

Information Matters, Georgia:

Capacity Building for Enhanced Reporting and Facilitation of International Mutual Learning
through Global Peer-to-Peer Exchange



Institutional Set-up of MRV System

Workshop Documentation

Radisson Blu Iveria Hotel Tbilisi, Georgia

24 January, 2017

This project is part of the International Climate Initiative (ICI). The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) supports the initiative based on a decision by the German Parliament (Bundestag).

Published by:

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Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

BMUB	German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety
BUR	Biennial Update Report
EERC	Estonian Environmental Research Centre
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
IKI	International Climate Initiative
IM	GIZ Information Matters Project
LEDS	Low Emission Development Strategy
MoENRP	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
NaSE	(German) National System on Emissions
NIR	National Inventory Report
QA/QC	Quality Assurance / Quality Control
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
TG-MRV	Technical Group on measurement, reporting and verification system
UBA	German Environment Agency
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Background

In the context of the Information Matters project, the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) provides support to a number of selected partner countries to strengthen their in-country capacities for enhanced reporting under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Information Matters is funded under BMUB's International Climate Initiative (IKI). For more information please refer to www.international-climate-initiative.com. The project has a special focus on the preparation of Biennial Update Reports (BURs) and the development and implementation of sustainable systems for measurement, reporting and verification (MRV). During a first project phase (2013-2016), support has been provided to Chile, the Dominican Republic, Ghana and the Philippines. For the second phase (2016-2017), Colombia, Egypt, Georgia and Viet Nam joined the project, allowing building upon the results, experiences and 'lessons learned' gained during the first phase.

A key feature of the Information Matters project is the country-tailored approach: In consultation with the partner countries, specific needs and priorities for the setup of MRV systems and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventories are identified, prioritized and addressed through tailored in-country capacity building workshops and trainings.

These capacity building activities aim to enable the partner countries to analyze and define procedures, methods and responsibilities to systematically institutionalize their MRV systems

and to meet the reporting requirements under the UNFCCC.

With MRV systems being an essential fundament for the forthcoming Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement, the IM project provides an important basis for its partner countries to also prepare for future post-Paris transparency requirements.

In Georgia, the project started with a stock taking of the reporting and MRV arrangements currently in place, including an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses. This was followed by a kick-off workshop with key stakeholders during which the results of the stock taking were reviewed and main gaps and needs identified and prioritized. On this basis, a roadmap for capacity building was developed outlining all activities to be carried out in the country throughout the project. The proposed capacity building plan for Georgia is comprised of three main activities: capacity building workshops, development of guidance documents and provision of technical backstopping. The most important priority capacity need is related to institutional setup of MRV system. Moreover, raw data collection, estimation of GHG emissions, and QA/QC procedures, as well as capacity building related to legal setup and ICA process were identified as a priority capacity building need. Towards the end of the project, Georgia will have acquired an enhanced level of expertise on climate monitoring and reporting and is invited to share its experiences and lessons learned at international meetings, such as those organized by the International Partnership on Transparency (www.mitigationpartnership.net).

Workshop Purpose and Objectives

On January 24th, hosted by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia (MoENRP) and organized by GIZ's Information Matters (IM) Project, a workshop on "Institutional Set-up of an MRV System" for Georgia was held at the Radisson Blu Iveria Hotel, Tbilisi. The workshop formed part of the 1st "Capacity Building Mission" of the IM Project.

The main objective of the event was to discuss the current situation of Georgia's MRV system and address its future enhancement related to its institutionalization. The workshop included presentations on general requirements for the institutional set-up of MRV systems, as well as the case studies from Estonia, Chile and Germany. Based on these inputs, the workshop allowed

wider discussion on the proposed MRV system of Georgia.

The workshop was attended by the key stakeholders relevant to MRV from the public and private sectors as well as from civil society and international donor and implementing organizations. As a result of the workshop, key recommendations for the institutional set-up for Georgia's MRV system were derived.

The workshop was facilitated by Mr. Irakli Samkharadze, National Key Advisor of the GIZ Information Matters Project.

This report presents a summary of the presentations and discussions that took place at the workshop. Presentations and working materials have been also made available to all workshop participants.

