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Colombia's 2030 MRV Strategic Vision GEF Full-Sized Project

PIMS+ ID: 6226 – GEF ID: 10121





Country: Colombia

Region: LAC

Focal Area: GEF-7 Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT)

GEF Implementing Agency: UNDP

Implementing Partner: Fundación Natura

Implementation Modality: Non-Government Organization (NGO)

Timeframe of MTR: August-September 2024

Mid-term Review

Final Report, September 2024

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Transparencia Climática Colombia

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DISCLAIMER

This report has been prepared by an independent consultant evaluator and is a product of the Independent Evaluation Office of UNDP. The findings and conclusions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of UNDP Country Office or the UNDP Senior Management.

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Acronyms

AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use
AWP	Annual Work Plan
BAU	Business as Usual
BECO	Colombia's National Energy Balance
BUR/BTR	Biannual Update Report/Biannual Transparency Report
CBIT - GSP	Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency – Global Support Programme
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CO	Country Office
COP	Conference of the Parties
DANE	National Department of Statistics
EoP	End of Project
ETF	Enhanced Transparency Framework
FEDEGAN	National Federation of Cattle Ranchers
FSP	Full Sized Project
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
GoC	Government of Colombia
IA/IP	Implementation Agency - Implementation Partner
IDEAM	Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
MinAgricultura	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MinAmbiente	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MinMas	Ministry of Mining and Energy
MoMs	Minutes of Meetings
MinTransporte	Ministry of Transport
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
MTR	Mid-Term Review
NAH	National Agency for Hydrocarbons
NC	National Communication (on Climate Change)
NCCP	National Climate Change Policy
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NDP	National Development Plan
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NPD	National Planning Department
PA	Paris Agreement
PC	Project Coordinator
PIF	Project Identification Form
PIGCCS-PIGCCT	Sectoral/Territorial Climate Change Management Plans
PIR	Project Implementation Report
PMU	Project Management Unit
POPP	Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures
PPG	Project Preparation Grant
PRF	Project Results Framework
PSC	Project Steering Committee
RedINGEI	Latin American Network of National Greenhouse Gas Inventories
REDD+	Reducing Emission due to Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RENARE	National Registry of Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions
RTA	Regional Technical Advisor
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SESP	Social and Environment Screening Procedure
SINGEI (INGEI)	National Greenhouse Gas Inventory (Information System)
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Time-bound
ToC	Theory of Change
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNDP/CO	United Nations Development Programme /Country Office
UNDP-NCE	UNDP Nature, Climate and Energy Unit
UNEP	United National Environmental Programme
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The present Report constitutes the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the Colombia's 2030 Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) Strategic Vision project, an initiative financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) within its Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT), with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as Implementing Agency; the full National Implementation Modality (NIM) is adopted, through Fundación Natura (FN), a well-reputed Non-Government Organization (NGO) in the country (NGO implementation) , in close collaboration with the Government of Colombia (GoC), in particular the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM) and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MinAmbiente). The purpose of the review, which took place in August-September 2024, is to assess progress towards the achievement of project objectives and outcomes; assess early signs of project success or failure to identify the necessary changes to be made; and review the project's strategy, its risks to sustainability as well as its gender assessment.

Table N.1 Project Summary

Project Title:	**Colombia's 2030 MRV Strategic Vision**		
UNDP Project ID (PIMS #):	6226	**PIF Approval Date:**	Dec. 20, 2018
GEF Project ID (PMIS #):	10121 Full Size	**CEO Endorsement Date:**	Aug 25, 2021
ATLAS Award ID: -Quantum Award ID: **ATLAS Output ID: -Quantum Project ID**	00122255 00117923	**Project Document Signature Date (date project began):**	Jan 06, 2022
Country(ies):	Colombia	**Planned Start Date (as in ProDoc)** **Date project manager hired:**	Febr 25, 2022 March 22, 2022
Region:	LAC	**Inception Workshop date:**	May 5, 2022
Focal Area:	Climate Change	**Midterm Review date:**	August-September 2024
GEF-7 Focal Area Strategic Objectives and Programs:	GEF-7 Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT); Climate Change Focal Area, Obj. 3	**Planned closing date:**	Jan 06, 2026
Trust Fund:	GEF-CBIT	**If revised, proposed closing date:**	N/A
Implementing Partner (GEF Executing Agency):	Fundación Natura		
Other execution partners:	In collaboration with IDEAM and MinAmbiente		
Financial Information:	**At approval (USD)**		**At PDF/PPG completion (USD)**
GEF PDF/PPG	50,000		50,000
Co-financing for project preparation	N/A		N/A
Project Financing	**At CEO endorsement (USD)**		**At MTR (USD)**
[1] GEF financing excluding PPG):	3,791,550		**2,093,956.73**
[2] UNDP contribution (in-kind):	-		-
[3] Government: **-IDEAM (in-kind)** **- MinAmbiente (in-kind)** **-UPME (in-kind)**	 900,000 112,996 657,142		 724,454 101,570 657,142
[4] Other Partners: **-Fundación natura (in-kind)**	 140,000		 149,907
[5] Total co-financing [2 + 3+ 4]:	**1,810,138**		**1,633,075**
PROJECT TOTAL COSTS [1 + 5]	**5,601,688**		**3,717,128.73**

I Project Description

The GEF-CBIT Colombia's 2030 MRV Strategic Vision Project is designed with the objective to strengthen the country's capacity to monitor, report and verify anthropogenic greenhouse gases (GHGs) emissions and removals at a national scale in a way that optimizes the country's transparency mechanisms under the United Nations Framework Conference for Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement (PA). According to the latest Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), Colombia aims at a 51% reduction of its GHG emission by 2030 from its Business as Usual (BAU) scenario. The Project document was signed on January 6th, 2022 which is the starting date and is due to close in January 6th, 2026, unless an extension is granted. The Project budget totals US$ 5,601,688 of which US$ 3,791,550 provided by GEF (excluding USD 50,000 for the Project Preparation Grant-PPG) and the remaining US$ 1,810,138 (in-kind), respectively from the GoC and the Implementing Partner FN as co-financing.

The PA calls for the implementation of a transparency framework to report GHG emissions and removals using previous internationally agreed MRV systems and methodologies that countries can use to estimate GHG inventories; as a party to UNFCCC, the GoC is required to report on all its GHG emissions and reduction efforts periodically and transparently, according to the PA and the so-called Katowice package, as discussed at the Conference of the Parties (COP) 24, in Poland. Whilst the country is committed to global efforts of reducing GHG emissions having approved legislations which create the conditions for implementing its 2030 MRV Strategic Vision, technical and institutional capacities to comply with the requirements need to be built/reinforced; the MRV system has an adequate structure but requires functional and operational adjustments, i.e. improve the quality and reliability of GHG emissions and emission reduction data (uncertainty and data gaps); standardizing information collection; ensure adequate institutional arrangements and protocols; foster the active participation of stakeholders and of a culture of data collection and exchange; and create technical GHGs expertise, scarcely present in the country. The approach is an answer to the barriers identified during the design phase and based on lessons documented in the National Communications (NCs) on Climate Change and Biannual Update Reports (BURs) delivered to UNFCCC up to that moment; design is fully aligned with national as well as international requirements to fight climate change, with UNFCCC and the PA.

II Project Progress Summary

The Project is **relevant** in relation to GEF CBIT strategies, aligned with UNDP and national policies and plans and instrumental for achieving the PA objectives. **Progress of implementation** is rated as satisfactory and this MTR confirms the view of stakeholders that the Project is well managed and executed. **Efficiency** has been hampered by delays and challenges at various levels but the level of **effectiveness** is satisfactory; effectively, the Project has formally achieved most of its mid-term targets and is well set to achieve most of its targets by End of Project (EoP); yet, it is still work in progress and most key results require to be upgraded to higher levels of achievement to ensure the capacity to influence policies, effectively contribute to the establishment of an institutional and legal framework to adhere to the PA commitments, a systematic flow of information production and exchange and effective national decision-making.

Table N.2 MTR Ratings & Achievements

Project Strategy	*Rating*[1]	Achievement Description
	N/A	Project design is relevant, appropriate and innovative and based on lessons learned. It holds rare or unique characteristics as a CBIT full-sized project, a full NIM but implemented by an NGO and with a clear intention and effective approach to incorporate a gender perspective in the GHG emissions/removals accounting and estimation mechanisms as well as in enabling gender sensitive mitigation measures. Aligned with GEF, UNFCCC, UNDP and national policies/strategies, the Project supports the GoC's aim for a leadership position in the climate change action. The choice of the NGO implementation modality may reveal strategic, being FN well-experienced, able to structure effective relationships at all levels, well representing civil society and being recognized as an influencer in environmental and climate change public policies. The Theory of Change (ToC) is solid and the Project Results Framework (PRF) is well connected through logical linkages; yet, planning is often overly detailed and technical reducing implementation flexibility; and a few indicators require interpretation and language and timing adjustment. The CBIT Project represents a great opportunity for the country to enhance technical capacities and build the necessary institutional framework to support the accurate and transparent collection of information, reduction of uncertainty and monitoring and reporting of emissions factors in key identified sectors in order to manage and reduce GHG emissions.
Progress Towards Results (rate 6 pt. scale)	***Rating***	**Comments**

[1] *Progress Towards Results, Implementation and Adaptive Management*: HS: Highly Satisfactory; S: Satisfactory; MS: Moderately Satisfactory; MU: Moderately Unsatisfactory; U: Unsatisfactory; HU: Highly Unsatisfactory.
Rating for Sustainability: L: Likely; ML: Moderately likely; MU: Moderately Unlikely; U: Unlikely.

