



Republic of South Africa

An integrated MRV system in South Africa

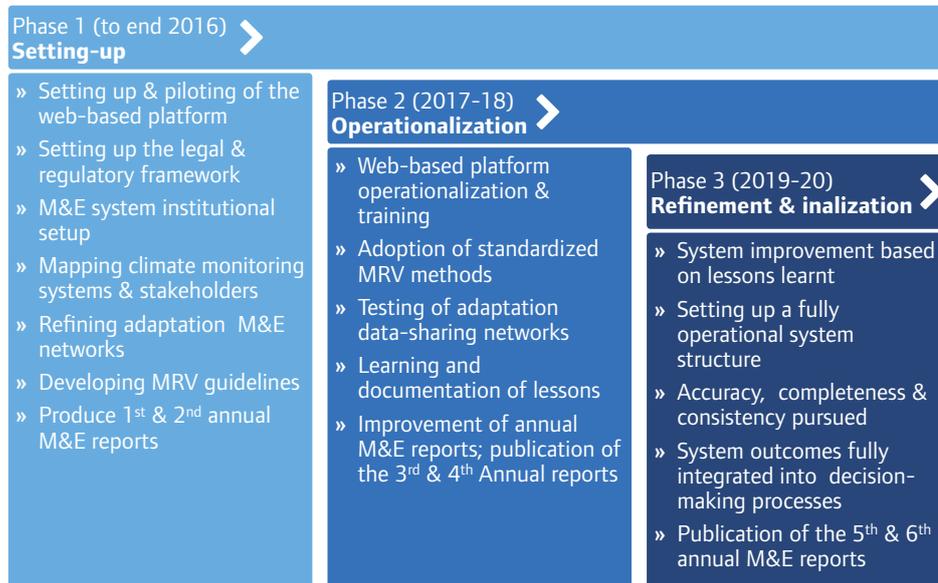
Activity	Development of Integrated MRV system for comprehensive climate action in South Africa.
Country	Republic of South Africa
Sector(s) involved	All (Energy, Industrial Processes, AFOLU, Waste)
Time frame	2012 – ongoing

Case summary

South Africa is among the leaders in its development of a comprehensive MRV system that is integrated into national monitoring and evaluation (M&E) processes, tuned to international Measuring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) requirements. The monitoring encompasses the whole of MRV process, and the evaluation component provides “continuous assessment and feedback” to the monitoring system. Besides covering climate change mitigation and adaptation, the system also includes M&E of all atmospheric emissions (such as PM, NOx, SOx, etc.) through a web-based platform called the National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory System (NAEIS). This integration aims at enabling the federal, provincial and local governments to track progress on the transition towards a climate-resilient and lower-carbon economy and society (NCCRP 2011). The system will also help to update the National Climate Change Response Database (NCCRD), which was developed in 2009, and formalise key data reporting mechanisms through participatory technical working groups.

The system is considered good practice as it establishes the regular tracking of GHG emissions across a wide range of sectors and is in line with the international BUR requirements for MRV.

Implementation of the M&E System in Three Phases



Source: Own compilation.

