

Initiative for Climate Action Transparency provides policymakers around the world with tools and support to measure and assess the effects of their climate actions.

Call for Proposals

“Technical support to increase the overall transparency capacities in developing countries under the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency”

19 November 2019



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CALL FOR PROPOSALS (CFP)

1. Background

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) submitted under the Paris Agreement constitute significant progress in setting out climate action by the countries that are party to the UNFCCC. However, an assessment of the first round of pledges makes it clear that they will not be sufficient to reduce emissions to hold the global mean temperature increase below 2°C, which is the stated objective of the Paris Agreement. In its Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, the IPCC underlined the urgency for accelerating action by pointing to the catastrophic impacts of warming above 1.5, or even worse 2.0°C. In order to strengthen climate action, countries will need to ensure that their policies are effective in advancing both national priorities and global climate objectives. To assess the effectiveness of such policy-making, sound data and information are required.

Different levels of development and capabilities of countries must be considered to help address climate change, transform societies towards decarbonization, and build climate-resilience. For effective climate action, capacity building is vital, so that all countries, regardless of their levels of development, are able to contribute to the global efforts to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change by effectively utilizing support provided through various channels.

Since the Earth Summit in 1992, when the world acknowledged for the first time the dangerous impact caused by anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, significant efforts have been undertaken to build the knowledge and expertise required to promote best practices in all countries, developed and developing alike. With the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), these efforts have been embedded in a broader framework, clearly demonstrating its linkage to the wide spectrum of development objectives, which have to be considered together in a multifaceted manner. Developing countries, however, still experience capacity constraints that prevent them from accurately measuring the effects of their existing and planned development and climate policies, and utilizing this information to strengthen their actions. Without the knowledge, tools, scientific expertise, public support and institutional capacity needed for the implementation of effective climate policies and monitoring of their impacts, developing countries are constrained from effectively participating in the international climate regime, as well as developing ambitious and impactful climate policies.

In sum, concerted efforts must be undertaken to help build or strengthen the long-term capacities of developing countries to raise the transparency and effectiveness of their domestic contributions to the global climate agenda.

[The Initiative for Climate Action Transparency \(ICAT\)](#) aims to help countries better assess the impacts of their climate policies and actions, and fulfil their transparency commitments. It does this by increasing the

overall transparency capacities of countries, including the capacity to assess the contribution of climate policies and actions on countries' development objectives, and providing appropriate methodological information and tools to support evidence-based policy-making. ICAT's innovative approach is to integrate these two aspects.

ICAT focuses on countries that can highlight the benefits of increased transparency to demonstrate policy impact and evidence-based action. ICAT will generate evolving methodological guidance and extract best practices, to be publicly available to all actors, increasing the global knowledge base. ICAT's work is country-driven, efforts build on existing MRV systems and knowledge in countries and complement previous or on-going activities by other initiatives, where applicable. Support provided is tailored to the country context and priorities. ICAT's work is aimed at engaging national expertise as much as possible, while encouraging peer-to-peer learning.

Under this context, this call for proposals aims at selecting a suitable organization to provide technical support to ICAT in its capacity building efforts for partner countries. This work will provide a key contribution to the Initiative in achieving its mission, in particular, the initiative's capacity building efforts. Capacity building in countries for mitigation and adaptation action transparency based on the needs and priorities defined by these partner countries is at the heart of ICAT's work. ICAT activities include support to countries to:

- Build and/or enhance their transparency systems based on MRV capacity needs assessment (using a tool jointly developed with CBIT), including through: institutional capacity building; supporting the development of data systems; GHG emission inventory support; and enhancing data quality;
- Track progress made in implementing and achieving NDCs, including through the qualitative or quantitative indicators chosen by the country;
- Use methodologies/tools to assess impacts (in terms of GHG emissions, and socio-economic and other environmental impacts) of policies and measures, actions and plans;
- Integrate/aggregate transparency at sub-national level and for non-state actors as relevant for the national transparency systems / national institutional arrangements;
- Identify domestic benefits and synergies from enhanced climate action and policy transparency, including in mobilizing finance.

