-CCC and country contributions from Eswatini, Kenya and the Dominican Republic, the session offered the opportunity for countries to enhance their knowledge and discuss their own country cases with regards to adaptation reporting.

Moderator: Henry Neufeldt, Head of Section, Impact Assessment and Adaptation Analysis, UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre (UNEP-CCC)

Rapporteur: Ghislaine Tandonnet-Guiran, Head of Climate solutions, CITEPA

Presentations:

- **UNEP-CCC:** Thomas Dale, Programme Associate
- **Dominican Republic:** Rosalia Duval, Encargada del departamento de Adaptación y Educación al Cambio Climático, Consejo Nacional para el Cambio Climático y el Mecanismo de Desarrollo Limpio
- **Eswatini:** Minky Groenewald, Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs
- **Kenya:** Veronica Ndetu, Head of the Climate Change Unit, Kenya Ministry of Agriculture

Key take-aways:

- Methodological guidance for adaptation:
 - Clear guidance for adaptation reporting is still lacking, contrary to mitigation reporting. No “universal” guidance is in place and countries are developing their own framework, and particularly for the definition of indicators.
 - However the adaptation content for the BTR is defined through UNFCCC documentation, with the need to demonstrate the efficiency, the adequacy, the sustainability of adaptation policies and measures. In addition, some guidance exists, including the [ICAT guide on reporting adaptation through the biennial transparency report](#).
- Reporting on adaptation is not compulsory but strongly recommended.
- A key factor of success is the alignment with national strategies and policies, particularly with SDG reporting, involving all relevant stakeholders. Effectiveness and sustainability of reporting systems require the ownership of those stakeholders, with a view to capture local issues and challenges. An active engagement plan of stakeholders is needed, with specific attention to

- indigenous communities and knowledge.
- Defining institutional arrangements and embedding them in the national planning and reporting frameworks is challenging but essential to ensure effectiveness and sustainability of results achieved. A legal and policy framework is necessary, with a clear definition of roles and responsibilities as well as of data flows.
 - Clear methodological frameworks are needed to define data needs and data flows. Given the wide scope of adaptation, prioritization is necessary.
 - It is particularly challenging to capture data on non-state and financial actors, on finance, on maladaptation and on co-benefits.
 - Ensuring the sustainability of processes is challenging. It is necessary to enable knowledge and institutional memory – taking into account staff turnover in the countries. Hence the need for tracking tools to capture and monitor all information on adaptation actions. It is important to secure the long term operationality and maintenance of those tools through adequate staffing and financing.
 - Some countries are already implementing adaptation reporting frameworks, embedded in the national planning framework. For example, in the Dominican Republic, such a framework was put in place through a Presidential Decree, establishing institutional arrangements, including an adaptation M&E unit.
 - A key factor of success is the engagement of stakeholders, including local actors. Vertical and cross-sectoral integration ensures the effectiveness and sustainability of adaptation reporting. For example in Eswatini, wide and intense consultation processes enabled the country to identify key issues and prioritize challenges and solutions.
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Breakout Session 5: Tracking climate finance

The session focused on tracking climate finance, in line with national reporting on support needed and received. Featuring a presentation on the ICAT draft methodology on tracking climate finance developed by the Center for Clean Air Policy (CCAP), and insights on country-level experience and needs on climate finance in Belize and Central Asia, the session provided the opportunity for a dialogue on this crucial climate action transparency topic.

Moderator: Samantha Shin, Sr. Climate Finance Associate, CCAP

Rapporteur: Kuki Handajani Soejachmoen, Executive Director, Indonesia Research Institute for Decarbonization and ICAT Advisory Committee member

Presentations:

- **CCAP:** Samantha Shin, Sr. Climate Finance Associate
- **CAREC/ICAT Central Asia Hub:** Dilovarsho Dustzoda, Project manager
- **Belize:** Lennox Gladden, Chief Climate Change Officer, Ministry of

Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management

Key take-aways:

- Tracking climate finance is critically important for the transition to low carbon economies.
- There is a need for a drastic increase in climate investment and successful private finance mobilization.
- The benefits of tracking of tracking climate finance include:
 - Domestic transparency;
 - Identifying gaps in climate finance;
 - Efficient management of resources;
 - Catalyzing investment flows;
 - Reporting to the UNFCCC;
 - Creating synergy with other global agendas.
- It is important to track both the funds that have been spent, and the funds still needed to address deficits and gaps.
- The ICAT methodology for tracking climate finance, developed by CCAP:
 - Is based on the principles of conservativeness, maximizing granularity and avoiding double counting;
 - Follows a tiered approach and the Integrated National Financing Framework;
 - Introduces 5 phases to the climate finance tracking cycle:
 - i. Scoping and planning
 - ii. Defining the institutional setting
 - iii. Ex-ante NDC costing
 - iv. Ex-post monitoring and verification
 - v. Sharing results for policy making
- There is a lack of internationally agreed modalities to account for climate finance. At the same time, there are different definitions of climate finance, so it is essential to develop a national climate finance strategy, introducing one definition domestically. Ensuring buy-in from the different sectors is challenging but important.
- Alignment with national climate priorities can ensure that the finance is being used to support the country's overall climate change goals and objectives.
- A national climate finance tracking system can be applicable for both public and private funds. There is a need for the tracking to go beyond national public funds, and also to track finance channeled through/to the private sector and the vertical levels of government, which is challenging.
- Guidance is important not only in terms of meeting international obligations but even more for the domestic process, strategies and planning. Governance on climate finance helps avoid a fragmented approach.
- Training and capacity building for climate finance tracking and reporting is needed, including to improve understanding of climate finance and its sources, as well as to get skilled in the use of tools.
- Coordination and collaboration on climate finance tracking on a regional level is helpful to work together, share knowledge and lessons learned, such

as in the example of the Central Asian countries that are part of ICAT's regional hub.

