



**IMPACT
REPORT
2024**



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WORDS OF WELCOME



Henning Wuester
ICAT Director

2024 was an important year for the global climate community, marked by the urgent call for action from the global stocktake concluded at COP 29 in Dubai. It was also pivotal for climate transparency, given the submission deadline for countries' first Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) under the Paris Agreement. These reports, due at the end of the year, will be closely followed by the need for updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in 2025. This rapid succession of requirements highlighted the critical need for robust transparency frameworks to track progress, assess policy impacts, and guide future climate action. Making the links between transparency and climate action, that is linking BTRs and NDC updates, is central to ICAT work.

For many developing countries, ICAT's support for the development and implementation of transparency frameworks played a key role in meeting these challenges. The BTR submissions give a good indication. 66 per cent of all BTR submissions from developing countries came from ICAT-supported countries (while ICAT only has or is supporting just over 50 per cent of developing countries). This achievement underscores the effectiveness of ICAT's approach and its commitment to building national and regional capacity for climate transparency.

ICAT's work in 2024 was extensive, encompassing 53 country projects and three ICAT Regional Hubs. The ICAT toolbox was expanded with new guides, tools and working papers on climate finance transparency, just transition monitoring, transformational change assess-

ment, and gender mainstreaming, amongst others. These efforts were supported by dedicated project and communications teams, implemented by a network of global and national partners, and guided by the leadership of ICAT's Donor Steering Committee and Advisory Committee.

This Impact Report provides a snapshot of ICAT's achievements in 2024, highlighting its support for countries in preparing BTRs, assessing policy impacts and projections as a basis for NDC updates, developing adaptation indicators, and enhancing MRV and NDC tracking frameworks. The report also presents the positive results of a mid-term external evaluation, which affirmed ICAT's unique and valuable contribution in the field of climate transparency.

Key areas covered in this document include:

Developing evidence-based activities for impactful climate action, with examples provided by Antigua & Barbuda and Cuba.

Integrating subnational and non-state action into national climate plans, as exemplified by Argentina's work.

Enhancing climate finance transparency through pilot projects in Belize and Côte d'Ivoire.

Building monitoring frameworks for just transitions in countries like Nigeria and South Africa.

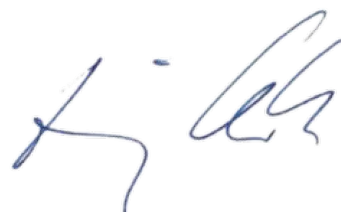
Enhancing M&E frameworks for adaptation, with examples from Eswatini and Chile.

Building and enhancing MRV and NDC tracking frameworks in countries like El Salvador, Fiji, and Uganda.

Assisting countries to develop the transparency frameworks necessary for their climate action and target setting, including NDC updates. In 2024, ICAT supported five countries specifically in preparing for their NDC updates, often as part of larger projects.

The ICAT 2024 Impact Report demonstrates the Initiative's significant contribution to climate action transparency, showcasing its diverse projects, achievements, and positive external evaluation results. With this report, we acknowledge the support from our donors and partners, including the strong engagement of our partner countries, without which this work would not be possible.

As we move forward, ICAT remains committed to supporting countries in their climate action efforts and fostering a transparent and sustainable future for all.

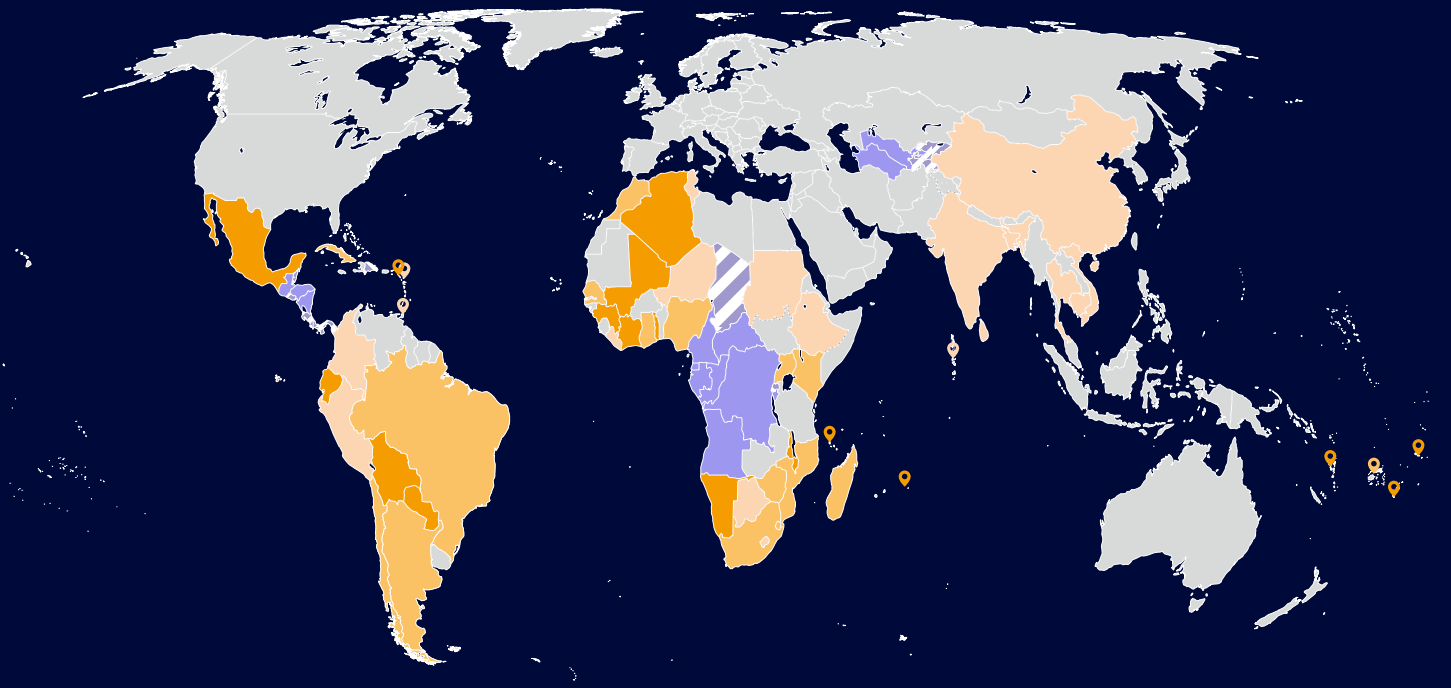


Henning Wuester




ICAT Director

WHERE ICAT WORKS



ICAT provides support to 50+ partner countries.



Status

-  Country project(s) in progress
-  Country project(s) completed
-  Country project(s) completed with new project(s) in progress

Regional Hubs

-  Country belonging to a Regional Hub
-  Country belonging to a Regional Hub with separate ICAT country project(s) completed or in progress

OVERVIEW ICAT'S 2024 PROJECTS

19

New ICAT country projects began.



21

Additional ICAT country projects were ongoing (started before 2024, and will be completed in 2025 and 2026).











13

ICAT country projects were completed, with some countries embarking on new projects.



















ICAT projects started in 2024

Country	Build/enhance an MRV framework	Build/enhance NDC tracking framework	Provide/implement projections of greenhouse gas emissions	Assess the impacts of policies and measures	Assess impact of subnational and/or non-state actions	Track climate finance	Build an M&E system of just transition processes	Put in place a climate data system	Build/enhance an MRV framework for adaptation actions
 Algeria	●	●	●					●	
 Brazil (phase 4 & 5)			●	●			●		
 Comoros		●		●		●			
 Côte d'Ivoire						●			
 El Salvador (phase 2)	●	●							
 Kenya (phase 3)		●		●				●	●
 Kyrgyzstan		●	●	●					
 Malawi	●	●	●	●					●
 Mauritius		●	●	●					
 Mexico	●	●		●	●				











Country	Build/enhance an MRV framework	Build/enhance NDC tracking framework	Provide/implement projections of greenhouse gas emissions	Assess the impacts of policies and measures	Assess impact of subnational and/or non-state actions	Track climate finance	Build an M&E system of just transition processes	Put in place a climate data system	Build/enhance an MRV framework for adaptation actions
 Mozambique (phase 3)	●	●		●	●				●
 Namibia	●	●	●	●					
 Panama					●				●
 Paraguay	●	●	●	●					
 Samoa		●	●	●					●
 Tajikistan	●			●					
 Togo	●	●	●	●					
 Zimbabwe (phase 2)									●




ICAT projects continuing in 2024

Country	Build/ enhance an MRV framework	Build/ enhance NDC tracking framework	Provide/ implement projections of greenhouse gas emissions	Assess the impacts of policies and measures	Assess impact of subnational and/or non-state actions	Track climate finance	Build an M&E system of just transition processes	Put in place a climate data system	Build/ enhance an MRV framework for adaptation actions
 Argentina (phase 2)	●				●			●	
 Belize (phase 2 & 3)	●				●	●		●	
 Bolivia	●	●	●	●					
 Chile (phase 2)					●				●
 Costa Rica (phase 3)				●				●	
 Ecuador	●								
 El Salvador	●	●							
 Eswatini (phase 2)	●			●					●
 Ghana (phase 2)		●		●					
 Guinea	●	●		●					

Country	Build/ enhance an MRV framework	Build/ enhance NDC tracking framework	Provide/ implement projections of greenhouse gas emissions	Assess the impacts of policies and measures	Assess impact of subnational and/or non-state actions	Track climate finance	Build an M&E system of just transition processes	Put in place a climate data system	Build/ enhance an MRV framework for adaptation actions
 Kenya (phase 2)	●			●					
 Mali	●	●		●				●	
 Morocco (phase 2 & 3)	●		●	●	●	●			●
 Nigeria (phase 2)	●	●		●					
 Saint Kitts & Nevis	●	●	●						
 Senegal (phase 2)						●			
 South Africa (phase 3)	●				●				
 Tonga	●	●							
 Vanuatu	●			●					

ICAT projects closed in 2024

Country	Build/ enhance an MRV framework	Build/ enhance NDC tracking framework	Provide/ implement projections of greenhouse gas emissions	Assess the impacts of policies and measures	Assess impact of subnational and/or non-state actions	Track climate finance	Build an M&E system of just transition processes	Put in place a climate data system	Build/ enhance an MRV framework for adaptation actions
 Antigua & Barbuda (phase 2)			●	●					
 Brazil (phase 3)				●					
 Cuba (phase 2)	●		●	●				●	
 Dominican Republic (phase 2)	●	●							
 Ethiopia		●		●					
 Fiji (phase 2)	●			●					
 Lesotho	●			●					
 Madagascar	●	●		●		●			
 Maldives	●								
 Nigeria (phase 3)							●		

Country	Build/enhance an MRV framework	Build/enhance NDC tracking framework	Provide/implement projections of greenhouse gas emissions	Assess the impacts of policies and measures	Assess impact of subnational and/or non-state actions	Track climate finance	Build an M&E system of just transition processes	Put in place a climate data system	Build/enhance an MRV framework for adaptation actions
 South Africa (phase 2)							●		
 Sudan	●	●		●					
 Uganda	●		●						

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OVERVIEW ICAT'S ACHIEVEMENTS

The numbers on this page give an overview of ICAT's achievements since its inception.