	S	Progress towards the Development Objective. Administrative implementation delays and turnovers of government staff at both leadership and technical level affected in particular the establishment of the national GHG Inventory Information System (SINGEI), a key component of the Project which absorbs a large part of the budget; in addition, the first SINGEI platform development consultancy failed and a new tender had to be launched. Notwithstanding, progress is sound, with mid-term targets mostly achieved and with adequate quality. It can be said that while the box is yet to be constructed, its future content is being enhanced through the development of methodologies for reducing data gaps/uncertainty. The capacity to mobilize stakeholders, establish links and promote alliances is outstanding which may be regarded as an added value of the NGO implementation modality adopted. Similarly, gender mainstreaming across the Project components with a focus on transparency mechanisms and identification of gender sensitive emission categories is thoroughly conducted. The commitment of the GoC to work towards transparency even before the formal start of the CBIT contributed to the current level of technical performance. The Project plays a key role in the current development of the first Colombian Biannual Transparency Report (BTR) and the NC-4.
	MS	**Component N.1** The design of the SINGEI is delayed; time was lost due to the poor performance of the company initially hired, the need to relaunch the tender and the time-consuming process of the Government in revising/approving ToRs, CVs and deliverables. The new company just took office. Still, the conceptual design is there, together with the functional and non-functional requirements and roles and permissions mapped, constituting the basis on which to progress. It is a lesson learned that IT developers require on the team an experienced environmentalist, with GHG expertise to be able to adequately consider all categories/subcategories. The management team supports IDEAM in drafting what are called *Users Stories*, which is a sound way of documenting in a few pages the needs of a certain functionality and the experience gained, thus facilitating the work not only of the new IT developers but also of government staff continuously alternating. The platform will be hosted and managed by IDEAM; the purchase of Switch Cores should ensure the overall system operates at adequate speed. The establishment of Protocols and Institutional Arrangements is incipient. Progress is registered in reducing data gap in time series and data uncertainty; an Uncertainty Strategic Plan is drafted and a massive online training is about to start; work is in progress but to date all categories include uncertainty data. A Gender roadmap is formulated; a methodology to incorporate gender in GHG accounting/reporting developed; climate gender transparency training implemented and two pilot projects identified in two subcategories of each prioritized category, that is AFOLU and Energy.
	S	**Component 2.** Progress is sound with Tier 2 and Tier 3 methodologies and a Users' Guide developed by the Ministry of Energy and the National Agency for Hydrocarbons for the data management of fugitive emissions in oil&gas facilities (upstream); methodologies and a strategy to reduce uncertainty are being validated, new inventory categories previously not estimated identified and about 50 indicators on sectoral emissions developed for further integration in SINGEI. Reportedly, the comparison of uncertainty between current and past reports is challenging due to methodological inconsistencies.
	S	**Component N.3** Progress includes the development and validation of an Emission Projection Methodology for four sectors: Industry, AFOLU, Transportation and Waste, each one including drivers, emission equations with their associated factors and sources of information as well as the scope and accounting rules. The methodology for identifying gender sensitive categories was formulated and is being pilot tested to guide future mitigation measures.
	S	**Component N.4** It includes all M&E activities which are outstanding and in line with requirements as well as the implementation of a Communication Strategy and the production of Knowledge Management (KM) material in all areas of Project work, that is gender, INGEI, Uncertainty and MRV. Lessons learned are systematized and shared at different levels, even outside of the country, contributing to positioning Colombia as a climate change leader at international level and as a "Champion Platform" within the CBIT Global Support Programme (GSP).
Implementation & Adaptive Management	***Rating*** **(6 pt. scale)**	**Comments**
	S	Notwithstanding some delays, activities are efficiently and effectively implemented. The PMU is located in IDEAM, integrated by a large number of experts and supported by a large number of consultants. With guidance and coaching from UNDP and a strict collaboration with IDEAM and MinAmbiente, FN well responds to technical, administrative and financial challenges. Certainly, a period of adjustment has been necessary to align to different organizational and hiring procedures among Government, FN and UNDP. UNDP provides the necessary support, with the CBIT Focal Point being fully involved in its couching role; unfortunately, the Project started in the middle of the UNDP transition from Atlas to Quantum/PIMS platforms; a situation which

		impacted on efficiency, together with drawbacks due to hiring processes challenges and the turnover of government staff. Thus, financial execution was very low in the first two years; at present, considering expenses and commitments, it is in line with overall programming. Steering and Technical Committee's meetings are regularly held; they provide the necessary guidance but are slowed down by the continuous turnover of staff. Adaptive Management is well implemented. Co-financing is at optimal levels.
Sustainability (rate 4 pt. scale)	***Rating***	**Comments**
Financial resources	**L**	IDEAM's appropriation of the Project and the integration of SINGEI into the existing national climate change information system (SNICC); the GoC coverage of activities during the period between Project approval and Project start; the effective mobilization of co-financing which covers almost 90% of commitments to date; the possibility to access funding for MRV support from the newly created *Fondo para la Vida*; and, finally the collaboration with external projects (i.e. the BioCarbon Fund; GEF resources for parallel and complementarity activities) are all encouraging signs of financial sustainability; yet, a financial analysis and plan should be prepared to ensure maintenance and troubleshooting of SINGEI after its commissioning and the design of a comprehensive training and retraining plan which addresses the challenges of staff turnover and the quickly evolving situation in the science of GHGs and transparency activities.
Socio-economic	**L**	The CBIT Project promotes an instrumental use of alliances with institutional stakeholders but also with previously less involved actors such as the academia and the private sector when they may be key data providers. The presence of the Technical and Scientific Information Committee on Climate Change ensures full stakeholders' involvement. The presence of a well reputed NGO as IP reinforces the participation of civil society and the capacity of the NGO to act in the climate change arena as a capable leader and technical partner. The explicit recognition that climate change is not gender neutral leads to developing methodologies for gradually integrating capacity building, data and social analysis and demonstrating how gender-focused GHG information collection can influence outcomes. Systematization of lessons learned, KM and communication activities are key elements to reduce socio-economic risks for sustainability; of paramount importance is targeting climate change and GHGs scientists in understanding the often unseen causality link between climate change and gender inequalities.
Institutional framework and governance	**ML**	The undeniable appropriation of Government through IDEAM and the commitment of the GoC even before Project start are challenged by very unstable coverage of leadership and technical roles which obliges to reiterate the presentation of the Project and its activities and slow down the path of progress. Two institutions have been identified for coordinating transparency activities and both of them are being supported but progress toward the establishment of Protocols and Institutional Arrangements is incipient and a clear mandate and resources are still lacking. Barriers are still present for effective partnerships and the establishment of the SINGEI and the overall MRV system; line ministries require the strengthening of capacities not only for sharing but also for producing information.
Environmental	**L**	Environmental risks are not expected; instead, activities are expected to have significant multiple environmental benefits, i.e. quantified GHG emissions, improved Energy and AFOLU policies, , improved data availability on ecosystem services and air quality, improved understanding of the different impacts of climate change over men and women and through the analysis of the relative causes improved climate change policies. Awareness raising activities are key for environmental sustainability.

II Concise Summary of Conclusions

Colombia is a regional forerunner in the fight against climate change and has been an active Party to the negotiations of the ETF of the PA. The CBIT Project well articulates with the National Climate Change Policy and the Colombia's National Development Plan (PND) Plan; it offers the possibility to participate to significant national and international platforms; it is one of the largest CBIT of the Latin American region, with rare or unique characteristics (i.e. adopting a genuine gender perspective, not only as a general policy but in all sectors of the GHG accounting system; being a full NIM but implemented by a nationally well recognized NGO) which overall contribute to positioning it among the CBIT GSP and supporting the country's aim as a leader in the climate action. Although Project design and expectations are quite ambitious, the framework policy conditions are well established and facilitate implementation and sustainability. The CBIT supports strategic alliances among government agencies, academic and research institutions, and other relevant stakeholders, to comprehensively enhance its MRV system while drawing on existing technical and management capacities from previous processes under the UNFCCC such as those for the preparation of NCs and BURs. Supporting IDEAM in strengthening its technical and coordination capacity as the leader scientific

national authority on climate change, and specifically on GHG inventories and assisting sectoral agencies in developing emissions baselines, modelling, projections, scenarios, and policy-relevant analysis and database management, the CBIT Project holds sustainability within the same conception of the actions proposed; it create capacities for better informed national decision-making (i.e. more ambitious mitigation actions and increasing public awareness through KM and media engagement) and for improving in terms of quality and timing the modalities with which the GoC adhere and respond to its international commitments.

IV Recommendations Summary

The following recommendations are tailored to improve the implementation and sustainability of the SGP as a whole and not of specific grants.

Table N. 3 Recommendations

N.	Recommendation	Responsible
A	**Component level**	
A.1	**Component N.1.** The operationalization of the MRV system encompasses much more than the instalment and operation of the SINGEI platform; it is paramount to quickly progress in establishing the legal functioning of the platform, including: i) supporting the identified transparency institutions and ensure they have the means and mandate to operate; and ii) ensuring institutional arrangements through Memorandum of Understandings with involved actors for the correct production and flow of information in view of reporting commitments but also for national decision/policy-making; iii) drafting a financial analysis and plan for its operation and maintenance; iv) ensuring specific regulations are prepared for SINGEI to support the processes of interoperability and the mandatory involvement of other institutions for the generation of data and periodic reporting.	PMU, Consultants, IDEAM and line ministries, UNDP CO
A.2	**Component 4.** Consider creating a Project website or quickly reinforce and/or modify existing portals to give it more visibility.	PMU, IDEAM
B	**Project Implementation and Adaptive Management**	
B.1	**Indicators.** Modification or interpretation is proposed for a couple of indicators, highlighted in Table 5 – the PRF matrix. It is recommended to adopt it formally during the PSC. The revision does not affect the meaning and does not operate any major change. **Gender Indicators.** Setting the GEF Core Indicator of beneficiaries' participation at half men/half women and then reporting that participation is effectively half/half appears forced. Considering that GHG scientists are usually mostly men, specifically targeting men can help overcome their traditional resistance to a gender perspective	PC, PSC, UNDP
B.2	**No-cost extension.** Without a Project extension, the capacity of IDEAM and other Government actors to test and fine-tune all the functionalities of the SINGEI platform, considering all sectors/subsectors would be compromised. More time is needed to strengthen and harmonize all components of the MRV. Technically, also the management of Uncertainty requires longer time as data providers are not used to work with it. An extension of at least 6 months, and according to funds availability, is suggested; Capacity building is an ongoing process which due to staff turnovers requires time.	PMU , UNDP, PSC
B.3	**PSC and Technical Committees meetings.** Turnovers of Government staff make meetings overly formal and repetitive, therefore time-consuming, reducing the time for decision-making and preventing the Technical Committee from truly distinguishing itself from the PSC. It is suggested to reduce the formalities, prepare Project presentations for newcomers to acquaint before the meetings and ensure the Technical Committee operates at a technical level and possibly in presence. Various stakeholders suggest the possibility to hold a PSC every three months.	PMU staff, PSC and Technical Committee
B.4	**Transition to new administrative platforms**. Ensure and follow-up that the transition to Quantum/PIMS no longer affect expenses registration, budget revisions and operational funding availability.	UNDP
C	**Sustainability**	
C.1	**Develop a capacity building/training plan.** Given the fast-evolving situation in the science of GHGs and transparency activities, the high turnover of decision-makers and technical staff and the lack of expertise in GHG in the country, a comprehensive capacity building plan should be developed, considering training at managerial and technical levels, sectoral levels and targeting data producers/providers (i.e. UPME, DANE among others); retraining; refresh training sessions and the compilation of a register of trained people to keep track of who in the country can be available.	PMU
C.2	**Socio-economic and Institutional Sustainability.** Foster a culture among organizations that recognizes data and information as public goods due to the high turnover of officials which may cause priorities to be placed over different targets and knowledge be lost.	PMU, IDEAM
C.3	**Financial Sustainability.** Develop a financial analysis and investment plan, carefully analyzing needed resources for managing, maintaining and troubleshooting of SINGEI after commissioning.	PMU, IDEAM

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Purpose of the Mid-Term Review and objectives

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) together with Fundacion Natura (FN) supports the Government of Colombia (GoC) in developing capacity for scientifically monitoring, measuring and reporting on the greenhouse gases (GHGs) emissions and removals in line with international standards developed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement, of which Colombia is a signatory, requires countries to adhere to the principle of Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) and to implement the Enhanced Transparency Framework in the context of enhancing action at the national level to mitigate climate change.

