Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GLOBAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME

NATUR VÅRDS VERKET SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement

# PATPA Anglophone African Regional Group: virtual events 2021

*"Enabling Transparency in the AFOLU Sector: Enhancing Data Collection and Institutional Arrangements"*

19th of January, 2nd and 4th of February 2021

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Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

environment, forestry & fisheries
Department: Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ministry of Environment
Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Research Center of Korea

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# List of acronyms

| | |
|---|---|
| AD | Activity Data |
| AFOLU | Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use |
| BUR | Biennial Update Reports |
| CB | Capacity Building |
| CC | Climate Change |
| CL | Crop Land |
| EF | Emission Factor |
| ETF | Enhanced Transparency Framework |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization (of the United Nations) |
| FL | Forest Land |
| FP | Focal Point |
| GHG | Greenhouse gas |
| GHGI | Greenhouse gas inventory |
| GSP | Global Support Program |
| IA | Institutional Arrangements |
| ILRI | International Livestock Research Institution |
| IPCC | Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change |
| IPCC GL | Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Guidelines |
| IPPU | Industrial Processes and Product Use |
| LU | Land Use |
| LUC | Land Use Change |
| LULUCF | Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry |
| MoA | Ministry of Agriculture |
| MoE | Ministry of Environment |
| MOU | Memorandum of Understanding |
| MRV | Measurement, Reporting and Verification |
| NC | National Communication |
| NDC | Nationally Determined Contribution |
| NDCC | National Department on Climate Change |
| NFI | National Forest Inventory |
| NGHGI | National greenhouse gas inventory |
| PATPA | Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement |
| QA | Quality Assurance |
| QC | Quality Control |
| UNFCCC | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| WG | Working group |

# Introduction

## The Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement

The Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement aims to promote ambitious climate action through practical exchange in order to achieve the goal of keeping the global temperature rise well below 2° Celsius and to pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5° Celsius.

The main focus of the Partnership is on transparency issues related to the different building blocks of global climate governance, in particular the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) of the Paris Agreement. It serves as a platform for dialogue and peer-to-peer exchanges between countries, thus helping to build mutual understanding and trust.

Through its regional groups the Partnership seeks to enhance cooperation and exchange with various partners in a specific region.

## Context of virtual events

The full experience of an in-person workshop cannot be replicated virtually, neither regarding workshop content and format nor regarding the networking experience. However, in lieu of an in-person meeting in 2020 and with no clear timeline on the horizon, a preparatory virtual event was held on 19th of January 2021 and two subsequent virtual events on 2nd and 4th of February 2021. These events offered a platform for continued exchange and peer learning in the Anglophone African Regional Group. The trimmed down agenda for these virtual events laid the groundwork for an eventual in-person workshop, where participants will then benefit from an already advanced knowledge base.

The events were organized jointly by PATPA and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) as well as supported by the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) of the Republic of South Africa, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (Swedish EPA), and the Global Support Programme (GSP) jointly implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

## Scope of virtual events

The objectives of these events were to:

- Promote learning on transparency related topics to advance implementation and raise ambition of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
- Create opportunities for peer-to-peer learning, knowledge sharing and in-depth trainings on data collection and institutional arrangements.
- Share experiences, challenges and potential solutions in implementing the ETF.
- Facilitate regional networking and collaborative climate action.

The content comprised:

- An update on the status of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations on transparency.
- Using breakout groups to address data issues and institutional arrangements in the agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU) sector.
- "Country Input", sharing experience, via presentations from invited countries.
- A "Tools Marketplace" session, to raise awareness about key GHG inventory tools.
- Question and Answer sessions, to help share knowledge and increase confidence.

## Participants and speakers

The virtual events included 41 participants from 16 countries.

Participants came from a range of government institutions, including:

- Representatives of the Ministry of Environment - including experts involved in setting up and maintaining the national transparency system;
- Representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture/Forestry or Agriculture/Forestry related governmental agencies dealing with transparency issues;
- Colleagues from National Statics Offices that collect data for Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV);
- Representatives of academia, consultancy and other areas related to climate transparency.

