

# Building strong transparency frameworks for more effective climate action



# The main objectives quoted by governments when revising NDCs:

- 1** Strengthen data and evidence
- 2** Stronger links between climate change action and the SDGs
- 3** Plans to monitor NDC implementation

*The Heat is On: Taking Stock of Global Ambition (UNFCCC & UNDP, 2019)*

*“ICAT’s emphasis on linking climate transparency and sustainable development through data and needed information helps to mainstream climate policy in national development planning. This is key for transformational change and supports a green recovery in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our support to ICAT via the International Climate Initiative (IKI) helps to accelerate the implementation of the Paris Agreement.”*

**Ms. Svenja Schulze**  
Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation,  
and Nuclear Safety of Germany

# Why Transparency?

For countries to take effective climate action in line with the objectives of the Paris Agreement, they need to have sound data and information.

Effective data frameworks help design and implement strong, evidence-based policies and actions to address climate change.

Strong transparency frameworks enable national ownership and the integration of stakeholders, and they ensure accountability at the national and international level.

By being able to demonstrate the impact of climate policies on a country's sustainable development, transparency frameworks enable climate policy to be integrated into national planning processes, improve finance mobilization and enable transformational change.

This enables a country to effectively address climate change and advance their national development priorities at the same time.





ICAT provides countries with tailored support and practical tools and methodologies to build the robust transparency frameworks needed for effective climate action in sync with national development priorities.