This document is the Mid-Term Review (MTR) report of the Project Colombia's 2030 MRV Strategic Vision. Financing is provided by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), under the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT), with co-financing by the GoC and Fundación Natura (FN). The UNDP Country Office (CO) is the GEF Implementing Agency (IA); the National Implementation Modality (NIM) is adopted through FN, a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) which is the Implementing Partner (IP); leading institutions are the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM) and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MinAmbiente). As a Full-Sized Project (FSP), it is subject to a MTR under the GEF Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) policies and procedures.

The independent consultant, Elena Laura Ferretti, conducted the review home-based, with virtual interviews during the period August-September 2024 and elaborated the MTR report in accordance with UNDP and GEF guidance, rules and procedures, in particular the Guidance for Conducting Mid-Term Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-financed Projects, version 2014 (https://erc.undp.org/pdf/Guidance_Midterm%20Review%20_EN_2014.pdf) and the TORs (Annex A).

According to the ToRs, the purposes of the MTR are to:

- Assess progress towards the achievement of the project objectives and outcomes as specified in the Project Document
- Assess early signs of project success or failure with the goal to identify the necessary changes to be made to set the project on-track to achieve its intended results
- Assess the project's strategy, its risks to sustainability, and its gender assessment.

2.2 Scope and methodology

The MTR aimed at collecting and analyzing data in, as much as possible, a systematic manner so as to ensure that findings, conclusions and recommendations are substantiated by evidence. The rationale of the Consultant's approach, which developed in four phases (Preparation; Interviews; Draft Reporting; and Final Report) included:

- A qualitative evaluation based on the analysis of primarily secondary data, documents and information collected (Annex B), including the Project Results Framework (PRF), the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system, and interviews with stakeholders and key Informants (the schedule & people/institutions interviewed is Annex C);
- An analysis based on the evaluation criteria described in the ToRs, in accordance with UNDP-GEF guidance, policies and procedures, Evaluation Questions (Annex D) and an Interview Guide (Annex E), with findings articulated under: Project Strategy, Progress Towards Results, Project Implementation and Adaptive Management, and Sustainability; findings are based on well triangulated information;
- Evaluation findings assessed at national level, based on long-distance interviews with stakeholders, both individually and through focus groups discussions, which overall allowed expressing their perspective on how activities answer real needs and their perceptions about the long-term possibility for impact and sustainability; as the information system for the National GHG Inventory is not yet in place, a theoretical

explanation of its future functioning was provided; the process has been participatory to ensure the contribution of stakeholders to the analysis of the context, confirm data and information collected and discuss outcomes achieved. Open sessions are always capacity development opportunities, allowing government and non-government entities to interact and share experiences; co-financing information is included in the chapter under financial management; Tracking Tools/Core Indicators were reviewed, (see main text and Annex G as a separate annex);

- A well-prepared desk phase, with sufficient days devoted to the preparation of complementary interviews and study of documents to allow smoother interactions with stakeholders;
- An evaluation based on the Code of Conduct for Evaluation as per the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) ethical guidelines, ensuring confidentiality, protection of personal data, protection of vulnerable respondents and ensuring that the review process avoided causing any harm (Annex H).

As described above in the methodology, the MTR is an evidence-based assessment, relying on data collected mainly through documents and information which were analyzed and triangulated with feedback obtained through interviews with people involved in the design and implementation of the Project. Evaluation Questions were not included in the ToRs and were developed by the Consultant during the elaboration of the Inception Report, together with an Interview Guide; they refer sources of information and the methodology of analysis used. The Inception Report was submitted on September, the 2nd, 2024, according to requirements.

2.2.1 Limitations and elements of attention

The process has been participatory, with a good number of people interviewed, both individually or as a focus group, and including representatives of key partners and government institutions, UNDP staff and government and non-government key informants involved in the development of specific Project's items. CBIT management and the UNDP CBIT Focal Point facilitated contacts for meetings and interviews, which developed without major constraints. Some critical elements to be considered in reading this report:

- clearly, the subtle interactions between stakeholders are definitely less easy to appreciate from a distance and when the project involves a degree of technical and specific expertise which cannot be appreciated in detail without being an expert. The possibility that some judgements are misled exists but this should be minimal considering that: i) projects focusing on capacity development are less affected from a virtual evaluation than projects with field activities; ii) the number of stakeholders contacted, either individually or through focus groups, which allowed a satisfactory triangulation of the information and provide a substantial picture of achievements; iii) theoretical illustrations of the functioning of the GHG Inventory system (SINGEI) was provided;
- it is premature to asses impacts but the general difficulties of "attribution" during the analysis of effects holds true; different donors and projects contribute to the same objective either in mere co-financing or for implementation; i.e. the World Bank BioCarbon Fund; separate GEF funding is available for activities to which the CBIT directly contributes (i.e. elaboration of reporting to UNFCCC, MRV for AFOLU); the CBIT is part of the overall climate change portfolio of the UNDP CO; in addition, the GoC had already progressed on various actions envisaged in the period between Project's approval and the start of field activities; overall, complementarities and mutual support are created.

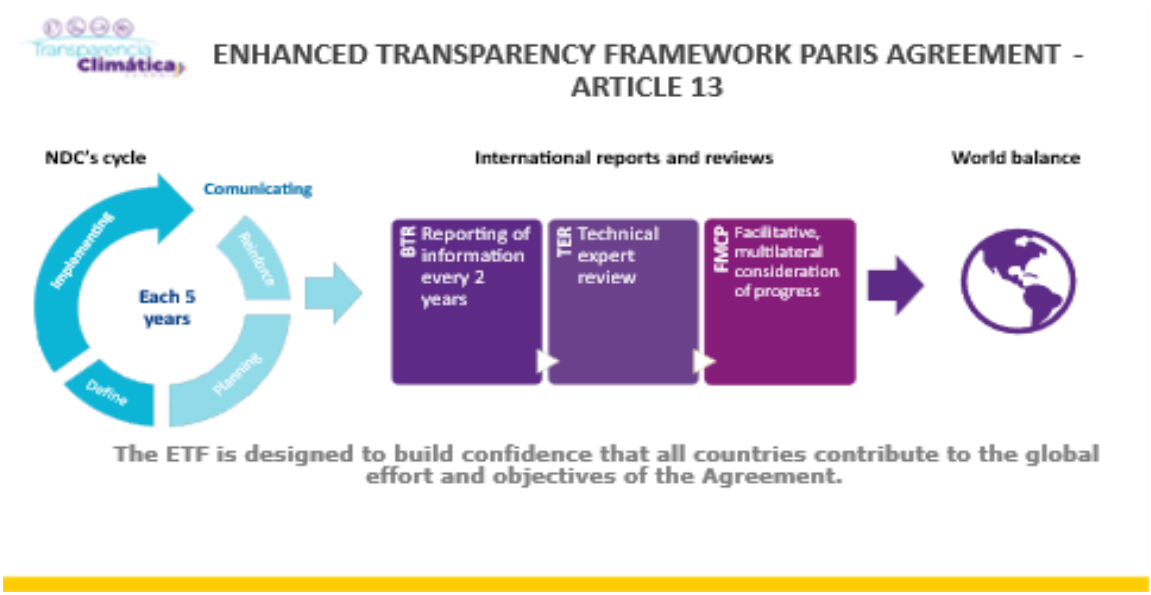
Overall, the collection and triangulation of data and information can be considered appropriate to sustain findings, thus providing reasonable evidence of progress towards objectives; stakeholders were collaborative and able to contribute to the analysis of the context, confirm data and information and discuss outcomes achieved. Focus groups discussions and open sessions are always occasions for exchanges of opportunities among stakeholders to interact and learn from reciprocal experiences.

2.3 Structure of the Report

The MTR report was prepared in accordance with the UNDP-GEF MTR guidelines. The report follows the suggested format with a description of the methodology taken, a description of the Project and then the findings organized around the:

- Project Strategy
- Progress towards results
- Project implementation and adaptive management
- Sustainability

Conclusions and recommendations complete the report.

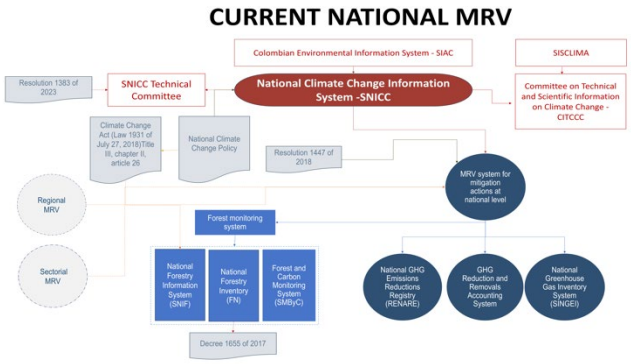


3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND CONTEXT

3.1 Development context

Climate change is one the main threats for Colombia's development, impacting at economic, political, social and environmental level; biophysical conditions and the historic settlement, consumption, extraction and production patterns contributed to make more than 15% of the Colombian land as highly vulnerable to climate change, threatening the welfare of its inhabitants as well as the national biodiversity (one of the richest over the world) and the economy of different sectors.