- The mapping of different levels and types of climate projects through multi stakeholder consultations allows holistic finance mapping and tracking.
- High level capacity building is needed for sectors (programmatic approach), rather than one-off trainings. A training of trainers approach could also be beneficial.

Day 2: Using transparency to support NDC implementation and the SDGs

At the opening of the second day of the ICAT Partner Forum, participants acknowledged that the first day had been interesting and informative. For the second day of the event, the focus was on a topic of great significance for all countries, namely supporting NDC implementation, while contributing to the achievement of the SDGs. An interactive plenary session on NDC implementation kicked off the discussion on this key area of universal interest in the ICAT community. After this, the participants were invited to join the breakout group of their choice for in-depth discussions on topics, focused on linking transparency, NDC implementation and the achievement of the SDGs.

Plenary Session: **NDC implementation: status, tracking frameworks, needs and gaps**

After the opening of the second day, an interactive plenary session on NDC implementation took place. An [introductory presentation](#) by Denis Desgain, Head of Section, Mitigation Analysis and Data Management, at UNEP-CCC, outlined the NDC tracking requirements in the BTR, as well as the tools and resources available.

Countries have to submit NDCs every five years, take measures to achieve the targets included in the NDCs and report on their progress with the BTR. The MPGs include a chapter on tracking progress in implementing and achieving NDCs. Countries can decide what type of indicators they would like to use to track the NDCs. The indicators have to be relevant to the country's NDCs and in line with the mitigation goals included in the NDCs. Once the indicators have been selected, the country has to provide the value for the reference point (baseline/base year). Every time a BTR is submitted, countries have to provide the most recent information for each of the indicators and will have to compare it to the baseline. This comparison will show the country's progress in implementing and achieving its NDC targets. This information will be included both in the narrative part of the BTR and in the common tabular formats (CTF), which are also submitted as part of the BTR. In addition to the indicators, countries must also report on the estimates of expected and achieved GHG emission reductions of their actions, measures and policies to achieve the NDC mitigation targets (also in the CTF). Countries need to use specific methodologies and tools to develop these estimates. An outline for the BTR has

also been provided to the countries, the use of which is recommended but not mandatory. The outline includes a chapter on “Information necessary to track progress made in implementing and achieving the NDC”, containing different kinds of information that has to be submitted in this regard.

To achieve all the above, countries have to put in place national transparency frameworks, supported by strong institutional arrangements and legal frameworks, and national experts who can use the necessary tools and methodologies. Several tools and methodologies are available to support countries to track and report on their NDC. Depending on their needs and national context, countries can choose which tools and methodologies they want to use. Some of the available tools and methodologies that can support countries in their efforts to track their NDCs include:

- NDC tracking tools:
 - The Nationally Determined Contributions Tracking Tool by FAO
- GHG accounting and NDC tracking tools:
 - [The Greenhouse Gas Abatement Cost Model \(GACMO\)](#) by UNEP-CCC
 - [The Nationally Determined Contribution Expert Tool \(NEXT\)](#) by FAO
- GHG accounting methodologies:
 - [The ICAT Policy Assessment Guides](#)
- Guidance for the development of indicators:
 - [Proposed indicators for domestic MRV purposes and tracking progress of NDCs](#) (2021) by ISPRA - ICAT
 - [Climate change statistics](#) (2022), by the Statistical Commission of the UN Economic and Social Council

The list is not exhaustive and there may be other tools and guidance relevant for countries depending on their NDC tracking needs.

Following this introduction, the participants responded to two mentimeter questions on their country's status and challenges regarding NDC implementation, and then discussed what had worked best so far for NDC tracking, for mitigation and/or adaptation.

Does your country have an NDC tracking framework for:

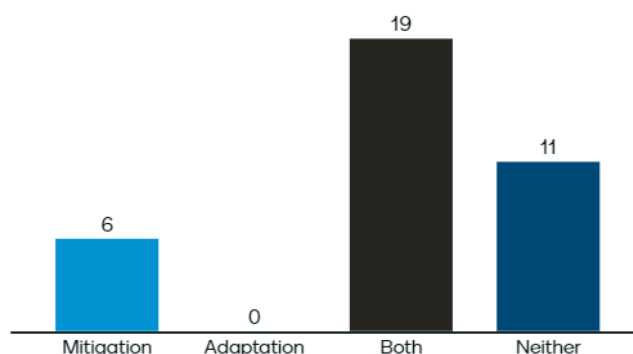


Figure 4: Mentimeter poll on status of NDC tracking

In one word, what is the biggest challenge in identifying indicators?

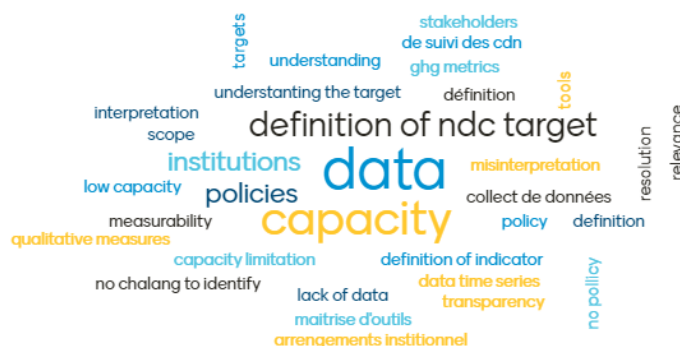


Figure 5: Mentimeter poll on challenges for NDC tracking

While most respondents confirmed having some kind of framework in place for tracking their NDCs, several of them responded that no such framework was in place. Many different challenges were identified, with the most common being data availability, capacity and the definition of NDC targets. In terms of best practices and lessons learned for NDC tracking, the following were highlighted:

- International assistance from projects such as ICAT and CBIT has been very helpful. Development banks can also assist with providing necessary financing;
- The process of defining indicators should take place in the very beginning;
- Meaningful engagement of stakeholders is very important from the

beginning and throughout the process. Developing national capacity and moving away from a consultancy-based approach for preparation of reports to the UNFCCC requires effective stakeholder engagement.