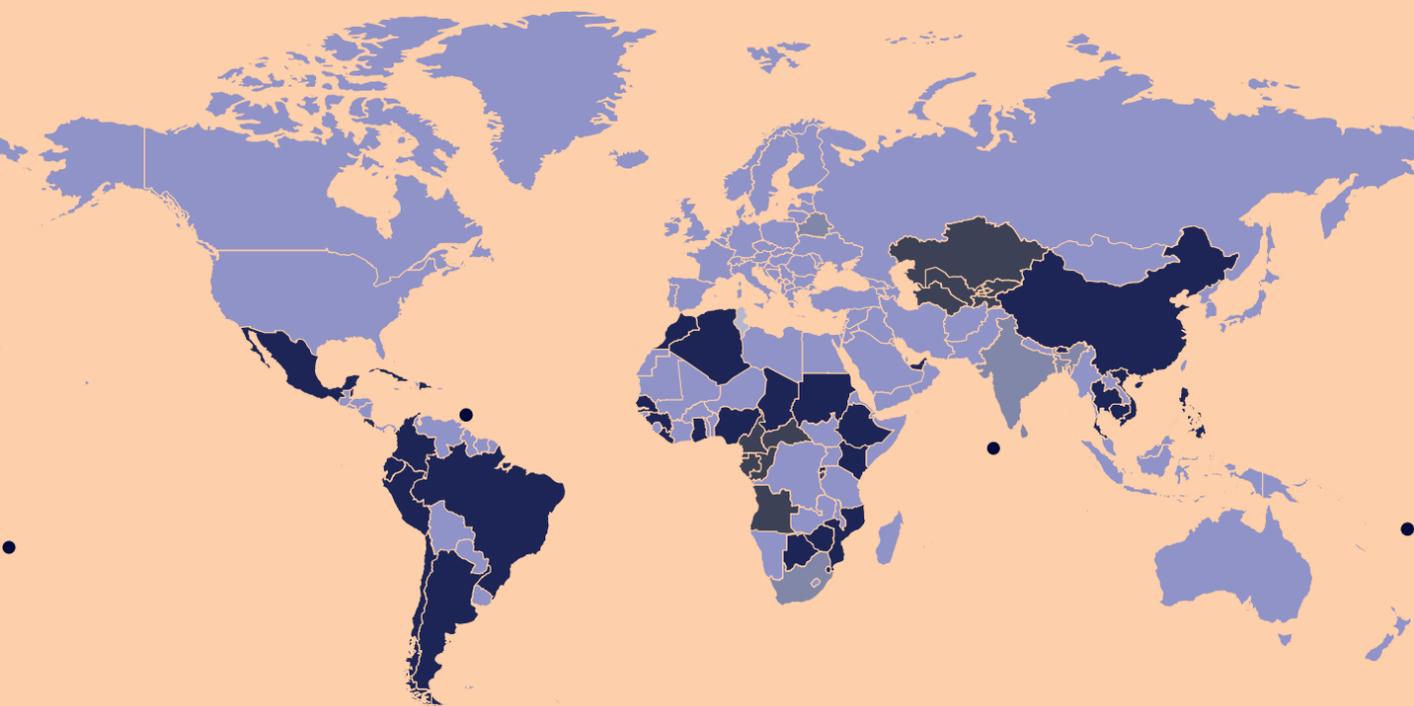
100%

ICAT partner countries report that ICAT activities are well aligned with country needs and priorities

*Independent evaluation by Agulhas Applied Knowledge, 2020*

# Delivering hands-on tailored support

ICAT works closely with its partner countries to develop policy-focused, priority-driven projects that develop the information frameworks and capacity required to improve the implementation, tracking, and enhancement of their NDCs and reporting.



Strongly agree/agree that ICAT projects result in the right people having the right skills for MRV

Independent evaluation by Agulhas Applied Knowledge, 2020

86%

ICAT partner countries can choose the right mix of activities which best addresses their needs and national priorities, based on a menu of activities:

- 1 Build or enhance transparency systems for mitigation actions in one or several sectors.**  
Includes: institutional capacity; GHG inventories; reporting protocols and processes; data systems; and drafting of legal and regulatory documents.
- 2 Build a monitoring approach for adaptation actions in one or several sectors.**  
Includes: stakeholder consultations; institutional capacity; reporting schemes; and data systems and tools.
- 3 Implement and further develop NDCs.**  
Includes: baseline; qualitative or quantitative indicators; tracking framework; and sustainable development impacts and transformational change potentials.
- 4 Assess the impacts of policies (ex-ante or ex-post) in one or several sectors.**  
Includes: GHG impacts; sustainable development impacts; and transformational change potential.
- 5 Integrate and/or aggregate climate actions at the subnational level and for non-state actors.**
- 6 Identify and increase domestic benefits and synergies from enhanced climate action transparency.**  
Includes: using data and information to mobilise finance and to stimulate economic recovery during exceptional crises.

# Enabling local capacity close to countries: Regional Climate Action Transparency Hubs

To maximize impact, ICAT works hand-in-hand with local partners to ensure that capacity is developed and stays close to the countries, and local experts can build networks to share experience. Which is why ICAT helps to establish and manage regional hubs that efficiently build capacity for climate action transparency closely aligned with local needs.



## Local solutions

ICAT's Regional Hubs pilot, adapt, and scale solutions that are tailored to the respective regional environments and the needs of its member countries.



## Regional networks

Fostering peer-to-peer engagement and sharing of experience, ICAT's Regional Hubs enable a thriving community of practice for climate transparency.



## Long-term capacity

ICAT's focus on local needs and priorities strengthens countries' capacity to maintain and continually enhance robust transparency frameworks that deliver domestic benefits and are hence sustained over the long-term.

## Regional Hub: Central Africa

The Regional Hub for Central Africa, hosted by the Economic Community for Central African States (ECCAS): supports the 11 ECCAS member States in their efforts to build and improve sustainable and comprehensive transparency frameworks.

As a result, national decision-makers, policymakers, investors and stakeholders will be in a better position to advance climate mitigation and adaptation actions and countries able to meet the reporting requirements of the Paris Agreement.

## Additional regions

A second Regional Hub will be established in Central Asia in collaboration with the Regional Environment Centre for Central Asia (CAREC).

Additional Regional Hubs are yet to be defined but are envisaged to cover other sub-regions in Asia or Latin America.

*"ICAT's efforts on climate action transparency can play an instrumental role in enabling countries to achieve transformational change through evidence-based policy-making and hence secure the long-term success of the Paris Agreement"*

**Ms. Sonia Medina**

Executive Director, Climate Change,  
of Children's Investment Fund Foundation

# Building effective transparency frameworks with innovative solutions: The ICAT Toolbox

ICAT has developed, and collaborated with partners to roll-out, a suite of practical, open-source tools and methodologies to provide effective support to the transparency efforts of countries.