I. Opening Ceremony

Mrs. Ekaterine Grigalava, Deputy Minister of MoENRP and Mrs. Mary Schaefer, GIZ Country Director opened the workshop. Mrs. Grigalava greeted participants and expressed her gratitude to participate in the event. In her welcome speech, she recognized the importance of an operational MRV system, especially in light of the Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC. In significance, she highlighted the role of MRV as it is needed to drive the reporting processes towards UNFCCC transparently. She drew a connection between transparent reporting and increase of trust from international community towards Georgia. The Deputy minister also stressed on the importance of the set-up of an MRV system stating that it is necessary for the successful fulfilment of the reporting

requirements under UNFCCC, such as the BUR submission every two years. Mrs. Grigalava concluded by thanking the project partners and contributing experts, as well as GIZ and German cooperation in general.

Mrs. Schaefer welcomed the workshop participants and acknowledged that Germany places its emphasis on combating and adapting to climate change hand in hand with its partner countries. She recognized the importance of accurate data, as through it countries have opportunities to plan and implement their mitigation actions in a more efficient, but also transparent and coherent manner. She thanked all workshop participants and wished them productive discussions.

II. Overview of the Information Matters Project and its Roadmap for Implementation in Georgia

Irakli Samkharadze (GIZ National Key Advisor), Mr. Oscar Zarzo (GIZ Information Matters Country Coordinator Georgia)

Mr. Irakli Samkharadze provided a brief overview of the Information Matters' project objectives and activities. He emphasized on the contribution of different stakeholders in the analysis of the MRV sectoral gaps and establishing a roadmap for project implementation during the stock-taking mission in July, 2016. Mr. Samkharadze continued presenting the project capacity building plan for Georgia, which includes two additional capacity building missions in 2017, a knowledge exchange among project countries during a Global Workshop in Dessau, Germany, and backstopping support dependent on ad-hoc requests by the partner. He also outlined the expected project outputs, such as workshop documentation and other guidance documents. In addition to this, Mr. Samkharadze introduced the team working on the Georgian component of the Information Matters project.

Mr. Oscar Zarzo provided more in-depth background information on the Information Matters project, its main elements and expected outputs. He also analyzed the country challenges related to MRV, such as lack of political buy-in, informal institutional arrangements, which largely rely on international support projects, limited access to data, non-existing knowledge transfer and institutional memory and lack of technical expertise, equipment and software tools. Furthermore, he presented the results of Information Matters so far, pointing out main achievements and lessons learnt during the project Phase I. In the end, Mr. Zarzo thanked the partners and other stakeholders for the cooperation.

III. General overview of requirements for MRV Institutional setup

Mr. Daniel Perczyk (NIRAS), Mr. Amr Abdel-Aziz (NIRAS)

Mr. Abdel-Aziz presented the institutional set-up requirements under the UNFCCC. He started by introducing the key elements of successful MRV systems: official set-up, institutional set-up and procedural set-up. He also outlined the MRV system drivers and drew a comparison between bottom up and top down approaches for institutional set-up.

Following this, Mr. Abdel-Aziz concentrated on common elements for a functional institutional MRV set-up, which include a steering committee

(for example in the form of an inter-ministerial body), a coordinating entity, technical coordinators and sectoral working groups. He pointed out the role of the coordinating entity, how to choose one and finally, he compared different types of coordinating entities based on countries practices. In the end, Mr. Abdel-Aziz illustrated the typical stages of sustainable institutional set-up and the main mechanisms, elements and inputs required during each stage.

IV. Case Studies of Institutional Arrangements for MRV Systems

Mrs. Cris-Tiina Türkson (Senior Officer, Ministry of the Environment of Estonia), Mr. Oscar Zarzo (GIZ Information Matters Country Coordinator Georgia)

One of the main objectives of the workshop was to learn from international experience and jointly discuss the institutional set-up of Georgia's MRV system based on examples and case studies from Estonia, Chile and Germany. In this session, Mrs. Cris-Tiina Türkson, a representative of the Ministry of the Environment of Estonia and Mr. Oscar Zarzo, GIZ, gave their inputs. Mr. Zarzo presented the Chilean and German experiences, as he has worked for Chile's component in the Phase I of the Information Matters project and has experience with the German system due to his work at the German Environment Agency (UBA), while Mrs. Türkson gave an overview on Estonia's experience.

Estonia

Mrs. Cris-Tiina Türkson presented the Estonian national MRV system in terms of outlining the strengths, weaknesses and possible improvements of the Estonian GHG inventory.

