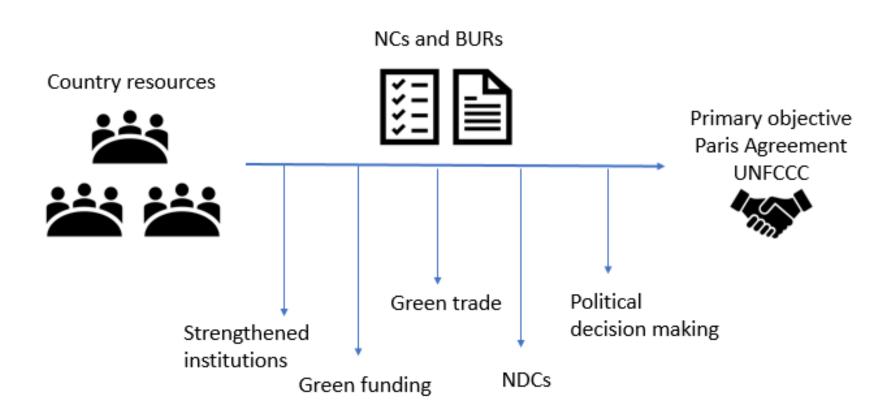# National benefits
# of transparent climate reporting

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Purposes of climate reporting

National benefits of climate reporting

- Contributing to national reporting

- Providing coherent data for national policy-making

- Increasing political buy-in for climate action

- Improving capacity through national data collection and reporting

- Tracking sustainable development goals

- Supporting accession to and cooperation in political and economic communities and organisations

- Supporting access to international funding

- Involving the private sector
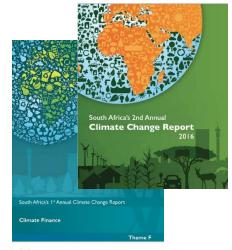
Contributing to national reporting

- National reporting is becoming increasingly important, e.g.

  - for awareness raising in important stakeholders groups (other government entities, the private sector etc.) or

  - to account for policy decision towards the public

- Supports making informed decisions on all levels, e.g. setting priorities for government funding programmes or implementing climate-resilient agricultural practices

Example: South Africa I

- Important principles for the MRV system:

  - Stakeholder-guided – the design and implementation of the system should be guided by stakeholders as far as possible

  - Influential – Ensuring that the system produces information that is relevant, supportive and influential to policy, practice, research and international climate change negotiations

- Annual Climate Change Reports: 8 individual reports that each deal with a different topic to reflect the particular interests of different target groups (in 2016)

Example: South Africa II

- Wide array of communication channels related to different target groups, e.g.:

Communication channels & methods	Primary target audience
Annual Report on Monitoring & Evaluation	General public, government (national, provincial, local), climate change practitioners & researchers
Interactive web-based platform	
Reporting in Parliamentary Portfolio Committee	Parliament
Reporting in other government clusters & committees	Decision-makers and executive level of government

Providing coherent data for national policy-making

- Data sets and analysis derived from UNFCCC reporting tend to be comprehensive and of high quality (scope, review process)

- Useful input to data-driven policy-making and allocation of national resources, e.g. introducing eco-labeling schemes for refrigerators and air conditioners, or designing polices to promote renewable energies

Increasing political buy-in for climate action

- National reports contain a universe of information that is useful for many sectors and stakeholders, e.g. on climate change impacts, vulnerabilities, strategies and technologies to mitigate and adapt to climate change, funding sources and financial flows

- Exchanging information and engaging stakeholders builds understanding and facilitates cooperation

- Informing about impacts of polices and measures and making transparent what works and what needs to be improved

- Showcasing co-benefits of climate action to explain the social and economic effects of climate activities in the country

Improving capacity through national data collection and reporting

- Lessons learned through UNFCCC reporting, for example quality control methods, can be applied in other areas

- Capacity building activities for transparency bring together different stakeholders that can learn from one another

- Stakeholders who participate in reporting understand how their data collection feeds into the national reports and what is needed for this (data types, quality etc.) -> adjust scope and methods

- International review processes help to identify and address capacity gaps

- Resources invested in climate transparency feeds into improving national statistics (e.g. better data on waste management or fertilizer use in agriculture)
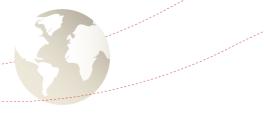
Tracking sustainable development goals

- MRV system can assits in tracking climate-related sustainable development goals, e.g.

➢ Goal 13 "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts" (direct relation)

➢ Goal 7 "Affordable and clean energy for all" (indirect relation)

➢ Goal 11 "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable" (indirect relation)

- Information can aid policy making for both, climate protection & adaptation and development purposes such as improved health, job creation etc.

Supporting accession to and cooperation in political and economic communities and organisations

- Environmental regulation and enforcement is often an important criteria

- Monitoring and reporting might be needed to proof compliance with admission requirements

- MRV system for reporting to the UNFCCC can be source and/ or a foundation to build upon

Example: OECD – Colombia

- Instruments defined to achieve conditions needed to join the OECD; one area of improvement: statistical information for decision-making

- Colombia created the "National Statistics System" under the authority of the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE)

- Specific requirement: Registry of emissions and transfer of contaminants -> must be reported to the OECD

- Experience used from setting up GHG inventory

➢ national climate MRV supports the nation's compliance with OECD requirements

➢ Plan to integrate the two emissions accounting processes -> increase efficiency and build the national statistics system on existing structures

Example ASEAN:

- ASEAN is promoting environmental cooperation among its member states

- ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY BLUEPRINT 2025: mitigation of and adaptation to climate change enshrined as a priority chapter C (Sustainable) (also reference in other chapters)

- Data on CO_2 emissions reflected in the ASEAN Community Progress Monitoring System (CO_2 emissions per capita)

Supporting access to international funding

- Many donors ask for robust information on aspects such as baselines and mitigation potential in the proposals

- Having an MRV system in place helps to provide the data for prioritizing actions and developing bankable projects

- Support projects funded by donors such as the NAMA Facility need to implement a comprehensive M&E system.

- Information generated through the projects should feed into national MRV system and ta the same time the MRV system supports reporting to donors on progress in implementation and results

Involving the private sector

- External pressure from shareholders and consumers and increasing requirements for transparency has promoted reporting from private sector actors, e.g. sustainability reports, reporting related to ISO norms

➢ Number and scope of reporting efforts are expected to grow due to new concerns such as carbon pricing and GHG-related fiscal regulations

- Information on environmental impact affects reputation and market value

- Can be used to improve production & management processes, drive innovation (e.g.identify options for improving energy or resource efficiency)

- Information gathered for companies' purposes can feed into national MRV systems and vice versa.

How to tap additional benefits of climate reporting I

1. Make use of existing reporting and review processes (BUR, ICA)

   - Involve relevant actors in the MRV processes, especially in the review of the climate reports (provide feedback on duplication of efforts, options to improve their usefulness for their own work etc.)

   - Consider feedback from international experts

How to tap additional benefits of climate reporting II

2. Treat "benefit activation" as a project within the reporting process:

    - Designate a team or individual as the national benefits champion

    - Brainstorming sessions with relevant stakeholders involved in reporting to develop a list of potential benefits relevant for them

    - Roadmap on how to activate each benefit e.g. by adapting data collection & analysis and communicating results

    - Implement & evaluate

    ➢ Could feed into the overall improvement plan for the transparency system

Thank you!

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https://www.transparency-partnership.net

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