

## Information Matters, Georgia:

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



## MRV Set-up Workshop Workshop Documentation

Marriot Hotel, Tbilisi, Georgia

20<sup>th</sup> September, 2017

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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

BMUB	German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety
BUR	Biennial Update Report
CDCP	Developing Capacities for the Alignment with the EU Climate Targets in the Eastern Partnership Countries Phase II
CCU	Climate Change Unit
EIEC	Environmental Information and Education Center
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
IKI	International Climate Initiative
IM	GIZ Information Matters Project
LEDS	Low Emissions Development Strategy
MoENRP	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
QA/QC	Quality Assurance/Quality Control
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VICLIM	Vertically Integrated Climate Change Policies

## 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](http://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 gaps. This was followed by a kick-off workshop (July, 2016) 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.

The following IM activities have already taken place:

- First capacity building mission (January, 2017): setup of an institutional MRV system and training on the 2006 IPCC guidelines for national GHG inventories;
- Global exchange among countries of

the project on experiences and lessons learned regarding reporting and MRV – “Peer to Peer exchange” (April, 2017) in Dessau, Germany.

- Second capacity building mission (April, 2017) on MRV of mitigation actions.
- This third capacity building mission held from 20-22 September, 2017 focused on the validation workshop for the draft proposal on a reporting system for Georgia that was presented and discussed with

Georgian stakeholders on 20 September at the Hotel Marriott Tbilisi and on a technical training on data collection and QA/QC for GHG inventories held at the Hotel Ambassadors Kachreti on 21-22 September 2017.

This report summarizes the main discussions and results of the workshop on MRV Set-up held on 20 September 2017 in Tbilisi. Another report for the training held in Kachreti has been also produced by GIZ.

## MRV Set-up Workshop Purpose and Objectives

On September 20, 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 Tbilisi Marriott hotel. The workshop formed part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> “Capacity Building Mission” of the IM Project.

The main objective of the event was to present and validate the recommendations for institutional set-up of MRV for climate-related reporting in Georgia. The recommendations were developed based on the evaluation undertaken during the previous IM project activities in the country. The workshop included presentations on current institutional arrangements for climate relevant MRV activities in Georgia, as well as on recommendations for the further development of the institutional framework and on the setup of a roadmap

for the implementation of the national MRV system. Based on these inputs, a discussion session was held to validate the recommendations and the roadmap for implementation and to address any outstanding relevant issues.

Key stakeholders relevant to MRV from the public and private sectors, as well as from civil society and international donor and implementing organizations attended and actively participated in the event. As a result of the workshop, a high-level strategy for the development of an MRV system have been agreed upon and the steps for the implementation defined.

The workshop was facilitated by Mr. Oscar Zarzo, IM country coordinator of the GIZ Information Matters Project.

This report summarizes the main point discussed during the workshop. Presentations and working materials have been also made available to all participants.

## I. Opening Ceremony

Mr. Oscar Zarzo, GIZ Information Matters country coordinator for Georgia opened the workshop. In his welcome speech, Mr. Zarzo emphasized the importance of combating climate change by taking global actions and thanked Georgia for its commitment and engagement. He defined information as the driving force behind effective policies and actions, hence the pivotal role of an operational MRV system, especially in the light of the Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC. The significance of MRV in acquiring accurate data and thus enhancing reporting processes towards UNFCCC were also highlighted.

Mr. Zarzo also laid stress on the synergies between “Information Matters” and other GIZ activities. Namely the BMUB financed projects “Capacity Development for climate policy in the countries of South East, Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia (CDCP III), which supports



*Mr. Amr Abdel-Aziz, Mr. Oscar Zarzo, Mr. Grigol Lazriev, Mrs. Jessica Wade-Murphy*

MoENRP in the elaboration of the Climate Action Plan 2020-2030, the GCF Readiness Project, aimed at supporting the country in setting out the structure and processes for the GCF access and “The Vertically Integrated Climate Policies” (VICLIM) project, where the main objective is to improve implementation of national climate goals by integrating therein municipal and subnational actors.

