



POLICY BRIEF

**ENGAGEMENT FOR ENHANCING
CLIMATE ACTION TRANSPARENCY
IN CENTRAL AFRICA**
*CHALLENGES, LESSONS
AND WAY FORWARD*

AUGUST 2025

**« ECCAS at the crossroads:
towards Central African integration »**

Summary

This policy brief highlights the critical actions needed to enhance climate transparency in ECCAS member states, all of which have ratified the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. Despite their commitments, these countries face significant challenges, including fragile institutional arrangements, insufficient technical capacity, lack of reliable data, limited financial resources, and the absence of NDC-linked investment plans. The Regional Climate Action Transparency Hub (ReCATH), supported by ICAT, has been instrumental in addressing these gaps through capacity-building, transparency improvement plans, and regional thematic working groups. Key lessons include the importance of continuous training, inter-institutional collaboration, and stakeholder engagement. To strengthen transparency, the brief recommends institutionalizing the Regional Hub as a permanent program, supporting the implementation of transparency improvement plans, and fostering regional cooperation. These strategies aim to ensure effective monitoring of climate commitments, build trust, and contribute to low-carbon development trajectories in the ECCAS region.

Keywords: ECCAS country, Enhanced Transparency Framework, Regional Hub, UNFCCC, Transparency reports

1- Introduction

All member states of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) have ratified the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement. Implementing this agreement requires countries to establish sustainable institutional arrangements and operational systems to comply with Article 13, which mandates the provision of necessary information to monitor progress toward achieving the Agreement's objectives (UNFCCC, 2015).

Recognizing the profound economic transformations required for implementing NDCs, shifting toward low-carbon development trajectories (IPCC 2018, OECD 2017), and the associated reporting requirements, the ECCAS Commission established the Regional Climate Action Transparency Hub (ReCATH). Supported by the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT), this hub assists ECCAS member states in developing comprehensive and sustainable national Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) frameworks that align with the Paris Agreement's requirements.

MEMBER COUNTRIES



An assessment of transparency needs was conducted across ECCAS member states to identify gaps and set priorities for regional and national-level actions. Following capacity-building efforts on the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), the identification of gaps hindering the development of sustainable transparency frameworks, the creation of action plans to improve climate action transparency, and the establishment of regional thematic working groups in 2022 and 2023, the Regional Hub supported countries in preparing their first Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) in 2024.

This policy brief aims to inform decision-makers and climate action practitioners including governments, international organizations, and donors about the necessary actions to enhance climate transparency in ECCAS member states.

1- The MRV (Measurement, Reporting and Verification) system is a process by which countries measure their greenhouse gas emissions and climate actions, report this data in reports, and then have this information verified by experts

2- The Regional Climate Action

Transparency Hub (ReCATH)

A Strategic Lever for accelerating national climate action

2.1. Mission of the Regional Hub

The ECCAS Regional Hub has been established to support member states in developing and improving their sustainable climate transparency frameworks. To this end, the hub adopts a collaborative approach bringing countries together to work on sustainable national development policies, assess national needs and priorities to identify key gaps to be filled, and strengthen human and institutional capacities to enhance climate transparency and enable countries to meet their climate change commitments under the Paris Agreement. This support is accompanied by the creation of an expert network through regional thematic working groups, training sessions and peer-to-peer exchange activities, as well as the sharing of transparency tools and methodological guidelines (such as ICAT tools and methods) adapted to regional needs and priorities, while supporting resource mobilization for climate action in the region.

2.2. Impacts of the Regional Hub for Climate Action Transparency

Strengthening national development policies and sectoral priorities through NDC development and monitoring

The ECCAS Regional Hub for Climate Action Transparency plays an important role in advancing national development policies and sectoral priorities of member countries by providing technical support and dedicated tools for NDC development and monitoring.

The Hub supports member countries by:

- o Providing technical tools for NDC development: The Hub provides member states with methodologies, specialized software (such as GACMO), and technical guides that enable them to develop robust NDCs aligned with their national development strategies.