## Policy Assessment Guides

The ICAT Policy Assessment Guides are a set of state-of-the-art methodologies to help countries assess the climate impacts of policies and actions. Assessments can cover the impacts on greenhouse gas levels, sustainable development outcomes, the transformational change potential, and the impacts of actions at subnational level and by non-state actors.

Used separately or in combination, the Guides can improve: policy design and implementation; NDC revision and tracking of their progress; domestic or international reporting; and the mobilization of finance by demonstrating the results of effective policies.

### GHG Impacts



### Cross-cutting



### Process





## Other tools

ICAT also works with its partners to develop and innovate a range of tools to support the application of the ICAT Policy Assessment Guides (e.g. the Climate Action Aggregation Tool), track and analyse economy-wide GHG emissions scenarios (e.g. GACMO and PROSPECTS+) or support data management management and visualization (SINAMECC).

Developed by:



Developed by:



### Climate Action Aggregation Tool

Identifies, quantifies and aggregates the impact of non-state and subnational actions, allowing for integration into mitigation targets and projections.

### The Climate action Outcomes and Mitigation Policy Assessment (COMPASS) toolbox

A selection of climate scenario modelling tools to assess and understand the impacts of climate action and policies. Includes PROSPECTS+, the transport sector climate action co-benefits evaluation tool (TRACE), and the Sustainable development and climate action green recovery screening tool and framework (SCREEN).

Developed by:



### Greenhouse gas Abatement and Cost MOdel (GAMCO)

Calculates and visualises a comparison of the business-as-usual scenario with selected mitigation scenarios to support the analysis of GHG mitigation options and their cost. Such information helps prepare among others: revisions of NDCs, National Communications, and Low-Carbon Development Plans.

Coordinated by:



### SINAMECC Costa Rica's open source climate data system

Provides support for data collection and management, GHG inventory calculations and data storage, a mitigation and adaptation action registry, sustainable development impact analysis and related data visualizations.

*“The ICAT methodologies applied were fit for purpose they were relevant and useful. They allowed us to identify the best mitigation options for the country.”*

Isidro Fote  
Climate Change M&E Expert

# Strengthening a global community of practice through knowledge sharing

ICAT wants all countries to access and benefit from the knowledge, lessons learned, and best practices which result from the work of its network of partner countries, regional hubs and implementing partners.

- Trainings & Workshops
- Peer-to-peer exchanges
- eLearning ETF Course
- Webinars
- Case Studies
- Events
- Newsletter
- Reports + other resources

*“The training and work completed was very worthwhile and will be relevant for Mozambique’s ongoing efforts to build a robust national MRV system.”*

**Marilia Manjate**

UNFCCC National Climate Change Focal Point for Mozambique. Participant of Peer-to-Peer Exchange between Ghana and Mozambique, September 2020

*“The e-learning course is a comprehensive programme that supports the implementation of the Enhanced Transparency Framework. It provides participants with a thorough understanding of the tools and methodologies to better assess climate actions and integrate them into domestic planning processes, to facilitate countries to better formulate, improve and track progress of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) under the ETF and the Paris Agreement”*

**Jigme**

Manager, MRV/ETF Support Subdivision, Transparency Division, UNFCCC

Strongly agree/agree improved awareness of climate action transparency supports an enabling environment for improved policymaking

82%

Independent evaluation by Agulhas Applied Knowledge, 2020

# Delivering meaningful long-term impact

ICAT aims to enable transformational change through evidence-based policymaking. With activities in 45+ partner countries, ICAT has a successful track record of supporting countries to build their transparency frameworks, using them to effectively implement, track and then further enhance their climate actions while advancing on their sustainable development goals.