ICAT is an unincorporated multi-stakeholder partnership steered and funded by the Donor Steering Committee (DSC), conformed by its donors, the Children Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF); ClimateWorks Foundation (CWF); the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (BMU); and the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS), as well as the UNFCCC and UNOPS as ex-officio members. The Initiative is managed by UNOPS on behalf of the DSC. Within UNOPS, the ICAT Secretariat manages ICAT day-to-day activities, coordinating and guiding the work of the implementing partners.

2. Description of scope of work

Objective

To provide technical support and capacity building to developing countries for transparency related to climate actions and policies based on country priorities and needs with the aim of equipping countries with capacity to effectively assess the impacts of their climate policies and actions and fulfil their transparency commitments under international frameworks, in particular the Enhanced Transparency Framework of the Paris Agreement.

Specific objectives

- To strengthen skills and awareness in the respective government agencies staff (e.g. Ministry of Environment) related to transparency work in order to build and further develop the frameworks and set of tools and methodologies needed to undertake effective assessment of the GHG impacts of climate change policies and actions, along with their sustainable development outcomes and transformational change potential;
- To provide technical support to countries to develop/enhance domestic MRV/transparency systems, track NDC implementation, and assess the impact of other national climate change policies and actions. This shall build upon and complement previous and on-going in country capacity-building activities related to the enhancement of institutional arrangements and collection of information for GHG accounting/inventories or the assessment of policies and actions;
- Based on country demand, provide research and analysis support to the countries in the application of ICAT methodologies, guides, modelling frameworks, metrics and other tools under the ICAT toolbox.
- Based on country demand, provide technical support to use transparency to mobilize finance from public and private sources, identifying linkages with existing and emerging funding mechanisms and facilitating the establishment of public-private partnerships with the aim of ensuring more effective and transformational policy design and result in greater sustainable development benefits.

Rationale & Scope

The technical support will be provided within the framework of the ICAT [Strategic Approach](#) and the [long-term work programme](#) until November 2021. The foreseen technical support will be implemented under the overall country engagement with six additional countries. The ICAT Secretariat, within UNOPS, will lead the country engagement process by: i) starting the initial discussions with country focal points on country priorities, gaps in capacity and the interest on ICAT methodologies and tools; and ii) formalizing engagement through the signature of Project Cooperation Agreements (PCAs) between the countries and UNOPS. Hence, the technical support provided by the selected implementing partner will be conducted in close collaboration with the ICAT Secretariat and feed into this process.

A full description of the overall approach for country engagement with six countries is described in Annex C.

The geographic scope is global, covering six developing countries. General interest in receiving ICAT support has been expressed by several countries around the globe (including Eswatini, Grenada, Guatemala, Liberia, Niger, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe).

The implementing partner is expected to start activities once ICAT has completed the country selection and sent the formal invitation to countries. The implementing partner will start the scoping and analysis of each country capacity building needs and priorities, which will inform the development of a country tailored work plan to be included as the terms of reference of the PCAs. The technical support provided will be in line with UNFCCC guidance, existing work on best practices for MRV/transparency systems, and utilize as much as possible tools and methodologies included in the ICAT toolbox.

Project duration

The implementing partner is expected to start activities in March 2020 for a period of 20 months, ending in late October 2021.

3. Expected outcomes

The technical support provided to the country is expected to contribute to the following outcomes, in the sector(s) or activities defined by each country work plan:

- Countries have the adequate capacity to design, manage and/or implement an effective national MRV/transparency system to measure the performance of the climate policies and actions defined as per country work plan and to effectively prepare for related reporting under the Enhanced Transparency Framework of the Paris Agreement;
- Countries successfully apply best practice and tools that integrate transparency on climate policies and action with evidence-based policy-making, assessing the impacts (in term of GHG emissions, and socio-economic and sustainable development) of policies and measures;
- Policy makers in the country are well equipped to identify domestic benefits and synergies from enhanced climate action and policy transparency, including in mobilizing finance.