- o Strengthening NDC tracking and monitoring systems: Through training on MRV systems and tracking tools, the Hub enables countries to effectively monitor the implementation of their climate commitments and adjust their policies accordingly.
- o Integrating sectoral priorities into climate action: The Hub facilitates alignment between climate objectives and sectoral development priorities (agriculture, energy, transport, forestry) by demonstrating how climate transparency can serve as a lever for advancing national policies.

Establishment of regional climate transparency architecture

The ECCAS Regional Hub for Climate Action Transparency has succeeded in establishing effective regional coordination that enables continuous technical support to Member States in their climate transparency obligations. Since its launch, the Hub has created and facilitated 05 Regional Thematic Working Groups (RTWGs).

RTWG	Objectif
1: GHG Inventory and projection	Enhance the capacity of national experts in GHG emissions estimation through a "train-the-trainer" approach, thereby establishing a regional network of experts and promoting the exchange of experiences among countries in this thematic area.
2: NDC Tracking	Strengthening the capacity of national experts in NDC monitoring through a "train the trainer" approach, thereby establishing a regional network of experts and promoting the exchange of experiences among countries in this thematic area.
3: Support, Finance, and Wider Impacts	Build the capacity of national experts to access funding mechanisms for implementing climate actions, monitor and measure the global impacts of climate action, and ensure adequate climate technology transfer to meet national needs; and to implement a "train the trainer" approach, thereby establishing a regional network of experts and promoting the exchange of experiences among countries in this thematic area
4: Risk and Vulnerability	Build the capacity of national experts to conduct risk and vulnerability assessments related to climate change and implement a "train-the-trainer" approach, thereby establishing a regional network of experts and promoting the exchange of experiences among countries in this thematic area.
5: Monitoring mitigation and Adaptation Actions Monitoring	Build the capacity of national experts to implement and monitor mitigation and adaptation actions while establishing a "training of trainers" approach, thereby establishing a regional network of experts and promoting the exchange of experiences among countries in this thematic area

Tableau 1 : Thematic working groups include: (i) greenhouse gas inventory and projections, (ii) NDC tracking, (iii) support, finance and wider impacts, (iv) climate risk and vulnerability, and (v) Monitoring mitigation and Adaptation Actions.

Strengthening of national technical capacities

The most tangible impact of the Hub is measured by the scope of training delivered adopting a "train-the-trainers" approach: more than 880 national experts have been trained through regional and national technical workshops, with particular attention to gender balance (72% men, 28% women). These trainings covered technical areas such as NDC tracking, GHG emissions projections, national inventories, and the establishment of measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) systems. Similarly, the Hub has developed several thematic webinars covering all BTR chapters and the development of NDC 3.0, highlighting the use of specialized tools like GACMO for GHG projections and training on filling Common Reporting Tables (CRTs) and Common Tabular Formats (CTFs).



Regional technical workshop on NDC Tracking and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections, from January 9 to 13, 2024 in Riaba, Equatorial Guinea



Regional technical workshop on tracking mitigation and adaptation actions in Libreville-Gabon, from May 21 to 24, 2024



Regional technical workshop on NDC tracking, inventory and GHG projections, and support for BTR preparation in Brazzaville-Congo, from August 27 to 30, 2024



Regional technical workshop on the preparation and development of NDC 3.0 in Douala-Cameroon, from May 7 to 11, 2025

Expansion of the climate transparency ecosystem

The Hub's impact goes beyond the strictly technical framework by creating an expanded ecosystem of actors engaged in climate transparency. The creation of the Network of Environmental Lawyers of Central Africa (REJEAC) with headquarters in Kigali, the establishment of the Network of Central African Parliamentarians on Climate Change, and the training of civil society organization leaders create a multi-stakeholder dynamic essential to sustaining transparency efforts.