38

Countries confirmed the ICAT project contributed to early signs of transformational change.

16

Countries worked to improve climate and/or sustainable development policies as a result of ICAT supported assessments.

5

Countries have worked on new or refined adaptation monitoring measures, processes and plans as part of an ICAT project.

15

Countries have worked to improve integration of data from subnational and non-state action into national MRV systems as part of an ICAT project.

13

Countries have worked on developing a new or refined NDC tracking framework as part of an ICAT project.

32

Countries have worked on putting in place a new or refined MRV framework as part of an ICAT project.

15

Countries have worked on putting in place a new or refined greenhouse gas inventory as part of an ICAT project.

35

Countries have been supported by ICAT in reporting to the UNFCCC. Out of these:

- 22 countries have improved the quality of their Biennial Update Report and/or National Communication reporting to the UNFCCC.
- 24 countries explicitly mention ICAT or ICAT activities in their BTR submission.

ICAT BY NUMBERS (since inception)

95

Country projects supported.

76

Countries supported.

43

Countries have applied ICAT guides, tools and methodologies.

3

Regional climate action transparency hubs established.

3,647

People trained.

89%

Of survey respondents trained rated the training as 'Good' or 'Very Good'.

95%

Of survey respondents trained said they would use the training in their work.

93%

Of survey respondents reported using training materials in their work, 6 months after the training.

6,644

Stakeholders engaged via ICAT projects (excludes training).

132

Peer-to-peer or knowledge sharing events have taken place.



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EXTERNAL EVALUATION RESULTS

2024 saw the preparation of a mid-term external evaluation of ICAT. The evaluation was conducted by Arepo GmbH, an independent research and consulting company that focuses on climate protection and sustainability.

The evaluation was based on a combination of research methods, including an online survey of 36 country representatives; more than 80 in-depth interviews with staff from the donors, country representatives, implementing partners, and the ICAT Secretariat; and a review of relevant ICAT and external documents.

The findings underscore the breadth and depth of the impact of ICAT's activities across different facets of climate transparency, demonstrating its alignment with the specific needs of the countries it supports. Overall, the evaluation found that the Initiative played a significant role within the broader field of climate transparency.



The ICAT toolbox is an asset and provides a significant service to the global community on Measurement, Reporting, and Verification, Enhanced Transparency Frameworks and policy design. - Arepo, 2024



The value of ICAT

The research identified the following broad values of ICAT:

01

ICAT is an innovative and responsive initiative that effectively supports countries in enhancing their climate transparency efforts. ICAT's work is valued by recipient countries, donors and related organizations because ICAT's activities effectively address the country's specific needs and priorities on climate transparency.

02

ICAT has demonstrated a commitment to innovation and the implementation of cutting-edge projects within the climate transparency landscape.

03

ICAT's country-centric approach typically results in significant country ownership of projects, and has garnered widespread commendation from both national stakeholders and other relevant parties.

04

The initiative's relentless focus on tailoring projects to the specific needs of each country through extensive dialogue with national stakeholders has proven highly effective.

05

The ICAT toolbox is "a treasure" and an unique trait of the Initiative. It is highly commended by country stakeholders and other climate transparency organizations.

06

The ICAT Regional Hubs create a sense of community and deliver local climate action advocacy.

07

The value of "home-grown capacity" staying within the country or region is a strength of ICAT.

08

ICAT has a unique ability to bridge the gap between technical and political expertise.

A selection of specific research results.

Some of the specific findings – indicated as a percentage of survey participants – are represented here.

86%

expressed satisfaction with the overall utility of ICAT-supported activities in advancing their climate action transparency efforts.

83%

indicated that ICAT's support has been instrumental in fostering an enabling environment for the development and implementation of more effective policies aligned with sustainable development goals.

93%

confirmed that ICAT's activities effectively addressed their country's specific needs and priorities with regard to climate transparency.

74%

said ICAT responded effectively to training needs.

86%

assessed the operational support provided by the ICAT Secretariat as very good and good.

Unique strengths of ICAT

75%

pointed to ICAT's emphasis on capacity building

69%

emphasized ICAT's country-driven approach

64%

highlighted ICAT's contribution to the development of technical expertise

64%

placed high value on ICAT's toolbox



SPOTLIGHT ON BIENNIAL TRANSPARENCY REPORTS

By the last day of 2024, countries had to have submitted their first Biennial Transparency Reports (BTR) under the Paris Agreement. Many ICAT countries rose to the challenge of reporting progress made on their Nationally Determined Contributions. To do so, many of them relied on their transparency frameworks, which (fully or partially) had been developed with support of an ICAT project.

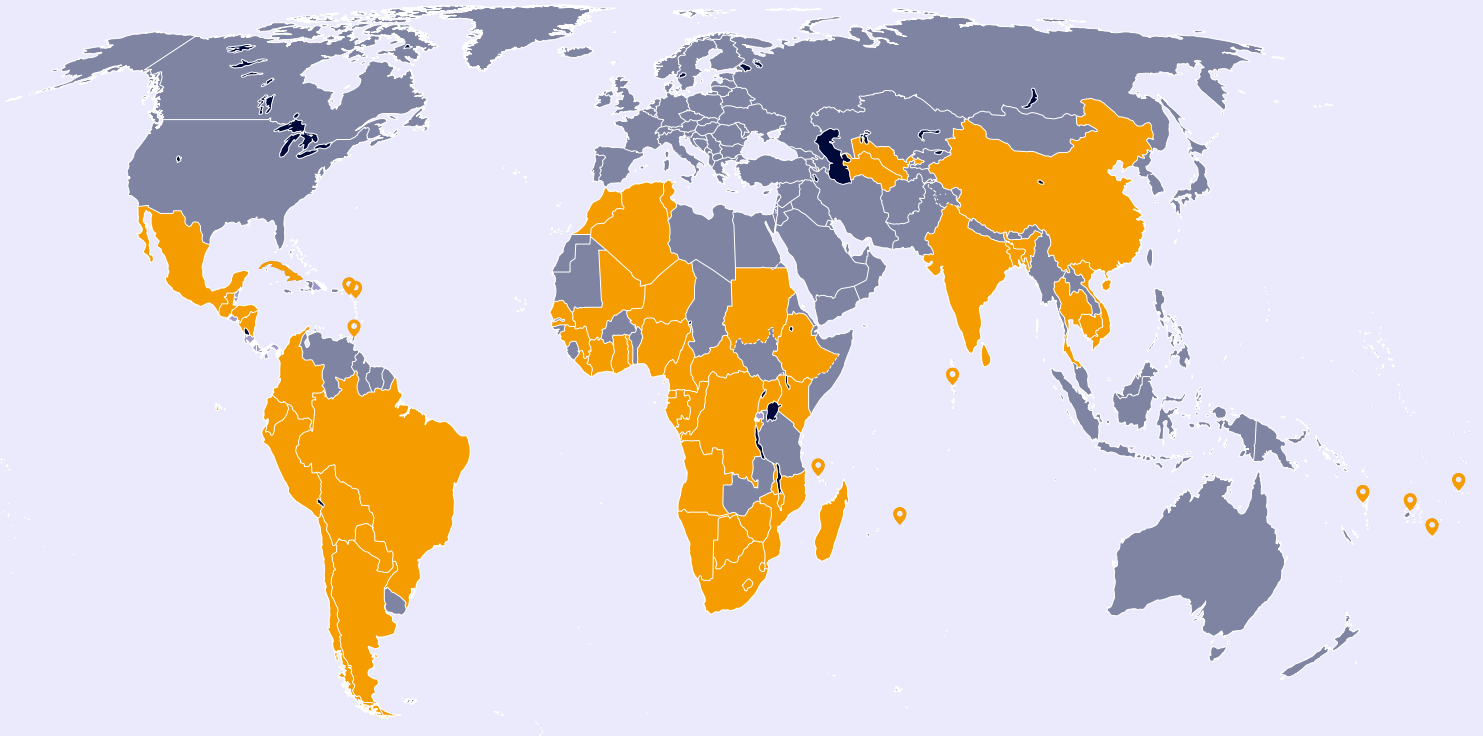
38

ICAT-supported countries submitted their first BTRs, with 24 countries explicitly acknowledging ICAT's support in the report.

66%

Of all BTR submissions from developing countries came from ICAT-supported countries.

The following ICAT countries submitted their BTR:



Latin America & the Caribbean

Argentina*
Belize*
Bolivia*
Brazil
Chile*
Colombia
Costa Rica
Cuba*
Ecuador*
Honduras*
Mexico
Panama*
Paraguay*
Peru
Trinidad and Tobago

Africa

Algeria
Central African
Republic*
Cote d'Ivoire*
Eswatini
Gabon*
Ghana*
Kenya
Maldives*
Mauritius*
Morocco*
Namibia*
Niger*
Nigeria*
Rwanda
South Africa*
Tunisia
Zimbabwe*

Asia & the Pacific

Cambodia
China
Kazakhstan*
Tajikistan*
Thailand
Uzbekistan*

* These BTRs made explicit reference to ICAT support, to the support received via the relevant ICAT Regional Hub, and/or to UNOPS, as the host of ICAT.

QUOTES FROM SELECTED BTRS

“In the journey to build and strengthen institutional capacity to monitor, report, and verify (MRV), skills that are critical towards developing the important data used in the BTR1, Nigeria received and is receiving support from the European Union Delegation in Nigeria and the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT). Indeed, your support was essential to the success of this journey.”

Nigeria, BTR 1 (2024)

“The Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) enabled Namibia to better understand the existing challenges on the Regulatory Framework, improved Stakeholder Engagement [sic].”