Colombia signed the Paris Agreement (PA) in 2016 and ratified it in July 2018, following the approval of **Law 1844/2017** which deemed the PA compliant with the country's constitution. Art. 4 of the Agreement requires the identification and implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and the establishment of binding GHGs mitigation and adaptation commitments; it also mandates in its Art.13 the implementation of an Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) for which specific modalities, procedures and guidelines were established during the UNFCCC's COP 24 in Poland (referred to as the *Katowice package*) together with rules to communicate and evaluate NDC commitments. As a result, Colombia needs to strengthen its NDC policy and its monitoring and evaluation system (e.g. scenario development,
modeling, information and data processing systems, centralized reporting instruments for mitigation actions, among others) as well as the capacities for an effective transfer of technology and knowledge to generate, manage and process the data inputs to develop GHG emissions estimates and projections. In light of such requirements, by **Resolution 1447/2018**, MinAmbiente established the parameters and general conditions of the national MRV System, with the aim of managing climate change information and produce inputs for decision-making as established by the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP). Administered by IDEAM under the guidance of MinAmbiente, this system comprises: the National Registry of GHG Emission Reductions (RENARE), the National GHG emissions and removals accounting system (SCRR), the Forests and Carbon Monitoring System (SMByC) and the National Greenhouse Gases Inventory System (SINGEI). A key policy instrument providing guidance towards the fulfillment of the PA and the consolidation of the national MRV System is **Law 1931/2018** (Climate Change Framework Law) which, in accordance with the PA's ratification Law (1844/2017) seeks, among others, to optimize the national transparency mechanisms; its Art. 14 establishes as instruments for climate change management: 1) NDCs to the UNFCCC; 2) the National Climate Change Policy; 3) the Sectoral and Territorial Climate Change Plans; 4) the National Development Plans of Regional Governments and Land Use Plans; and 5) National Communications (NCs) on Climate Change, National GHG Inventories, Biennial Update Reports (BURs) and other relevant reports that may modify/substitute them[2]. This Law establishes that IDEAM and MinAmbiente are responsible for the overall administration and coordination of the National Climate Change Information System (SNICC) which includes the SINGEI (Art. 26), a key element to design Sectoral and Territorial Climate Change Management Plans, which preparation is a responsibility of departments (provinces) and sectoral ministries (Art. 17 and 18).



IDEAM developed a long-term strategy and roadmap – the MRV 2030 Strategic Vision and Plan - to ensure robust tracking of the NDC implementation and the continuous strengthening of the SINGEI and other components of the national MRV System, including its accounting and reporting dimensions; ongoing and foreseen enhancements are based on the transparency framework and involve developing strong

[2] i.e. the Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) which substitutes the BUR.

institutional arrangements, technical foundations as well as tools to implement a solid, systematic and UNFCCC-compliant national MRV. The national MRV system is expecting to contribute to track emissions reduction objectives as defined in the Colombia's NDC and to strengthen institutional arrangements with a view to improve the estimation, accountability and reporting of emissions and removals through high-quality data that is suitable to guide policies and mitigation initiatives. The MRV 2030 Strategic Plan aims at developing information through the integration of data from multiple sources in all key variables to estimate historic and future emissions from relevant sectors; for its implementation, IDEAM has developed specific roadmaps to strengthen the accounting and reporting of emissions and removals in all IPCC sectors (AFOLU, Energy, Industrial Processes and Product Use and Waste) under a unified, consistent framework. A set of programs/initiatives contribute to the coordinated implementation of the MRV 2030 Strategic Plan, i.e. i) the initiative "Monitoring, Reporting and Verification in the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector in Colombia" financed by the GEF, aiming at consolidating the MRV System to track GHG emissions and reductions in the AFOLU sector; ii) the BioCarbon Fund implemented in the framework of the global initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes from the World Bank, which also focuses on guiding planning and reducing emissions from the land and forest AFOLU sector, supported by the governments of Germany, United States, United Kingdom and Norway; iii) the recently approved GEF project for the elaboration of NC-4 and BTR-1 and BTR-2; iv) Project Supporting Preparedness for Article 6 Cooperation (SPAR6C) is a five-year multi-country project launched in 2022, led by the Global Green Growth Institute, financed by IKI and supported by a consortium of partners; it supports participating countries to increase climate ambition by enhancing readiness to participate in the international carbon market under Article 6 of the PA, with increasing private sector engagement; and v) the CBIT – Global Support Programme (GSP), funded by GEF and implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) supporting participating countries in the transition to the ETF and the BTRs.

Three NCs (in 2001, 2010 and 2017) and three BURs, (in 2015, 2018, 2021 respectively) have been reported to the UNFCCC. The elaboration of the BTR-1 (now substituting the BUR4) and of NC-4 are under elaboration, with the support of this CBIT project; additional GEF funding has already been secured for the elaboration of BTR-2. At Project start, the most recent national GHG Inventory included in BUR-3 indicated that average annual emissions for the period 1990-2018 were 245,089 Gg CO2eq, with emission levels of 224,952 Gg CO2eq in 1990 and 302,974 Gg CO2eq in 2018, marking a 34.7% increase in total GHG emissions over the period.. In 2018 – the latest year of the GHG inventory time series at that moment, the Energy and AFOLU sectors comprised the largest share of GHG emissions (55% and 35%, respectively). Key sources are related to forestland categories (particularly to the changes in natural forests and other forestland classes, the use of timber as fuel, crop derivates and the renewal of commercial forest plantations); grasslands (grasslands remaining as such and natural forests converted into grasslands) and to the use of fossil fuel in the transport and energy industries subsector (e.g. electricity generation, manufacturing of solid fuels and oil refining); together, these emission categories amount to 90% of total national GHG emissions.

The last update of the NDC was in 2020 but published in March 2021. Colombia aims at an ambitious GHG total emissions level of 169.4Mt CO2 eq which means a reduction of GHGs of 51% by 2030 , with relation to its Business as Usual Scenario (BAU); in addition to generate carbon budgets in 2023, Colombia committed to a goal of reducing black carbon of 40% in 2030 below the levels of 2014; the endorsement of carbon neutrality by 2050, a goal of reducing deforestation to 50,000 ha / year by 2030.

3.1.1 The Gender approach in climate change management in Colombia

The GoC has established policies, approved laws and taken effective actions to ensure gender mainstreaming as a strategy to integrate the interests and experiences of women and men into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs in all social, economic and political spheres, in such a way that women and men equally benefit, and inequality is overcome; few examples include: i) Law 51/1981 approving the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women; ii) commitments taken to integrate the gender perspective into public policies and sustainable development programs at the World Conference on Women; iii) Art. 13 and 43 of the Constitution which establish equal opportunities and

rights between men and women, and the prohibition of any form of discrimination; iv) Law 188/1995 which created the National Department for Women's Equality then transformed into the Presidential Counsellorship on Women's Equality; v) the National Development Plan (NDP) 2018–2022 which includes a national pact for women equity (the "Equality Pact) and aims at greater participation of women in decision-making spaces and the inclusion of rural women in the process of social and production planning; Art. 224 of the NDP Law creates the National Women System that is *"a set of policies, instruments, components and processes aimed at including priority issues on the advancement and securing of women's rights into the agenda of the branches of public administration, with a special focus on promoting the mainstreaming of the gender approach in national – level agencies and on the definition of public policies on gender equality for women (…). The National Women System will provide inputs for the development of a Gender Equality Policy for Women and will monitor the implementation of its Action Plan. In developing this Policy, special attention will be given to rural women, with a cross-sectional perspective"*.

Specifically in the area of climate change, a gender perspective has been included in Colombia's reporting mechanisms to the UNFCCC since BUR-2, BUR 3 and the Colombian Low Carbon Development Strategy (CLCDS), which second phase seeks to *"strengthening national capacities to define sectoral responsibilities and implementation roadmaps for GHG mitigation and climate change adaptation, fulfil the targets established in Colombia's NDC, by developing enabling measures and engaging with the private sector, along with a detailed study on the possible pathways to achieve economic decarbonization in the second half of the century and incorporating a cross-cutting gender perspective in climate change management"*. At the end of 2022, a Roadmap and the Gender Action Plan and Climate Change was also published. Notwithstanding, Colombia still needs to advance on the creation of a comprehensive country vision on gender and climate change which includes MRV topics, to enhance analyses and differential decision-making on adaptation and mitigation.

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3.2 Problems that the project sought to address: threats and barriers targeted

Efforts undertaken by the country to improve the policy, regulatory and technical environment on climate change and MRV have undoubtedly provided a rationale for strategic planning and towards the fulfilment of international commitments; even so, there are still major gaps that need to be addressed to implement the monitoring, estimation, accounting, reporting and verification of GHG emissions and removals in line with Colombia's vision to establish a robust, long-term MRV system that complies with the rules and requirements of the PA. These have been documented in the GHG Inventory Improvement Plans and MRV 2030 sectoral roadmaps and inventory improvement plans developed by IDEAM as part of the work under the Third National Communication on Climate Change project and the three BURs delivered to date; here the technical and information needs to enhance the preparation of inventories, emission scenarios and projections are described in detail.

These analyses set forth institutional weaknesses that may delay the compliance of UNFCCC commitments, specifically those related to new rules defined under the PA's ETF. Primarily, these weaknesses stem from a lack of technical capacity and financial resources to develop a broader, more comprehensive approach on national MRV. Therefore, the strengthening of the SINGEI process and other components of the national MRV System in Colombia is required as well as the creation/reinforcement of technical and institutional capacities to improve the accounting, projecting and reporting of GHG emissions and removals; this will support national decision-making, the dissemination of information to the public as well as fulfill the completeness, efficiency and transparency requirements under the UNFCCC. The Theory of Change (ToC) identified four major barriers to achieve a transformational change:

-**Barrier 1:** despite existing institutional arrangements under SINGEI, key challenges persist in relation with the timely and efficient collection of the information required to estimate Colombia's GHG inventory. IDEAM, as the leading agency in the preparation of GHG inventories through its Department of Environmental Studies (SEA), has identified the information sources, instruments and tools relevant to reporting of activity data and emission factors for most of the GHG inventory categories (the information still unknown for selected categories such as solid waste disposal and domestic wastewater management). However, none of the sources and information instruments identified have been made official for public use, and an adequate mandate to generate such information and its technical conditions is yet to be established. The GHG inventory preparation is conducted by a team of specialized professionals who are experienced in the estimation of GHG emissions and undertake a participatory construction process involving both public and private institutions which, besides being the main data providers of the inventory, have actively engaged in the process through the voluntary participation of their staff in technical working groups or expert consultation meetings. These activities are rolled out to define the methodological aspects, verify information and activity data sources, analyze results, identify potential

improvements. GHG inventory preparation would not be possible without the willingness and commitment of these institutions. Nevertheless, the process still relies on informal institutional arrangements, and there are no specific mandates to guide and define the participation and contribution of agencies /organizations in all cycles of inventory preparation to secure the timeliness and quality of the information provided.