## II. Overview of the BMUB-funded Global “Information Matters” Project and Relevance of Climate Change Reporting for Georgia

Mr. Oscar Zarzo provided a brief overview of the Information Matters’ project objectives and activities in Georgia. He emphasized the contribution by different stakeholders in the analysis of MRV gaps and establishing a roadmap for project implementation. Mr. Zarzo continued presenting the project capacity building

plan for Georgia and the activities already conducted in the country so far. He further outlined some of the expected workshop outputs, such as this workshop documentation and two guidance documents on the Institutional set-up for an MRV system and the legal setup to operationalize the MRV system.

Mr. Zarzo listed all major outcomes of the IM project in Georgia, which included raised awareness on climate change mitigation



Mr. Oscar Zarzo

issues and MRV at the different ministries and agencies, the development of a strategy for the setup of an MRV system, the training of staff on the 2006 IPCC GHG inventory guidelines, better understanding of mitigation actions and the improvement of the BUR preparation process towards BUR2.

Mr. Zarzo also provided background information on the UNFCCC and on the

evolution of reporting under this convention, especially underlining future requirements under Article 12 of the Paris Agreement on transparency of action and support compared to current reporting requirements for National Communications (NC) and BUR.

Towards the end of his presentation Mr. Zarzo specified the reporting milestones under UNFCCC achieved by Georgia from 1999 (submission of the 1<sup>st</sup> NC) up-until 2016 (submission of the 1<sup>st</sup> BUR). He outlined future steps and challenges for Georgia, such as the preparation of 2<sup>nd</sup> BUR and 4<sup>th</sup> NC, highlighting the relevance of presenting the country's first BUR at the COP23 during the workshop of the facilitative sharing of views. In order to better meet future requirements under the Paris Agreement, Georgia has to undertake further steps in institutionalizing an MRV system to comply with current and future requirements under UNFCCC, enhancing technical capacities and ensuring continuity of the process and interinstitutional cooperation.

### III. Institutional Setup of Reporting Systems: Georgia

Mr. Amr Abdel-Aziz (NIRAS) presented the institutional setup for reporting under UNFCCC in Georgia. He presented the current arrangements, highlighting strengths and weaknesses, and stressed

on recommended short-term and long-term

actions to take for better compliance with international reporting obligations under UNFCCC and a more efficient MRV system.

He stressed the importance of clearly defining roles and mandates of each and every involved entity. He emphasized the role and mandate of the CCU and the significant role of the GeoStat for collecting national data relevant for climate change reporting. He added that climate change mitigation policies and actions are dynamic in nature, thus required data should be collected also by the entities implementing the actions (for example by government entities, municipalities, NGOs etc.)



*Mr. Abdel – Aziz presenting the institutional setup for reporting under UNFCCC in Georgia*

Following this Mr. Abdel-Aziz proposed enhancements for the development of the institutional framework for an MRV system, which included a three track MRV system, a coordinating committee, a coordinating entity, technical working groups, data providers and provisions for quality assurance (QA). In order to implement a successful and sustainable MRV system, the participation of relevant ministries, governmental offices and private and civil society organizations will be a key requirement.

Mr. Abdel-Aziz recommended developing an inter-ministerial coordinating committee based on the experience gained from the LEDS, but with a wider mandate. Thus, this Committee will take a supervisory role and

provide policy advice on all climate change activities, including MRV.

According to the proposal CCU was appointed as the coordinating entity (CE) for the MRV system in Georgia. The main roles of the CE will include:

- planning and conducting of all coordination and consultation activities,
- stakeholder mapping;
- allocating responsibilities for all components of the MRV system,
- monitoring a time frame and schedule,
- addressing constraints and gaps, and
- developing of quality assurance/ quality control (QA/QC) system in Georgia.