Namibia, BTR 1 (2024)

“As part of its efforts to further enhance its transparency capacities RoM has requested support from the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) to amongst other operationalize its online NDC registry (MauNDC Registry), improve the assessment of impacts of climate policies and measures through the application of tools and ICAT methodologies, and also the implications, gaps and challenges in participating in carbon market.”

Mauritius, BTR 1 (2024)

“Collaborating with international initiatives like the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT), the National Adaptation Planning Global Network (NAP-GN), etc., can help Ghana improve its M&E and learning system. ICAT supports countries in developing robust methodologies for data collection, reporting, and verification. Through such partnerships, Ghana can enhance the credibility of its climate adaptation actions and improve transparency in the monitoring process.”

Ghana, BTR 1 (2024)

“...the country has made efforts to promote the incorporation of the mainstreaming approach in its climate change management instruments, among which the work carried out with the support of the Initiative for Climate Transparency and Action (ICAT) stands out.”

Chile, BTR 1 (2024) (Translated from Spanish)



DATA FOR EFFECTIVE EVIDENCE-BASED ACTION AND STRONGER NDC UPDATES

Evidence-based policies and actions, founded on robust data and information, allow countries to confidently advance the transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy. Transparency supports the development of an evidence base for such policies, through frameworks that provide credible data needed for assessing policy impacts, helping inform decision-makers and guide their implementation. Additionally, transparency frameworks are essential for both the tracking and updating of NDCs.

Assessing the impact of planned or in-progress activities provides invaluable information for policymakers. These assessments help estimate how a policy is meeting targets, including its impact on emissions, the environment, and socio-economic development.

They allow leaders to evaluate both the benefits and costs of climate action, maximizing positive outcomes and minimizing negative impacts.

As a process, policy impact assessments help guide decision-makers in achieving both just and effective climate action, with room for course-corrections where necessary. Antigua & Barbuda and Cuba provide examples of ICAT projects in 2024 focused on policy impact assessment.

16

Countries worked to improve climate and/or sustainable development policies and activities as a result of ICAT-supported assessments.



Antigua and Barbuda

Transport accounts for more than 50 per cent of the total greenhouse gas emissions of the small Caribbean island of Antigua and Barbuda. In a forward-looking approach to climate action, Antigua and Barbuda analyzed different mitigation scenarios to gain insight into their emission reduction potential.

National stakeholders were consulted and recommended the analysis of two transport mitigation strategies, as the most important to support NDC implementation. The identified strategies were related to the electrification of the transport system, and the establishment of fuel efficiency standards.

The analysis was undertaken using two ICAT tools, the Greenhouse Gas Abatement Cost Model (GACMO) and the Transport Climate Action Data (TraCAD) tool, and the Low Emissions Analysis Platform (LEAP). It started from an existing baseline specification report, which underwent additional quality checks. Projections of greenhouse gas emissions were made from 2020 to 2030 and to 2050.

The conclusion was that both scenarios would lead to a reduction in emissions, with the electrification of vehicles being overall more efficient than the increase in fuel efficiency. A combination of both could cut greenhouse gas emissions from transport by 12 per cent by 2050.

Antigua and Barbuda updated its NDC in 2021, introducing multiple new targets to increasingly promote the electrification of road transport, and the establishment of efficiency standards.



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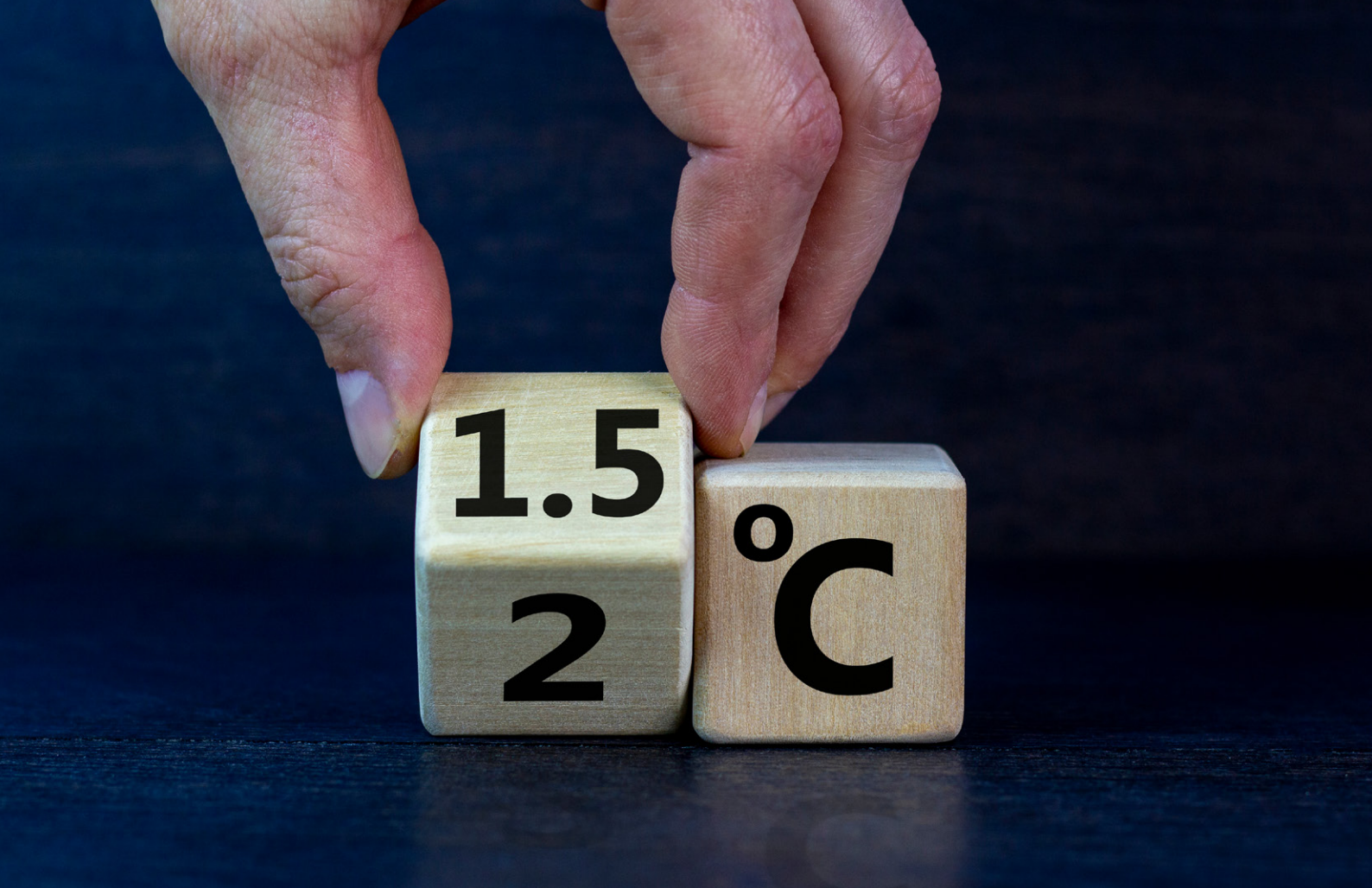
As the world struggles to meet the Paris Agreement's climate goals, countries must ramp up their climate ambitions. Cuba, the largest island in the Caribbean, responded by laying the foundations to enhance its climate action using results of the second ICAT project in the country. This second project has been instrumental in advancing transparency and building national capacity for climate transparency. It focused on assessing and strengthening Cuba's mitigation contributions by evaluating the current NDC targets and emissions projections, and by identifying potential measures to reduce emissions.

The ICAT project employed the [Greenhouse Gas Abatement Cost Model](#) to assess the impact of various mitigation options in the energy and land use, land use change and forestry sectors. These sectors are crucial, as projections without mitigation showed a 53.9 per cent increase in net greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, with energy emissions rising by 30.9 per cent.

The project evaluated five mitigation measures in land use and six in the energy sector, projecting reductions in emissions up to 2035. The analysis showed that Cuba's total emissions could be 17.4 per cent lower than what was targeted in the country's 2020 NDC update. The energy sector played a key role, contributing 82.6 per cent of the total emissions reductions, with the land use sector providing the remaining reductions. Additionally, a draft legal framework and a climate action tracking platform were advanced, laying the foundation for NDC 3.0 and the forthcoming second BTR.

These findings are significant as they enable Cuba to refine its NDC in a realistic manner, supporting the country's low-carbon development vision. The results also bolster Cuba's climate and development goals while ensuring robust reporting under the Paris Agreement's transparency mechanisms, guiding future national actions towards a sustainable future.





SPOTLIGHT ON NDC Updates

A national transparency framework is essential for countries to have the data and information needed to prepare their NDC updates, due in 2025. Transparency not only informs policymakers of the progress in achieving current NDC targets, but also allows for an assessment of additional climate actions that can be reflected in the updated NDCs, and it lays the groundwork for implementation and investment plans.

The transparency framework plays an important role in evaluating progress in NDC implementation, assessing the successes and challenges, and it allows collecting the data and conducting analyses to determine emission trajectories and realistic mitigation options and policies. Insights and data from the BTR should be used to inform the NDC update, strengthening future climate commitments and actions.

ICAT has been active in assisting countries to develop the transparency frameworks necessary for their climate action and target setting, including NDC updates. Through this support, countries have been enabled to effectively prepare for their upcoming NDC updates.

In 2024, ICAT supported the following countries specifically in preparing for their NDC updates, often as part of larger projects:



Cuba



Fiji



Ghana



Madagascar



Togo



SPOTLIGHT ON THE ICAT TOOLBOX

ICAT Policy Assessment Guides

The ICAT Policy Assessment Guides are a set of state-of-the-art methodologies to help countries assess the impacts of climate policies and actions. They support greater transparency, effectiveness, ambition and trust in climate policies.

Used separately or in combination, the policy assessment guides can improve: policy design and implementation; NDC revision and tracking of progress in implementation; domestic or international reporting; and the mobilization of finance by demonstrating the potential and results of effective policies. Assessments can cover the impacts on greenhouse gas levels, sustainable development impacts, transformational change potential, and impacts of actions at subnational level and by non-state actors. The guides can be applied to policies and actions – whether planned, adopted or implemented – at the national, subnational or municipal level.



SPOTLIGHT ON THE ICAT TOOLBOX

Transformational Change Toolkit

The Transformational Change Toolkit is a set of easy-to-use tools that support the assessment of potential transformational impacts of a wide range of climate policies, actions, and projects, covering both mitigation and adaptation. These are referred to as interventions in the toolkit.

