

Concept Note

on

Karnataka State Action Plan on Climate Change (KSAPCC) Monitoring

For effective implementation of KSAPCC, real-time monitoring is required. Centre for Environment Education (CEE), with the support of Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung (HSS) India, has been studying the KSAPCC since 2021 to assess its working and effectiveness on the ground. In 2023, CEE in its study found that the KSAPCC required a robust, unified monitoring system to provide real-time update on the progress of the KSAPCC implementation for course-correction and a better decision-making.

A web-based government-to-government (G2G) dashboard is needed for an integrated data collation, analysis and reporting. In addition, it should host a corner for citizen engagement. Consequently, in 2024 CEE focuses on working with the state government to develop the monitoring dashboard for data visualization and reporting, and enhance the capacity of the district level officials to enable them for KSAPCC monitoring. In order to bring about monitoring in a unified manner, each department of the Government of Karnataka needs to set up a monitoring cell/committee for data synchronisation, departmental synergy, real-time progress update, enhanced transparency and integrated reporting.

Background

Global initiatives aimed at addressing climate change have garnered significant attention from governments, organizations, and individuals worldwide. In June 2008, India introduced the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), a comprehensive strategy designed to combat climate change through a multifaceted approach. Subsequently, State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCCs) were developed to provide essential support in implementing the NAPCC. The Government of Karnataka collaborated with the Environmental Management & Policy Research Institute (EMPRI) and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) to craft the Karnataka State Action Plan on Climate Change (KSAPCC V1, 2013). Following the Paris Agreement and the establishment of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), states are now committed to evaluating their climate actions based on domestic priorities outlined in the SAPCCs. They are encouraged to align these actions with key metrics to ensure congruence with the goals outlined in India's NDC (KSAPCC V2, 2021).

In 2021, Centre for Environment Education (CEE) partnered with Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung (HSS) India to conduct a study on 'Strengthening multi-stakeholder approaches for the effective implementation of the Karnataka State Action Plan on Climate Change'. The study aimed to enhance policy and implementation efficiency within the KSAPCC, focusing particularly on water and agriculture sectors. Additionally, the study aimed to foster partnerships for capacity building to further enhance climate action efforts.

Between 2021 and 2023, as part of this collaborative effort, CEE and HSS conducted another study to provide insights into the NAPCC-KSAPCC linkages, aiming to develop a better understanding of

the KSAPCC's operations. During this period, CEE also addressed KSAPCC issues and policy briefs, where the role of NGOs and action points were discussed, observed, and reviewed. Furthermore, in 2023, with the support of HSS, CEE developed a roadmap for engaging non-governmental organizations and proposed a monitoring framework for KSAPCC to localize and make the implementation of the KSAPCC measurable in a more effective manner. The framework proposes a unified monitoring system as a G2G e-governance initiative by the Government of Karnataka to track the progress of KSAPCC implementation. NITI Aayog has established the SDG Index dashboard at the national level. Through its expertise, it can help CEE and EMPRI develop the KSAPCC monitoring dashboard and help in indicator formulation, and data collection methods.

Enhancing the monitoring system for assessing the implementation of KSAPCC is imperative. Strengthened Monitoring System will help measure the performance of the State's response to climate change by monitoring outlay spending, outputs and outcomes. This will ensure transparency, outcome-based reporting, and effective oversight. Such results will seek policy attention of the other states in India. In the long run, a national framework can be evolved for all the states in India for the monitoring of state action plans on climate change.

Establishing a robust monitoring system is crucial for facilitating data-based reporting, evidence-driven decision-making, and highlighting the significant role of subnational climate policies in achieving national and international climate goals and linkages between climate action and respective SDGs. A key prerequisite for developing an integrated information system is fostering inter-departmental coordination to provide real-time data, enabling visualization of concurrent progress in spending, outputs, and outcomes. Such comprehensive reporting mechanisms will facilitate effective decision-making and underscore the valuable contribution of subnational climate policies to global climate objectives.