- Making the link between the available data and the NDC target can be a challenging task in the NDC tracking process. The processes of NDC preparation/update and NDC tracking should be aligned and not isolated from one another.
 - Data is essential, but finding consistent data can be challenging. Data privacy issues can also pose a challenge.
 - Interaction and collaboration between ministries is essential and having an overarching legal framework can be very helpful in this purpose.
 - GACMO has been helpful in providing a clear understanding of gaps and opportunities.
 - Expanding work to cover the sub-national level can be very beneficial.
 - It is generally easier to track mitigation action compared to adaptation action, where indicators and reporting is more challenging but not impossible.
 - It is important in a first phase to identify the relevant sectors for both adaptation and mitigation.
 - Using the country's inventory for the purpose of identifying the NDC tracking indicators can be helpful as it contains absolute targets. However, recalculations in the inventory can affect the tracking of progress to determine when a target has been achieved. Developing an accounting framework and rules in this regard can be beneficial.
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Breakout Session 6: Policy assessment for transformational change and sustainable development

The session explored how countries could make use of transparency to assess the sustainable development and transformational change impact and potential of climate action policies and measures. It featured expert and country presentations from UNEP-CCC and Argentina, and a focus on ICAT's policy assessment methodologies for [transformational change](#) and [sustainable development](#).

Modérateur: Fatemeh Bakhtiari, UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre (UNEP-CCC)

Presentations:

- **UNEP-CCC:** Karen Olsen, Senior Researcher and Jorge Ortigosa, Project Officer
- **Argentina:** Lilian Natalí Biasoli, ICAT Project Coordinator, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development

Rapporteur: Sohel Pasha, Programme Officer, UNFCCC

Key take-aways:

- There are clear benefits to conducting sustainable development assessments.
- Strong institutional arrangements backed by a national law is key in the

assessment of sustainable development, as demonstrated by the example of Argentina.

- Reliable data is necessary to conduct quantitative analysis. Countries can overcome the challenge of quantitative analysis by qualitative analysis or using default values, expert judgement, and literature search.
 - The [ICAT Sustainable Development Methodology](#) can be used by countries to assess multiple development and climate impacts across the environmental, social and economic dimensions. The methodology is clear and flexible (e.g. if quantitative analysis is not possible, qualitative analysis is possible).
 - Article 6 activities are also integrated, which is useful, while further improvements may be made to integrate broader SDG assessments.
 - Good communication and awareness-raising among collaborating partners is very important to obtain the necessary support, but can be challenging due to complex governance structures.
 - Argentina's experience assessing sustainable development in the health sector showed that the same may be doable for other sectors, in collaboration with the competent ministries.
 - The [ICAT Transformational Change Methodology](#) defined transformational change as a fundamental, sustained change of a system that disrupts established high-carbon practices and contributes to a zero carbon society. The methodology gives a clear and streamlined process to assess policies for their transformational change potential.
 - Work on a transformational change toolkit is expanding the transformational change definition to include adaptation. It will also help make it applicable to different users and concrete projects, and create a user friendly online platform.
-

Breakout Session 7: Monitoring and evaluation of just transitions

The session was focused on transparency to support just transitions to a low-carbon economy. It featured expert and country presentations from Nigeria and South Africa and a focus on ICAT's draft methodology for the Monitoring and Evaluation of just transitions, currently under development by WRI.

Moderator: Chelsea Gómez, Climate Transparency Project Manager, World Resources Institute (WRI)

Presentations:

- **Nigeria:** Dr Yerima Peter Tarfa, Executive Director, Landmark Centre for Environment and Development
- **South Africa:** Cara Hartley, Director at Palmer Development Group, and Megan Euston-Brown, Director at Sustainable Energy Africa, ICAT national consultants

Rapporteur: Hannah Swee, ICAT Secretariat

Key take-aways:

- An ICAT guide for the Monitoring and Evaluation of Just Transitions is currently under development by WRI. The methodology has been prepared and is being applied in Nigeria and South Africa.
- The guide contains recommendations for creating a vision for how a low carbon transition will look in the country, key considerations for developing goals and formulating indicators for tracking, suggestions for key objectives for tracking just transitions and the steps to follow for the reporting and analysis of performance.
- Stakeholder engagement is very important, and it is integrated in the ICAT guide. This includes identifying stakeholders and developing a stakeholder consultation plan. Well attended inception workshops can help ensure the buy-in of different ministries, agencies, organizations and other stakeholders, while providing clarity on their roles and responsibilities.
- The cooperation of stakeholders can be difficult to ensure, noting the large number of stakeholders involved and the large volume of documents, data and information that has to be gathered.
- While mitigation and adaptation frameworks may exist in a country, justice-related conceptual frameworks are harder to come by, which can be a challenge.
- Another challenge lies in the fact that there is a wide variety of types of evidence, therefore, conventional monitoring, and evaluation approaches can be inadequate. In addition, just transitions is a very expansive concept, so the scale of evidence is also an issue.
- As highlighted by the example of South Africa, it is important to effectively engage with communities early on in the process. The right spaces have to be offered for different voices to come through. This involves building capability and taking measures to protect any vulnerable groups that may face risks by being brought to the conversation. The indicators also need to privilege collaboration and collective approaches as a country moves toward a just transition. It is important to ensure that any issues that are raised, particularly by vulnerable groups, are followed up upon, and a unified vision is developed.
- In some countries, a just transition policy might already be in place, creating a consensus around the vision of just transition in the country, while for other countries, no policy is in place.
- Work on just transitions can be focused on priority sectors, if an economy-wide analysis is too challenging to conduct. For example, in Nigeria, the work is focused on the oil and gas sector.
- A good practice from Nigeria is to look at linkages between other MRV systems in the country, as well as synergies and cooperation with other ministries and agencies and civil society, to support policymakers, giving them knowledge for intervention and decision making.
- It is also important to seek high-level political buy-in and ensure good coordination between ministries, such as through the creation of a steering committee, which also offers a space for the sharing of experiences and lessons learned to inform the work on just transitions.

