Assessing Implementation of Quality ACE: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting in the Glasgow Work Programme on ACE, and its Action Plan
A Submission from the Monitoring and Evaluating Climate Communication and Education Project

The Monitoring and Evaluating Climate Communication and Education (MECCE) Project (mecce.ca) is an international partnership focused on increasing the quantity and quality of ACE globally. The Project assembles over 100 Party and non-Party stakeholders, with the UNFCCC, UNESCO, IPCC, and UNESCO GEM Report on the Advisory Committee. The Project is responding to the lack of data available to support countries in benchmarking and target-setting quality ACE.

The MECCE Project welcomes Member Parties' commitment to addressing monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (MER) early in the Glasgow Work Programme on ACE. This submission:
- Highlights select MECCE Project contributions to furthering global ACE action through MER.
- Provides suggestions for the format, speakers, and guiding questions for the ACE Dialogue.

Links to more information on the MECCE Project and relevant resources are located at the end of this document. We welcome the opportunity to elaborate further on this submission and are available to support Parties and the Secretariat during SBI58 and throughout implementation of the Action Plan.

How the MECCE Project is Supporting MER of Quality ACE
Early, effective use of MER can accelerate quality ACE implementation across all four priority areas of the Glasgow Work Programme on ACE. MER is useful because it provides information on whether and how ACE is making a difference in the fight against climate change. As a result, MER of ACE can motivate action, support peer learning, and demonstrate building of momentum.

> **Key Messages:** Working with diverse stakeholders across regions and sectors, including with Parties, youth, and Indigenous peoples, the MECCE Project's international research partnership is improving the quality and quantity of global ACE through:
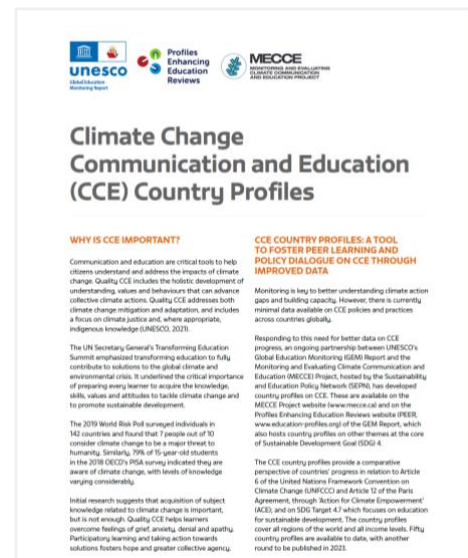> - **Evaluation,** by developing understandings of quality ACE.
> - **Monitoring,** by developing a suite of open access indicators across the ACE elements. Updated and new indicators and data are released regularly.
> - **Reporting,** by providing tools and supports that build global capacity for MER of quality ACE.

Evaluation: Research-based Insights on Quality ACE
Evaluation is useful for identifying and better understanding the components of quality ACE in different contexts, cultures, and regions. The MECCE Project's "Case Studies Axis" is developing new insights into quality ACE through Country Profiles and Case Studies.

Country Profiles
We have published 50 Country Profiles of ACE in partnership with the UNESCO GEM Report. The Country Profiles support policy coherence and peer learning through analysis of areas for policy prioritization and through measures useful for tracking ACE progress. The Country Profiles are validated by country experts such as National ACE Focal Points. Thirty more profiles will be released at COP28. A research brief and blog post released at COP27 summarize key findings from the first 50 country profiles.

Climate Change Communication and Education (CCE) Country Profiles

Case Studies

The Project funds in-depth Case Studies to improve understandings of how quality ACE policy and/or practice addresses holistic, cultural, and regional factors and to explore the impacts of quality ACE. A cross-case analysis also investigates emerging themes across the Case Studies.

By 2024, the Project will fund 30 Case Studies across the ACE elements with $10,000 CAD each. Final reports from the first cohort of 12 Case Studies will be available for COP28. Applications received through the second call for proposals are currently being adjudicated through the Project's Regional Hubs and Steering Committee. The second cohort of funded case studies will be announced by the SBI meeting in June.

Monitoring: Global Indicator Data to Track Quality ACE

The MECCE Project's "Indicator Development Axis" is collaboratively developing new, open-access research-based Global Indicators of quality ACE using non-self-reported, high-quality data sources.

Using MER to Advance the Glasgow Work Programme on ACE

Comparable global data and indicators on quality ACE can enable Party and non-Party stakeholders to benchmark and track the amount of quality ACE occurring, support the setting of increasingly ambitious ACE targets (e.g., in national documents such as National Communications, NDCs, and NAPs), and support urgent, coordinated action.

The MECCE Project has released its first suite of nine Global Indicators of quality ACE. The Indicators and accompanying data provide country-, region-, and global-level data for the education, training, public awareness, public access to information, and public participation ACE elements. The Project uses a phased approach, with new and updated Indicators being released regularly until at least 2026.

PRIMARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION
- Integration of climate change in national curriculum policy
- Students' self-declared knowledge on climate change

HIGHER EDUCATION
- Extent of climate change focus in research publications

TRAINING
- Integration of climate change in technical/vocational training policy

PUBLIC AWARENESS
- Perceived impact of climate change on future generations
- Perception of climate change as a serious threat

PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION
- Availability of information on climate change impacts
- Public perception of frequency of exposure to climate change information

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
- Adult willingness to participate in climate action

Collaboratively Developed Indicators and Indicator Data

The Project's multi-stakeholder, multi-sector partnership approach supports the advancement of clear, time-bound approaches to MER of quality ACE in ways that are not cost-prohibitive for any one country. The MECCE Project Indicators currently have strong data coverage in Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, Europe, and some areas of Asia and Africa. The Project is working to improve data coverage for regions such as Sub-Saharan Africa and Oceania, where data gaps exist. This includes initiatives to increase data diversity and working with data partners, including MECCE Project partners, to increase availability of global ACE data.
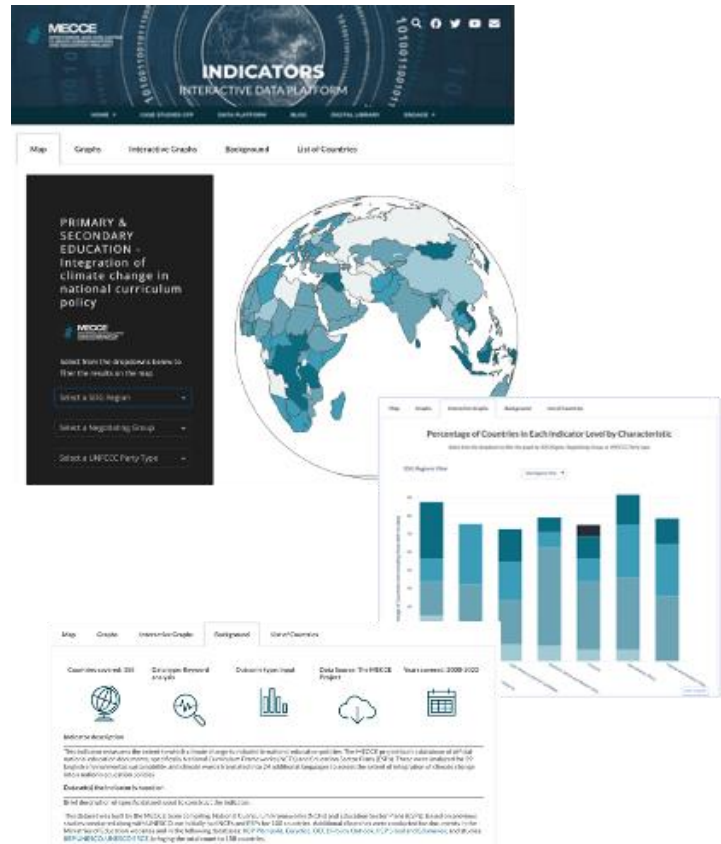
Reporting: Tools and Supports for Building Global ACE MER Capacity

The MECCE Project's "Knowledge Mobilization Axis" provides a variety of tools and supports to build the global ACE community's capacity to report on and share ACE progress. Here we highlight two key initiatives, the Interactive Data Platform and Regional Hub network.

Interactive Data Platform

The MECCE Project's Interactive Data Platform provides accessible information on the extent and type of ACE provision across countries and regions. There are currently three types of data on the platform:

- Country Profiles for 50 countries can be accessed through the platform. An interactive map is able to be filtered by UNFCCC Party type, SDG region, and UNFCCC negotiating group. Research methods and overall trends across the first 50 Country Profiles are available.
- Descriptions of the funded Case Studies can be viewed on the platform. The locations of the Case Studies are mapped and able to be filtered by SDG region. Final reports, photographs, and videos for each Case Study are posted as they become available.
- Users select individual Global Indicators using the drop down menu, and are able to filter an interactive map by SDG region, UNFCCC negotiating group, UNFCCC Party type, and year. Background information on the indicator, including the data and calculations used to develop the indicator, is provided. A list of countries in each indicator level is also available, along with research methods and frequently asked questions. New and updated indicators will be released at COP28 and ongoing until at least 2026.

A current partnership with Microsoft is adding features to support exploration of ACE activities in relation to variables such as country emissions, climate vulnerability, and economic characteristics, with the aim to release the updated features by SBI58. The Project is also developing digital storytelling through the Interactive Data Platform to further bring the data to life.

ACE Reporting and Decision-Making

Reporting on quality ACE facilitates peer learning through sharing progress and good practices, and demonstrates building momentum over time. Reporting is also useful for identifying ways to coordinate ACE actions, improve policy coherence, and share tools and resources. The Interactive Data Platform is a powerful tool to support decision-making and reporting related to ACE. The maps and graphs of numerical data are useful for tracking ACE progress. The platform also provides narrative, photographic, and video data on quality ACE to provide contextual, in-depth information on quality ACE and its implementation.