*“ICAT helps countries to put together a diagnostic toolkit to better understand if their climate related actions are making a difference and supporting progress towards their NDC targets”*

**Alfredo Sirkis**

Former Executive Director, Centro Brasil no Clima

*“With the extension of ICAT, a large number of countries, directly and indirectly, will be able to better design, implement and track their NDCs and report on this as part of the concerted, global effort. This is good for the climate globally and for sustainable development at home.”*

**Mr. Sergio Costa**

Former Minister for the Environment,  
Land and Sea of Italy

## Costa Rica bridges data gaps to link its NDC to the SDGs to enable transformational change

- Bridged the gap for consistent climate change data collection and sharing
- NDC tracking indicators for the transport sector
- Identified linkages between its NDC and SDGs, allowing the promotion of synergies and minimization of trade-offs, to enable transformational change

## Mandating a national transparency system in the Dominican Republic

- Developed a structure for the national MRV system, creating ownership for transparency and the related institutional roles and responsibilities
- Developed the Decree establishing the national MRV system, which was subsequently approved by parliament and is now in force
- Strengthened national capacity to collect, compile and verify data in the national MRV System, including GHG inventories

## A robust MRV system steers Brazil toward effective NDC implementation

- Developed a methodology for tracking progress against its NDC commitments, including indicators of progress.
- Helped refine the reference scenario and to propose new mitigation scenarios, which factor in additional mitigation actions and opportunities
- Increased the capacity of technical stakeholders to conceptualize a national level MRV process

## Accelerating climate action in Ghana

- Established a system to estimate the impacts of the implementation of the Renewable Energy Act
- Strengthened Ghana's Climate Ambitious Report Programme (G-CARP), the domestic MRV system of Ghana
- Created an NDC tracking tool engaging stakeholders from different national agencies

## Enhancing climate action in Mozambique

- Highlighted the barriers and limitations of the national MRV system coupled with a road map to overcome them and to establish a robust system that can meet the requirements of the enhanced transparency framework of the Paris Agreement.
- Provided an in-depth understanding of the expected impacts of selected climate policies, which are planned in the country's NDC, including their GHG emission and sustainable development impacts.
- Developed capacity for planning mitigation actions, assess their impacts and track its implementation.
- Developed capacity for establishing systems for monitoring and reporting on climate action and support at national and international level.

## Strengthening climate transparency in Sri Lanka's transport sector

- Reviewed existing institutional structures and developed a road map to establish a centralized MRV system in the transport sector that can meet the requirements of the enhanced transparency framework of the Paris Agreement.
- Strengthened national capacity by providing training and dialogs on data availability and collection, creating awareness on the importance of a robust MRV system and support for climate action in the transport sector.
- Applied tools to improve data and highlight expected outcomes of emission policies and their resulting positive outcomes, feeding into strengthened NDC action on transport.

Driven by  
a network of  
expert partners

ICAT is an unincorporated multi-stakeholder initiative established by its donor partners with its partner countries at the centre. The UNFCCC Secretariat is a special partner and an ex-officio member of ICAT's Donor Steering Committee. UNOPS provides management and support services through the ICAT Secretariat, which coordinates day-to-day activities and guides the work of ICAT's Implementing Partners. ICAT is further backed by strategic and technical support from its Advisory Committee.

National actors state they are better equipped to leverage climate finance as a result of ICAT's support

61%

# ICAT Partners

## Donors



## Management and support



## Implementing Partners



## Supporting Partners



# JOIN ICAT

Become a part of a global network dedicated to making climate action effective through building strong transparency frameworks.

## Partner countries

Receive support, resources and advice to enhance domestic capacity for mitigation and adaptation action transparency.

## Donors

Provide critical support to helping countries achieve their climate targets while contributing to their national sustainable development goals.

## Other initiatives and programmes

Collaborate with ICAT to strengthen the transparency and capacity building support provided to countries.

## Experts

Become an ICAT Implementing Partner by providing feedback on ICAT's work, including ICAT tools and methodologies.

# Contact

[icat@unops.org](mailto:icat@unops.org)  
[climateactiontransparency.org](http://climateactiontransparency.org)

[Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Youtube](#)

## UN Campus

Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1  
53113 Bonn, Germany