Breakout Session 8: Suivi du financement climatique

La session a exploré les besoins et les expériences des pays en matière de suivi du financement climatique. Des interventions ont été faites sur la méthodologie de l'ICAT pour le suivi du financement climatique et les expériences au niveau national des pays tels que la Côte d'Ivoire, ainsi qu'une intervention de la part du hub régional de l'ICAT en Afrique Centrale sur les approches et perspectives régionales pour le suivi et la mobilisation des financements climatiques.

Modérateur: Pepa Lopez, Directrice, Gauss International

Présentations:

- **Gauss International:** Pepa Lopez, Directrice
- **Côte d'Ivoire:** Mohamed Sanogo, Coordonnateur du Programme National Changements Climatiques, Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable
- **Sénégal:** Ndèye Rokhaya Sall, Division Changements Climatiques, Direction de l'Environnement et des Établissements classés
- **ECCAS-CEEAC:** Gervais Ludovic Itsoua, Coordonnateur du Hub Régional de l'ICAT en Afrique Centrale

Rapporteur: Libasse Ba, Président du Comité National sur les Changements Climatiques du Sénégal et membre du Comité Consultatif de l'ICAT

Key take-aways:

- L'ICAT, avec l'appui du Gauss, apportera un soutien à plusieurs pays pour le développement des cadres de suivi du financement climatique, tant que le Sénégal et la Côte d'Ivoire.
- Une nouvelle méthodologie de l'ICAT sur le suivi du financement climatique sera disponible pour tous en 2024. Le guide explique l'importance de la transparence du financement climatique, tant au niveau national qu'à l'échelle internationale, introduit une approche à plusieurs niveaux et un cycle de 5 phases pour assurer la transparence des financements climatiques:
 1. Évaluer et planifier;
 2. Définir le cadre institutionnel;
 3. Étude des coûts ex ante;
 4. Suivi et vérification ex post;
 5. Partage des résultats pour la prise de décision politique.
- Les pays peuvent bénéficier d'un soutien de différentes organisations pour leur travail sur le suivi du financement climatique, tant que l'ICAT et le Global Center on Adaptation dans le cas de la Côte d'Ivoire.
- Plusieurs pays sont en train de planifier ou de mettre en place des systèmes pour le suivi du financement climatique.
- Il est important de distinguer les financements domestiques et

- internationaux, venant de l'extérieur.
- La définition du financement climatique est un grand défi commun à tous les pays.
 - La disponibilité de données fiables, surtout sur l'adaptation, constitue un autre défi majeur.
 - Une approche régionale pour le suivi du financement climatique est proposée à travers le Hub régional de l'ICAT en Afrique Centrale. Une discussion est en cours pour identifier les différentes sources, en commençant par les budgets nationaux. Cependant, il est difficile d'identifier et de saisir l'ensemble des acteurs pertinents.
-

Breakout Session 9: Transparency for Cooperative Approaches under Article 6

The session explored the important links between transparency and Cooperative Approaches under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. It included a presentation by the ICAT Secretariat on the upcoming ICAT guide for transparency on the links between Article 6 and Article 13, expert insights from the ICAT Advisory Committee, and country experiences from Ghana and Viet Nam.

Moderator: Marina Vitullo, Researcher, Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA)

Presentations:

- **ICAT Advisory Committee:** Kuki Handajani Soejachmoen, Executive Director, Indonesia Research Institute for Decarbonization and ICAT Advisory Committee member
- **ICAT Secretariat:** Oleg Bulanyi, Senior Programme Manager
- **Ghana:** Juliana Bempah, Principal Programme Officer, Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana
- **Vietnam:** Tang Quynh Anh, Center for Low Carbon Development, Department of Climate change

Rapporteur: Miriam Hinojosa, Head of Global Climate Action Unit, Energy and Climate Branch, UNEP, and ICAT Advisory Committee member

Key take-aways:

- Transparency is essential for the success of market-based cooperation under Article 6, especially because it involves different actors beyond governments. This is important to consider when structuring internal national frameworks and instruments for Article 6.
- Transparency is crucial for building trust and ensuring environmental integrity, and robust reporting and accounting frameworks are necessary for a clear and consistent approach to tracking emissions reductions across international markets.
- Countries need support to understand and internalize concepts, scopes, boundaries, adjustments, accounting systems, rules, and procedures of art.

- 6 at national level.
- ICAT is soon launching a guide on transparency for Article 6, particularly focusing on its links with Article 13, which can be useful for countries to plan their reporting on their Article 6 activities in connection with their BTRs.
 - A credible baseline for emissions reductions should be established. The baseline should reflect the emissions level in the absence of Article 6 activity.
 - An independent verification mechanism should be established to verify the accuracy of reported emissions reductions.
 - Many countries are working on bilateral cooperations, for example with ITMOS. When using ITMOS, all participating Parties should track and record ITMOs cooperatively during the implementation of their NDCs, to ensure transparency and consistency among all parties involved.
 - The Centralized Accounting and Reporting Platform is a tool that can be used to track and record ITMOs. The Art.6 Database is another infrastructure that can be used to track and record ITMOs. These relevant infrastructures can aid in the transparent and consistent tracking and recording of ITMOs.
 - It is important for countries who are in a planning phase, to employ a holistic approach, avoiding having isolated structures for different elements of their climate action. It is important that programmatic and global government approaches are followed on a country level.
 - It is important to ensure the dissemination of knowledge and to level the playing field for participants in the carbon markets, so that everyone has the same level of understanding of concepts, methodologies and approaches. Institutional capacities and individual capacities need to be enhanced as countries are at different stages in this regard.
 - Tracking tools for Article 6 should pursue integration or strong links to NDC tracking and the national GHG inventory preparation process.
 - A tracking, recording and reporting system for Article 6 should involve a centralized accounting and reporting platform.
 - Understanding all the elements of linking Article 6 to transparency reporting can be challenging, as is putting in place institutional arrangements to ensure that the data and links are captured in the reports.
 - An additional challenge is attracting the investments needed for implementing NDC targets, but having an MRV system in place can help with mobilizing finance.
-

Breakout Session 10: Transparency for climate action in agriculture (adaptation/mitigation)

The session focused on the agricultural sector, with countries and experts sharing their perspectives on transparency for both mitigation and adaptation for agriculture. It had a special emphasis on work accomplished on the national level using tools and methodologies, including the [ICAT Agriculture Methodology](#) for assessing the greenhouse gas impacts of agriculture policies. Representatives from Kenya, Nigeria, Fiji and Chile shared their experience.