-**Barrier 2** Some activity data and information systems in the country lack the quality and do not comply with the technical specifications needed to perform GHG emissions estimations. In addition, estimates under certain key categories of GHG emissions employ IPCC default emission factors and other parameters which may not adequately represent the country's conditions or imply the best methodological approach for calculations, thus increasing uncertainties. Furthermore, Colombia has not developed country-specific emission factors to estimate GHG emissions in most of the IPCC inventory sectors. Colombia's national GHG inventory follows the methods contained in the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National GHG Inventories (IPCC 2006) and the 2000 IPCC Good Practice Guidance on Uncertainty Management. The most recent national GHG inventory of Colombia includes annual emissions and removals for the 1990-2014-time series and covers all IPCC sectors. Although all categories and subcategories representing sources and sinks of GHG emissions and removals were included in the report, GHG emission levels in some subcategories could not be estimated due to the lack of activity data or information systems.

-**Barrier 3** the country lacks a robust archiving system for the information used to prepare the mitigation and emission scenarios that serve as a base of current and future NDCs, nor does it have a solid projections system that allows for a timely and efficient preparation of transparent reports that align with the requirements of the modalities, procedures and guidelines of the PA, Art. 13. Therefore, there is no systematic, integrated and consistent approach to conducting tasks such as periodic information updates, model calibration and scenario development. In addition, although the country has developed emission scenarios (those underlying the NDC and other scenarios developed by sectors), systematic documentation or a mechanism that allows for its replication or adjustment has not been established. Consequently, the methods, variables and assumptions made in developing Colombia's emission scenarios are not broadly understood, as well as their adequacy, adjustment needs and disaggregation level.

-**Barrier 4** the latest developments of SINGEI (e.g protocols, calculation spreadsheets, databases and programming scripts) are integrated within the web platform, which is intended to manage, calculate and report national GHG inventories in a timelier, efficient manner. This can be attributed to outdated activity data protocols which do not reflect the improvements made in the preparation of the National GHG Inventory. These protocols need to be updated in order to support the formalization of institutional arrangements, the official exchange of data and the development of entry data that is consistent with the requirements of the SINGEI platform. Furthermore, although the features of this platform and its main components have been defined, new aspects that were not considered during its design have emerged (black carbon, province-level emissions and their integration with the national and corporate reporting levels, etc.). At present, the size of the SINGEI historic databases causes administration hurdles and makes it difficult to produce timely reports and quality control checks while following UNFCCC requirements under the PA.

Regarding gender issues, progress was made during the preparation of BUR-2, in improving the transparency process and in the quality of the gender-related information reported. This process took place in a participatory manner, involving relevant institutions and actors in the identification of specific gender approaches for climate change management; besides, challenges and opportunities to improve capacities of decision makers, public officials and environmental institutions were identified. Further, a diagnosis of the participation of women in decision-making spaces on climate change was made. Despite these advances, information was not yet available nor was the baselines to link the specific impacts and needs of men and women, or methods to incorporate a gender perspective in the MRV of climate change. This Project seeks to continue to advance in this process through improving the quality of information that allows decision makers to consider gender issues with regards to climate change.

3.3 Description of the Project and Strategy

The Colombia CBIT Project is implemented over a period of 48 months from January 2022 to January 2026; its budget totals US$ 5,601,688 out of which US$ 3,791,550 from GEF, and a total government and NGOs in-kind co-financing of US$ 1,810,138 respectively from: US$ 900,000 IDEAM; US$ 112,996 MinAmbiente; US$ 657,142 Planning Unit Energy Mining (UPME); and US$ 140,000 Fundación Natura.

The CBIT Project Purpose is to "Strengthen Colombia's technical capacities to monitor, report and verify anthropogenic GHG emissions and removals at a national scale in a way that optimizes the country's transparency mechanisms under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement". This is done in order to ultimately consolidate and strengthen the country's 2030 MRV Strategy; it also aims at strengthening national capacities to approach gender issues from the transparency (reporting) mechanisms. The ToC is solid and coherently developed in the ProDoc; the Project's structure is organized around 4 Components and 11 Outcomes: (described in the PRF matrix, reporting progress of implementation):

Component 1. Strengthen the implementation of SINGEI at a national level

Outcome 1.1 Increased transparency and timeliness of Colombia's GHG inventory process by means of a National GHG Inventory System (SINGEI) focuses on developing SINGEI, to be hosted and managed by IDEAM, in close coordination with MinAmbiente; it involves all operations linked with the preparation of GHG inventories and the operation of the SINGEI web platform, including the implementation of data and information sharing protocols.

Outcome 1.2 Uncertainty of the data to estimate GHG emissions from prioritized inventory categories is estimated and managed focuses on managing data uncertainty and estimation implementing a training program for data providers from prioritized inventory categories (specifically AFOLU and Energy); involved organizations /agencies are supported in generating uncertainty reports to be fed into the national GHG inventory.

Outcome 1.3 Strengthening of capacities for the incorporation of the gender perspective into the accounting and estimation of GHG emissions and removals focuses on ensuring that the core team and partner agencies are adequately trained in gender approaches to collecting information in GHG emission estimation and accounting mechanisms; producing and publishing an analytical document about the different impact of GHG emissions, consumption patterns, land and energy use and climate change on men and women; publishing and delivering a document on the incorporation of a gender perspective into the accounting and estimation mechanism of GHG emissions and removals.

Component 2. Improving GHG emissions estimates for Colombia's Energy and AFOLU sectors

Outcome 2.1 Reduced uncertainty of the information used to estimate GHG emissions in key Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) categories of the energy sector focuses on improving the information and methods used to estimate GHG emissions in key Energy and AFOLU categories; these are prioritized based on the improvement plan defined for these sectors through research activities and methodological developments for country-specific emission factors, to estimate fugitive emissions from oil&gas activities (Tier 2 and Tier 3 estimates) plus a Tier 2 estimation method for fugitive methane emissions in coal mining. Country-specific activity data to estimate GHG emissions in the transport sub-sector are to be developed/ updated/systematized. In addition, the web platform of the Unified Environmental Registry (RUA) is to be optimized by including variables that are consistent with the activity data needed to prepare the GHG inventory, and by developing reporting protocols and data validation procedures, mainly for the manufacturing sector. With this intervention, Colombia will improve sectoral capacities needed to i) enhance monitoring and reporting on key variables required to estimate emissions in key categories in the energy sector; ii) strengthen national instruments, such as BECO, so they better respond to the purpose of developing GHG inventories; and iii) report to UNFCCC Tier 2 and Tier 3 emissions estimates for prioritized categories in the Energy Sector for the first time.

Outcome 2.2 Policy-relevant GHG emissions indicators are made available to inform sectoral decision-making focuses on creating roadmaps and mechanisms to generate reports with indicators related to sectoral emissions (mining, energy, transport, residential, industrial, agriculture and managed forestland) at national and sub-national levels as inputs for decision-making

Outcome 2.3 Improved estimates (reduced uncertainty) of the information used to estimate CO2 emissions and removals in key Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) prioritized AFOLU land-cover categories focuses on generating activity data, emissions factors and other key parameters for more accurate GHG emissions and removals estimates in prioritized categories of the AFOLU sector, mainly land-use change. In particular, the methodology to assess forest degradation and to measure fuelwood consumption, forest harvesting and fires in forestland that remains (and to enable disaggregated reporting of these subcategories) will be strengthened. Similarly, an integrated information system to perform spatially explicit cross-checks of information of deforestation and land degradation will be established. In addition, a stratification system based on the six 2006 IPCC land classes will be established to define the second-order levels to perform land use change analysis. Emissions/removal factors for non-forest categories will be developed, improving the

spatial and time resolution of the activity data by developing protocols on land cover sampling under a statistical framework that is consistent with that of the National Forest Inventories.

The Project will also bring together sectoral stakeholders (Fedegan, PorkColombia and Fenavi) to develop *in situ* analysis aimed at generating country-specific emission factors for Colombia's Andean Region (including the inter-Andean valleys) for enteric methane, direct emissions, and volatile and leachable fractions of N2O in cattle ranching systems. A similar undertaking will be carried out for manure management activities in pig farms in the departments (provinces) of Antioquia, Cundinamarca and Valle del Cauca, and in poultry production systems (egg-laying and broilers) in Santander, Cundinamarca and Antioquia

Component 3. Improving GHG projections in Colombia's prioritized sectors (Energy and AFOLU)
Outcome 3.1 GHG scenarios and projections estimated for the Energy and AFOLU sectors, through high quality scientific information focuses on strengthening capacities for the improvement of GHG emissions projections for the prioritized sectors (Energy and AFOLU), which are the main emissions sources in Colombia, using wherever possible a Tier 2 level. Considering the revision process of the NDC and the new Compliance Period under the PA, it is important for Colombia to advance in the improvement of its information regarding emissions trends, in a way that is consistent with the National GHG Inventories. This allows to standardize methodologies and to systematize calculations, making the intersectoral negotiation processes for revision and/or establishment of new reduction goals more efficient. It will also improve reporting mechanisms, and address Colombia's key needs on transparency. To deliver these results, the Project will prioritize the definition of accounting rules between mitigation actions and NDC projections for the Energy and AFOLU sectors, as an input for the national process of monitoring and updating of NDC beyond 2020. A SINGEI module to systematize the preparation of emissions scenarios for the IPCC sectors is to be designed.

Outcome 3.2 A pilot on the identification of inventory categories in prioritized sectors with a gender perspective to guide the further development of differential mitigation measures at the national level focuses on a pilot exercise to identify which categories/subcategories of the GHG inventory could become gender sensitive, i.e. in case of emissions related to the use of firewood or from inter-municipal transport, in order to propose them as pilot categories to be analyzed differentiating the involvement and impact on men and women when making inventories and reporting. This will allow differentiating mitigation actions accordingly. A booklet is to be developed as a work pioneering the incorporation of a gender perspective into the National GHG Inventories (Energy and AFOLU sectors).

Component 4. Knowledge Management and M&E
Outcome 4.1 Establishment of international cooperation scenarios to disseminate knowledge and Project's results, and to strengthen institutional arrangements and increase global cooperation focuses on compiling, documenting and sharing good practices and lessons learned, at national and local levels; it involves the preparation of graphic material (booklets, infographics, articles). Workshops are to be held both in and outside of the country through the Global Coordination Platforms and other networks of South-South cooperation such as the Latin American Network of GHG Inventories.