The toolkit is composed of tools to assess the transformational impact of interventions with a carbon market component; investments by funds or private companies; and a general assessment tool for assessments that do not fall under the other two categories. Additionally, a portfolio tool aggregates and compares the transformational impacts of several single interventions grouped under a portfolio.

The toolkit facilitates the application of the ICAT Transformational Change Methodology.





Countries supported by ICAT on policies and measures assessment in 2024

Africa



Ethiopia



Lesotho



Mauritius



Namibia



Nigeria

Asia & the Pacific



Samoa



Tajikistan

Latin America & the Caribbean



Antigua & Barbuda



Brazil

INTEGRATING SUBNATIONAL AND NON-STATE ACTION



A better understanding of climate actions at different levels of governance will help national governments develop more ambitious yet realistic targets, and can support effective policy planning to achieve these targets.

Explicit consideration of mitigation actions at subnational levels and by non-state actors - such as those by states and cities, businesses and civil society - can lead to more accurate and comprehensive projections. In turn, these can better inform effective planning and policies at the local level. They can also help countries identify promising subnational and non-state approaches that can be scaled up or supported by the national government or other partners. All of this can help raise the ambition of countries' NDCs.

Subnational and non-state climate action is needed to achieve ambitious national mitigation targets. Subnational and non-state actions therefore need to be well integrated into the national vision to maximize synergies, ensure buy-in and fully realize the mitigation potential of a country.

The ICAT project with Argentina provides an example from 2024.

15

Countries worked to improve integration of data on action at the subnational level and by non-state actors into national MRV systems as part of an ICAT project.



Argentina

Argentina is the second largest country in South America, and has one of the continent's largest economies. With the aim of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 19 per cent by 2030, Argentina is relying on each of its 23 provinces to play their part in national climate action.

By law, all Argentine provinces must have their own response plans, addressing both mitigation and adaptation. The ICAT project is supporting the national government to gather and analyze these plans. This analysis will show what tools and instruments each province needs to monitor the implementation of the plans. It will also identify gaps and avoid double counting.

Using ICAT's [Non-State and Subnational Action Methodology](#), complemented by the [Climate Action Aggregation Tool](#) (CAAT), the national government has already analyzed nine provincial plans, with the balance to follow in 2025.

Argentina plans to use the information in its NDC update, to be submitted in 2025.

Considering the value of the project, to encourage other provinces to submit their plans, and to address the information gaps that have been identified so far, Argentina plans to train provincial representatives on the project, including on the use of CAAT. In this way, Argentina aims to continue to strengthen climate policy at the subnational level, which will result in strengthening mitigation objectives for the country overall.





SPOTLIGHT ON THE ICAT TOOLBOX

Non-State and Subnational Action Guide

The [Non-State and Subnational Action Guide](#) provides guidance for the integration of the activities at subnational levels and by non-state actors into national climate action plans. The guide provides advice on how to account for the variety of subnational and non-state actions undertaken by, for instance, regions, cities, companies and/or sectors; how to assess the extent to which those actions are a means towards achieving or surpassing national climate targets; and how to reflect the impact of those actions in national greenhouse gas projections, policy development, and target setting. Above all, the guide helps to avoid double counting for actions that overlap at different levels.



SPOTLIGHT ON THE ICAT TOOLBOX

The Climate Action Aggregation Tool

[This tool](#) distils the step-by-step process laid out in the ICAT Non-State and Subnational Action Guide and was developed to support government experts, analysts and policymakers to identify, quantify and aggregate the impact of subnational and non-state actions. As a result, they can be integrated into mitigation targets, projections and scenarios in support of policy development, policy evaluation and target-setting. The tool was updated in 2024.





Countries supported by ICAT on subnational and non-state action integration in 2024

Africa



Kenya



South Africa



Togo

Latin America



Argentina



Belize



Chile

CLIMATE FINANCE TRANSPARENCY

Achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement requires significant, urgent and sustained climate action. To be successful, change on the scale required needs to redirect significant flows of investment, turning existing financial flows into climate finance. Investments are needed both immediately and over the longer term to enable an effective and just transition.

Understanding climate finance needs and flows is crucial for countries working to meet their climate objectives. Climate finance transparency can help governments to take control of an important element of their climate agenda, align investments with national priorities and accelerate effective climate action.

ICAT's new [Climate Finance Transparency Guide](#) can support countries to do so. The guide was published towards the end of 2024, with the support of the Center for Clean Air Policy and Gauss International.

During its development, the guide was piloted in four countries, including Belize and Côte d'Ivoire.

4

Countries have been supported by ICAT to work towards putting in place a climate finance transparency framework



Belize

As a country heavily affected by climate change, the Central American nation of Belize remains committed to strategically transition to a low-carbon economy while strengthening its resilience to the impacts of climate change. To achieve its goals, Belize requires additional finance. In its updated Nationally Determined Contributions (2021), Belize identified a funding gap of about USD 1.38 billion for both its mitigation and adaptation activities.

ICAT is currently supporting Belize to establish a climate finance transparency framework. One of the first steps in the work plan was to develop a definition of climate finance to be used in the national context and establish its parameters while considering the national circumstances of Belize.

This was a vital foundational step. With a definition applied consistently by all stakeholders, coordination could be improved between ministries, and with civil society and local communities, including Indigenous communities.

The team then worked to develop a national methodological approach to identify climate finance needs, and established a methodology to track climate finance flows, covering both international and domestic funding. Finally, the team is working on establishing the institutional arrangements needed to measure, report and verify data on climate finance going forward.



Côte d'Ivoire

Côte d'Ivoire in West Africa also experiences the adverse effects of climate change and is working to strengthen its adaptation resilience. At the same time, it remains committed to raising its mitigation targets in parallel with its efforts to improve the livelihoods of its citizens.

In its first Nationally Determined Contributions (2022), Côte d'Ivoire had estimated that it required USD 22 billion to achieve its adaptation and mitigation targets. The country has the opportunity to access a significant amount of the finance required, provided it implements some governance reforms, including climate finance governance, requested by international financial institutions.

ICAT has been supporting Côte d'Ivoire to develop a climate finance transparency framework, which

will allow the country to better estimate its finance needs and to mobilize and access funds for NDC implementation.

The first step was to map the legal, technical and financial instruments available for climate finance tracking and analyze each for its role in the climate finance process. This was followed by creating a shared definition of climate finance.

In its next phase, the project will improve and detail the country's NDC costing estimations, develop a methodology for assessing and tracking climate finance needed and received through various instruments and sources, which will culminate in the establishment of an MRV framework for identifying climate-related investments and expenditures.





SPOTLIGHT ON THE ICAT TOOLBOX

The Climate Finance Transparency Guide

ICAT's Climate Finance Transparency Guide provides methodological guidance that helps developing country policymakers to establish and implement national climate finance transparency frameworks. It focuses on establishing a national framework for collecting data on financial needs and finance flows, in line with the reporting requirements under the Paris Agreement's enhanced transparency framework, developing a strategic approach to managing and monitoring finance flows, and taking a holistic approach to serve as a basis for implementing climate action.



SPOTLIGHT ON THE ICAT TOOLBOX

Transparency for cooperative approaches under the Paris Agreement

A guide to navigating the links between Articles 6 & 13

This ICAT publication provides a guide to navigating the links between Articles 6 and 13 of the Paris Agreement. It aims to support countries exploring opportunities for engaging in activities under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, and, in particular, to understand the related reporting and accounting requirements. Article 6 sets out the basic rules for international carbon markets and non-market approaches. It has strong interlinkages with other elements of the Paris Agreement; in particular Article 13, which defines the contours of the enhanced transparency framework. Another aim is to provide stakeholders with an understanding of the opportunities and risks linked to participation in Article 6, and the requirements.



Countries supported by ICAT on climate finance tracking in 2024

Africa



Côte d'Ivoire



Morocco



Senegal

Latin America



Belize



Section 3

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AVON
FIRE BRIGADE



BUILDING A MONITORING FRAMEWORK FOR JUST TRANSITIONS

A just transition – ensuring the legitimate concerns of those affected by the transition towards a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy are adequately addressed – is vital to the success of the transformational change needed to bring about sustained climate action.

Transparency is central to a just transition. For a truly just and equitable transition, transparency facilitates engaging stakeholders in identifying the projected impact of climate action, developing plans to mitigate the potential disadvantages such action brings, establishing and tracking indicators, and monitoring and reporting on those indicators.

The ICAT projects with Nigeria and South Africa focused on developing a framework to monitor just transitions.

3

Countries have been supported by ICAT to put in place a monitoring framework for just transitions

Nigeria



In Nigeria, ICAT worked with the Ministry of Labour and Employment to lay the foundation for a just and gender-inclusive transition to a low-carbon economy. In the first phase of developing its just transition monitoring framework, the government focused on inclusivity and stakeholder engagement across two sectors – oil & gas, and agriculture – recognizing that transparency is key to garnering support from diverse groups.

Nigeria's approach emphasized broad consultation to ensure that all relevant stakeholders, including labour unions represented by the Nigeria Labour Congress, were involved from the beginning. This process not only boosted the legitimacy of the framework but also fostered a sense of ownership among stakeholders, particularly workers who are likely to be most affected by the economic transformations needed to address climate change.

A central outcome of this effort was the development of a refined measurement, reporting, and verification framework to capture just transition indicators and monitor the impact of climate policies on the justice-related aspects of the economy. This tool, when fully implemented, will have enhanced the government's ability to inform policymakers about the impacts of a just transition, making it easier to adjust strategies and actions where necessary.

This comprehensive and inclusive approach has strengthened Nigeria's commitment to a just transition, ensuring that both the public and key stakeholders are kept informed and actively involved in the process.



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Editorial credit: Grobler du Preez / Shutterstock.com

South Africa

In South Africa, the responsibility for planning and measuring the implementation of a just transition lies with the Presidential Climate Commission (PCC), which comprises government ministers, civil society groups, labour representatives, academia, traditional leadership, and business.

The PCC's approach reflects the principle of procedural justice, with all meetings broadcast live to the public, ensuring transparency in decision-making processes.

After adopting its Framework for a Just Transition in 2022, South Africa faced the challenge of establishing a robust monitoring and evaluation system to track progress towards just transition goals. The country addressed this gap by developing a monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) framework.