The workshop was facilitated by Ricardo Energy & Environment, and speakers included representatives from PATPA, FAO, GSP, the Swedish EPA, the secretariat of UNFCCC and Zimbabwe.

# Main findings

The preparatory virtual event held on 19th of January 2021 focused on breakout groups that sought to identify the challenges faced by participants and their countries in relation to the AFOLU sector. Challenges in the three specific areas were considered and related to:

1) data availability, data collection and management,
2) understanding ETF requirements, and
3) institutional arrangements.

The challenges were also rated in terms of their importance and ease of solution.

The main groups of challenges identified under each of the areas are listed below while the full list can be found in Annex I.

## Table 1. Identified challenges

| Area | Key groups of challenges identified |
|---|---|
| Data availability, data collection and management | • Data availability and quality, particularly lack of activity data, consistent historical data and land use data.<br>• Limited technical capacity, particularly capacity needed to develop country-specific emission factors (EF) and interpret satellite images (remote sensing analysis capability).<br>• Data collection processes/systems, particularly lack of a reliable and appropriate data collection system which would ensure continuous collection of consistent information. |
| Understanding ETF requirements | • Understanding methodologies, particularly the difficulties to understand IPCC Tier 2 approaches and how to transition to them from the simplest Tier 1 approaches.<br>• Understanding flexibilities, and how the ETF approach can accommodate differences existing in countries.<br>• Limited resources required to implement the ETF requirements.<br>• Lack of technical capacity and limited experience of staff in the ETF-related areas. |
| Institutional arrangements | • Lack of high-level support and commitment for engaging with the reporting commitments.<br>• Lack of data provision requirements, which complicates the process of collecting data from certain entities.<br>• Difficulty of knowledge retention, which arises following staff turnover and involvement of external consultants (lack of information and knowledge transfer from consultants to staff).<br>• Complicated institutional arrangements and difficulties associated with institutional culture and sector ownership preventing free information exchange. |

The subsequent virtual event held on 2nd of February focused on questions in breakout groups related to the following themes in relation to AFOLU and data issues:

- Major emission source(s)
- Information needs
- Capacity building to identify needs
- Existing data and responsibilities
- New data and responsibilities
- Other important emission sources.

The final virtual event held on 4th of February then focused on questions in breakout groups related to institutional arrangements and the identification of tentative next steps by participants to make and sustain progress (i.e. short-, mid-, long term) with data collection and management and/or institutional arrangements regarding AFOLU in their respective countries.

Some of the interesting approaches and best practices discussed by the participants are summarised below.