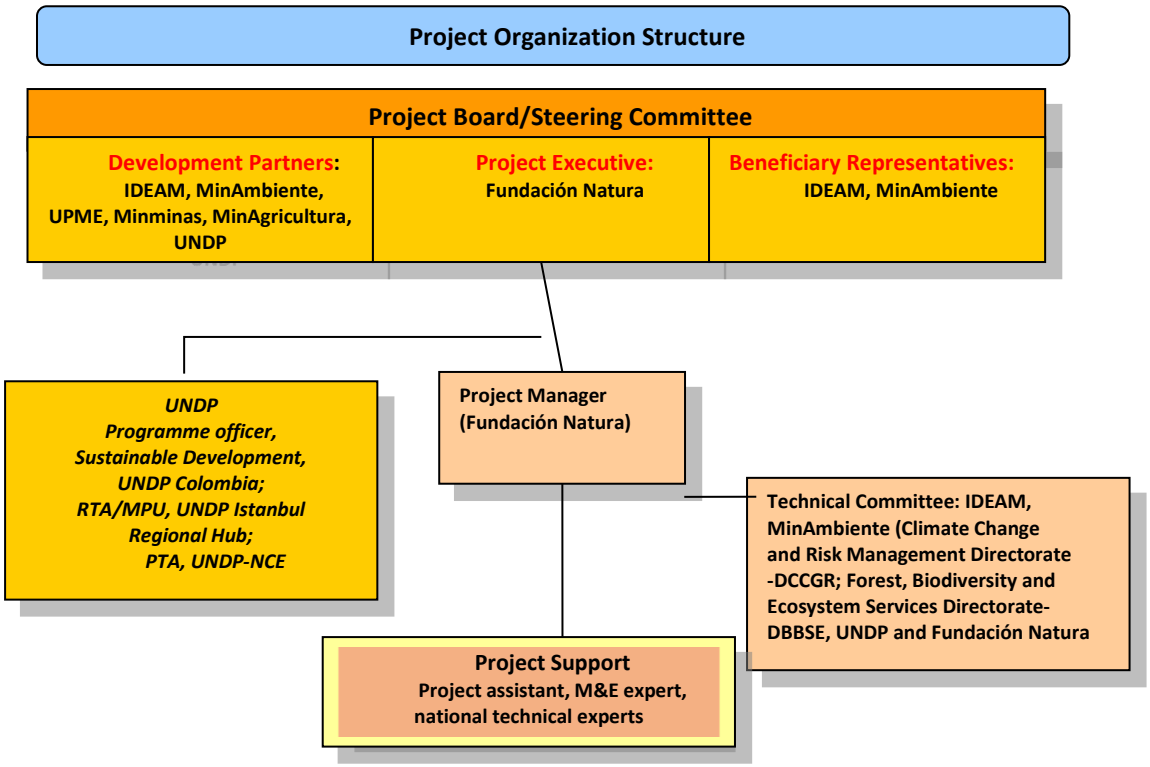
Outcome 4.2 Monitoring of project performance and project's process and impact focuses on developing a M&E Plan, consistent with the Project's Theory of Change.

Outcome 4.3 Incorporation of progress in mid-term and terminal evaluations, monitoring of Gender action plan, risks, stakeholder engagement plan, relevant M&E meetings focuses on including gender information in project progress reports, generating gender-sensitive information and implementing specific workshops/meetings.

3.4 Project Implementation Arrangements

The Project is delivered through the UNDP CO of Colombia adopting the UNDP full NIM through an NGO, with Fundación Natura being the IP, in strict collaboration with IDEAM and MinAmbiente. The IP is responsible and accountable for managing the Project, including the M&E of its interventions involving the different

national institutes, risk management, achieving project outcomes, and for the effective use of GEF/UNDP resources in the procurement of goods and services and management of human resources. Supported by the UNDP CO, the IP is responsible for: approving and signing the multiyear workplan; approving and signing the combined delivery report at the end of the year; and, signing the financial report or funding authorization and certificate of expenditures.



UNDP is the GEF IA and provides a three-tier supervision, oversight and quality assurance role, including the achievement of project results, financial execution and the submission of reports according to UNDP and GEF requirements. The UNDP CO takes responsibility for standard GEF project cycle management services and oversight of project design and negotiation, for ensuring monitoring, periodic evaluations, troubleshooting, and proper use of UNDP/GEF funds and reporting to the GEF. UNDP provides high-level technical and managerial guidance and Quality Assurance through UNDP, as needed and completely independently from the Project Management function. Financial transactions, reporting and auditing are carried out in compliance with established UNDP rules and procedures for the NIM.

The CBIT Project is implemented at national level. Strategic guidance is provided by the Project Steering Committee (PSC) or Project Board, which is jointly chaired by FN and UNDP, with IDEAM and MinAmbiente as beneficiaries' representatives; the ProDoc identifies development partners in IDEAM, MinAmbiente, UPME, MinMinas, MinAgricultura and UNDP; UNDP performs also the quality assurance role. The PSC regularly meets once a year or more if required and is responsible for approving strategic interventions and corrective actions, policy guidance, controlling the use of resources and approving reports and annual operational and financial plans.

The Project Management Unit (PMU) is located within the premises of IDEAM, with the Project Coordinator (PC) performing daily management of activities, assisted by an entire team of specialists, that is a Finance Officer, a M&E Specialist, a M&E assistant and more recently a Knowledge Management consultant, an assistant for the all bidding and contractual processes and a liaison officer between IDEAM, UNDP and FN. FN is represented in the PSC by its Director (or deputy director), playing the role of Project Manager.

A Technical Committee is established for the overall project monitoring; it meets two times every year or as needed; it includes the PC, a representative of FN, representatives of MinAmbiente, representative of UPME, MinMinas, MinAgricultura and the Official of the Programme for the Environment and Sustainable Development of UNDP or his/her delegate. According to the thematic agenda, other institutions may be invited to participate in meetings. The Technical Committee provides strategic guidance and evaluates the added value of the Project; it makes recommendations to the PSC in order to make adjustments in project implementation. UNDP and FN meet every quarter, to follow up the implementation of the quarterly plans.

2.5 Project timing and milestones

The Project Identification Form (PIF) was approved on December 20th, 2018; the document received the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Endorsement on August 25th, 2021 and was signed on January 6th, 2022. The Inception workshop took place on May 5th, 2022, that is later within two months period after the first disbursement as required. The planned closing date is January 6th 2026, after a 48 months period. Although the timing of key implementation milestones appears mostly on time, implementation delays are mainly due to frequent government staff turnover and the cancelation of the first consultancy for the SINGEI platform but partly also to both UNDP and IP administrative complications; the situation suggests consideration for a no-cost extension of at least 6 months. The management team, except the PC, is quite unstable as most of the staff rotated, mostly in search of better opportunities.

The MTR is taking place as envisaged in August-September 2024. The first PIR, the key input for the MTR, covers the period 2022-2023 and the second PIR - still under final revision - has been provided as an input for this MTR.

3.6 Main stakeholders: summary list

The project supports strategic alliances and the meaningful participation of a large number of government institutions and academic and research centres but also of other relevant stakeholders, such as territorial agencies, NGOs, and the private sector.

Key stakeholders are involved early and throughout execution as partners for development, so as to capitalize on their comparative advantages, create synergies, strengthen a holistic, and resilient construct of interventions, and improve legitimacy. The main stakeholders/partners are below summarized:

Table N.4 SGP Stakeholders and Partners

Type of Stakeholder	Role and link to CBIT
Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MinAmbiente)	With the primary role to establish public policies on sustainable development and environment at a national level, it provides high-level and technical guidance to maintain a strong connection between the Project and the National Climate Change Policy and the national environmental information system (SIAC). As the GEF's Focal Point, it provides support to IDEAM in establishing an effective exchange with the GEF. It sits on the PSC.
Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM)	Responsible for generating official information and monitoring natural resources at national level, it leads the technical components of the Project related with the generation and analysis of data, design and implementation of information platforms, engagement of relevant sectors; as technical coordinator of the SIAC, it integrates project's results into existing information platforms and monitoring systems. It is the Project executive and principal direct beneficiary. It sits and presides the PSC.
National Mining and Energy Planning Unit (UPME)	It generates information from the mining and energy sectors and provides technical inputs for decision-making. It co-executes with IDEAM activities related to developing improved data to estimate emissions in the energy sector and to optimize the National Energetic Balance (BECO).
Ministry of Mining and Energy (MinMinas)	Actively participates in the generation of technical products; it provides information about emissions coming from the mining and energetic activities; it signs agreement with the Project and participates to trainings. Aims at optimizing the National Information Systems of Oil&Gas (SIPG) and Mining (SIMCO).

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MinAgricultura)	Actively participates in the generation of technical products; it provides information about emissions coming from the agricultural and cattle ranching activities; it participates to trainings.
National Department on Statistics (DANE)	It generates official national statistics. It supports the implementation of activities related to capacity development on uncertainty estimation and reporting.
Intersectoral Commission of Climate Change	It collaborates with the Project and can be used as a space for the presentation of public policies and mitigation actions.
Colombian Corporation for Agricultural Research (AGROSAVIA)	It contributes to technical change and improvement in the agricultural sector. It co-execute activities on activity data and emission factor improvement for livestock-related categories of the GHG inventory.
-Local and subnational governments -Regional Environmental Authorities (CARs).	They administer renewable natural resources within their jurisdiction. They participate in trainings related to information gathering.
Universities and research centers	Conduct scientific and applied research on climate change topics. They co-execute data collection and analysis activities and provide existing connections with other local institutions, including communities (e.g. Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, UPTC).
Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)	Conduct scientific and applied research on climate change topics. They co-execute data collection and analysis activities and provide existing connections with other local institutions, including communities (e.g. TNC, WWF).
Guild Sector (National Federation of Cattle Ranchers- FEDEGAN, Fedemaderas, Cenicana, Fedepalma, Fedegan, PorkColombia, Fenavi…)	Private, sectoral associations that comprise agriculture and cattle ranchers of Colombia. They co-execute activities on activity data and emission factor improvement for livestock related categories of the GHG inventory. The Project fosters adoption of formal agreements to secure timely information exchanges
Presidential Counsellorship for Women's Equality	The reference body for gender mainstreaming.
Fundación Natura	It is the Implementing Partner/Project Manager tasked with Project planning, coordination, management, M&E. It provides all required information and data necessary for comprehensive and evidence-based project reporting, including results and financial data, as necessary; it strives to ensure project-level M&E is undertaken by national institutes and is aligned with national systems so that the data used and generated by the Project supports national systems
International Cooperation Agencies	Development partners.