In advance of the SBI58, the MECCE Project is meeting with interested Parties to receive input and provide an orientation on the Interactive Data Platform. Interested Parties may contact Ms. Nicola Chopin at nicola.chopin@usask.ca to express interest.

Regional Hubs
The MECCE Project's Regional Hub network comprises over 650 members, including governments, policy makers, researchers, and practitioners, including National ACE Focal Points. The Regional Hubs meet to share knowledge of ACE and MER among; adjudicate case studies submissions; and help build regional ACE networks. Parties and non-Party Stakeholders are invited to join the Regional Hubs by submitting a membership application.

Suggested Speakers, Content, and Format for the ACE Dialogue in SBI58

Key Messages: The MECCE Project's recommends the ACE Dialogue:
- Include presentations from Party and non-Party Stakeholders, including experts on MER of ACE, youth, and Indigenous representatives.
- Highlight examples of 'innovative' quality ACE, rather than 'business as usual' approaches.
- Provide participants with real-world examples that make concrete links between quality ACE and monitoring, evaluation, and reporting of ACE.
- Explore what constitutes "good ACE practice" in different contexts; how to develop monitoring and evaluation measures and frameworks of quality ACE; and enablers, barriers, tools and supports for MER of quality ACE.

Collaborations between **Party and non-Party stakeholders are central to ensuring accessible, global data and monitoring tools** support member Parties in conducting ACE MER in ways that are both coordinated and flexible. Therefore, we recommend the ACE Dialogue include presentations from Parties and non-Party stakeholders, including experts in ACE MER as well as youth and Indigenous representatives. **Members of the MECCE Project research team are available to act as experts, presenters, and/or facilitators for the ACE Dialogue.**

Given the ACE Dialogue's focus on quality ACE, we recommend that the ACE Dialogue share **examples of 'innovative' quality ACE**, rather than 'business as usual' approaches. We recommend the examples of quality ACE be **holistic** (i.e.,the ACE provides tools to take systemic and individual action, and deal with emotions from climate change); use **regionally and culturally specific approaches**, including that address **Indigenous knowledge** and **climate justice**. **The MECCE Project is available to provide research-informed insight on what constitutes quality ACE.**

The ACE Dialogue should also guide participants to make **concrete links between quality ACE and monitoring, evaluation, and reporting of quality ACE**. Therefore, effort should be made to locate examples of quality ACE that are currently being monitored, evaluated, and reported in collaboration with non-Party stakeholders. Presentations and interactive sessions on developing and implementing realistic MER of quality ACE, which also share key learnings from the process, will allow National ACE Focal Points and negotiators to build on learnings from the ACE Academy, and build MER capacity within the broader ACE

community. **The MECCE Project is available to provide examples from our global Case Studies, Country Profiles, and Global Indicators.**

We recommend **Parties be surveyed in advance** of the ACE Dialogue to ensure their needs and questions are addressed. **Questions** to consider in developing the agenda include:

- What does **quality ACE and good ACE practice** mean in diverse contexts, including in relation to youth, Indigenous, and other important groups?
- How can useful **measures** for evaluating and monitoring quality ACE be developed and implemented?
- Where and how are **ACE MER frameworks** being developed and implemented?
- What are important **enablers, barriers, and key learnings** related to MER of quality ACE?
- How can MER of ACE support **policy coherence** and **coordinated action**?
- What **tools and supports** are available to build capacity for MER of quality ACE? What are the gaps and how can they be filled?

The MECCE Project is available to support Parties and the Secretariat in developing the ACE Dialogue agenda and welcomes the opportunity to elaborate further on this submission.

Resources

1. View the MECCE Project's data on the Interactive Data Platform.

2. Read the Country Profiles.

3. Read the 2022 brochure "Climate Change Communication and Education (CCE) Country Profiles," co-authored by the MECCE Project & UNESCO GEM Report on our Digital Library.

4. Read the 2022 blog post "Taking Climate Change Communication and Education (CCE) forward with an Additional 30 Country Profiles," co-authored by the MECCE Project & UNESCO GEM Report on our Blog site.

5. Learn about the first cohort of funded Case Studies.

6. See the call for proposals for our second cohort of funded Case Studies.

7. Explore the Indicator Data.

8. View our COP27 UNFCCC Side Event, "Universalization of Quality Climate Change Education (CCE) as a Key Component of SDG 4.7,"with MECCE Project team presenters: Aaron Benavot (Indicator Development Lead), Nikos Petrou (Foundation for Environmental Education), Eric Guilyardi (Office for Climate Education), Kartikeya Sarabhai (Centre for Environment Education), Won Jung Byun (UNESCO), and others.

9. View our COP27 Climate Education Hub Side Event, "Advancing the Glasgow Work Programme on ACE: Monitoring and Reporting, Youth Engagement, and Mainstreaming at COP," with MECCE Project team presenters Aaron Benavot (Indicator Development Lead) and Stefanie Mallow (Research Associate), with Hailey Campbell (YOUNGO) and Zuzanna Borowska (YOUNGO), and moderated by Nicola Chopin (MECCE Project Manager).