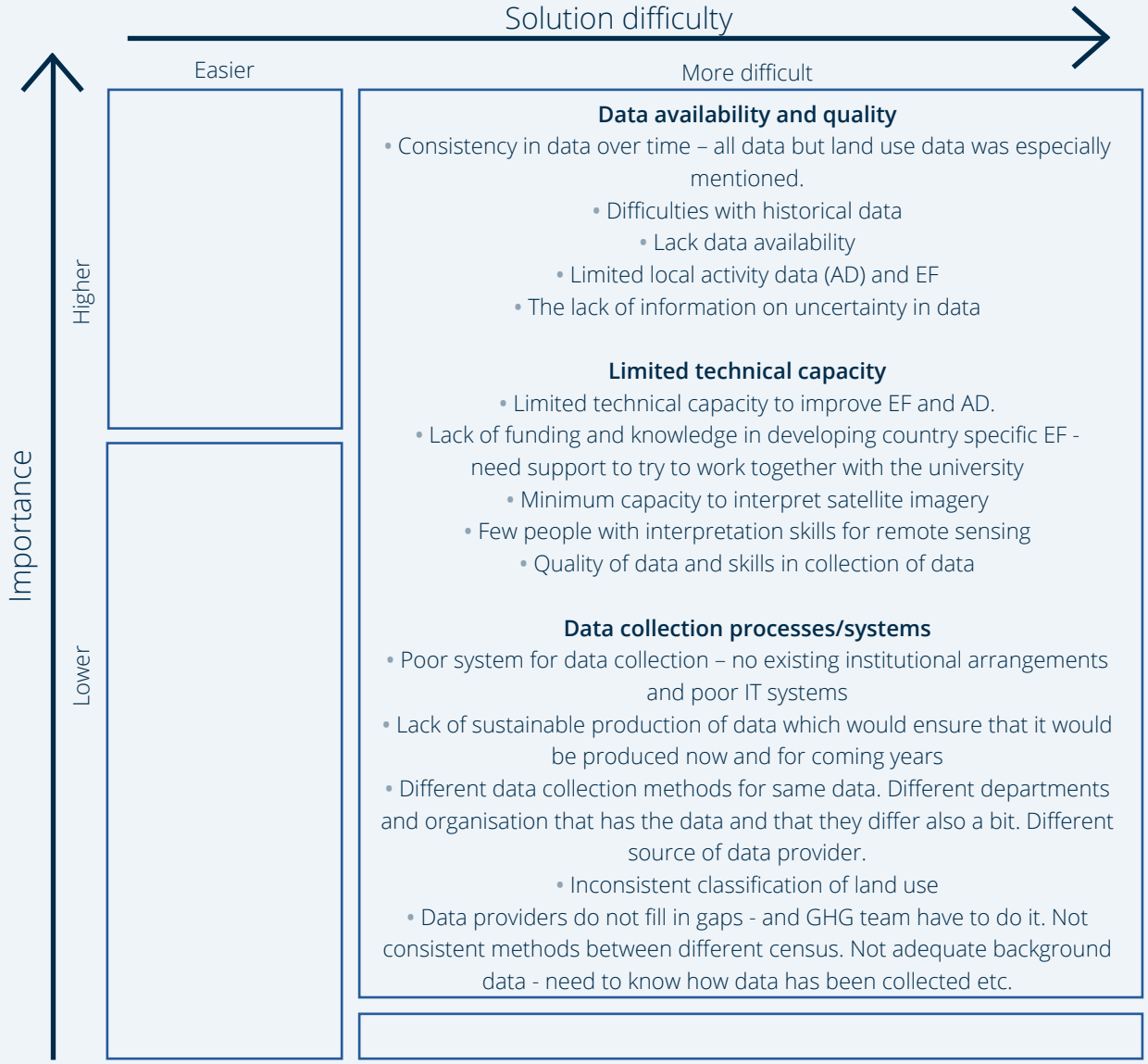
## Table 2. Selected solutions from workshop participants

| Challenge | Solution |
|---|---|
| **Zimbabwe** | |
| Lack of high-level support and commitment | Implementation of the Climate Change Bill can facilitate implementation of the ETF as ***implementation of a legally binding policy*** will give a greater importance to the issue and empower involved experts to receive the information they need. |
| Difficulties with understanding methodologies and data needs | ***Using IPCC software to support identification of data needs*** was found useful and facilitated the implementation of Tier 2 approaches as it clearly shows what data is needed and what is missing. |
| **Seychelles** | |
| Complicated institutional arrangements | The Climate Change Council was established to coordinate climate change-related matters, including ETF-related work. Together with this, the government dedicated a building to house this council as physical proximity of the teams in one building can help experts interact better. ***Establishing responsibilities within the government and ensuring clear communication is key.*** |
| | Some of the previously ***independent agencies were integrated in the Ministry of Environment to streamline their work*** and avoid duplication of effort, particularly related to data collection. |