4. FINDINGS

4.1 Project Strategy

4.1.1 Project design

Project design is relevant and appropriate; it focuses on meeting critical and well-identified gaps in the country's capacity to transparently comply with the NDC commitments, within the framework of the PA and the latest commitments within the ETF, addressing key emitting sectors and involving line ministries both in decision-making and in strengthening their capacities to meaningfully contribute.

The Project is fully aligned with the UNDP strategy for Colombia and with the GEF-7 priorities. The "*GEF 7 Strategy*" (2018-2022) establishes that activities under CBIT are included in the Climate Change Focal Area, Objective 3: "*Foster enabling conditions for Mainstreaming Mitigation Concerns into Sustainable Development Strategies*", in order to support all requirements under the UNFCCC and activities in support of national planning, monitoring and mitigation contributions. CBIT is established to strengthen national institutions for transparency-related activities in line with national priorities; to provide relevant tools, training, and assistance for meeting the provisions stipulated in Art. 13 of the PA; to assist in the improvement of transparency over time. Thus the Project is fully aligned with the objective of the PA and its Art. 13; with UNFCCC and the most recent commitments of COP24 (Katowice package); and with the new action plan adopted at COP23 on gender which seeks to promote progress in the integration of the gender perspective in all elements of the climate action. The Project aligns with UNDP's objectives of poverty eradication and comprehensive environmental management, including support to national and local strategies of climate change adaptation and mitigation, as well as emphasis on low carbon policy development. It relates with CDP Outcome 1, contributing to the indicator: Programs implemented to reduce deforestation, GHG emissions and environmental degradation (Baseline: 0 (2014) Target: 9 (2018)); it also clearly aligns with CDP objectives to strengthen data collection systems and environmental and climate change monitoring. Building upon and linking with other initiatives, defined activities contribute to achieving the SDGs. Colombia has identified existing synergies of its NDC in 40 out of 169 SDG targets; in particular, those under SDGs 5, 7, 8, 10 and 13 related to climate change mitigation are strongly connected with the CBIT project:

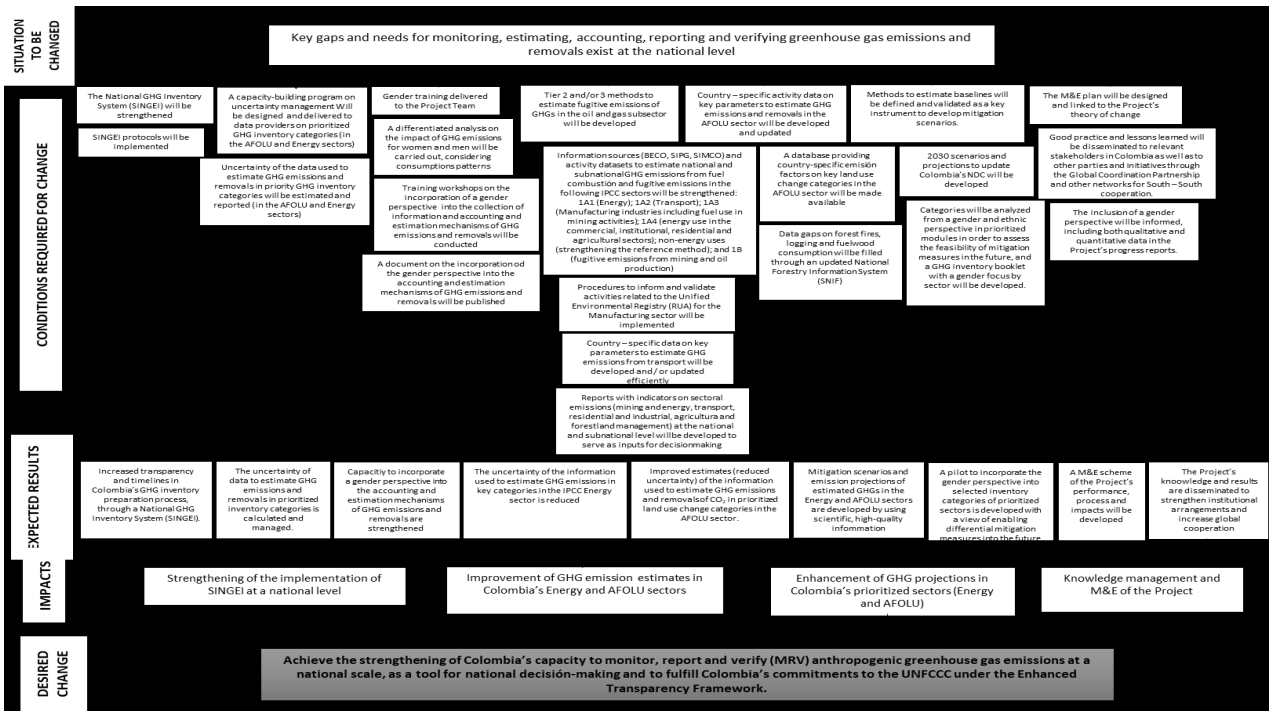
SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere. Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life.
SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all, increasing the percentage of renewable energy and improving infrastructure; enhance energy efficiency and the use of cleaner fossil fuel technologies.
SDG 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment, and decent work for all; improve the production and consumption of natural resources and aim to detach economic growth from environmental degradation.
SDG 10: Reduce inequalities within and among countries.
SDG 13: Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning; improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning; and address country needs for the transparent implementation of mitigation measures and its financing.

Project design is consistent with national priorities and strategies; it directly responds to identified needs for capacity-development for transparency, one of the Government priorities under the Climate Change Framework Law; transparency and MRV are key to enhance actions to fully comply with the obligations under the UNFCCC and the PA. The PRODOC reports, and interviews confirm, that Project design was developed with feedback and significant participation from multiple stakeholders, including IDEAM, MinAmbiente, the National Planning Department (NPD) and line ministries such as the MinMinas, UPME, DANE, MinAgricoltura, Ministry of Housing and Potable Water, and Ministry of Transport; they participated in ideation, formulation, and collection of information workshops (*Annex 4 of PRODOC* includes a summary of stakeholders' participation). Lessons learned from previous NCs and BURs are well integrated, the consultant who supported the design of this CBIT having been involved in the preparation of the BUR.

The PA calls for transparency in reporting GHG emissions and removals using internationally agreed MRV systems and methodologies that countries can use to estimate GHG inventories. The existing MRV framework

encompasses submitting NCs every four years and BURs/BTRs every two years. With the PA, requirements have increased dramatically and the GoC needs a robust and extensive MRV system. Whilst the country is committed to global efforts towards reducing GHG emissions as proved by an enabling legal framework, it lacks proper technical and institutional capacity to fully adhere to PA requirements. Improving capacities for managing the MRV means addressing gaps and challenges related to the collection of transparent, accurate, consistent and complete data about GHG emissions and removals and be able to produce comparable estimates, particularly in the most emitting sectors, that is AFOLU and Energy.

Based on the information produced with the different NCs and BURs already produced and after having well identified the key barriers, the ToC is well designed to produce desired changes; the CBIT Project represents a great opportunity for the country to increase technical capacities and build the necessary institutional framework to support the accurate and transparent collection of information, reduction of uncertainty and monitoring and reporting of emissions factors in key identified sectors in order to manage and reduce GHG emissions; this is expected to strengthen the scientific/technical foundations of mitigation alternatives for the country and to improve the NDC itself.



*ToC - Fig. 3 of the ProDoc

Gender. Quite importantly, the CBIT Project shows a clear intention and effective approach to incorporate a gender perspective in the emissions/removals accounting and estimation mechanism as well as in enabling gender sensitive mitigation measures. The Project is designed to structurally incorporate gender-related results across all components.

Stakeholder involvement and strategic alliances. In this process, the Project supports strategic alliances among government agencies, academic institutions, and other relevant stakeholders, to comprehensively enhance the monitoring, reporting and verification of national GHG emissions and removals while drawing on the existing technical and management capacities from previous processes under the UNFCCC such as NCs and BURs/BTRs. The Project also supports IDEAM to strengthen its technical capacity as a scientific national authority on climate change, particularly on the matters of systematic development of GHG inventories; assisting sectoral and territorial agencies in the development of emission baselines, projections, scenarios; NDC revision and updating; promoting more ambitious mitigation actions as well as generating public awareness on climate change through media engagement and capacity development of stakeholders and

interest groups who are part of the preparation of National GHG inventories on emissions modeling, policy-relevant analyses and database management.

Financial incentives are designed and targeted in such a way as to optimize the generation of Global Environmental Benefits. Enhanced institutional arrangements, reinforced technical and organization MRV capacities and better policy planning, improved and more transparent information are likely to importantly contribute to the global fight against climate change by: i) supporting informed decision-making for more ambitious and reliable NDCs for Colombia; ii) positively impacting in the areas of mitigation, capacity building and finance due to the effective implementation and monitoring of the NDCs; and iii) adopting a tracking system for NDCs more in line with Art. 13 of the PA for transparency.

4.1.2 Results Framework Analysis

Project design well identifies the barriers and key gaps for the effective establishment (architecture, software, institutional linkages) and functioning of the MRV system (monitoring, estimating, accounting, reporting and verifying GHGs emissions and removals), including: i) information gaps, especially related with data uncertainty in the most significant sectors (AFOLU and Energy) and according to the new IPCC methodologies; ii) capacity weaknesses for structured modalities to collect information from public and private institutions through the adoption of protocols and not simply on a voluntarily basis; iii) transparency requirements in relation to the updated Katowice package, as identified at COP24. The approach is solid and well responds to national priorities as demonstrated by the fact that the GoC has not waited the Project's formal approval to start implementing some of the activities identified such as the elaboration of BUR-3 and starting the improvement of AFOLU and other inventory information. Therefore, while the strategy remains the same, it requires adjustment in terms of timeline but also financially to include inputs not originally envisaged as funds have been freed from activities already developed.

Choosing the NGO Implementation Modality. The entity designed to implement activities is identified in Fundación Natura - an NGO having its 41st year existence anniversary in 2024 - well-experienced in managing environmental projects in the country, including 4 GEF projects, able to create and maintain effective relationships at all levels of government and being recognized as an influencer in environmental and climate change public policies for its capacity to bring new ideas and approaches, well representing civil society, with a genuine gender perspective; the NGO has undergo various micro-assessments, before and even during Project implementation, always well performing in terms of administrative procedures, transparency, resources capacity.