This framework enables the tracking of progress across multiple levels of government (national, provincial, and local), as well as the private sector, while ensuring that the three dimensions of justice—procedural, distributive, and restorative—are upheld. The result of this initiative is a comprehensive just transition MEL framework that will guide South Africa in monitoring, evaluating, and adopting policies that align with just transition principles. By applying this framework across diverse stakeholders, South Africa is better equipped to ensure that its climate strategies are equitable and aligned with its long-term zero-emissions goals.



SPOTLIGHT ON THE ICAT TOOLBOX

Just Transitions Monitoring Guide

ICAT's Just Transitions Monitoring Guide provides guidance to monitor and analyze social, economic and environmental changes that may occur as countries implement policies to transition to a low-carbon and climate resilient future. The guide provides a step-by-step approach to support the development of a monitoring framework that will enable governments to track the status of a just transition.

This guide was designed for government agencies and ministries such as those responsible for development, climate planning, data management and finance, including national, subnational, regional or local jurisdictions. It builds on experience with implementing the approach through dedicated ICAT country projects in Nigeria and South Africa and is currently applied through an ICAT project in Brazil.





Countries supported by ICAT on establishing a monitoring framework for just transitions in 2024

Africa



Nigeria



South Africa

Latin America



Brazil

BUILDING OR ENHANCING AN M&E FRAMEWORK FOR ADAPTATION

While transparency on climate change mitigation efforts has globally applicable methodologies and templates for countries to follow, the same does not exist for adaptation. For adaptation, each region, country or even areas within countries have different needs and specificities, and therefore require unique metrics to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of adaptation actions. Climate change is a global concern, but adaptation needs a local focus.

This creates significant challenges for countries, which are exacerbated by the fact that many countries do not have most of the data needed to effectively plan, implement and manage adaptation actions.

Eswatini and Chile provide examples of ICAT projects related to adaptation transparency in 2024.

5

Countries have worked on new or refined adaptation monitoring and evaluation measures, processes and plans as part of an ICAT project



Eswatini

Eswatini, located in Southern Africa, is a small, landlocked country facing significant challenges due to climate change. The ICAT project in Eswatini aimed to strengthen the country's capacity to monitor and report on adaptation actions in the critical sectors of health and water, which are particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts.

Water and health are crucial sectors for Eswatini, where the population faces the dual challenges of water scarcity and fluctuating health conditions. Eswatini is a water-scarce country - a problem that is becoming more and more pressing due to decreasing rainfall and rising temperatures. This scarcity has far-reaching effects, influencing food security, hydroelectric generation, sanitation, and overall public health. The impacts of extreme weather events, such as droughts, exacerbate these issues, leading to compromised water quality and increased vulnerability to health risks, including waterborne diseases and malnutrition.

Adaptation in these sectors is vital to Eswatini's resilience. Climate change-induced disruptions to water availability affect every aspect of life, from agriculture to health.

With increasing water demand, particularly for irrigation and domestic use, the country needs robust systems to manage water resources sustainably. Similarly, improving health systems to address climate-related diseases and ensuring food security are critical for safeguarding the well-being of Eswatini's citizens.

The ICAT project aimed to address these challenges by developing a robust M&E framework for adaptation in the health and water sectors. This framework will track the progress of adaptation actions and provide a framework for reporting that includes non-state actors such as NGOs and community groups. The project included practical tools and training for stakeholders, ensuring a coordinated approach to adaptation across various levels of government and society.

By integrating these efforts into Eswatini's national climate strategies, the ICAT project supported the country's long-term climate resilience goals.



Chile

Chile's Nationally Determined Contributions refer to the country's goal to fully integrate climate mitigation and adaptation considerations and assessments. The ICAT project supported Chile in identifying key metrics and developing a system to track the implementation of these actions from both adaptation and mitigation perspectives.

The first step was to define what constitutes an integrated climate action and to assess the degree of integration between adaptation and mitigation activities. This analysis revealed which mitigation measures offered the most significant co-benefits for adaptation, and vice versa.

A major challenge was the lack of robust data on the co-benefits of many climate measures, whether mitigation or adaptation. When data was available, measuring co-benefits depended on specific contexts, making it difficult to define co-benefits that were universally applicable, and integrate them consistently. Extensive stakeholder consultations played a critical role in overcoming this challenge.

Based on the analysis, Chile selected integration measures that aligned with its strategic priorities, with a focus on nature-based solutions. These measures aim to reduce emissions, enhance resilience to climate impacts, restore the natural environment, and protect biodiversity. This approach ensures that Chile's climate actions support both mitigation and adaptation goals in a mutually reinforcing way.





SPOTLIGHT ON THE ICAT TOOLBOX

Assessment for Adaptation Project Proposals

According to the IPCC, for planned adaptation interventions to be successful in leading to societally desirable outcomes, they need to be feasible, have the potential to be effective in reducing climate risks and impacts, and be able to do so in a manner that is aligned with the principles of justice. The ICAT Assessment Tool for Adaptation Project Proposals is an excel-based assessment tool developed to support organizations that finance climate change adaptation projects to assess project proposals to identify whether they are “well-placed” to realize societally desirable adaptation outcomes. The tool is accompanied by a document, Fostering Successful Adaptation Projects, to guide users through the mechanics of the tool.





SPOTLIGHT ON THE ICAT TOOLBOX

Integrating Subnational and Non-State Actors into M&E Systems for Adaptation

Multiple actors involved in the planning and implementation of climate change adaptation means that when tracking progress made, the actions of sub-national and non-state actors are taken into account. As data on these actions and their results are in the hands of their implementers, systems developed to facilitate the monitoring and evaluation of national adaptation policies must integrate these actors by providing them with the necessary enabling environment to collect and supply data. [Tracking Progress on the Ground: Guidance and Good Practices for Integrating Subnational and Non-State Actors into M&E Systems for National Climate Change Adaptation Policies](#) aims to support actors in national governments that are responsible for the M&E of national adaptation policies to integrate sub-national and non-state actors into the M&E systems they are developing.



Countries supported by ICAT on adaptation in 2024

Africa



Eswatini



Zimbabwe

Asia & the Pacific



Samoa

Latin America & the Caribbean



Chile



Panama

BUILDING AND ENHANCING MRV AND NDC TRACKING FRAMEWORKS

With the deadline for the submission of the first Biennial Transparency Reports (BTR) passed at the close of 2024, countries begin 2025 by submitting an updated NDC. National MRV and NDC tracking frameworks are vital for both the BTR and the NDCs, and they lay the foundation for tracking and evaluating progress in implementation based on credible and robust data.

2024 saw multiple countries work with ICAT and its implementing partners to build or improve an MRV framework and/or a framework for tracking the implementation of their NDCs. The ICAT projects in El Salvador, Fiji and Uganda represent three examples of this.

33

Countries have been supported by ICAT to put in place a new or refined MRV framework and/or develop a new or refined NDC tracking framework



El Salvador

Too often, lack of capacity in-country means that reports, such as the BTR, and even policy documents like the NDCs are prepared by international consultants. This means, in far too many cases, that these important documents are not grounded in the reality of the country. This has long-term effects, the most significant of which is the lack of country ownership and buy-in. With no buy-in, implementation does not succeed, and NDC targets are not met.

Central America's smallest and most densely populated country, El Salvador, has set a good example of the benefits of preparing its reports itself. The country has embraced complete ownership of its NDCs.

In 2023, the country developed 30 indicators to monitor its NDCs and 138 indicators for its sectoral plans. However, these indicators were not designed in alignment with the requirements established by the ETF.

The ICAT project supported the coordination of various institutions to address this challenge. The project included interviews with representatives from the 16 institutions responsible for NDC actions, and workshops aimed at capacity building. The focus was on designing and operationalizing a measurement, reporting, and verification framework. This process highlighted the importance of setting clear, measurable goals to facilitate the creation of specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) indicators that meet the information requirements of the ETF.

As a result of the review and refinement process, the total number of indicators increased from 30 to 58. These revised indicators were developed, reviewed, and validated by technical focal points during 2024. El Salvador met with Costa Rica to discover the learnings from the development and implementation of Costa Rica's National Climate Change Metrics System (SINAMECC), part of which was developed through a previous ICAT project by Costa Rica. El Salvador plans to use the information gained as the basis for the development of a similar system.





In the South Pacific island nation of Fiji, the agricultural sector is at the intersection of climate action and economic and social development. The sector's development is essential for the country's food security and economic growth. However, high emissions of greenhouse gasses from agriculture must be considered against Fiji's climate targets.

In the first ICAT project, completed in 2022, Fiji conducted a data-based assessment of the national policies on rice cultivation and livestock – two highly emitting subsectors – looking into their impacts on both greenhouse gas emissions and sustainable development. ICAT's Agriculture Methodology provided the guidance needed for this work.

The current ICAT project in Fiji, is building on the results of the first project to increase the coverage of sectors and gases in the next NDC. Additionally, it aims to provide a strong link between the data in Fiji's greenhouse gas inventory with the prioritized aspects of Fiji's climate policy and international reporting obligations. To do so, the project is working to build capacity for data collection procedures in the agriculture sector, with a focus on livestock data.

Additionally, the project covers the design of the MRV framework for estimations of greenhouse gas emissions from hydrofluorocarbons, used in refrigeration and air conditioning. Overarching institutional arrangements are being designed, including a recommendation for a national reporting system.

Finally, municipal and industrial waste treatment was also being covered. Activity data flows in solid waste disposal were mapped; and the greenhouse gas impact of current and potential new biogas projects assessed.

All this work contributed to enabling the Fijian government to move forward in an informed way. This includes identification of data needs at the level of detail required to track and further refine policies. It opens up the way for the necessary transformation of the three sectors, while maintaining their profitability and contribution to sustainable development.



SPOTLIGHT ON THE ICAT TOOLBOX

Agriculture Methodology

Agricultural systems are inherently complex and highly variable, being influenced by both natural events and human actions. The [guide](#) tackles this complexity by setting out a logical, step-by-step approach to estimating the impacts of agriculture policies on greenhouse gas emissions and removals. It includes comprehensive consideration of major agricultural emission sources and mitigation measures.

The methodology covers the following policies and measures:



Livestock



Fertilizer management



Soil carbon pools



Rice cultivation

The Agriculture Methodology is one of the publications in ICAT's series of policy assessment guides ([see page 65](#)).

Uganda

In the East African country of Uganda, the ICAT project started with the recognition that while the energy sector drives the economy, it is also a major source of greenhouse gas emissions. During the decade 2005 to 2015, Uganda's emissions from the energy sector almost doubled, with the transport sub-sector accounting for around 66 per cent of the emissions in the sector.