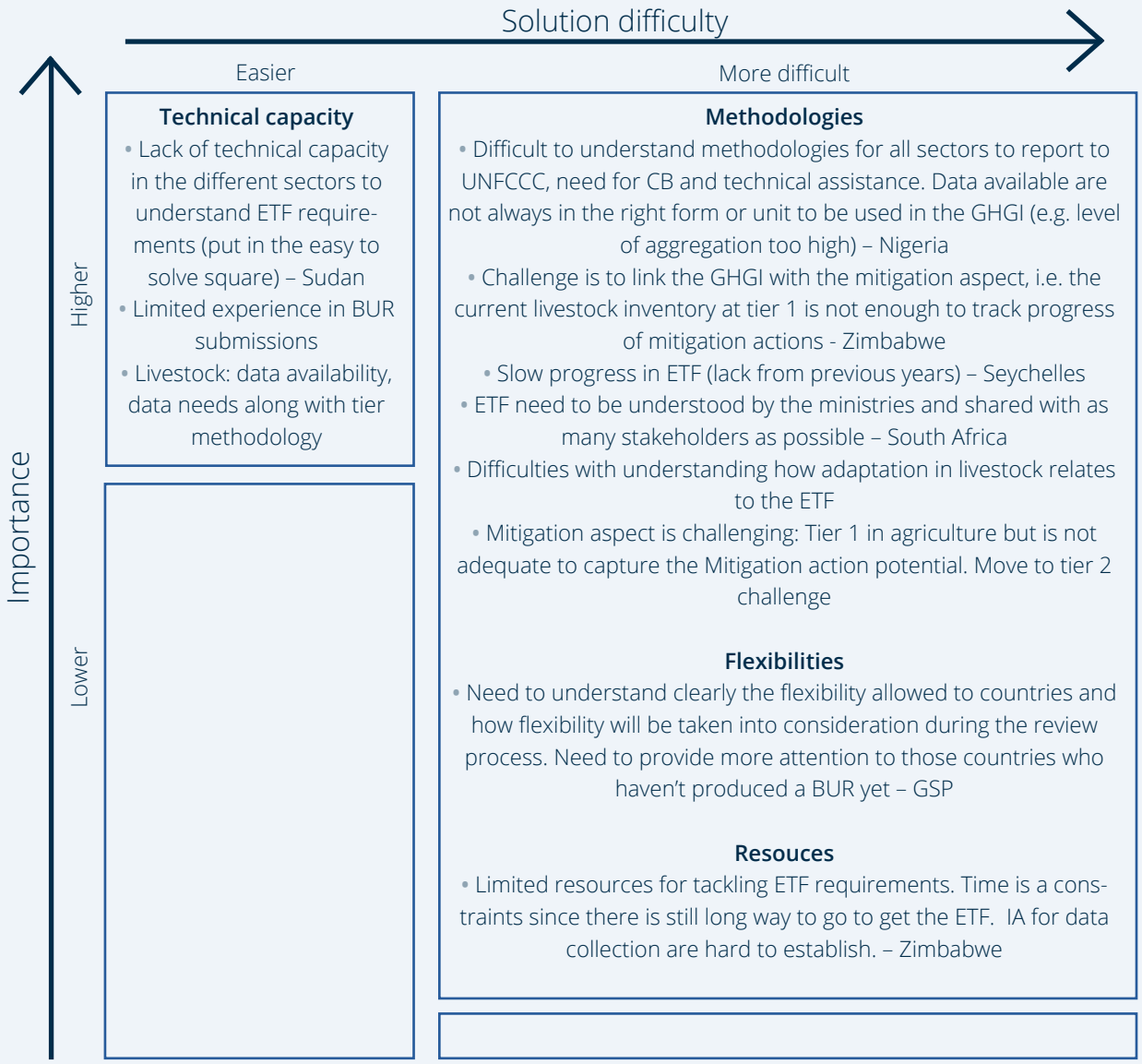
| Challenge | Solution |
|---|---|
| **Botswana** | |
| Difficulty of knowledge retention | To address the issue of knowledge retention, Botswana initiated a project where ***international experts are assigned to specific governmental departments and staff*** and would work closely with them to help them increase technical capacity within the government. |
| Lack of suitable data collection processes/ systems | Botswana managed to ***establish 10 data provision units with experts responsible for data provision in different institutions***. They were provided with computers to enable the process. It is now possible to track and compile data year by year. The benefit of this solution is that the data provision units are not linked to a specific people but rather to the institution which provides data. |
| **Sudan** | |
| Lack of suitable data collection processes/ systems | To enable a more streamlined process to data collection, Sudan created a ***GHG portal through which data can be collected from data providers***. This portal can facilitate the data flow and improve data storing and archiving. |
| Data availability and quality | For certain categories where data is not available, focused studies may help understand what data is needed, where it can be sourced from and ultimately help collect it. Sudan, for example, has undertaken a ***study to specifically address soil carbon data*** and fill that gap in the national inventory. The involvement of university and research institutes can help addressing the issue. |
| **Mozambique** | |
| Lack of high-level support and commitment | ***Setting up a National Directorate of Climate Change*** helped take ownership and coordinate the processes related to GHG reporting and the broader ETF. |
| **Ethiopia** | |
| Lack of technical capacity and limited experience of staff | To keep the momentum and ensure that the team's expertise does not get outdated, Ethiopia decided to ***prepare a GHG inventory every year***. |
| **Lesotho** | |
| Difficulty of knowledge retention | Knowledge and technical capacity need to be maintained. Lesotho is ***starting to formalize agreements among different entities*** to overcome the current situation based merely on projects and have more sustainability. |