Mr. Abdel -Aziz introduced short and long-term actions for the development of the CE. As short-term actions he identified the appointment of a GHG inventory coordinator and a coordinator for mitigation actions from the existing staff members of CCU. In the long term, he proposed to establish a Climate Change Agency as an independent and separate entity with a broader mandate on all climate change relevant issues and three new units (GHG inventory, mitigation and support) for MRV. Mr. Abdel- Aziz also talked about the role of the technical work group (TWG) for MRV, which will rely on external experts. TWG could provide for example templates for data collection, protocols and standards for estimation of MA impacts, technical advice and capacity building to CCU and GeoStat etc. This technical work group will rely on experts in the field of climate reporting from independent civil society organizations and will support and assess the work conducted by the CE.

## IV. Institutionalization of a MRV system in Georgia: Legal Framework

Mr. Koka Chedia (CC Legal & Advisory) held a short presentation on legal issues relevant for the establishment of an MRV system in Georgia. Mr. Chedia presented the main tasks and objective of the assignment “preparation of a background paper on a legal setup of MRV system in Georgia”, and very briefly elaborated their strategy.

Mr. Chedia introduced his timeline and outlined activities to be performed in October 2017, including meeting with relevant stakeholders (GIZ, CCU, LEPL EIEC, GeoStat and other line ministries),

preparing a draft legal report to support the institutionalization of the MRV system and validating the proposal with key stakeholders and GIZ.

Mr. Chedia also emphasized some relevant issues to be still discussed with key stakeholders, for example what will be the level of independence of a new legal entity under public law (the proposed Climate Change Agency) and how it will be established by a legal instrument, such as a law, a governmental decree or maybe by ministerial decree.

## V. Group Workshop Discussion Session

After the presentations, Mr. Abdel-Aziz (NIRAS) conducted a working session discussing outstanding issues on MRV institutional set-up elements needed in Georgia.

Participants were asked to share their views on the kind of legal instruments required, if memorandum of understanding (MoU) could work for Georgia or other stronger instruments should be used. The majority of the workshop participants agreed that a MoU might be unreliable and a weak instrument in Georgia. A MoU only might function together with strong legally binding commitments and coordination units.

Mr. Chedia (CC Legal & Advisory) also emphasized the necessity of a strong legal leverage. Some participants agreed on the applicability of a MoU rather for cooperation with the private sector, whereas for

cooperation within governmental institutions a prime minister decree, with clear responsibilities implied, was named as a



better option.

Most participants approved the suggestion on the establishment of an independent, unaffiliated climate change agency, with a high mandate as the best long-term objective. However, they also outlined hurdles that could be faced in Georgia. For example, it would be very challenging to get

financial support from the Georgian government. Considering the economic situation in Georgia, it is unclear whether climate related issues will be prioritized by the government. Therefore, lobbying for climate projects should be carried out.

Although this was the preferred option, there were different opinions among participants who emphasized that the already existing EIEC could act as coordinating agency in the future, as they are already well established as functioning LEPL.

Some participants suggested that given that EIEC has not got the technical knowledge required to deal with UNFCCC reporting requirements, they could successfully work



in tandem with CCU under the MoENRP. From a legal perspective, Mr. Chedia (CC Legal & Advisory) clarified that there will not be big difference in either upgrading of LEPL EIEC or creating a completely new agency.

Mr. Abdel-Aziz briefly addressed also QA requirements for the MRV system and

suggested workshop participants three options to choose from:

- an external working group of experts for QA activities,
- appointed QA to line ministries in the inter-ministerial steering committee, and,
- third party experts commissioned by the CCU, under coordination of the QA/QC coordinator.

Most of workshop participants saw the third alternative as the best fit and advantageous format for Georgia. Mr. Grigol Lazriev head of CCU also agreed that third option would work best based on the country's national circumstances.