Training of parliamentarians on climate transparency and climate change issues in Brazzaville, Congo, August 10 to 12, 2024



Training of parliamentarians on climate transparency and climate change issues in Brazzaville, Congo



Awareness-raising and Capacity Building for Central African Civil Society Organization Leaders on Climate Transparency in Bujumbura, Burundi, May 10 and 11, 2024



International outreach and sharing of experiences

The Hub's participation in COP27 and 29 enabled the presentation of countries' gaps in transparency and sharing their experience on implementing the enhanced transparency framework, while ensuring international influence through active representation during international climate negotiations and positioning the sub-region as a coherent bloc in technical dialogues.



High level Event at COP 27



High level Event at COP 29

Concrete results in climate reporting

The Hub's support directly contributed to the submission of the first BTRs from three countries in the region (Gabon, CAR, and Rwanda) before the December 31, 2024 deadline. This concrete achievement demonstrates the effectiveness of the Hub's approach and its ability to transform training into operational deliverables that comply with international requirements.

Development of autonomous regional expertise

Beyond one-time training sessions, the Hub has created the conditions for progressive empowerment of countries in climate transparency. The development of concept notes, transparency improvement action plans, and the establishment of knowledge management systems contribute to the emergence of endogenous regional expertise capable of responding to future climate transparency challenges within ECCAS member countries.

3- Lessons Learned and Best Practices

The following lessons and best practices have emerged from the Regional Hub's activities:

Continuous Training

Regular, tailored training sessions, whether in-person or online, have significantly improved countries' understanding of reporting requirements.

Inter-Institutional Collaboration

Encourage collaboration between various institutions in order to harmonize data collection efforts, promote monitoring and support the development of climate policies.

Experience Sharing

Regional Thematic Working Groups (RTWGs) provide platforms for countries to share successes and challenges, enabling the identification of innovative solutions tailored to specific contexts.

Transparency Improvement Action Plans

Implementing these plans strengthens countries' capacities to operationalize sustainable MRV systems for transparency.

Stability of Experts

Countries with stable experts benefit more from training, ensuring continuity in skill development. In contrast, countries with frequent expert turnover face challenges, as trainers must repeatedly revisit prerequisites.

Continuous Support from ECCAS and Partners

Long-term, coordinated support from the ECCAS Commission, member states, and partners is essential to sustain and maximize the Regional Hub's impact.

Stakeholder Engagement

Active involvement from civil society, parliamentarians, and the private sector strengthens accountability and ensures effective monitoring of government commitments.

4- Challenges identified

ECCAS member states face several challenges in preparing and submitting their transparency reports:

Fragile Institutional Arrangements

Weak institutional frameworks lead to inconsistencies and delays in report preparation and submission. Implementing transparency improvement plans can strengthen accountability and coordination among institutions, ensuring consistent and timely data collection and reporting.

Insufficient Technical Capacity

Many countries lack the technical expertise required to meet reporting requirements, particularly in applying MRV methodologies and systems.

Lack of Reliable Data

Robust data collection systems are often absent, making it difficult to produce credible reports.

Limited Financial Resources

Budgetary constraints hinder funding for essential activities such as training, technology acquisition, and the establishment of MRV systems.

Inconsistency between NDC objectives and strategic planning

Countries often develop investment plans without having previously established NDC objectives that are coherent with implementation plans. This absence of approach hinders financing needs and compromises the development of viable and realistic investment plans.

5- Strategies to Strengthen Climate Transparency in the ECCAS Region

ECCAS member states have committed to significant climate action through their NDCs, aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance climate adaptation, preserve biodiversity, and increase community resilience. Transparency in implementing these commitments is crucial for monitoring progress and building trust within the international community. Below are strategies to support member states in enhancing climate transparency:

1

Institutionalize the Regional Hub as a Permanent Regional Program and its Ownership by Member States

Institutionalizing the Regional Hub as a permanent program is critical to providing ongoing support for ECCAS member states. As transparency reports are submitted in rotating cycles, countries continually face new challenges and requirements. Sustained capacity-building support is essential to ensure high-quality reporting that meets international standards.