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Why is it good practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Based on internationally recognised methodologies: South Africa is one of the few developing countries to adopt a comprehensive MRV framework to track activities relating to climate change mitigation, adaptation and finance. The system is consistent with IPCC 2006 or later guidelines and is flexible for updating accordingly. The South African GHG inventory also feeds into this MRV system. » Wide coverage of sectors: The South African MRV system covers a wide range of economic sectors, with some of them – for example, the power sector – in accordance with international best practices (e.g. International Performance and Measurement Verification Tool) » Regular annual analysis: The Department of Environmental Affairs is tasked with annual analysis and publication, of emissions trends, the impact of various intervention, and financial flows and projects. » Regular reporting in line with international standards: In the context of Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs), South Africa is expected to domestically report on its mitigation actions rather than emissions reductions only. To this end, reporting in the South African MRV system is undertaken according to ISO or IPCC standards. The outputs of these processes feed into the National Communications and BURs. » The methodology to measure the emission impact of policies in the MRV strategy will be based on the GHG Protocol Policy and Action Standard, developed under the Measurement and Performance Tracking Project (MAPT) of BMUB’s International Climate Initiative (IKI). » As far as verification is concerned, the new energy efficiency tax regulation has outlined a rigorous verification system that stipulates all M&V consulting teams consisting of energy efficiency and GHG verifiers must be SANAS-accredited.
Success factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Regulatory Framework » Transparency of processes and data collection » Integrated step-by-step approach » International cooperation and background research
Overcoming barriers/ challenges	<p>What were the main barriers/challenges to delivery? How were these barriers/challenges overcome?</p>
Financial	<p>The majority of the professional Measuring and Verification M&V teams are not SANAS-accredited, bringing cost implications for developing in-house capacity</p> <p>While a significant portion of the MRV activities are outsourced or supported by international cooperation, national budgetary support is also provided to develop in-house capacity which can reduce the cost of MRV</p>
Institutional	<p>The governance structure has multiple poles and entry points for MRV and the relevant actors, and institutions lack a common coordination mechanism.</p> <p>The South African Government is currently undertaking institutional reforms that will promote stronger linkages between institutions at the national and sub-national levels for developing a coordinated MRV system.</p> <p>Many climate-relevant datasets were maintained by different departments in the government.</p> <p>The National Statistics System Division currently coordinates institutional arrangements between Statistics SA and line ministries.</p>
Capacity	<p>New policies adopted in the energy sector, such as the energy efficiency tax regulation, require additional capacities in the form of M&V professionals certified by SANAS.</p> <p>The South African Government is investing significantly in training and capacity building in technical areas such as the issuance of building audits, technical commissions and management of databases, to enable coordinated development of the MRV system.</p>

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Political/Policy

An MRV framework for a carbon tax, a recently introduced policy to incentivize demand for low carbon goods and services, was not yet clearly defined.

A new regulatory framework for a carbon budget and carbon tax has been adopted which enables MRV related activities. South African Revenue Service (SARS), a centralised agency, reports emissions with taxes to record emission reduction.

Lessons learned

- » A clear policy direction is required for the various institutions involved in an MRV system, to encourage and enable linking of data sources and to avoid double counting.
- » Mainstreaming international MRV requirements within national development strategies and governance structures can put the role of MRV design in a better perspective and highlight significant governance benefits.
- » Knowledge based cooperation plays an important role for capacity building and policy innovation.

How to replicate this practice

- » Conceptualise MRV needs in the context of national development priorities, then build in international requirements.
- » Periodic assessment and reforms of institutions to encourage efficient data collection and management.
- » Develop data management guidelines and standards that are in accordance with international best practices such as the International Performance and Measurement Verification Tool, the International Standards Organisation (ISO) and Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change guidelines.
- » Provide sufficient funding for training activities in order to strengthen and create the necessary capacities for a structured and well-coordinated MRV system.

Institutions involved

- » **National Departments**
These include various line ministries which collect and report sector-specific data, such as Department of Energy (DoE), Department of Transport (DoT), Economic Development Department (EDD), Department of Mineral Resources (DMR), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Science and Technology (DST), National Treasury, Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), Department of Agriculture, Forest and Fisheries (DAFF), etc. It may also be noted that each line ministry reports to the Presidency on a quarterly basis at ministerial level.
- » **Department of Environmental Affairs**
The Dept. of Environmental Affairs is the nodal agency that reports climate data to the Dept. of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation in the Presidency. The former is tasked with collecting and integrating information on climate change implementation across government departments.
- » **Statistics South Africa**
Stats SA is the agency that coordinates institutional arrangements between the South African private sector, the various line ministries, local governments, civil society and other research organisations.
- » **Research institutions**
- » **Local government units**
- » **Civil society organisations**

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Cooperation with	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) via its International Climate Initiative (IKI) in particular the Climate Support Programme (CSP), implemented by GIZ» Government of Australia» Multilateral organizations such as United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)» World Resources Institute (WRI)» Royal Danish Embassy» International and national research organizations
Finance	Funding for the MRV activities is received from a combination of domestic, bilateral and multilateral sources. International NGOs such as ICLEI also contribute a part of the finances required.
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Organisers	The Global Good Practice Analysis and accompanying case studies are a joint initiative by the International Partnership on Mitigation and MRV and the UNDP Low Emission Capacity Building Programme in an effort to document and share examples of good practice in the design and implementation of INDCs, LEDS, NAMA and MRV systems. For an extensive version of this factsheet and more information, including the criteria applied, please visit www.mitigationpartnership.net/gpa



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Environment, Nature Conservation,
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