



Building Capacity Transparency and MRV

For climate change mitigation to be effective, Parties need reliable information on emissions and actions. Ever since the inception of the international climate regime, the measuring, reporting, and verification (MRV) of Parties' progress has been one of its most important building blocks. MRV is a term used to describe all measures which Parties take to collect data on emissions, mitigation actions and support, and to compile this information in reports and greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories which are then subject to some form of international review or analysis. In Cancún in 2010, all Parties agreed to submit National Communications (NC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) every four years. In addition, it was agreed that Annex I countries will submit less comprehensive biennial reports (BRs) every two years and non-Annex I countries will submit biennial update reports (BURs) in the same intervals. These reports aim to provide clarity and transparency about the current level of global emissions and they attest the ambition and efforts countries undertake to combat climate change at the national and international level.

Transparency is thereby one of the backbones of the Agreement, concluded in December 2015 at the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) in Paris, and important for building international trust and – inter alia - tracking of progress towards achieving Parties' Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs). The enhanced transparency framework (ETF) of the Paris Agreement brings all countries into a common process for providing enhanced data and tracking progress against their commitments on mitigation, adaptation and support and builds on the above mentioned reporting commitments. The ETF is still under negotiations, but the implementation guidelines will be finalised by the COP 24 in Poland. The results will be part of the Global Stocktake in 2023.

In 2010, South Africa, South Korea and Germany launched the International Partnership on Mitigation and MRV in order to support international efforts to engage in practical exchanges and political dialogue on climate transparency. At the Partnership Meeting held at the COP 22 in Marrakech, the Partnership was renamed 'Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement' (PaTPA).

The International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) has been supporting MRV projects in several countries with the aim of building national MRV capacities. Domestically, MRV helps governments to understand key emission sources and sinks, to design effective mitigation strategies, to assess impacts of mitigation projects and policies, to track progress toward mitigation goals, and to link mitigation activities with technology, finance, and capacity building support. Internationally, MRV enables countries to meet their international reporting obligations under the UNFCCC (i.e. National Communications every four years, Biennial Update Reports every two years), to compare their national mitigation commitments and to help build trust among the Parties about the actions taken and reported information.



PROJECT EXAMPLE: Measurement and Performance Tracking Project

The Measurement and Performance Tracking of Climate Change Mitigation Actions Project (MAPT) was implemented by the World Resources Institute (WRI). MAPT is a six-year project (2011-2016) conducted with governmental and non-governmental partners in Colombia, Ethiopia, India, South Africa, and Thailand (Thailand only in Phase I).

To this end, MAPT has produced a series of tools, case studies, trainings and guidance related to national GHG inventories, institutions, mitigation accounting, forestry and land use, industry and policy implementation. The project has thus informed the guidance for developing INDCs and analysed options and made proposals to strengthen MRV provisions under the UNFCCC.

Building upon MAPT, the ongoing follow-up project "Tracking, Implementing, and Strengthening of Mitigation Contributions" (2016-2020) will focus on providing governments with tools and resources to track the implementation and effects of their NDCs and the underlying policies that support them. In doing so, the project will arm countries with the ability to implement the MRV provisions of the Paris Agreement. Lessons learned will be fed into the UNFCCC to develop a robust system to track and report progress.

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Information Matters - Capacity Building for Ambitious Reporting and Facilitation of International Mutual Learning through Peer-to-Peer Exchange

Since its start in 2013, the project Information Matters, implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, has strengthened capacities in eight partner countries, namely Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Georgia, Ghana,

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the Philippines and Viet Nam. Moreover, under its Ad-hoc Facility, additional countries benefit from capacity building activities. The project designs tailor-made workshops and fosters peer-to-peer exchange enabling countries to implement sustainable MRV systems and prepare BURs.

The project has achieved or contributed to the following: Chile completed, as one of the first countries, the International Consultation and Analysis (ICA) process in May 2016 and submitted its second BUR in November 2016. Chile also launched the Latin American Greenhouse Gas Inventory Network in 2016. The Dominican Republic developed its national GHG inventory in 2015 using solely national experts for the first time. The country is currently preparing its third National Communication (NC) and first BUR. Ghana submitted its first BUR in July 2015 and is one of the first countries to complete the ICA process. The second BUR is under preparation. The Philippines developed a comprehensive data management system to institutionalise the national MRV system. The compilation of the first BUR and the third NC is integrated in the national climate plan. Colombia is developing institutional arrangements for its second BUR and is enhancing technical capacities of national staff. Georgia participates in the ICA process in 2017 and prepares its second BUR. Viet Nam plans to submit its second BUR before COP 2017.

Next to in-country activities, the project developed a range of knowledge products and tools to assist countries in developing BURs and undergoing the ICA process. For further information, please visit:

<https://www.transparency-partnership.net/information-matters>.

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