# Annex I – Challenges (Preparatory event – 19th of January 2021)

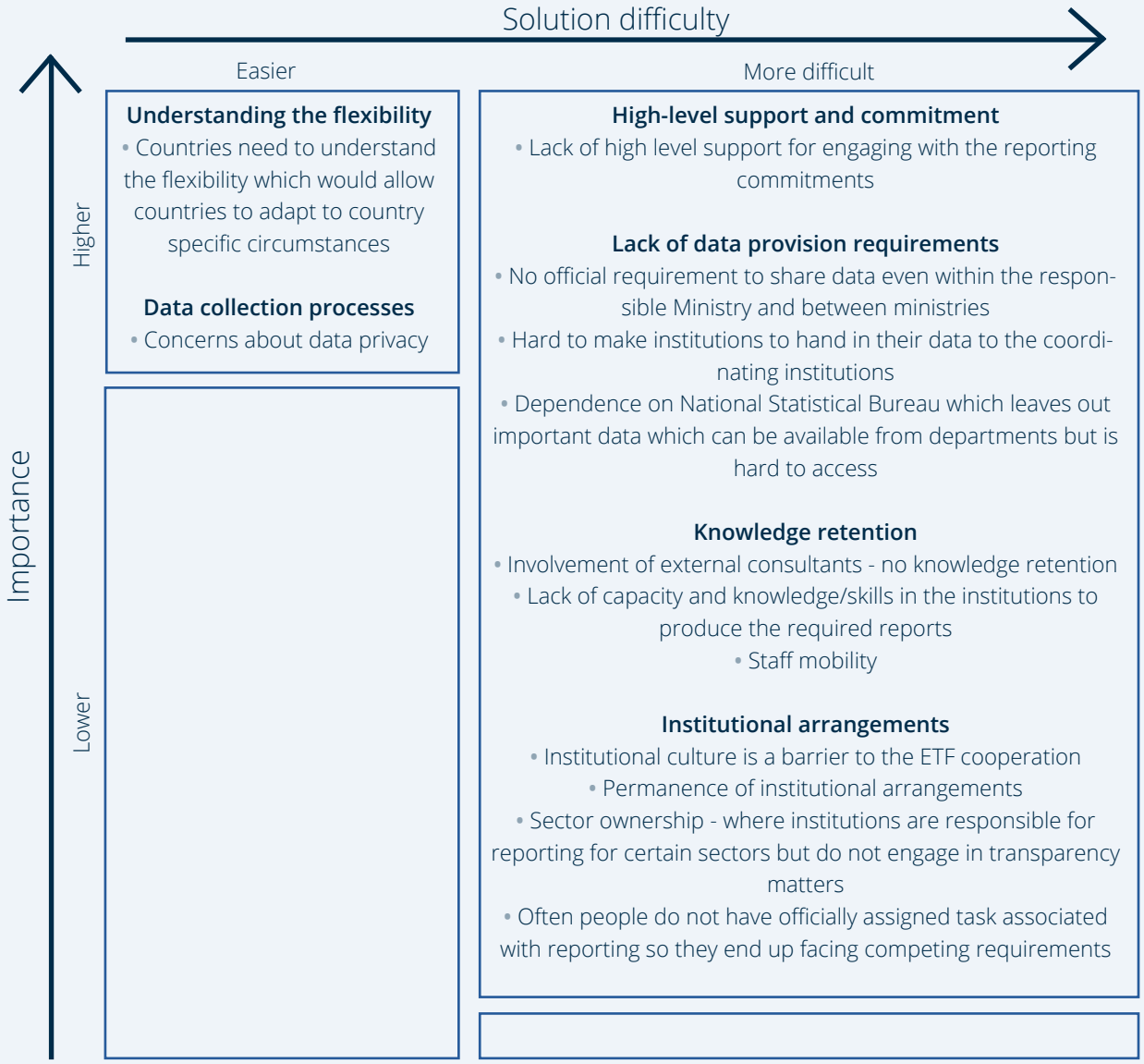
## Group 1 - Data availability, data collection and management