4. Description of specific activities

All activities spelled out below shall be conducted in close coordination with and based on instructions by the ICAT Secretariat. All deliverable are subject to review and endorsement by the ICAT Secretariat and, where applicable, close collaboration with the country focal point.

Activity 1. Scoping phase

- a. Prepare country profile giving an overview of the state of climate policy and related country-specific challenges and needs;

- b. Conduct country-specific assessment and identification of current status, gaps and needs in MRV/transparency system and national climate policies for mitigation and adaptation;
- c. Mapping of key country actors responsible for undertaking and ensuring transparency of climate policies and actions as well as policy makers, relevant research institutions, private sector associations and national MRV practitioners;
- d. Assess country needs for capacity development on MRV/transparency system and identify the capacity building needs for the selected sectors, focus areas, and cross-cutting issues in each country as well as the required set of tools and methodologies to meet the country needs;
- e. In close collaboration with the country focal point, develop country specific capacity development work plan and budget, identifying realistic and tangible deliverables as well as expected outcomes in line with the national priorities and ICAT's overarching mission and taking due account to maximize ICAT's value-added in light of the ICAT toolbox.

Outputs/deliverables:

- Scoping report including the current status, mapping of stakeholders, the areas of priority and the capacity building needs;
- Inception workshops with key stakeholders, technical implementing partner(s) and the Secretariat for each country to agree on concrete and final sectors of priority as well as the capacity building needs for the country;
- Country work plans and a budget for the required resources based on the country allocations defined by the ICAT Secretariat, shared with the ICAT Secretariat for endorsement. These resources will be paid directly by the Secretariat to the country (further to the signature of Project Cooperation Agreements between the country and UNOPS) and will be used in the country for national experts, expert institutions and/or workshops and related training activities.

Estimated timeline: March to July 2020. The scoping shall be done in a rolling basis mode in the 6 countries.

Activity 2. Support the implementation of in-country capacity development activities

- a. Provide technical input and support to the country in the selection of the national consultant, responsible for the implementation of the work plan and budget at the national level. In some instances and where required, undertake the recruitment process of national consultant on behalf of the country;
- b. Together with the national consultant/institution, provide technical support in the identification of:
 - i) relevant stakeholders, including potential experts to be involved in the implementation of the work plan activities and;
 - ii) country specific needs for the training related to transparency frameworks, MRV systems and/or evaluation of impacts of climate policies and actions;
- c. Develop and implement training modules in line with the work plan developed for each country and specific needs;
- d. Provide technical input and support to the development of country deliverables and the related review process.

Outputs/deliverables

The following may be deliverables adjusted for each country in accordance with the defined work plan:

- Capacity-building training modules and training materials in line with the ICAT toolbox;
- Concluding validation workshop with key stakeholders to present a summative evaluation of achieved results and identify best practices in the integrating transparency on climate policies and action and evidence-based policy-making;
- Final reports for each country, highlighting tangible achieved results, recommendations for future work and a summary of lessons learn.

Estimated timeline: July 2020 to September 2021, considering that the duration of each country work plan is of 12 months. Project Cooperation Agreements with countries will be signed in a rolling basis, once the scoping phase is finalized in each country.

Activity 3. Project management support and coordination of activities

- a. Support outreach activities and content management of knowledge products, including drafting of regular progress summaries, preparing case studies, and running webinars/workshops to strengthen MRV capacity among a variety of stakeholders;
- b. Keep the Secretariat and ICAT implementing partners abreast of planned outreach and workshops with the aim of coordination outreach efforts and a “one-ICAT” approach;
- c. Encourage peer-to-peer exchange and south-south cooperation during the implementing among the six selected and other ICAT countries;
- d. Ensure technical support and approaches are fully embedded in the Initiative through active participation in monthly meetings with ICAT implementing partners, sharing of information of progress, foreseen risks and bottlenecks and opportunities.