Policy Measures and Expected Impact:

N°	Policy Measure	Expected Impact
1	ECCAS member States should formalize the Regional Hub's status as a permanent entity through a decision	• Ensure the institutional sustainability of the Regional Hub and provide a solid legal basis for its long-term operations
2	Establish a financing mechanism with contributions from the ECCAS Commission, member states, public-private partnerships, and international funding	• Ensure the financial viability of the Regional Hub and reduce dependence on one-off external financing
3	Foster partnerships with international organizations and development agencies for additional funding	• Diversify funding sources and strengthen technical support available for the Regional Hub
4	Leverage the Hub's actions to enhance national communications, NDC, BTR and LT-LEDs	• Ensure consistency of climate transparency reports and optimize the use of regional technical resources

2

Support the Implementation of Countries' Transparency Improvement Action Plans

ECCAS member states have developed transparency improvement plans essential for establishing sustainable MRV systems.

Policy Measures and Expected Impact:

N°	Policy Measure	Expected Impact:
1	Help countries build a solid foundation for their climate commitments	- Support the establishment of robust institutional arrangements - Support the establishment of effective MRV systems for inventory and projection data collection - Facilitate ownership of the enhanced transparency framework foundations - Facilitate accurate assessment of implementation costs and financial needs - Facilitate financial and investment planning based on concrete data - Improve the quality and relevance of transparency reports - Ensure alignment between commitments, actions and reports
2	Strengthen countries' institutional capacities through integrated climate-finance planning training, by establishing links between climate targets and their specific financing needs from the NDC design phase	- Develop national expertise in coherent climate-investment planning" - Improve the accuracy of financing needs assessments and investor confidence" - Eliminate gaps between ambitious NDCs and unrealistic implementation plans

3

Strengthen Regional Cooperation to Facilitate Knowledge Exchange

Enhancing regional cooperation enables countries to share best practices and technical expertise, accelerating progress.

Policy Measures and Expected Impact:

N°	Policy Measure	Expected Impact
1	Organizing regular meetings (virtual and physical) among RTWG members to discuss progress and address common challenges;	- Collective problem solving - Maintaining constant momentum in the work - Strengthening institutional links
2	Conducting practical workshops to train national experts and encourage mutual learning	- Strengthening the technical capacity of national experts - Knowledge transfer between countries - Harmonization of methodological approaches
3	Allocating financial resources to support joint initiatives	- Enhancing the effectiveness of regional actions or initiatives - Increasing the impact of initiatives

6- Conclusion

Enhancing climate transparency is vital for ECCAS countries to meet their Paris Agreement commitments. Institutionalizing the Regional Hub, supporting transparency plans, and fostering regional cooperation are essential steps. Collaborative efforts among governments, institutions, stakeholders and donors will ensure effective climate action and contribute to global efforts to combat climate change.

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RECOMMENDED CITATION

ECCAS, ICAT and FOKABS (2025). Engagement for enhancing climate action transparency in Central Africa: Challenges, Lessons and Way Forward

ORGANISATIONS



ECCAS: The Economic Community of Central African States

A pillar of African integration, ECCAS promotes regional cooperation in the economic, political, security, environmental, and social fields. Its mission is to achieve collective self-sufficiency and to raise the standard of living of populations through stability and development

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ICAT: The Initiative for Climate Action Transparency

ICAT provides tailored support as well as practical tools and methods to help countries build the transparency frameworks, they need to effectively combat climate change, in line with their national development priorities.

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FOUNDATION



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

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Changement climatique Canada



UNOPS

The ICAT project is managed
by the United Nations Office for
Project Services (UNOPS)

*Published by the
Commission of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)
P.O. Box 2112 - Libreville, Gabonese Republic -*



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