## Group 2 - Understanding ETF requirements



## Group 3 - Institutional arrangements



# Annex II – Agenda

## Virtual Pre-Workshop Event, 19.01.2021, 08.45-12.00 CET

**Moderation: John Watterson & Marianna Budaragina, Ricardo Energy and Environment**
**Technical Support: Pier Andrea Pirani, Creating Meaning**

- Sign-in to Virtual Platform
  *Technical Support*
- Technical Orientation
  *Technical Support*
- Opening Remarks
  *Mirella Salvatore, FAO*
- Welcome + Introduction
  *Moderators*
- Introduction of Participants
  *Moderators*
- Introduction to PATPA
  *Kirstin Hücking, PATPA Secretariat & Sandra Motshwanedi, ZAF*
- ETF & MPGs Basics
  *Bernd Hackmann, UNFCCC*
- Q&A
  *Moderators*
- BREAK

## **Virtual Pre-Workshop Event,** 19.01.2021, 08.45-12.00 CET

**Moderation: John Watterson & Marianna Budaragina, Ricardo Energy and Environment**
**Technical Support: Pier Andrea Pirani, Creating Meaning**

- Instructions to the Following Session
  *Moderators*
- Challenges regarding Institutional Arrangements & Data Collection
  *Moderators*
  *Mirella Salvatore, Alessandro Ferrara, Iordanis Tzamtzis, FAO*
  *Malin Kanth, SWE*
- Reporting back
  *Moderators*
- Closing Remarks
  *Stanford Mwakasonda, GSP*
- Recap & Outlook to WS
  *Moderators*

## **Virtual Workshop, Day 1,** 02.02.2021, 08.45-12.00 CET

**Moderation: John Watterson & Marianna Budaragina, Ricardo Energy and Environment**
**Technical Support: Pier Andrea Pirani, Creating Meaning**

- Sign-in to Virtual Platform
  *Technical Support*
- Technical Onboarding & Check-in
  *Technical Support*
- Welcome remarks
  *Sandra Motshwanedi, ZAF*
- Session overview
  *Moderators*
- Icebreaker: Quiz
  *Moderators*
- Input: Data Collection
  *Mirella Salvatore, FAO*
- Q&A
  *Moderators*
- Introduction to Break-out Groups
  *Moderators*
- Parallel Session - Data Collection I
  *Moderators*
  *Mirella Salvatore, Alessandro Ferrara, Iordanis Tzamtzis, FAO*
  *Malin Kanth, SWE*
- BREAK

## **Virtual Workshop, Day 1,** 02.02.2021, 08.45-12.00 CET

**Moderation: John Watterson & Marianna Budaragina, Ricardo Energy and Environment**
**Technical Support: Pier Andrea Pirani, Creating Meaning**

- Welcome back and instructions to return to Break-out Groups
  *Moderators*
- Parallel Session - Data Collection II
  *Moderators*
  *Mirella Salvatore, Alessandro Ferrara, Iordanis Tzamtzis, FAO*
  *Malin Kanth, SWE*
- Reporting back
  *Moderators & Technical Support*
- Country Input: Zimbabwe
  *Walter Svinurai*
- Q&A
  *Moderators*
- Closing Remarks
  *Malin Kanth, SWE*
- Recap Day I + Introduction Day II
  *Moderators*

## **Virtual Workshop, Day 2,** 04.02.2021, 08.45-12.00 CET

**Moderation: John Watterson & Marianna Budaragina, Ricardo Energy and Environment**
**Technical Support: Pier Andrea Pirani, Creating Meaning**