Outputs/deliverables

- Participation in ICAT ICT and initiative meetings, including at international forums;
- Timely provision of progress reports and deliverables described under activity 1 and 2;
- Outputs and outreach material developed under this project ensures ICAT visibility.

Estimated timeline: July 2020 to September 2021, considering that the duration of each country work plan is of 6 months. Project Cooperation Agreements with countries will be signed in a rolling basis, once the scoping phase is finalized in each country.

5. General instructions for proposal submission

5.1 General instructions for proposal submission

How to submit?

Fill out the **Expression of Interest form** in Annex A, and prepare the **Grant application form** in Annex B form, attaching necessary supporting documents to assist the submission.

When to submit?

Deadline: 17 December 2019 (by 17:00, Copenhagen, Denmark Time)

Questions and clarification?

Please contact Ms. Alejandra Moncada at AlejandraMO@unops.org, during the period 19 November - 13 December 2019. Request for clarifications or questions submitted before or after the mentioned date will not be considered.

Where to submit?

Office email: ICAT@unops.org

5.2 Eligibility criteria as per project agreement

Limitations.

- Limited to entities with demonstrated experience in working in different geographic regions (global) or in at least 2 of the following: Latin America, Asia, Pacific, Africa, and East Europe.
- Limited to entities with proven experience (of at least 5 years) in research, policy analysis, and/or capacity building activities in MRV or climate action transparency in line with the Paris Agreement.
- Limited to organizations registered as a non-governmental organization, companies with ability to operate on a no-profit basis or government agency under the relevant national legislation.

Minimum requirements/qualifications:

- Expertise in the development and coordination of capacity building activities with developing countries in climate action transparency or related fields;
- 5 years' experience in research and policy analysis on climate mitigation and adaptation;
- Demonstrate capacity to work in English is essential. Capacity to engage personnel to work with countries in Spanish, French and/or Portuguese is a strong asset);
- Administrative capacity for financial annual turnover of at least USD 500,000.

Other critical considerations:

- Experience in capacity development on Monitoring, Reporting and Verification in facilitating mitigation and/or adaptation actions and access to finance will be a strong asset;
- Research and policy analysis expertise in the following sectors will be considered a strong advantage: energy, agriculture, forestry, and transport;
- Expertise in assessing sustainable development impacts and transformational change potential of climate policies will be an asset;
- Past performance will be strongly considered when selecting most suitable proposal. History working with public and private sector clients, in particular in developing countries, shall be provided, by completing the provided experience history form attached to the proposal.

6. Evaluation process

In line with UNOPS evaluation principles of fairness, transparency and integrity, an independent Grant Evaluation and Selection Committee will be responsible for the review of proposals and the Grantee selection. The review is based on the criteria outlined in the 'Call for Proposals' (CFP) and includes an assessment of the grant proposal's formal, technical and financial aspects. The review should usually include at least two (2) 'substantially compliant' proposals and result in the selection of the lowest priced, substantially compliant proposal. Any non-compliant proposal may automatically be eliminated from the evaluation process.

7. UNOPS Grant Support Agreement

The UNOPS Standard Grant Support Agreement (GSA) (Annex D) containing UNOPS General Conditions (Annex E) is herewith attached. The GSA constitutes an integral part of this CFP as it is mandatory to accept this agreement with its conditions before submitting a proposal.

Annex A - Expression of Interest

Expression of interest from

If your organization is interested in submitting a grant proposal in response to this CFP, please kindly prepare a short 'Expression of Interest' statement (below) and complete the Grantee Application template (herewith attached as Annex B)

My organization _____ is hereby formally submitting a proposal for the advertised grant program/component. I confirm, hereby, that my organization meets the minimum requirements spelled out in the Call for Proposals.

Authorized
signature:

Name & Title:

Contact info

Date: