



Initiative for
Climate Action
Transparency

Initiative for Climate Action Transparency helps countries better assess the impacts of their climate policies and actions, and fulfil their transparency commitments.



Flood damage destroys apartment block. Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa 2022. Shutterstock

ICAT FOR ADAPTATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

CLIMATE CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa experiences a wide range of weather and climate-related impacts, expected to worsen with climate change. The country has seen a drastic increase in temperature over the last five decades, as well as a significant increase in rainfall in some areas.

There is significant vulnerability to natural disasters such as drought, flooding, extreme storms, and fires. South Africa has already faced a number of devastating climate-related disasters over the last few decades, and a higher frequency and increased intensity of these disasters are projected. Vulnerability varies in different areas, natural systems, sectors, and communities, with some being more vulnerable than others.

ICAT IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) is a multi-donor fund supporting transparency efforts around the world. South Africa is working closely with UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre in the ICAT Adaptation project. The country has begun work on the second phase of the ICAT Adaptation project in 2020. The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is the executing partner in South Africa and works with, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE) and the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) to develop national Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) frameworks and build capacity to plan, implement, monitor, and evaluate effective and efficient adaptation actions in a transparent manner.

NATIONAL ADAPTATION EFFORTS

South Africa is a signatory to numerous global climate change frameworks including the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and updated its Nationally Determined Contributions in September 2021. South Africa also developed several domestic policies and legal instruments in response to climate change, such as the National Climate Change Response Policy (NCCRP), the Climate Change Bill, and the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.

Under the NCCRP, the country has developed a comprehensive, integrated National Climate Change Information System (NCCIS), also referred to as the National Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system. It is a web-based platform to enable tracking, analysis and enhancement of South Africa's progress towards the country's transition to a low-carbon economy and climate-resilient society.

The NCCIS includes information on emission reductions achieved, observed, and projected climate change, impacts and vulnerabilities, the impact of adaptation and mitigation actions, financial flows and technology transfer activities. South Africa's approach is premised upon continuous learning and improvement through a phased implementation approach. Its web-based open-source toolkit and platform provides a wide range of stakeholders with the guidance they need to report adaptation actions and the data they need to increase their resilience in face of a changing climate.

ICAT PARTNERS IN SOUTH AFRICA



FOCUS AREAS UNDER ICAT IN SOUTH AFRICA

The possibility of increased disaster risk is one of the most concerning and potentially costly impacts of future climate change in South Africa. Disaster risk management is viewed by the country as one of the key areas where action is needed to ensure that lives are protected, and it is one of the climate-sensitive sectors identified in the NCCRP. To support this, two focus areas were selected for South Africa in the ICAT Adaptation project:

- M&E of multi-hazard early warning systems (MH-EWS), with an initial focus on coastal regions, with the aim of enhancing efficiency in monitoring and reporting progress towards the implementation of early warning systems in South Africa in support of the country's National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS) and the Desired Adaptation Outcomes, which are enshrined in law.
- Develop and test a framework for the M&E of impacts of weather and climate-related disasters that would support the monitoring and evaluation of climate change in South Africa.

ICAT ADAPTATION ACTIVITIES

Under the ICAT Adaptation project in South Africa a series of activities were carried out for the two focus areas:

- Adaptation needs assessments for identification of two focus areas that constitute country priorities on adaptation to inform the development of tools to support M&E of adaptation.
- Stakeholder analysis including identification, prioritisation and continuous engagement throughout the project to ensure outputs are informed by and support user needs and to inform refining tools developed.

- Capacity needs assessments for each focus area to understand M&E activities, identify barriers, and identify needs on how to strengthen capacity.

The needs assessments highlighted gaps and challenges that exist in adaptation tracking and transparency at the national level:

- Institutional barriers: Need for improved collaboration between the three spheres of government (National, Provincial and Local) to work together.
- Information barriers: Lack of a climate change early warning and vulnerability network and central National Disaster Loss Database guided by a comprehensive, coordinated approach.
- Capacity & Resource barriers: Need for additional capacity in terms of adaptation tracking and reporting and funding to fully implement the M&E system.

ICAT RESULTS IN SOUTH AFRICA

First focus area results:

The needs assessment for the first focus area identified the need to refine existing measures for M&E in the area of disaster risk reduction. Through the ICAT Adaptation project, a Multi-hazard Early Warning System (MH-EWS) M&E Framework was developed for South Africa. This framework was used to develop a list of indicators which address monitoring, observation and forecasting of hazards, and aligned with existing policy, legislation and reporting requirements in South Africa. Indicators were grouped within three elements of effectiveness, 1) 'Efficiency' indicators, 2) Reliability indicators, and 3) Impact indicators (Figure 1). The Garden Route District Municipality was used as the first case study to test and refine the indicators in the framework.