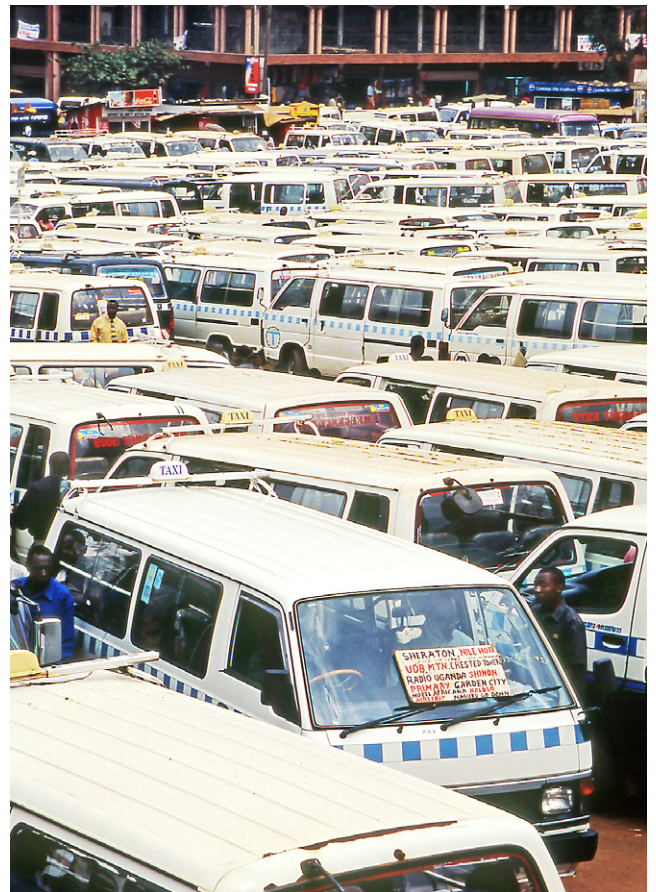
Additionally, waste was identified as a sector with significant gaps in the data available for national greenhouse gas inventories and NDC tracking.

The ICAT project in Uganda followed the tested approach of developing an integrated sectoral MRV framework. It targeted essential aspects of climate action transparency, such as greenhouse gas inventories, emissions projections and NDC tracking. It developed an NDC tracking and monitoring framework for the transport and waste sectors, prepared a roadmap for its implementation, and trained users on its use.

By aligning data collection processes with government cycles, enhancing the clarity and functionality of templates, and incorporating online accessibility, the framework is now more robust and user-friendly. This ensures stakeholders are well-prepared to effectively implement and monitor progress toward Uganda's NDC targets for the transport and waste sectors.

The project helped to address the country's needs for stronger transparency in these two priority sectors and contributed to the enhancement of Uganda's climate action and implementation of the NDCs. Uganda is now better placed to evaluate its progress towards meeting its NDC targets in the transportation and waste sectors.

The ICAT tools, the [Greenhouse Gas Abatement Cost Model \(GACMO\)](#), and the [Transport Climate Action Data \(TraCAD\)](#) tool were used.





SPOTLIGHT ON THE ICAT TOOLBOX

Greenhouse Gas Abatement Cost Model (GACMO)

A greenhouse gas emissions projections tool, GACMO allows countries to analyze different impact scenarios on a variety of mitigation options across different economic sectors. The tool can provide valuable input for preparing and updating NDCs by providing assessments of future emissions in different climate action scenarios, identifying mitigation options, and, on that basis, developing NDC targets for emissions reductions. It can also be used to set up an NDC tracking framework.

The tool was developed by UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre.





SPOTLIGHT ON THE ICAT TOOLBOX

Transport Climate Action Data (TraCAD) Tool

This tool supports countries to systematically assess the impact of climate actions in the transport sector. It does this by streamlining all aspects of the data collection process, and offers standard methodologies, calculations and reporting in one place. It also guides users through the process, making it more straightforward to connect actions and policies with outcomes and costs, facilitating the design and tracking of NDCs, and providing a more consistent and structured approach to data collection and assessment.

TraCAD provides countries with the following 4 main functionalities:

Data collection and management

GHG impact assessment

Marginal abatement cost assessment

Tracking climate actions



Countries supported by ICAT on MRV framework development and/or NDC tracking in 2024

Africa



Algeria



Eswatini



Guinea



Kenya



Madagascar



Malawi



Mali



Mauritius



Morocco



Mozambique



Namibia



Nigeria



South Africa



Togo



Uganda

Asia & the Pacific



Fiji



Kyrgyzstan



Samoa



Tajikistan



Tonga



Vanuatu

Latin America



Argentina



Belize



Bolivia



Cuba



El Salvador



Ecuador



Mexico



Saint Kitts & Nevis

ENHANCED REPORTING TO UNFCCC

ICAT assists multiple countries in improving their reporting, for both domestic and international purposes. One of ICAT's key performance indicators relates to supporting countries to develop and/or enhance their required reporting to the UNFCCC. The table below provides details of countries that the ICAT project has assisted to do so in 2024.

For many countries, the ability to use ICAT project outcomes for international reporting comes some time after the ICAT project has closed.

37

ICAT supported countries submitted their BTRs by the deadline, with 24 countries explicitly acknowledging ICAT's support in the report.

35* countries have been supported by ICAT in reporting to the UNFCCC, since ICAT's inception

22 countries have improved the quality of their Biennial Update Report and/or National Communication reporting to the UNFCCC.

24 countries explicitly mention ICAT or ICAT activities in their BTR submission

**Overlap in country numbers*

Countries submitting reports in 2024

The list of ICAT countries that submitted BTRs timeously can be found on [page 22](#).

The following ICAT countries submitted other reports to UNFCCC in 2024, and referenced ICAT support:

- Eswatini (Biennial Update Report 1)
- Ethiopia (Biennial Update Report 1)
- Fiji (National Inventory Report)
- Ghana (Biennial Update Report 4)
- Mozambique (Biennial Update Report 2)
- Namibia (National Communication 5)
- Niger (National Communication 4)
- South Africa (National Communication 4)
- Tunisia (National Communication 4)
- Uzbekistan (National Communication 4)



Section 4

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THE ICAT TOOLBOX

The ICAT Toolbox offers a suite of practical, free-to-use tools and methodologies to support countries around the world in their transparency efforts.

Impact Assessment Guides

Greenhouse gas impacts



Renewable Energy



Transport Pricing



Forestry



Agriculture



Building Efficiency

Cross-cutting Guides



Sustainable Development



Transformational Change



Non-State and Subnational Action

Process Guides



Stakeholder Participation



Technical Review

Modeling and Data Management Tools



Transport climate action data tool (TraCAD)



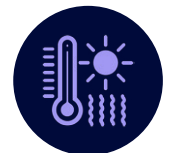
GHG Abatement Cost Model (GACMO): mitigation options/costs



Climate Action Aggregation Tool (CAAT)



Climate action Outcomes and Mitigation Policy Assessment (COMPASS) toolbox



SINAMECC (Costa Rica's National Climate Change Metrics System)



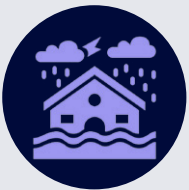
THE ICAT TOOLBOX

Other Specific Guides and Tools



Adaptation guides and tool

- Assessment tool and guide for adaptation projects proposals
- Integration of sub-national and non-state actors in adaptation M&E systems



Loss and damage guide

- Assessing loss and damage linked to climate change



Integration of air pollution

- Integrating air pollution into climate transparency frameworks



Transparency for cooperative approaches (Article 6)

- Navigate the links between Articles 6 and 13



Transformational change toolkit

- Assessment of potential transformational impacts

ICAT Policy Assessment Guides

Greenhouse Gas Impacts:

Agriculture Methodology

Renewable Energy Methodology

Transport Pricing Methodology + Climate Action Data Tool

Forest Methodology

Buildings Efficiency Methodology

Cross-cutting Impacts:

Sustainable Development Methodology

Transformational Change Methodology + Transformational Change Toolkit



Non-State and Subnational Action Methodology + Climate Action Aggregation Tool

Process:

Stakeholder Participation Methodology

Technical Review Methodology

Financing Climate Action

Climate Finance Transparency

NEW

Transparency for Article 6

Sustainable Development Impacts

Just Transitions Monitoring
(complementing the Sustainable Development Methodology)

NEW

Integrating Air Pollution

Adaptation & Loss and Damage

Adaptation Proposal Assessment Tool & Guide

Integrating Subnational and Non-State Actors into Adaptation M&E

Reporting Adaptation through Biennial Transparency Reports

Assessing Losses and Damages

Modelling and Data Management Tools

Greenhouse Gas Abatement Cost Model

Transport Climate Action Data Tool

National Climate Change Metrics System (of Costa Rica)

Other Guides and Working Papers

Good Practices for Integrating Gender into Climate Transparency Frameworks



Proposed indicators for domestic MRV purposes and tracking progress of NDCs



A road map for establishing information systems for climate action and support

Unfolding the reporting requirements for Developing Countries under the ETF



Scan the QR code to find out more



ICAT REGIONAL HUBS

The ICAT Regional Hubs made significant contributions in building capacity, enhancing national ownership in the respective regions, and promoting transparency across the full spectrum of climate action.

Climate change is a global challenge that no country can combat alone. International and regional cooperation allows countries to join forces, learn from each other and progress against the common goal of building a sustainable future. For developing countries, the exchange of knowledge and experience on climate action, including on data and transparency, is central to their ability to respond to the climate crisis.

The three ICAT Regional Hubs leverage the power of regional cooperation to accelerate climate action through enhanced transparency in their member countries.

For all three ICAT Regional Hubs, 2024 was a momentous year, with the support for the hubs growing at Ministerial and Deputy Ministerial level.

10

Hub member countries submitted their BTR timeously; 8 of these countries made specific mention of support from ICAT and/or the hub in their reports.

Members of the hubs

Central Africa



Angola



Burundi



Cameroon



Chad



Central African
Republic



Equatorial
Guinea



Gabon



Republic of
Congo



Democratic
Republic of Congo



Rwanda



Sao-Tomé and
Príncipe

Central America



Belize



Costa Rica



Dominican
Republic



El Salvador



Guatemala



Honduras



Nicaragua



Panama

Central Asia



Kazakhstan



Kyrgyzstan



Tajikistan



Turkmenistan



Uzbekistan

ICAT Regional Hub of Central America

The newest hub, Central America, hosted by the Central American Commission on Environment and Development of the Central American Integration System, had a quick start. It began the year with the recruitment of a hub coordinator. This was followed by a needs and gap analysis, which included inputs from national focal points of member countries. The results of the analysis were presented at an inception workshop with national focal points in May, and a work plan established.