Moderator: Olga Lyandres, Project Manager, GHGMI

Presentations:

- **Chile:** Camila Labarca, Chief of the Mitigation and Transparency Department, in the Climate Change Division, in the Ministry of the Environment
- **Fiji:** Namisha Nikita, Mitigation Officer at Fiji Climate Change Division, Office of the Prime Minister
- **Nigeria:** Agbo Chinonso Bathlomeo, AFOLU/LULUCF Expert
- **Kenya:** Ivy Kinyua, Research Associate, Policies and Institutions/Climate Action, Alliance Bioversity International - CIAT

Rapporteur: Leandro Buendia, International climate change consultant, Philippines, and ICAT Advisory Committee member

Key take-aways:

- In many countries agriculture is a key emitter in terms of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Common challenges include:
 - lack of databases and internal capacity to collect data and estimate greenhouse gas emissions;
 - limited institutional arrangements and lack of legal instruments for data sharing;
 - lack of institutional memory and knowledge retained in the system;
 - lack of knowledge to determine synergies and co-benefits in mitigation and adaptation measures across different sectors;
 - difficulty in incentivising data collection and reporting;
 - difficulty in facilitating linkages between state and non-state actors.
- It is important to develop a legal framework for data collection, archiving and management, which can improve the institutional memory of a country in terms of compiling greenhouse gas emissions and developing mitigation and adaptation measures. Institutional memory is crucial and depends on proper documentation and transparency. Developing guidance can document and improve institutional memory in MRV.
- With ICAT's support, countries have enhanced their MRV capabilities in terms of data management and archiving, while some countries are working on improved knowledge of integrating mitigation and adaptation measures and exploring synergies and co-benefits. Synergies in funding support can also be explored.
- QA/QC is essential. Countries recognize the role of external experts and non-state actors involved in QA/QC activities. While quality control is the responsibility of those compiling the GHG inventories, quality assurance is entrusted to a third party, coming from academia or non-state actors.
- More capacity-building might be necessary to fully operationalize the reporting frameworks.
- Robust stakeholder engagement is critical for well-functioning institutional arrangements.

Day 3: Working with data: tools, systems and frameworks for effective climate action

After the opening of the Forum's final day by the two co-moderators, Jongikhaya Witi, MRV Expert from South Africa and Chair of the ICAT Advisory Committee set the scene for the day, with a [presentation](#) that highlighted how data can help advance effective climate action through the use of tools, systems and frameworks, using the context of the South African case as an example. He highlighted as a first step the importance of defining the overarching purpose of an MRV/M&E system for climate change, which in the case of South Africa, is to track the country's transition to a lower carbon economy. The system was designed to support policy-planning and decision-making processes that implement climate and sustainable development goals, including NDCs, carbon budgets, etc. and that improve policy design. It was also set up in order to allow for tracking progress for sectoral emissions targets and thereby determine whether policies are delivering intended results and when corrective action should be taken. Several M&E Guidelines for measuring policy impacts that were used and adapted to the South African case were briefly presented.

A key lesson learned from the South-African case is the need to define the mitigation system upfront and inform the selection of tool(s). This is useful to determine how an MRV/M&E system should be designed and developed (e.g. definition of key elements to include, such as mitigation goal, sectoral emission targets, sector policies to drive mitigation, industry mitigation, industry emissions limits, and monitoring of GHG emission), taking into account national circumstances. Additionally, tools and systems for tracking implementation of actions should be developed in a manner that facilitates the tracking of domestic and national targets. He also highlighted the importance of independent verifications schemes for ensuring data integrity. Another key lesson from South Africa was that an integrated modelling system whose analysis framework was structured according to the IPCC categorization could facilitate sector-specific assumptions and unique circumstances. Lastly, he concluded that an emission reporting program could also help conduct a bottom-up analysis for stress-testing of NDC targets.

After the introductory presentation, the participants were invited to join the breakout group of their choice for in-depth discussions on specific transparency topics. The breakout sessions of day 3 of the ICAT Partner Forum were focused on working with data, exploring different tools, systems and frameworks. The breakout sessions were followed by an interactive plenary session on the effectiveness of support for countries' enhanced transparency frameworks.

Session 11: Tools for NDC tracking

The session presented different tools that can be used for tracking NDCs, including tools from ICAT, FAO and ClimateSI. Expert speakers answered questions and clarified the functions of the tools, and countries were invited to engage in a discussion on their needs, challenges and lessons learned in developing and using tools to track their NDCs.