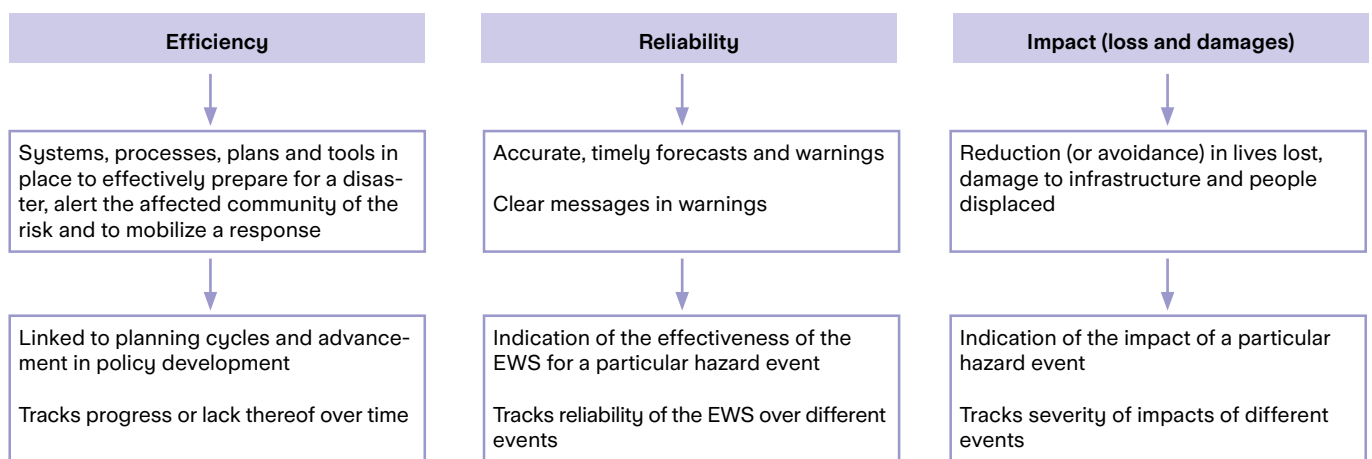


Figure 1. Elements of the framework for M&E of MH-EWS

Second focus area:

The needs assessment for the second focus area included an overview of South Africa’s policy framework and alignment with international agendas, policy directives on the impacts of weather and climate disasters in the country, a review of historical hazards in South Africa and how they are covered domestically, as well as data challenges and the gaps. This information was used to develop a draft framework for the M&E of impacts of climate and weather-related disasters.

This framework will serve as a guiding tool to systematically record human and economic loss data arising from meteorological, hydrological, and climatological disasters. It will also be used to improve the M&E of impacts of weather and climate related disasters to support and inform climate action aimed at reducing disaster impacts and at fulfilling the country’s international reporting requirements. The key elements of the framework will support the assessment, monitoring and evaluating, and ultimately reporting on loss and damage from weather and climate events in South Africa.

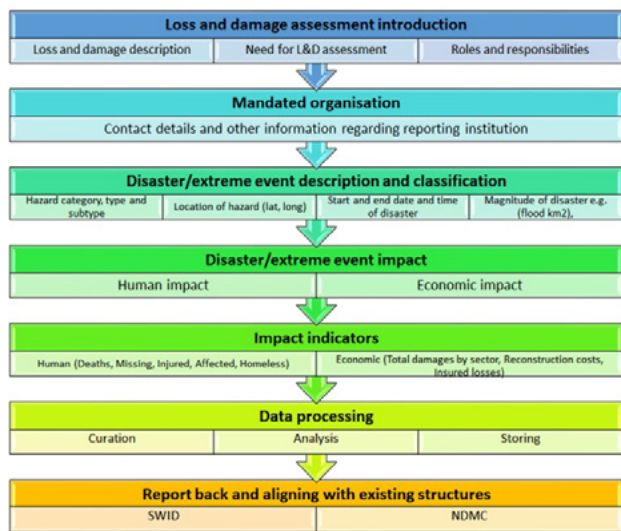


Figure 2. Elements of the draft framework for M&E of weather and climate-related disasters

WAY FORWARD

The next steps of the ICAT Adaptation project in South Africa will fall within the two focus areas:

First focus area:

- A second case study will be used to further refine the framework for M&E of MH-EWS, including stakeholder consultation.
- Guidance documents and relevant training material will be developed to support capacity building on the use of the framework for M&E of MH-EWS.

Second focus area:

- Two case studies will be used to further refine the draft framework of the M&E of weather and climate-related disasters, including stakeholder consultation.
- Further stakeholder consultation on capacity needs assessment to better understand training needs.
- Guidance documents and relevant training material will be developed to support capacity building on the use of the framework for M&E of weather and climate-related disasters.

RELEVANCE OF ICAT ADAPTATION OUTCOMES FOR SOUTH AFRICA

The ICAT Adaptation project contributes to the pillars of the NFCS and other DFFE-lead programmes through providing an understanding of gaps in early warning systems through its linkage to the DFFE M&E system and support of capacity building and increased transparency of country reporting under the Paris Agreement. In addition, developing an M&E framework on impacts of weather and climate-related disasters will contribute to informing a baseline for monitoring and evaluating the loss and damage from weather and climate events. Specifically, the framework can support establishing the country’s progress towards achieving targets prioritized in the country’s Medium Term Strategic Framework for 2019-2024 which highlights a need to reduce the impact of climate change disasters on human life, livestock and crop yield, houses and shelter, infrastructure, and species. The framework will also enable South Africa to collect, assess and report data on loss and damages related to climate change impacts under the UNFCCC reporting requirements.



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WHAT IS ICAT

ICAT is an unincorporated multi-stakeholder partnership and is steered by a Donor Steering Committee. ICAT focuses on 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.

HOW ICAT SUPPORTS COUNTRIES

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



Direct Country Support

ICAT delivers hands-on support tailored to a country's needs and national priorities



The ICAT Toolbox

ICAT develops and deploys a suite of innovative and open-source tools and methodologies that help countries advance their transparency efforts



Regional Climate Action Transparency Hubs

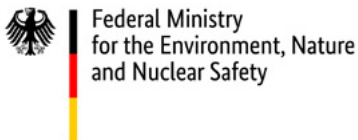
ICAT establishes and runs regional hubs that build capacity at scale for climate action transparency



Knowledge sharing

ICAT actively strengthens a global community of practice through a variety of knowledge exchange activities and resources

ICAT DONORS



ICAT IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS



MANAGEMENT AND SUPPORT



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