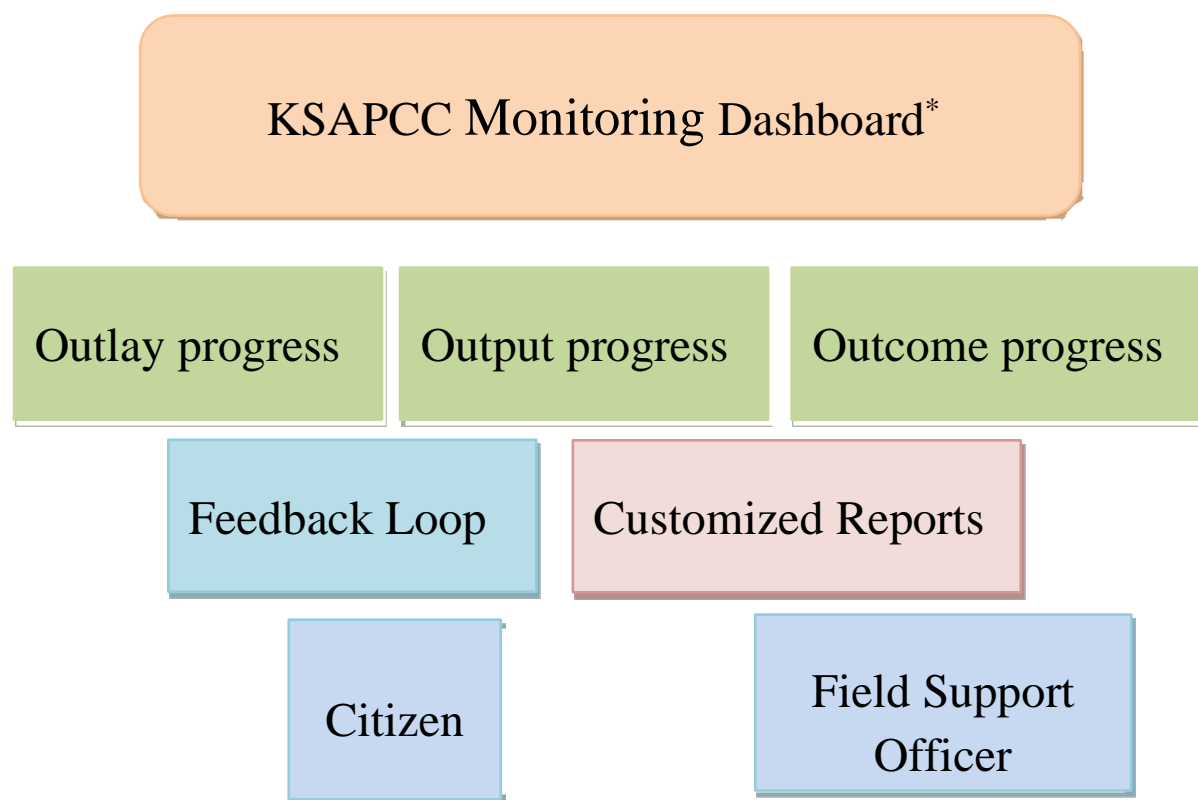
Therefore, the on-going project of CEE in 2024 aims to further collaborate with the state government to bolster the monitoring system for KSAPCC implementation. To achieve this objective, the project will focus on several key aspects. Firstly, it will concentrate on capacity building for government officials to effectively handle monitoring tasks. This includes assessing the current organogram and identifying necessary elements for an enhanced monitoring framework. Additionally, the project will interact with various government officials contributing to the enhancement of monitoring capacity at the state level. By addressing these components, the project seeks to significantly strengthen the monitoring system and contribute to the successful implementation of KSAPCC.

Pushing forward the proposed monitoring framework for the effective implementation of KSAPCC

Monitoring and evaluation play a crucial role in ensuring accountability, assessing progress, and informing decision-making processes for both climate financing initiatives and budget allocation in Karnataka. The State Government allocates funds for various agriculture schemes, but before these schemes can kick off, they require financial approval and thorough assessment to ensure effective implementation. That's why it's crucial to closely monitor the allocated funds for each scheme.

The challenges faced in implementing the KSAPCC at the district level encompass administrative and environmental related hurdles like uncertainties in weather e.g., failure of southwest monsoon. Notably, schemes like ATMA, MGNREGA, and Jal Jeevan Mission have achieved notable success, largely attributed to effective monitoring. A primary study by State Agriculture Department underscores the pivotal role of a robust monitoring framework in ensuring the success of various schemes.

The Government of Karnataka's initiative, through the Karnataka Monitoring and Evaluation Authority (KMEA), underscores the significance of evaluation in assessing project progress and promoting accountability. EMPRI being a nodal agency for CC Plan in Karnataka, the State Government has decided to host the data in their Green Index portal. By developing unified monitoring dashboards as a G2G e-governance initiative and adhering to evaluation policies, the government can enhance transparency and improve the quality of service delivery across sectors, including water and agriculture. In line with these efforts, EMPRI is currently working on a digital platform, a Monitoring Portal in coordination with Additional Chief Secretary (ACS)/ Development Commissioner, with the aim of hosting monitoring data on their web portal called the Green Index Portal.



**The elements-order in the above suggested dashboard is subject to actual web design and layout.*

The integration of civil society members, academia, and the public with a web-based interface will significantly enhance transparency in government operations, bolster policy implementation effectiveness, and stimulate policy discussions. Implementing monitoring practices through a multistakeholder approach embodies a collaborative effort across society. A dedicated section on the dashboard should be allocated for gathering feedback from the public, ensuring inclusivity and responsiveness in governance.

Establishing a monitoring cell in each of the government departments to constantly provide the data for updating the dashboard is required. For data analytics, an expert organization of the state or center can be roped in. Customized reports can be produced as per the stakeholders.

It should not just end at outlays and outputs but go beyond them. Monitoring at the outcome level is critical to knowing the impact of the project implementation on the target groups. Framing proper indicators holds the key to the successful monitoring of the outcomes. The KSAPCC is being implemented through a multitude of schemes, often in a sectoral manner, by various departments. In such a situation, outcome reporting becomes a challenge. To ease the process of the outcome reporting, the indicators to measure outcomes of the KSAPCC implementation must be aligned with the indicators of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and/or the government-framed indicators which are further aligned with the SDG indicators. E.g., one or more schemes can be brought under one indicator of the SDGs. Such reporting will help in underlining the contribution of a subnational climate policy towards the national and international climate goals.

The above-proposed monitoring framework for two sectors (water and agriculture) can be extended to all the sectors in due course, to comprehensively monitor the progress of the KSAPCC.