Moderator: Housseem Belhouane, Energy Expert, Head of the Energy Unit, CITEPA

Rapporteur: Libasse Ba (Chair, National Committee on Climate Change in Senegal)

Presentations:

- **UNEP-CCC:** Aiyngul Kerimray, Mitigation Specialist, Mitigation Analysis and Data Management
- **FAO:** Mirella Salvatore, Natural Resources Officer (Climate Change), and ICAT Advisory Committee member
- **ClimateSI:** H.M. Buddika Hemashantha, CEO

Key take-aways:

- The tools presented (GACMO, NEXT, NDC tracking Tool and ICAT Transport Climate Action Data Tool) necessary for transparency activities, in particular the production of BTR reports, are in the public domain. They are freely available and accessible to all users;
- All the tools are customisable and allow users to establish appropriate scenarios for the exploration of the future :
 - GACMO is a bottom-up modelling tool for greenhouse gas emissions based on Excel, and following IPCC/CDM Methodologies. Among its key features, it can:
 - calculate the GHG reduction and the cost for each mitigation option,
 - scale the size of the mitigations option up and down,
 - provide a clear overview of the total mitigation effort,
 - be used ex-ante (for planning) or ex-post (for tracking)
 - possibly generate the MAC curve, which countries can use to classify their projects at the national level.
 - The FAO NDC tracking tool allows assessing the progress on NDC implementation by comparing planned versus implemented mitigation and adaptation actions, also in graphical format; and evaluating GHG reduction achieved against the sectoral and/or national baseline and NDC target scenario (in connection with the use of the NEXT tool). It is excel-based, easy-to-use, and has five templates tailored to chapter III of [modalities procedures and guidelines](#).
 - The ICAT Transport Climate Action Data Tool can help with decision-making processes and report internationally (NC, BUR, BTR, NDC etc.) by taking into account key information on emission reduction, financial costs and tracking climate actions.
- The sectoral analysis offered by the tools makes it possible to better see how to study the variables and take into consideration their behaviour in a

- distinct way.
 - Key challenges regard aspects related to data verification, extension of the tools to all sectors and relevance of the tools.
 - The use of the tools in more than 57 countries provides a critical mass of information that allows conclusions to be drawn on their application.
-

Session 12: Setting up sectoral data systems and estimating GHG projections

The session explored countries' work on estimating GHG projections and building climate data systems in different sectors. With an emphasis on the use of tools, and a special focus on the transport sector, the session included contributions from the ICAT Advisory Committee, ClimateSI, Cambodia, Malawi and Antigua and Barbuda, before opening the floor to all participants for an open exchange on the topic.

Moderator: Matej Gasperic, Senior Project Manager, GHGMI

Rapporteur: Jongikhaya Witi, Independent MRV expert, South Africa and ICAT Advisory Committee Chair

Presentations:

- [ICAT Advisory Committee](#): Leandro Buendia, International climate change consultant, Philippines
- [ClimateSI](#): W. Indike Dassanayake, Head of Low Emission Development and IT, and Shyamika Shiwanthi, Team Lead-MRV
- [Antigua and Barbuda](#), Anik Jarvis, Data Consultant, Ministry of Health, Wellness, Social Transformation & the Environment
- **Cambodia**, Dr. Mao Hak, Director of the Department of Climate Change, General Secretariat of the National Council for Sustainable Development
- [Malawi](#), Yamikani Idriss Environmental Affairs Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change - National Focal Point for ICAT.

Key take-aways:

- Integration of tools and systems is key, as each tool responds to different needs and serves different purposes.
- Model selection informed by stakeholder engagement is important as it can help identify whether the data required by the model is available and can also help with validation of modelling assumptions.
- Institutional arrangements proved to be useful in data collection but also in the context of projections (e.g. the case of transport MRV systems for Sri Lanka and Cambodia).
- From a policy perspective, there is a need to link the system's indicators, and the outcomes and outputs of model projections with the quantified impacts

on society at a macro-level (eg. the economy, job market, and environmental benefits).

- In all presentations, tools proved to be useful in answering various projection questions (TraCAD, GACMO and LEAP).
- With improved data and tools, countries are looking at updating their NDCs.
- Main barriers encompass limited accurate and historical data, lack of knowledge and capacity to project GHG emissions, and reliance on external experts.
- Key lessons learned include the need for clear institutional arrangements for sustainability of efforts, data preparedness in a format that can be directly injected in the models selected by stakeholders, and maintaining capacity to avoid loss of skills. Mitigation modelling also emerged as a powerful tool to guide policy-making.

Session 13: Developing M&E frameworks for loss and damage

The session focused on transparency for loss and damage, showcasing important resources, as well as the achievements and lessons learned by Panama and South Africa, who have worked on developing M&E frameworks for loss and damage as part of their respective ICAT country projects. The floor was then opened for discussion and exchange within the ICAT community.

Moderator: Fatemeh Bakhtiari, UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre (UNEP-CCC)

Rapporteur: : Md. Golam Rabbani, Head of Climate Bridge Fund Secretariat, BRAC, Bangladesh, and ICAT Advisory Committee member

Presentations:

- **UNEP-CCC:** Daniel Puig, Department of Geography, University of Bergen
- **South Africa:** Daleen Lötter, Senior Researcher, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, (CSIR) - recorded
- **Panama:** Katherine Martinez, Environmental Engineer, Coordinator of the Strengthening of the Monitoring and Evaluation System for Adaptation to climate change.

Key take-aways:

- The concept and definitions of loss, damage and adaptation need to be jointly defined and widely understood to develop an M&E framework for loss and damage.
- Indicators for both economic and non-economic loss and damage need to be defined, in alignment with the Sendai Framework, SDGs and national policy goals and priorities.
- Stakeholder engagement is key for loss and damage-related data collection, considering that local government systems and actors will

- be in charge of collecting data and reporting them at the central level.
 - Institutional arrangements are essential for collecting of L&D data, and monitoring loss and damages.
 - The main barriers to M&E frameworks for loss and damage include data gaps, poor coordination among the government organizations and other stakeholders, lack of funds and limited capacity of the relevant organizations.
 - Key lessons-learned include building solid partnerships and open communication among the stakeholders, as well as building on existing reporting structures of the government systems.
-

Session 14: Integrating subnational and/or non-State actions

The session explored approaches for integrating subnational and/or non-State actions into national transparency systems. It included presentations and interventions from expert speakers and country representatives from New Climate Institute, Brazil and Chile.