After introducing Estonia's national circumstances and the role of the national coordinating entity in her country, Mrs. Türkson talked about the institutional arrangements. In Estonia, responsibilities and task are divided between the Ministry of the Environment, the Estonian Environmental Research Centre (EERC), the EERC Climate Department and the Data Management Department of the Estonian Environment Agency. According to her presentation, in Estonia the GHG inventory is done on the basis of three-year contract agreements with EERC. The center's financial resources are partly planned in the State Budget and partly applied from Estonia's Environmental Investment Centre. Further, Mrs. Türkson highlighted the importance of GHG inventory improvement. This is accomplished by institutional meetings which allow discussing problems that have come up during the last

inventory preparation and decide about possible improvements in the future. At the end, her presentation illustrated how data is collected from the different sectors and what are the responsible agencies and organizations.

Chile

Mr. Oscar Zarzo spoke about the Chilean experience. In Chile, the main governmental bodies that are a part of the national institutional framework related to climate change include the Council of Ministers for Sustainability, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, an Inter-ministries technical team on Climate Change and Climate Units at relevant line ministries, such as Agriculture and Energy. The presentation included an overview of the working pillars of the coordinating agency, the Climate Change Department of the Ministry of the Environment. As an answer to the new reporting requirements for developing countries under UNFCCC, Chile has established a National Greenhouse Gas Inventory System in 2012. It entails the institutional, legal, and procedural steps for the biennial update of Chile's national greenhouse gas inventory which ensures the sustainability of the preparation of GHG inventories, the consistency of GHG flows reported, and the quality of the results.

Finally, while summarizing the lessons learnt from Chile, Mr. Zarzo acknowledged that the trigger factor for the successful sustainability and improvement of its MRV system has been Chile's proactive attitude towards climate change through time and through the different administrations. Also, the enhancement of its National Institutional Framework for climate change triggered by recent UNFCCC reporting requirements and the collective and continuous efforts of the Ministries of Agriculture, Energy,

and Environment have strengthened the MRV system of the country. Chile is now working to further improve its system. Next steps for this include securing national funding, building up the team by allocating additional staff through internationally supported projects at the Climate Change Department, and increasing technical cooperation with developed and developing countries.

Germany

Mr. Zarzo started the presentation with a general overview of Germany's trends on GHG emissions. Germany, as an Annex-I Country of UNFCCC has to submit its National Inventory Report (NIR) to the secretariat on a yearly basis. These international requirements are secluded by further reporting requirements at EU and national level. Further, the entity in charge of GHG emissions reporting in Germany is also in charge of reporting on air pollutants. So, one of the key issues for sustainability is that the system builds up on multiple reporting requirements covered by a single entity.

In Germany, this single national entity is the German Environment Agency, who runs the German National System on Emissions (NaSE) for inventory compilation and reporting. NaSE is operating at three different levels, internally at the level of the Environment Agency, at the governmental level through input and steering by other Ministries and Agencies (such as the Ministry of Energy, the Statistical Office, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Working Group on Energy Balances) and externally through cooperation with the private sectors for data

acquisition and by external experts for improvement and verification. As described in the presentation, for effective coordination the national entity has allocated clear roles and responsibilities for coordinating tasks and key source experts for all emitting and source categories of the inventory. Instruments such as the Central System on Emissions and the Quality System on Emission inventories are important for emissions calculation and reporting and for implementation of quality criteria in accordance with Good Practice Guidance for Inventories. Responsibilities of NaSE also include, among others, serving as Central Focal Point for all inventory and reporting issues, assuring and coordinating information and data flow, documentation and archiving, and setting up a framework of inventory planning and improvement.

Mr. Zarzo finalized the presentation by highlighting the lessons learnt from the German case, according to which systems have to be set up in a simple manner building up on existing national data and resources, and improving the quality of the GHG inventory with each new reporting period and enhancing team capacity over time to achieve a more mature system. It is fundamental to establish clear roles, responsibilities, and timelines between the parties being responsible on inventory. It is also important to note that successful and sustainable national GHG inventory systems can work without formal legal arrangements. Additionally, one should guarantee confidentiality of data for improved cooperation with other governmental and private sector agencies and organizations.

V. Group Workshop Session

Conducted by Mr. Daniel Perczyk (NIRAS) and Mr. Amr Abdel-Aziz, (NIRAS)

After the case study presentations and experience sharing, the NIRAS consultants conducted a working session on identification of institutional set-up elements useful for Georgia. Participants were divided in small groups and were presented

the proposed MRV system for Georgia as presented in Georgia's first BUR. Afterwards, the groups shared their feedback on the proposed system and whether it covered all required elements for MRV, including GHG inventory,

mitigation and support. On this basis, groups outlined missing elements and based on morning session presentations proposed additional

elements that could improve the proposed MRV system in Georgia.