- Sign-in to Virtual Platform
  *Technical Support*
- Technical Onboarding & Check-in
  *Technical Support*
- Welcome remarks
  *Stanford Mwakasonda, GSP*
- Session overview
  *Moderators*
- Input: Institutional Arrangements
  *Mirella Salvatore, FAO*
- Q&A
  *Moderators*
- Introduction to Break-out Groups
  *Moderators*
- Parallel Session - Institutional Arrangement I
  *Moderators*
  *Mirella Salvatore, Alessandro Ferrara, Iordanis Tzamtzis, FAO*
  *Malin Kanth, SWE*
- BREAK

## **Virtual Workshop, Day 2,** 04.02.2021, 08.45-12.00 CET

**Moderation: John Watterson & Marianna Budaragina, Ricardo Energy and Environment**
**Technical Support: Pier Andrea Pirani, Creating Meaning**

- Parallel Session - Institutional Arrangement II
  *Moderators*
  *Mirella Salvatore, Alessandro Ferrara, Iordanis Tzamtzis, FAO*
  *Malin Kanth, SWE*
- Reporting back
  *Moderators & Technical Support*
- Tools
  *Moderators & Co-Organizers*
- Community Building & Expectations
  *Moderators & Technical Support*
- Evaluation
  *Technical Support*
- Exchange Platform (MS Teams)
  *Simon Ryfisch, PATPA Secretariat*
- Next steps & Closing Remarks
  *Catarina Tarpo, PATPA Secretariat*

# Toolbox

• **FAO Transparency in agriculture and land use sectors network** (Mirella Salvatore, FAO)

Email-based discussion group for transparency practitioners.

• **NGHGI Templates of the US EPA** (Iordanis Tzamtzis, FAO)

US EPA developed easy-to-use National Inventory System Templates built on UNFCCC and IPCC guidance. Provides support with documentation of national greenhouse gas inventories (NGHGI) & archiving, also reporting of NGHGI elements (inventory arrangements, methodologies & data, QA/QC).

• **Preparing a greenhouse gas inventory under the Enhanced Transparency Framework** (Alessandro Ferrara, FAO)

This course introduces basic concepts on Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV), UNFCCC reporting requirements and the Enhanced transparency framework (ETF). It provides an overview of how to set up a national greenhouse gas inventory, looking at its cycle, main elements and principles, and the implications of the ETF. This course is part of the e-learning curriculum „Building a sustainable national greenhouse gas inventory for Agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU)".

• **IPCC Inventory Software** (Stanford Mwakasonda, GSP)

It is a tool for preparing a national GHG inventory using 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, including the AFOLU sector. Allows multiple users within the AFOLU sector and the whole inventory. It can be used as an archiving tool and to produce summary reports and trends

• **PATPA Climate Helpdesk** (Kirstin Huecking, PATPA)

Ad hoc, rapid and short-term technical assistance on transparency. Areas of support include: Review of GHG inventories for specific sectors; establishing sustainable and robust transparency systems, including appropriate institutional arrangements, preparation for BUR submission.

• **Next steps under the Paris Agreement and the Katowice Climate Package** (Kirstin Huecking, PATPA)

Guide with foundational information for policy makers on NDCs and the Enhanced Transparency Framework

• **MRV Platform for Agriculture**

Platform with case studies and resources to support development of higher tier GHG inventories relevant for those working on agriculture GHG measurement and reporting

• **Agriculture and Land Use National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Software ALU Software Programs**

Useful tool for Agriculture and Land Use reporting with built in QA/QC procedures

- **FAO Global Livestock Environmental Assessment Model (GLEAM)**

Useful tool for livestock, particularly for running scenarios to test GHG impact of different mitigation practices or technologies within livestock sector. Also, useful to understand the interactions between different sources of emissions within livestock production systems.

- **Global Research Alliance technical manuals**

Technical manuals to provide guidance and advice to help achieve more robust field measurements (respiration chambers, SF6, closed chamber, etc), for those interested in the science of measurement of methane and nitrous oxide emissions from livestock and soils and rice production