Moderator: Cynthia Elliott, Senior Climate Policy Associate, World Resources Institute (WRI)

Rapporteur: Sohel Pasha, Programme Officer, UNFCCC Secretariat

Presentations:

- **Brazil:** Guilherme Lima, Research Manager Centro Brasil no Clima (CBC)
- **Chile:** Camila Labarca, Chief of the Mitigation and Transparency Department, in the Climate Change Division, in the Ministry of the Environment
- **NewClimate Institute:** Sybrig Smit, Climate Policy Analyst

Key take-aways:

- Sub-national actors are updating their sub-national plans and - for example in Brazil - are willing to use the result from the ICAT project as input to updating their plan
- Capacities were built at the sub-national level. In Chile this included the establishment of standards, reports, types of goals, and a shared definition of climate neutrality.
- Without strong institutional arrangements, it can be challenging to align subnational and non-State actions with national priorities and goals. Therefore, adoption of law is key for the involvement of sub-national actors. In that way, resources are also secured at the national level.
- Integrating data from sub-national and non-State actors into national transparency systems can be challenging due to differences in data availability, quality, and standardization.

- Subnational and non-State actors may lack the resources and capacity to participate fully in national transparency systems. This can include challenges or constraints related to understanding methodology, data collection, analysis, and reporting, as well as limited capacity to engage with government institutions.
- Building trust and collaboration between subnational and non-State actors and national institutions can be challenging because of different goals, values, and interests across a broad range of stakeholders.
- Regular meeting with stakeholders contributed to a better understanding of mitigation actions and their importance.
- The ICAT project became popular among other sub-national actors, who showed interest in being included, in case of extension of the project.
- Sub-national entities may have different types of targets to national entities. Therefore assessment must be done prior to being included in the project. However, entities may be limited in their capacity to do such assessments and match their data to the tool (especially when the tool itself is not available in other languages than in English).

Interactive plenary session: **Effectiveness of support for countries' enhanced transparency frameworks**

Who has provided transparency support in your country/which organized transparency support activities have you participated in?

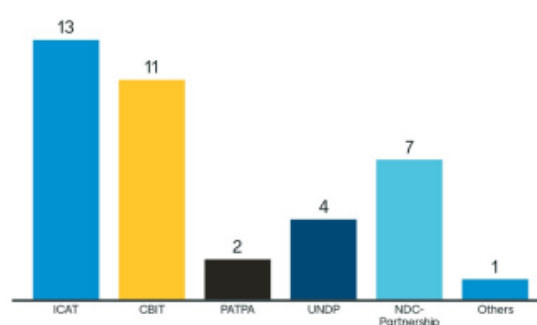


Figure 6: Mentimeter poll on transparency support provided

In one word, which aspect do you need more support with?



Figure 7: Mentimeter Word Cloud on needs for support for transparency

How valuable do you find these modes of engagement?

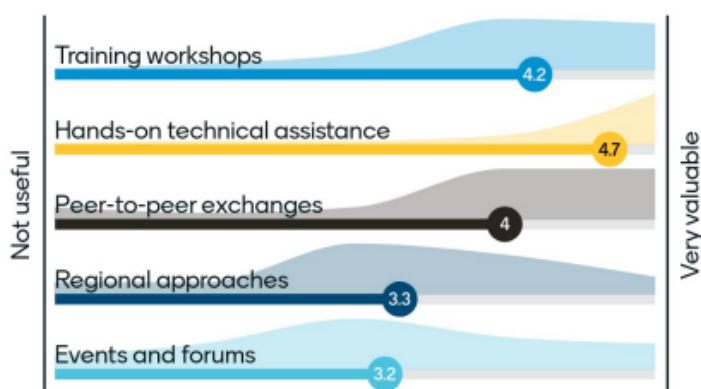


Figure 8: Mentimeter question on effectiveness of support for transparency

Tibor Lindovsky, from the Transparency Division of UNFCCC secretariat, highlighted the importance of coordinating the provision of support to developing countries in an effective manner through streamlining support channels and working jointly towards the implementation of the ETF. In this context, the UNFCCC secretariat has established a platform called “Together for Transparency” providing space for stakeholders to unite in the preparation of transparency frameworks, and offering a platform for them to showcase lessons learned, success stories etc. This initiative also aims to keep the momentum for the ETF implementation. As part of this umbrella, the first regional ETF Dialogue was organized in 2022 in Libreville, Gabon, by the UNFCCC secretariat, together with ICAT, UNDP and other regional partners. In 2023, three more regional dialogues are scheduled to take place (over two days),

and in conjunction with UNFCCC Regional Climate Weeks: 1. The Africa ETF dialogue in Nairobi (ACW 4-8 September 2023), 2. LAC ETF Dialogue in Panama (LACCW 23-27 October 2023) and 3. The Asia-Pacific ETF Dialogue (dates tbc). Those dialogues are aimed to enhance the political profile of transparency issues and highlight benefits of transparency beyond the requirements of parties.

Oscar Zarzo, Head of the Secretariat of the Partnership for Transparency in the Paris Agreement (PATPA), highlighted the opportunities available to countries through PATPA and the close collaboration with other transparency support providers. PATPA provides in-country and global support for transparency, while also working through 5 regional and language groups, organizing workshops and online events. PATPA closely coordinates and often collaborates with other transparency partners for the delivery of workshops and events on specific transparency topics (including the UNFCCC secretariat, FAO, UNDP Climate Promise and CBIT-GSP). PATPA also works closely with other initiatives and national governments, such as the NDC-Partnership and the governments of Belgium, France, Switzerland and Portugal. PATPA is also working on the development of tools and publications, often together with partners, such as the [BTR Guidance and Roadmap Tool](#), developed jointly with FAO, and an upcoming publication on the domestic benefits of climate reporting, jointly developed with the UNFCCC secretariat and other partners. Finally, PATPA offers limited in-country support through the Climate Helpdesk to complement other medium or long-term ongoing support activities and initiatives. Mr. Zarzo highlighted that pooling resources and expertise together with other initiatives and partners in the field of transparency could help provide complete and targeted support. A good example for this is the organization of regional workshops on topics jointly identified as necessary to address gaps and needs, and that bring together different networks for peer-to-peer learning.

