RCMRD & COMESA CBIT: Building Transparency in Carbon Reporting

Introduction

The **Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD)**, in partnership with **COMESA** and other stakeholders, is implementing the **Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT)** to strengthen member states' ability to measure, report, and verify (MRV) greenhouse gas emissions. This four-year program supports countries in meeting their obligations under the **Paris Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF)**.

Objectives

- Strengthen **national and regional transparency frameworks** for monitoring and tracking NDCs.
- Train participants on setting up and using **IPCC software for MRV**.
- Build institutional and consultant capacity for **GHG inventory compilation**.
- Developing, hosting and guiding participants in accessing and using the **E-Learning platform** for continuous learning.
- Establish **data sharing protocols and institutional frameworks** across COMESA member states and create online data clearing house to be used by project countries.

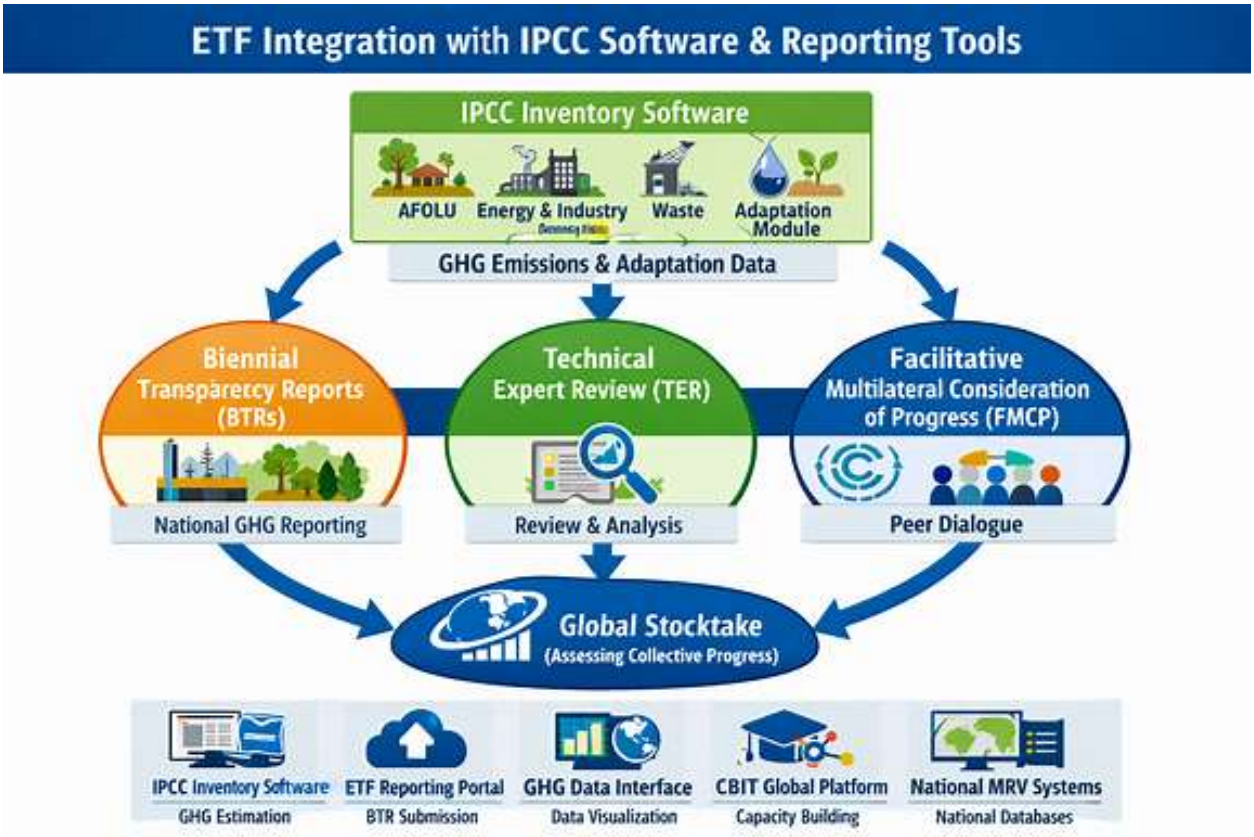
Training Outcomes

- **400 + participants** from key institutions and consultants actively trained.
- Improved accuracy in data collection using **Tier 1–3 methodologies** and IPCC tools.
- Hands-on introduction to IPCC software workflows.
- Access to a **digital knowledge platform** with all training materials.
- Practical sessions on accounting and reporting emissions from **Energy, Transport, Waste, Agriculture, Land Use, and Forestry**.
- Compilation of national GHG inventories, highlighting sources and sinks of emissions.

Regional Achievements

- **National institutional frameworks** established in Comoros, Eritrea, Seychelles, and Zambia, each with focal points across the five IPCC sectors (Energy, Transport, AFOLU, IPPU, Waste).
- **Sectoral focal points** appointed and trained, with clear Terms of Reference integrated into government structures.
- **National climate change steering committees** formed in all four countries to coordinate MRV activities.

- **Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)** signed between sector institutions to enable systematic data flow.
- **Regional framework** under COMESA established, with planned data-sharing events and partnership MoUs to guide transparency strategies.
- Zambia has already developed **country-specific MRV indicators** for some sectors and is piloting an **online MRV portal** for NDC tracking.