VI. Presentation of the proposed MRV System for Georgia

Mr. Amr Abdel-Aziz, (NIRAS)

Following the group work session, Mr. Amr Abdel-Aziz presented Georgia's proposed MRV system in the BUR and discussed the roles and responsibilities of the LEDS Steering Committee, an inter-agency body established as part of the design of the Low Emission Development Strategy. Based on the input given by participants in the previous session, Mr. Abdel-Aziz suggested that Georgia should establish a new body – a Technical Group on MRV (TG-MRV). TG-MRV

would be responsible for: developing standards and templates for the MRV system, establishment of baselines for mitigation activities and designing MRV guidelines. Further, Mr. Abdel-Aziz discussed a potential MRV System Implementation Plan and timeline. All of this led to the analysis of current gaps, with special emphasis on the small number of MRV experts and the lack of law or decree that defines MRV and its operation.



1. Workshop attendees

VII. Plenary Discussion Session and Concluding Remarks

The concluding plenary discussion session addressed the question of timeline for implementation of an MRV system in Georgia. Participants agreed that, during the forthcoming two-year period, Georgia will have to arrange the institutional set-up with the support of international donors and develop standards for measurement and data collection and reporting and verification processes. One of the important parts to be included are QA/QC procedures and a feedback mechanism for policy makers which is crucial for the system to be operational and sustainable in the long-term.

Based on the results of the workshop inputs and discussions, a paper with a high-level strategy for the setup of the MRV institutional system in Georgia will be prepared by NIRAS within the scope of Information Matters. This paper will be made available to MoENRP and further relevant stakeholders for consideration and its

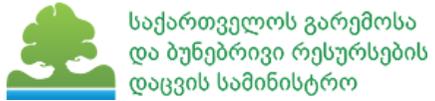
recommendations will be further discussed over future IM activities in order to decide on a final strategy and a roadmap for implementation for Georgia.

At the end of the workshop Mr. Oscar Zarzo and Mr. Irakli Samkharadze summarized the main recommendations and conclusions for the institutional set-up of MRV system in Georgia that were identified during the workshop by the audience, national experts and international consultants. They acknowledged that the workshop touched on the general arrangements and requirements of an MRV system. In the end the importance of the experience sharing from countries that have undergone similar processes was also pointed out.

Finally, the GIZ Information Matters project team thanked the Climate Change Office and all

the stakeholders for continuous successful cooperation.

Annex A: Workshop Agenda



Information Matters:

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

DATE/TIME	TOPIC/ACTIVITY	SPEAKER
9:30 – 10:00	Arrival of participants and Registration	
10:00 – 10:15	Welcome remarks	Mrs. Ekaterine Grigalava, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia; Mrs. Mary Schaefer, Country Director, GIZ Office South Caucasus.
10:15 – 10:30	Brief overview of the Information Matters project and its roadmap for implementation in Georgia Presentation of Workshop objectives and structure	Mr. Irakli Samkharadze, GIZ National Key Advisor Mr. Daniel Perczyk, NIRAS
10:30-11:00	General overview of requirements for MRV Institutional setup	Mr. Amr Abdel-Aziz, NIRAS
11:00-11:30	Coffee Break	
11:30-12:30	Case studies of institutional arrangements for MRV systems Germany, Estonia and Chile	Mrs. Cris-Tiina Türkson, Senior Officer, Ministry of the Environment of Estonia Mr. Oscar Zarzo, GIZ Information Matters Country Coordinator Georgia
12:30-12:45	Summary of main good practices elements from the country cases	Mr. Daniel Perczyk & Mr. Amr Abdel-Aziz, NIRAS
12:45-13:30	Group Workshop session: identification of elements useful for Georgia Each group will designate a facilitator who will summarize the discussion	Conducted by Mr. Daniel Perczyk & Mr. Amr Abdel-Aziz, NIRAS
13:30-14:30	Lunch	

14:30-15:00	Presentation of proposed MRV system for Georgia (based on proposed structure on first BUR)	Mr. Amr Abdel-Aziz, NIRAS
15:00-16:30	Plenary Discussion Session: Refining the proposed MRV system – definition of roles, responsibilities, human resources, technical capacities and processes needed for the setup of a sustainable MRV system	Conducted by Mr. Daniel Perczyk & Mr. Amr Abdel-Aziz, NIRAS
16:30-17:00	Coffee Break	
17:00-17:30	Plenary Discussion Session: Timeline for implementation of MRV system in Georgia	Conducted by Mr. Daniel Perczyk & Mr. Amr Abdel-Aziz, NIRAS
17:30-18:00	Wrap up and next steps Closing Remarks	MoENRP GIZ, NIRAS

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