

Detailed Case study information

Energy efficiency

Description	The activity was funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) and implemented by GIZ Proklima under the Cooling Programme for Southern Africa (CooPSA), commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK). The programme supports partner countries including Botswana, Eswatini, Namibia, and South Africa, and runs from December 2021 to December 2027, building on earlier Proklima efforts to promote eco-friendly and environmentally sustainable cooling technologies worldwide. Within this context, the activity focused on supporting the operationalisation of Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) for air conditioners in Eswatini, in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy. In February 2026, a three-day technical workshop was conducted to translate MEPS from policy into practice. The workshop addressed the full implementation chain, including technical standards, product registration, data management systems, border control procedures, inspections, and enforcement mechanisms. Tailored to Eswatini's national context and institutional setup, the workshop used air conditioners as a practical example to build a shared understanding of how regulations, technical systems, and enforcement processes must interact to ensure effective MEPS implementation.
Achievements	The workshop successfully established a shared and practical understanding of how MEPS can be implemented and enforced in Eswatini. Participating institutions worked collaboratively to define clear roles, responsibilities, and indicative timelines for implementation. In addition, the workshop designed key operational systems required for MEPS enforcement, including product registration and authorisation processes, database structures, and border control procedures. Participants also reviewed and refined draft MEPS regulations, resolving outstanding issues and identifying necessary regulatory improvements. By the end of the workshop, institutions had agreed on coordinated implementation plans, outlining concrete actions and responsibilities for moving forward with MEPS enactment and enforcement.
Benefits	The workshop significantly strengthened coordination and readiness among national institutions responsible for MEPS implementation and enforcement. It fostered a high level of ownership and collaboration across agencies, including energy authorities, regulators, and border control institutions. Operationalising MEPS will help prevent the import and sale of inefficient or non-compliant air conditioning units, thereby protecting consumers and improving market quality. At the same time, it supports national efforts to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to climate mitigation and sustainable development goals. Overall, the initiative provides a strong foundation for effective MEPS enforcement, delivering benefits in terms of energy efficiency, environmental protection, and consumer safeguards.
Next steps	The next steps focus on finalising the MEPS regulations and addressing remaining gaps identified during the workshop. This will be followed by the implementation of the agreed systems, including product registration, inspections, and enforcement procedures with clearly defined penalties.
Source	From Policy to Practice: Operationalising MEPS for Air Conditioners in Eswatini - GIZ Proklima