Implementing the work plan encompassed capacity-building initiatives delivered through both virtual and in-person workshops, alongside general guidance on transparency-related matters.

As a result, member countries enhanced their technical expertise in key areas, including the guidelines that define the details of the ETF, quality control and assurance of greenhouse gas inventories, monitoring of NDC progress, and BTR preparation.

Furthermore, these activities fostered the exchange of knowledge and best practices among peers and experts, leading to the establishment of technical working groups dedicated to advancing NDC implementation and greenhouse gas inventory development. Most of the workshops and online engagements also involved experts from Cuba.

Hub Goals

Working with its member countries, the hub aims to:

Support institutions and technical actors to build robust transparency frameworks.

Enable effective participation in the Paris Agreement.

Build capacity among transparency practitioners, creating a network of experts.

Promote collaboration and facilitate the knowledge sharing.

2024 Workplan





Central America In Pictures



ICAT Regional Hub of Central Asia

The ICAT Regional Hub in Central Asia continued the delivery of its work plan with multiple workshops and events in the region, bringing together its members' national focal points for a series of knowledge sharing and peer to peer learning opportunities. The most significant of these was the two-week long Summer Academy, to provide technical support to national experts of hub member countries.

The hub, hosted by Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia, completed its 2023 - 2024 work plan at the end of the year. In October, a closing workshop was held to discuss the terms of reference to extend the hub's work into 2026. Several countries highlighted the contribution that ICAT support and the Hub made to their preparations for BTR submissions.

Hub Goals

Working with its member countries, the hub aims to:

Establish a center of expertise and a regional network on climate action transparency.

Prepare Central Asian States to effectively participate in the Paris Agreement and to meet enhanced transparency goals and improve the quality of reporting to the UNFCCC.

Generate data and other information that influences policy making to enhance the effectiveness of climate policies and raise ambition.

Result in transformational impacts in the form of new and/or more effective climate policies that attract finance and deliver significantly on their climate action goals.

2024 Workplan



With the current work plan ending in 2024, the following impacts were identified:

- The quality of the national greenhouse gas inventories of at least three Central Asian countries is improved through the peer-to-peer review, resulting in fewer comments from the UNFCCC review process;
- The national greenhouse gas inventories for the land use and land use change sector in at least two countries have been refined;
- At least one country has incorporated adaptation M&E framework indicators developed with the support of the hub's technical working group;
- Sustainable finance taxonomy has been applied in the context of an NDC 3.0 implementation plan of at least one country;
- As part of the capacity-building sessions, at least one new junior expert from each country was trained and is now able to conduct the national greenhouse gas inventory for a specific sector independently;
- At least three national MRV frameworks were revised and enhanced through capacity building;
- At least one Central Asian country has applied a climate transparency practice or tool based on the experience shared by another country; and
- A new partnership has been established to provide a dedicated package of support activities for estimating methane emissions.



Central Asia In Pictures



ICAT Regional Hub of Central Africa

For the longest established ICAT Regional Hub, in Central Africa, the year began with its host, the Economic Community of Central African States, adopting a decision at the level of Heads of State and Government to transform the hub from a project funded by ICAT to a programme under ECCAS. This underlined the priority attached to transparency and will give the hub longer term sustainability.

In 2024, the Central African hub continued its support to member countries in improving their capacity to establish MRV frameworks and track NDC implementation. As a result, four countries approached ICAT with support requests to expand on the work completed with the hub to develop their national transparency action plans.

The hub provided countries with technical knowledge and experience sharing platforms through a series of regional workshops designed using a “train the trainers” approach. In addition, six regional transparency working groups have all met and identified priority areas to focus on to promote timely and quality submission of BTRs and updated NDCs.

A particular highlight in 2024 was the hub’s hosting of Parliamentary Days on Climate Change, in the Republic of Congo. The event resulted in parliamentarians issuing the following declaration (translated from the original French):

“We, parliamentarians and members of the parliamentary committees on the environment, climate change, agriculture and natural resources gathered in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, during the parliamentary days on climate change, focusing on the role of parliamentarians in strengthening climate action.”

“We, parliamentarians of the parliamentary groups on the environment, climate change, agriculture and natural resources in Central Africa, having successfully concluded our meeting, decide to create the Network of Central African Parliamentarians on Climate Change as a platform for coordination and exchange of experiences between parliaments on the issue of climate change.”

“We, ECCAS, through the [ICAT] Regional Hub for Transparency of Climate Action and the National Climate Focal Points of the UNFCCC, AGNES, in collaboration with other partners such as the Network of Environmental Lawyers of Central Africa (REJEAC), [supports] the strengthening of the capacities of parliamentarians and technical staff in the field of climate change by calling on technical experts and former parliamentarians experienced in the field of climate change.”

Hub Goals

Working with its member countries, the hub aims to:

Support institutions and technical actors to establish robust transparency frameworks.

Enable member countries to participate effectively in the Paris Agreement and to meet enhanced transparency goals and improve the quality of reporting to the UNFCCC.

Build capacity among transparency practitioners, creating a network of experts in the region.

Promote collaboration between member countries and facilitate the sharing of knowledge.

2024 Workplan





Central Africa In Pictures





KNOWLEDGE SHARING

Capacity building is core to all of ICAT's activities. ICAT's approach focuses on learning by doing, combining the development of frameworks and policy and strategy documents with training, to ensure that those who operate or implement them have the necessary skills. Knowledge sharing, for instance through training, is an important element of capacity building.

Blended Training Course on Climate Transparency and the Enhanced Transparency Framework

Two rounds of ICAT's popular blended training course on climate transparency and the Enhanced Transparency Framework were held in 2024: The first for participants from Spanish speaking countries; and the second for Anglophone participants from the regions of the Balkans, Caucasus, Latin America and the Caribbean. In total, 121 participants representing 40 countries successfully completed the training in 2024.

These events marked the fourth and fifth time this training had been held, targeting senior government officials working in national ministries, and technical practitioners.

3,647

*People trained in
an ICAT project
since ICAT's
inception*

The course follows a blended training approach, with e-learning modules, exercises and weekly virtual interactive sessions with subject matter experts and peers, followed by an in-person workshop. The course aimed to support participants to assess and develop mitigation actions to advance national and international climate objectives, and contribute towards achieving national priorities and sustainable development goals.

Participants learned from experts and from one another on topics ranging from the role of governments in meeting the objectives of the Paris Agreement, to establishing effective institutional arrangements and resource mobilization. They gained an improved perspective on data needs and methods for assessing and reporting on mitigation actions, to facilitate effective climate policymaking and the monitoring and updating of the NDCs.



ICAT Community Meetings

The 2024 ICAT Community Meetings brought together transparency experts and practitioners from across the ICAT community for several days of knowledge sharing and discussions on key climate action transparency topics. Over 80 participants from 30 countries and various organizations attended workshops on building NDC tracking frameworks, climate finance transparency, greenhouse gas emission projections, and more.

This year's Community Meetings underscored the critical role of transparency in driving climate action forward. With the BTRs due at the end of 2024, and NDC updates due in 2025, participants shared valuable experiences and lessons learned, while also gaining access and information on relevant tools and methodologies.

The event also revealed shared needs and challenges faced by countries. These included monitoring the implementation of NDCs, accessing data from the private sector, tailoring solutions to local conditions, and tracking climate finance.

Workshops at the ICAT Community Meetings

Building a tracking framework for Nationally Determined Contributions

Future transparency support needs and ICAT's contribution

Policy assessments for strong NDCs

Climate finance transparency

Greenhouse gas emission projections

Needs assessment for capacity building on the IPCC software





OUTREACH

ICAT makes use of international conferences and events that gather the international climate change community to highlight the indispensable role of transparency in driving effective climate action. These events help showcase the progress and achievements made by ICAT partner countries in strengthening their transparency frameworks, while also raising awareness about the valuable transparency resources in the ICAT toolbox.

Participation in events also brings additional benefits. For example, country representatives have sought out ICAT support after hearing how it benefited others; and countries that would otherwise not engage have been brought together in panel discussions or other formats to share their complementary experiences.

ICAT at SB60



ICAT hosted an invitation-only discussion in an informal setting, without tables and notes, on BTR preparation and NDC update, aiming to get feedback on the challenges countries face and identify the transparency support needs of ICAT countries. This informal gathering brought together government experts from 16 ICAT-supported countries and implementing partners.

The June UN Climate Meetings (the 60th session of the subsidiary bodies under the UNFCCC – SB60) took place in Bonn, Germany, from 3 to 13 June 2024. Country delegates from around the world were joined by stakeholders and experts from the public and private sector for two weeks of discussions on climate action.

Given the 2024 deadline for the first Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) under the Paris Agreement, transparency took a prominent role. Transparency is at the heart of the Paris Agreement for a reason: It is central to effective climate action. The BTRs were due by the end of 2024 and the next update to the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by February 2025. It is crucial to realize the synergy between the two, and maximize the resulting benefits. SB60 provided a platform to champion transparency, highlight achievements, and exchange experiences and best practices. This helped countries to accelerate national efforts towards effective climate action and prepare for the landmark moments of the first BTRs and update of the NDCs.

ICAT hosted or contributed to a number of events and activities at SB60 aimed at supporting transparency efforts. Some of these events are represented in the photos on this page.

A full report is available on the [ICAT website](#).

Five Transparency Takeaways from the June UN Climate Meetings

- 01** The BTR is a challenge for developing countries but efforts are being made.
- 02** Linking the BTRs to the 2025 NDC update is essential.
- 03** Evidence-based policies pave a clear and just way to the future.
- 04** Looking at transparency beyond State action and greenhouse gas emissions is essential.
- 05** Climate finance must be anchored in transparency.

Read the commentary on these takeaways on the [ICAT website](#).



This UNFCCC side event on tracking just transition strategies and policies was a call-to-action to encourage countries to set up monitoring frameworks to track just transition strategies. This would ensure the intended impacts of social equity, environmental sustainability, and economic prosperity, were achieved.



The ICAT partner reception brought together members of the ICAT Community in a social event to celebrate achievements, and connect on what's coming up ahead in our ongoing efforts to strengthen climate transparency across the world. Guests were also introduced to the ICAT Transformational Change Toolkit, which was officially launched in June 2024.