As an output of the group discussion, the high-level strategy for the development of an MRV system for Georgia was validated and many participants of the workshop understood that establishing a new Climate Change Agency would be an ideal solution in the mid- to long-term. In the short-term, it was suggested that it could be more effective to work hand-in-hand with the EIEC on a project-by-project basis for the preparation of the next BUR and NC. It was acknowledged that the EIEC has already some experience in BUR preparation, but still a strong technical support in capacity building might be needed. Dependence on external consultancy was identified as a weak point of the EIEC.

Everybody agreed on the necessity of creating an inter-ministerial committee on climate change in the nearest future.

## VI. Concluding Remarks and next steps

Once the validation exercise and group discussion concluded, a timeline for implementation of an MRV system in Georgia was presented and discussed.

Most participants found the presented timeline realistic and 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, data collection, reporting and verification

processes. One of the important parts to be included will be QA/QC procedures and a feedback mechanism for policy makers. This way it was believed that the MRV system could become operational and more sustainable in the long-term.

Based on the results of the workshop inputs and discussions, a paper with a strategy for the setup of the MRV institutional system in Georgia has been drafted by NIRAS within

the scope of GIZ IM project. This paper has been made available to MoENRP and further relevant stakeholders for consideration and potential implementation following the outlined roadmap as presented during the workshop. The output that has been published separately from this report aims to support the MoENRP and the Government of Georgia in the implementation of an MRV system compliance with current and future reporting requirements under the UNFCCC, notably under the Paris Agreement.

## Annex A: Workshop Agenda



### Information Matters:

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

### MRV Set-up Workshop AGENDA

DATE/TIME	TOPIC/ACTIVITY	SPEAKER
<b>20 September</b>	<b>Stakeholders group</b>	
9:00 – 9:30	<b>Arrival of participants and registration</b>	
9:30 – 10:00	<b>Opening ceremony, introduction to the agenda and presentation of the participants</b>	<b>Mr. Grigol Lazriev</b> (MoENRP, Head of Climate Change Unit) <b>Mr. Oscar Zarzo</b> (GIZ, IM Project Country Coordinator) <b>Mr. Amr Abdel-Aziz</b> (NIRAS), <b>Ms. Jessica Wade-Murphy</b> (NIRAS)
10:00-10:15	<b>Background on the IM project and its work on MRV System set-up in Georgia</b>	<b>Mr. Oscar Zarzo</b> , GIZ

DATE/TIME	TOPIC/ACTIVITY	SPEAKER
10:15-11:00	<b>MRV set-up for enhanced reporting on climate change in Georgia</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Results of the evaluation of the existing national MRV activities</li> <li>○ Recommendations for enhanced institutional arrangements for the development of an MRV System</li> <li>○ Draft Proposal for a legal setup of the MRV System in Georgia</li> </ul>	<b>Mr. Amr Abdel-Aziz</b> , NIRAS <b>Mr. Koka Chedia</b> , Local consultant / lawyer (CC Legal & Advisory)
11:00-12:00	<b>Workshop Session I: Validation of the recommendations for MRV set-up (Group activity)</b>	Facilitated by <b>Mr. Amr Abdel-Aziz (NIRAS)</b> , <b>Ms. Jessica Wade-Murphy (NIRAS)</b> , and <b>Mr. Oscar Zarzo, GIZ</b> .
12:00-12:30	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
12:30-13:30	<b>Workshop Session II: Development of an implementation plan for MRV set-up (Group activity)</b>	Facilitated by <b>Mr. Amr Abdel-Aziz (NIRAS)</b> , <b>Ms. Jessica Wade-Murphy (NIRAS)</b> , and <b>Mr. Oscar Zarzo, GIZ</b> .
13:30-14:00	<b>Wrap-up and next steps for the implementation of the MRV system in Georgia</b> <b>Closing Remarks</b>	Moderated by <b>Mr. Grigol Lazriev</b> , MoENRP, <b>Mr. Oscar Zarzo</b> , GIZ and <b>Mr. Amr Abdel-Aziz</b> , NIRAS
14:00-15:00	<b>Lunch and Networking</b>	

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