Stakeholder Engagement

Needs assessments and consultations were carried out in all project countries, engaging:

- **Government ministries and agencies** responsible for climate reporting.
- **Academia**: University of Comoros, University of Seychelles, Mlungushi University, University of Zambia, and technical colleges in Eritrea.
- **Consultants and technical experts**, ensuring broad participation and ownership.

Benefits to Governments

- Coordinated data collection and archiving through the **CBIT Data Portal** hosted by RCMRD.
- Improved reporting and awareness of quality MRV systems.

- Expanded knowledge base accessible beyond the project's lifetime via the **digital learning platform**.
- Opportunities for advanced training in **GIS and remote sensing** (e.g., COMESA program for Seychelles trainees).

Implementation & Partnerships

This program I was **funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF)** and implemented by **Conservation International (CI), COMESA** in collaboration with **RCMRD**, based in Nairobi, Kenya.

Key implementing partners:

- **COMESA** (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa)
- **CiAFD** (Conservation international Africa Field Division)

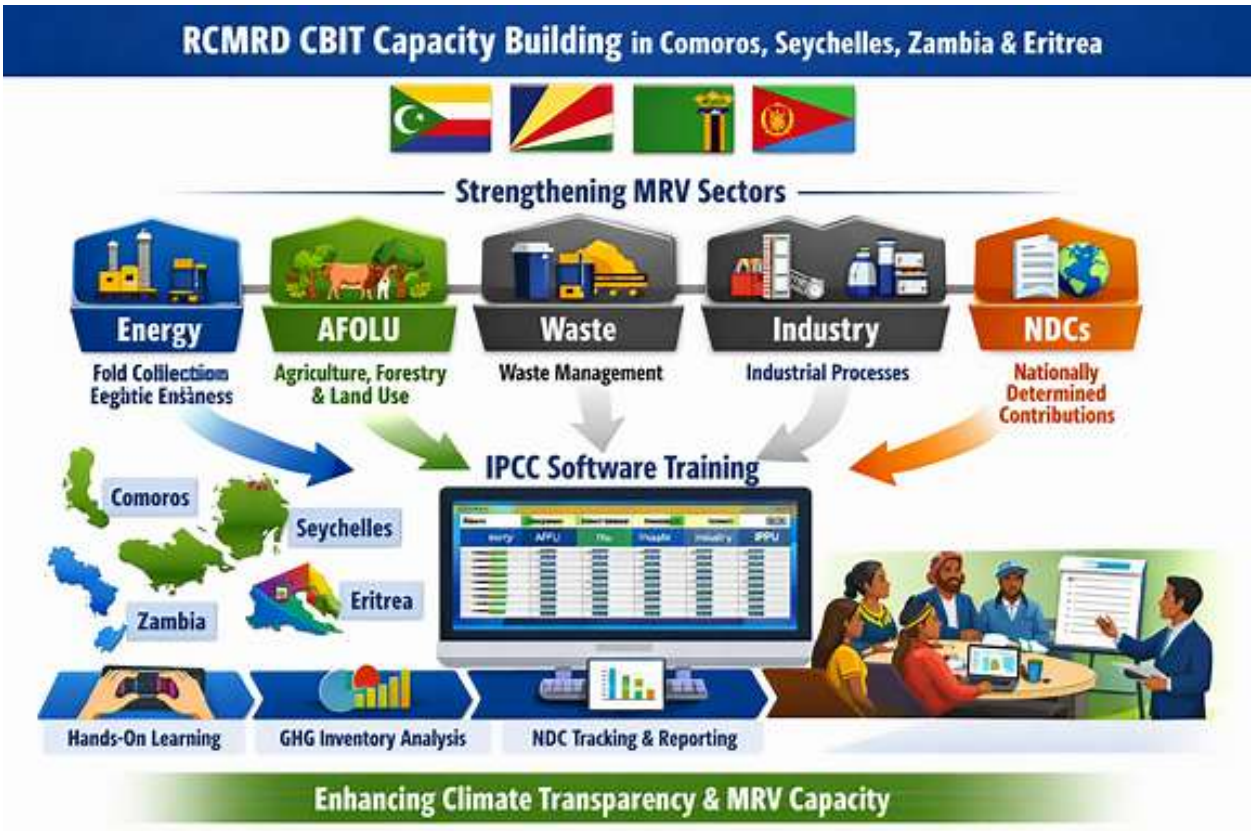
Specialized technical support provided by consultants:

- **Aether UK** (GHG inventory and transparency systems)
- **VEDA** (climate data and MRV specialists)

Why It Matters

Transparent carbon reporting is essential for:

- Building trust in climate action.
- Attracting climate finance.
- Supporting evidence-based policy decisions.
- Ensuring Africa's voice is strong in global climate negotiations.
- Countries commitment to meeting climate obligation with verifiable data


RCMRD CBIT Capacity Building in Comoros, Seychelles, Zambia & Eritrea
Strengthening MRV Sectors
Energy
AFOLU
Waste
Industry
NDCs
Agriculture, Forestry & Land Use
Waste Management
Industrial Processes
Nationally Determined Contributions
IPCC Software Training
Comoros
Seychelles
Eritrea
Zambia
Hands-On Learning
GHG Inventory Analysis
NDC Tracking & Reporting
Enhancing Climate Transparency & MRV Capacity