Cuba and UNOPS co-hosted an official side-event on using data to assess and improve climate policies. This side event explored how developing countries are using data to assess impact, improve the design, and track the implementation of climate policies, drawing on lessons learned and the methodological support available.



Across the two weeks of SB60, the ICAT Secretariat met with representatives of 31 of its partner countries and other partners in person to discuss the progress of ongoing ICAT activities and preparation of new projects and collaboration. This photo is from the meeting with the delegation of Nigeria.

ICAT at COP29

COP29 in Baku was a special event for climate transparency: As 2024 was the year when the first Biennial Transparency Reports were due, COP29 was a moment to celebrate progress and recognize the submission of many BTRs already two months before the deadline. At a ministerial roundtable, the BTRs submitted by the time of the event were recognized. This included BTRs by three ICAT-supported countries (Maldives, Kazakhstan, and Panama).

COP29 was also an excellent opportunity to focus on how transparency could help countries be better prepared to put the Paris Agreement on track to meeting its objectives and set the foundations for long-term effective climate action. Show-casing examples of how this was done and enabling an exchange between national experts was the focus of ICAT's activities in Baku.

A full report of events hosted by ICAT, or in which ICAT participated is on the [ICAT website](#). Some of them are represented in the photos on this page.



The lessons learned by member States of the ICAT Regional Hub of Central Africa was the focus of a side event co-hosted by ICAT and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). Ministers and vice-ministers from six ECCAS member states, the Commissioner of ECCAS and the ICAT Director participated. Nine hub member states presented progress and experiences in developing transparency frameworks, implementing transparency improvement plans, and addressing opportunities and challenges identified in regional workshops.



Transparency for effectively managing climate finance was the topic of a side event co-hosted by ICAT, Côte d'Ivoire, and Senegal. Also speakers from Belize and the Center for Clean Air Policy participated. The event featured the launch of the ICAT Guide on Climate Finance Transparency and presented country experiences demonstrating how transparency frameworks could empower nations to track financial flows, maximize the impact of climate investments and mobilize resources.



ICAT was a panelist at an event hosted by the UNFCCC and NDC Partnership entitled "Strengthening holistic approaches for NDC 3.0 and Paris Agreement implementation". Drawing on the experiences of Cambodia, Jordan, and Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, the event underscored the importance of sustainable institutional arrangements and capacity building in implementing the Paris Agreement. It showcased how integrating climate action planning into long-term development strategies, supported by robust institutional frameworks, could address capacity-building challenges.



Co-hosted by ICAT and El Salvador, this side event marked the signing of a memorandum of understanding between El Salvador and ICAT to launch the next phase of the ICAT project in the country. It examined measurement, reporting and verification frameworks as a tool for climate action management. The event explored the pivotal role of transparency in advancing NDC implementation and accessing climate finance. The discussions highlighted experiences, challenges, and lessons learned in developing MRV frameworks for NDC tracking.



ICAT's Blended Training Course on Climate Transparency and the Enhanced Transparency Framework was one of the topics of an event hosted by UNFCCC on transparency training programmes for developing countries. Participants from past editions of related training courses shared their experiences, offering positive feedback and underscoring the need for continued training of national technical experts. These courses were noted for their complementary nature, providing participants with a comprehensive understanding and preparation for their roles.



During the two weeks of COP29, the ICAT Secretariat engaged with representatives from its partner countries and various institutions to discuss the progress of ongoing ICAT activities and to prepare for new projects. In total, the ICAT Secretariat held 35 bilateral meetings, fostering collaboration and advancing climate action transparency initiatives. This picture was taken at the meeting with the delegation of Tajikistan.



LEDS LAC 2024 Regional Workshop

ICAT collaborated with Low Emission Development Strategies Latin America and the Caribbean (LEDS LAC), Libelula and a network of other partners for the delivery of this year's LEDS LAC regional workshop. The workshop was open to representatives and climate experts from countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, and focused on updating Nationally Determined Contributions and alignment with long-term strategies.

This year's regional workshop focused on the theme of "Coordinating and empowering regional action towards COP30." For three days, climate experts and country representatives from the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean were meeting in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, to enhance their knowledge and preparedness through a series of sessions on:

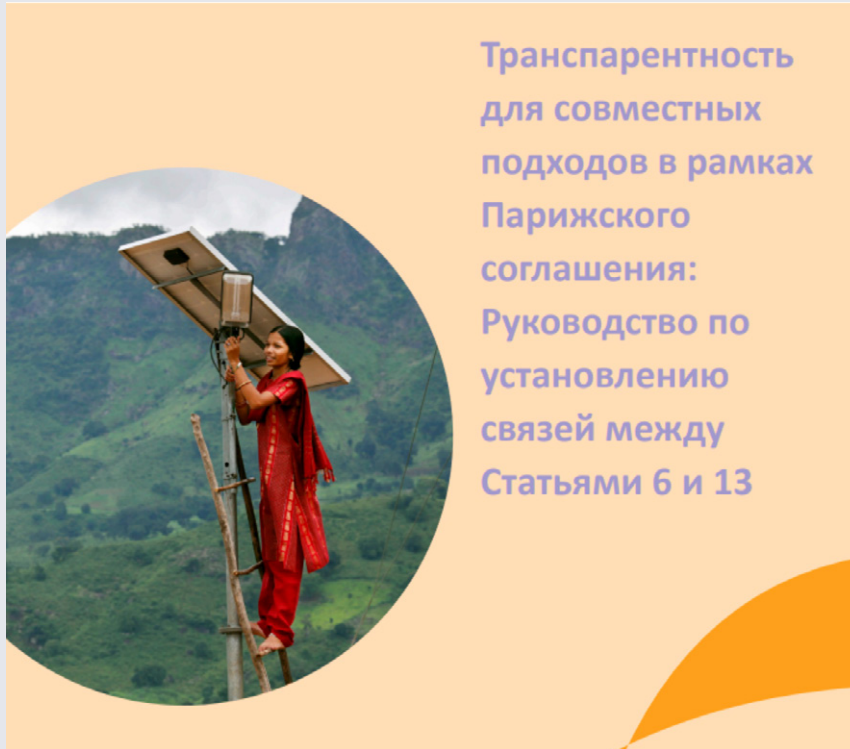
- 01** Building capacity for the NDC update and LTS alignment towards COP30
- 02** Mobilizing resources for climate action
- 03** Multi-stakeholder governance and coordination to implement the commitments and actions

At the opening plenary, the ICAT Director, Dr. Henning Wuester, underscored the value of transparency for the preparation of the NDC updates, due in 2025. He recommended data from the BTR to be fed into the NDC update process. He further urged countries to break down silos, within national ministries, across ministries and those amplified by uncoordinated international support.

Reaching Russian-speaking audiences

Two ICAT guides – Transparency for cooperative approaches under the Paris Agreement: [A guide to navigating the links between Articles 6 and 13](#), and the [ICAT Agriculture Methodology](#) – were translated into Russian, and presented to Russian speaking audiences at a series of outreach events and webinars.

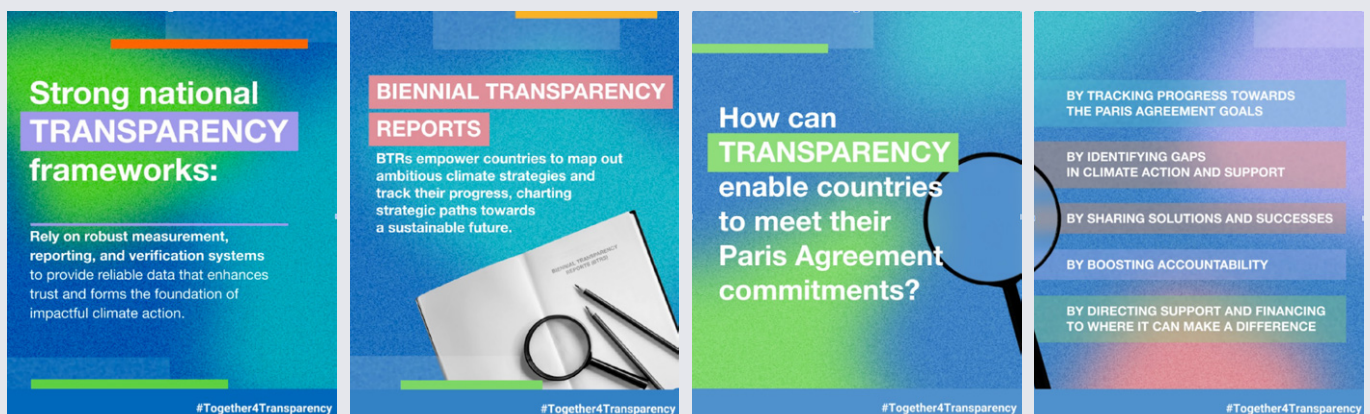
The translation and outreach were managed by the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia.



#Together4Transparency

ICAT collaborated with UNFCCC to implement a campaign to increase global awareness around the benefits and importance of transparency for effective climate action and successful implementation of the Paris Agreement. The campaign ran over multiple digital channels, targeting policy makers of developing countries. It reached an audience of over 280,000 people.

A selection of campaign assets is shown on this page.





Information webinars

ICAT hosts webinars to keep its stakeholders informed about the latest developments in key areas, and/or to delve into one of the new additions to the ICAT toolbox that are relevant to the conversation. The webinars featured expert speakers, who gave an overview of the topic and the ICAT guide or tool, and speakers from countries, who provided information on their experience in that area.

On average, each webinar attracted over 500 registrations, with about 160 people attending the webinar. After the event, the webinar recording and links to the relevant guide or tool were emailed to all those that registered. In 2024, the following topics were discussed:

- The launch of the updated version of the [Greenhouse Gas Abatement Cost Model](#)
- Transformational change, and the [ICAT Transformational Change Toolkit](#)
- Climate finance transparency, including the [ICAT Climate Finance Transparency Guide](#)
- [Climate finance](#) (in Spanish)

Other key outreach

ICAT was represented at multiple other events throughout the year. Some of the key engagements included:

- 6th Informal Forum of the Consultative Group of Experts (5 February, Bonn)
- World Sustainable Development Summit (7-9 February, Delhi)
- Global Transparency Forum (20-21 May, Tokyo)
- Central Asia Climate Change Conference (27 May, Almaty)
- High-Level Dialogue: Advancing Climate Transparency through Universal Participation in the Enhanced Transparency Framework (3 September, Baku)

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