Closing Session

To wrap up the third day, Dr. Alex Fisher, Director of Climate Ambition at ClimateWorks Foundation and Chair of the ICAT Donor Steering Committee, shared his key takeaways. He highlighted the need for a mechanism like ICAT because of its agility, fast-response capacity and ability to pick up emerging topics in a flexible manner. With the BTR submission process in 2024, and the next NDC cycle in 2025, making progress on transparency issues is of paramount importance. The ICAT Partner Forum can thus help identify countries' needs and opportunities for the provision of support. Among possible areas of support that will be key for the future, he highlighted the need to focus on the market mechanism as it will depend on strong transparency efforts. Additionally, he encouraged partner countries to focus on fostering the understanding of the link between loss and damage, vulnerability and adaptation. He foresees there will be a continuous need for mechanisms like ICAT and its partners to support partner countries beyond the first round of BTRs submissions (such as supporting the revision of the BTRs).

Dr. Henning Wuester, Director of ICAT, brought the forum to a close by highlighting

the progress made by partner countries in the past year in implementing the Paris Agreement. He noted that numerous countries had started setting up transparency units, initiated their BTR preparation processes, elaborated an NDC tracking mechanism etc. Several countries started delving into more specific issues such as the elaboration of an M&E system for adaptation, and the set-up of climate finance tracking and mobilising mechanisms. A few are also preparing for their participation in Article 6 and taking measures in preparing for fundamental transformational changes for a just transition by assessing sustainable development implications of ambitious climate actions. He reiterated the importance of using transparency in engaging stakeholders (i.e. at sub-national level and non-State actors in the private sector and civil society) early on when selecting tools and setting up modelling frameworks. He concluded by thanking all participants and encouraging partner countries in pursuing their ongoing efforts and invited them to continue to guide the capacity-building offers of support-providers such as ICAT.

Next Steps

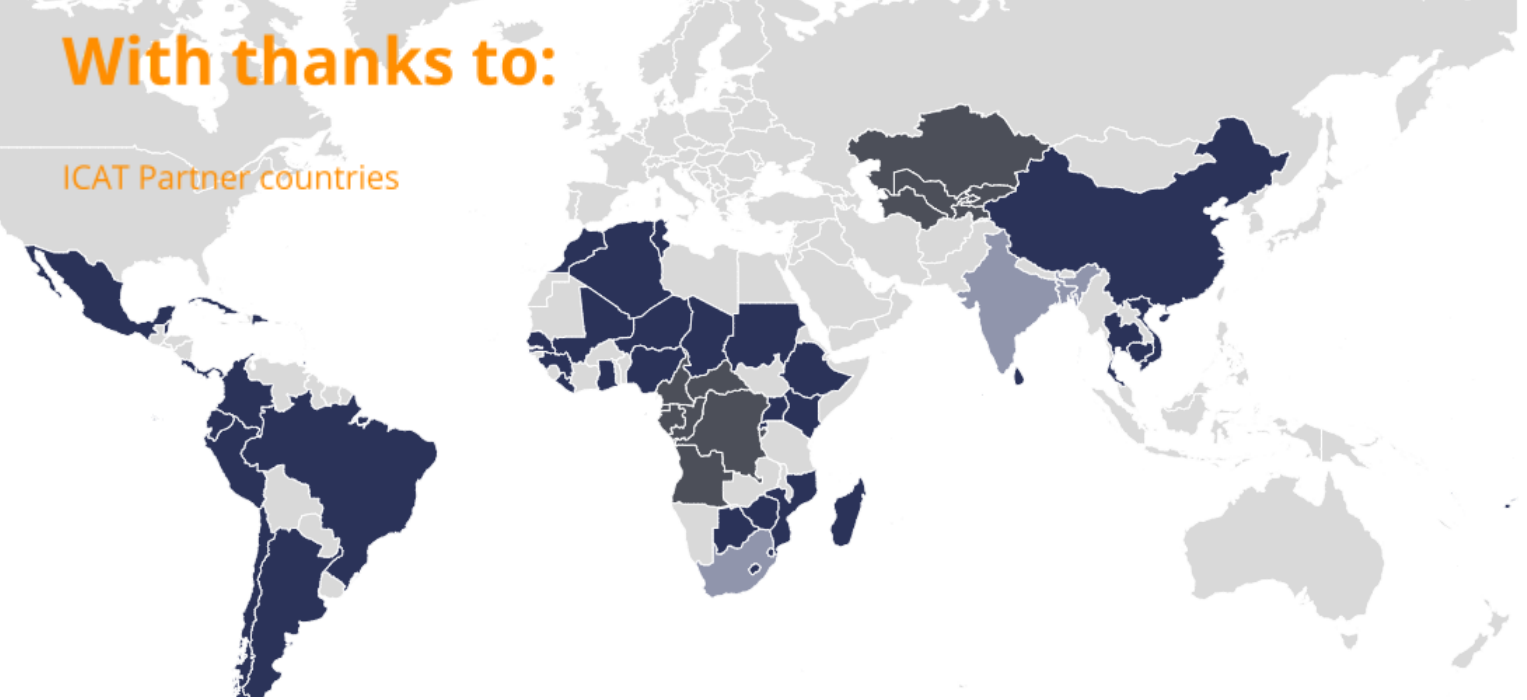
Just like in previous years, the 2023 ICAT Partner Forum achieved its goal of bringing together the ICAT community for an exchange of knowledge and experience in priority transparency topics. ICAT will use the findings of this Forum to share the learnings with other countries and further explore new opportunities and ways to cover needs and expand ICAT's offer of support.

The ICAT Secretariat will also take into consideration the results of the Forum and the feedback provided by participants in order to further guide the concept development and delivery of subsequent knowledge sharing events gathering ICAT's partners.

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