The PRF (see Table 5 below) is clearly designed upon a straight-forward ToC in terms of objective and outcomes; yet, it is very technical on certain aspects and overly detailed which makes understanding challenging and reduces implementation flexibility. Desired and expected change focuses on the development and improvement of the national capacities for robust monitoring, reporting, and verification of GHG emissions and removals, overcoming information challenges and gaps to obtain more transparent, accurate, consistent, complete and comparable estimates, particularly in the Energy and AFOLU sectors and, therefore, complying with UNFCCC requirements on national GHG inventories and NDC tracking, and with the ETF of the PA, Art. 13. **Fig 3 of the ProDoc** represents a well-thought upon **ToC** which builds on a **PRF** with a single **objective**, articulated in **four components**, expecting to deliver **11 outcomes**, reasonably well connected through logical linkages and designed to help the country to enhance its institutional and technical capacity related to climate transparency.

At objective level, 6 Indicators are identified, in line with GEF CBIT Tracking Tools (N.1-Quality of the MRV System (CBIT TT n.3); N. 2-Institutional Capacity Assessment for Transparency (CBIT TT N.5); and/or GEF Core Indicators (N.3-N. of direct beneficiaries by gender (GEF Core N.11). Indicators 4-5-6 are more specific to the SINGEI and MRV Colombian system. Indicators at this level are relatively SMART, the baseline and targets well identified. Yet, indicator N.6 and N.1 could have been combined as the quality of the MRV system also includes the strengthening process which leads institutions to collect and provide useful and reliable data.

The gender component is set at half of men and women as beneficiaries which could appear optimistic or not adequately thought but management appears able to reach this target.

Component 1. Strengthen the implementation of SINGEI at a national level includes 3 outcomes and a total of 8 outputs, clearly identified.

Outcome 1.1 Increased transparency and timeliness of Colombia's GHG inventory process by means of a National GHG Inventory System (SINGEI) aims at increasing transparency and timeliness of estimations and reporting by developing or strengthening all operations linked with the preparation of GHG inventories (emission factors, uncertainty calculations, data compilation, black carbon calculation spreadsheets) and the operation of the SINGEI web platform (quality assurance/quality control), including the implementation of data and information sharing protocols. It includes **two outputs**: **1.1.1 National SINGEI platform developed and implemented**: development of the software and implementation of the platform which is to be hosted and managed by IDEAM, in close coordination with MinAmbiente. SINGEI will facilitate the analysis of information, tracking of activities and sector, enable stakeholders and end-users to access information of good quality and therefore overall support decision-making and exchange of information; and **1.1.2 SINGEI protocols are implemented:** for information provision and exchange for all relevant sector of the GHG inventory (Energy, IPPU, AFOLU & Waste).
Outcome 1.2 Uncertainty of the data to estimate GHG emissions from prioritized inventory categories is estimated and managed aims at managing data uncertainty and estimation of removals, implementing a tailored training program for data providers (i.e. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, UPME, and DANE) from prioritized inventory categories (specifically AFOLU and Energy); involved organizations/agencies will be supported in generating uncertainty reports to be fed into the national GHG inventory(**output 1.2.1**); improving the availability of quantitative information on the uncertainty level for emission estimates is identified as a key area for improvement of national prioritized GHG inventories categories (AFOLU and Energy) (**output 1.2.2)**.
Outcome 1.3 Strengthening of capacities for the incorporation of the gender perspective into the accounting and estimation of GHG emissions and removals aims at ensuring that the core team and partner agencies are adequately trained (**output 1.3.1)** with a training program to ensure mainstreaming of the gender approach in each Project's components and in the collection of information to account for and estimate GHG emissions and removals in sectors (**output 1.3.3**) in gender approaches to collecting information in GHG emission estimation and accounting mechanisms; producing and publishing an analytical document (**output 1.3.2**) about the different impact of GHG emissions, consumption patterns, land and energy use and climate change on men and women; publishing and delivering a document on the incorporation of a gender perspective **(output 1.3.4)** into the accounting and estimation mechanism of GHG emissions and removals.

Component 1 includes 3 Indicators: **Indicator 1.1.1** is certainly SMART but would find a better place at objective level and should be replaced here with an indicator for the installment and functioning of the SINGEI platform, in line with the first outputs of this component; **Indicator 1.1.2** is quite difficult to calculate but the Project is there to develop a methodology to assess the reduction of uncertainty concerning emissions and removals; yet, a proposal is made to measure the development of tools for the successful management of uncertainty in the GHG inventory information; and **Indicator 1.1.3** which relates to the number of trainings implemented for gender mainstreaming; the monitoring plan specifies that it includes an assessment of their impact, therefore it should also refer to the number of people involved, the quality of the training, the satisfaction of beneficiaries and the effective capacity to apply knowledge.

Component 2. Improving GHG emissions estimates for Colombia's Energy and AFOLU sectors includes 3 outcomes and a total of 8 outputs which are clearly identified but with an excessive level of detail and technicism in some sections which may revert into a constraint instead than flexibility of action.

Outcome 2.1 Reduced uncertainty of the information used to estimate GHG emissions in key Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) categories of the energy sector aims at improving the information and methods used to estimate GHG emissions in key Energy and AFOLU categories (as BUR N.2 indicates, these two sectors comprise 90% of the country's total emissions, therefore improving monitoring and information will revert positively on the national GHG inventories), prioritized based on the improvement plans defined for these sectors (originally based on 2006 IPCC guidelines) through research activities and methodological developments for country-specific emission factors, to estimate fugitive emissions from oil&gas activities (Tier 2 and Tier 3 estimates) plus a Tier 2 estimation method for

fugitive methane emissions in coal mining (**output 2.1.1**). Country-specific activity data to estimate GHG emissions in the transport sub-sector are to be developed/updated/systematized. In addition, the web platform of the Unified Environmental Registry (RUA) will be optimized by including variables that are consistent with the activity data needed to prepare the GHG inventory, and by developing reporting protocols and data validation procedures, mainly for the manufacturing sector (**output 2.1.3**). Country-specific data on key variables to estimate GHG emissions from transport are developed and/or updated and systematized (**output 2.1.4**)

Outcome 2.2 Policy-relevant GHG emissions indicators are made available to inform sectoral decision-making aims at creating roadmaps/mechanisms to generate reports with indicators for sectoral emissions (mining, energy, transport, residential, industrial, agriculture and managed forestland) at national/sub-national levels for decision-making (**output 2.2.1**). The output was modified from the PIF to include not only the energy but also other key sectors, generating large amounts of emissions nationwide.

Outcome 2.3 Improved estimates (reduced uncertainty) of the information used to estimate CO2 emissions and removals in key Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) prioritized AFOLU land-cover categories aims at generating activity data, emissions factors and other key parameters for more accurate GHG emissions and removals estimates in prioritized categories of the AFOLU sector, mainly land-use change (**output 2.3.1**). In particular, the methodology to assess forest degradation and to measure fuelwood consumption, forest harvesting and fires in forestland that remains (and to enable disaggregated reporting of these subcategories) will be strengthened (**output 2.3.2**). Similarly, an integrated information system to perform spatially explicit cross-checks of information of deforestation and land degradation will be established (**output 2.3.2**). In addition, a stratification system based on the six 2006 IPCC land classes will be established to define the second-order levels to perform land use change analysis. Emissions/removal factors for non-forest categories will be developed, improving the spatial and time resolution of the activity data by developing protocols on land cover sampling under a statistical framework that is consistent with that of the National Forest Inventories.

Furthermore, the Project is supposed to bring together sectoral stakeholders (Fedegan, PorkColombia and Fenavi) to develop *in situ* analysis aimed at generating country-specific emission factors for Colombia's Andean Region (including the inter-Andean valleys) for enteric methane, direct emissions, and volatile and leachable fractions of N2O in cattle ranching systems. A similar undertaking will be carried out for manure management activities in pig farms in the departments (provinces) of Antioquia, Cundinamarca and Valle del Cauca, and in poultry production systems (egg-laying and broilers) in Santander, Cundinamarca and Antioquia.

Component 2 includes 4 Indicators: they are all SMART and well identified except **Indicator 1.2.2** which is difficult to assess as it relates to the assessment of the reduction of the percentage of uncertainty but as mentioned above for indicator 1.1.2 relies on methodologies to be developed by the Project. The proposal is to combine it with 1.1.2 above or in any case to be understood as the implementation of improvement plans for uncertainty management by data providers and their relative capacity building.

Component 3. Improving GHG projections in Colombia's prioritized sectors (Energy and AFOLU) includes two outcomes and four outputs.

Outcome 3.1 GHG scenarios and projections estimated for the Energy and AFOLU sectors, through high quality scientific information aims at strengthening capacities for the improvement of GHG emissions projections for the prioritized sectors (Energy and AFOLU), which are the main emissions sources in Colombia, using wherever possible a Tier 2 level. Considering the revision process of the NDC and the new Compliance Period under the PA, it is very important for Colombia to advance in the improvement of its information regarding emissions trends, in a way that is consistent with the National GHG Inventories. This allows to standardize methodologies and to systematize calculations, making the intersectoral negotiation processes for revision and/or establishment of new reduction goals more efficient (**output 3.1.1**). It is also intended to improve reporting mechanisms, and address Colombia's key needs on transparency. To deliver these results, the Project will prioritize the definition of accounting rules between mitigation actions and NDC projections for the Energy and AFOLU sectors, as an input for the national process of monitoring and updating of NDC beyond 2020 (**output 3.1.2**). In addition, a SINGEI module to systematize the preparation of emissions scenarios for the IPCC sectors is to be designed.

Outcome 3.2 A pilot on the identification of inventory categories in prioritized sectors with a gender perspective to guide the further development of differential mitigation measures at the national level aims at a pilot exercise to identify which categories/subcategories of the GHG inventory could become gender sensitive, i.e. in case of emissions related to the use of firewood or from inter-municipal transport, in order to propose them as pilot categories to be analyzed

differentiating the involvement and impact on men and women when making inventories and reporting; this should allow differentiating mitigation actions accordingly. An analytical document on GHG inventory categories including a gender perspective in prioritized sectors (Energy and AFOLU) is to be developed to assess the feasibility of differential mitigation actions (**output 3.2.1**) A booklet is to be developed as a work pioneering the incorporation of a gender perspective into the National GHG Inventories (Energy and AFOLU sectors) (**output 3.2.2**).

Component 3 includes 3 Indicators: they are all SMART and precisely identified, demonstrating a thorough analysis of the needs and gaps in information.

Component 4. Knowledge Management and M&E includes 3 outcomes and four outputs. The component is focused on knowledge management and the traditional M&E activities of a Project.

Outcome 4.1 Establishment of international cooperation scenarios to disseminate knowledge and Project's results, and to strengthen institutional arrangements and increase global cooperation aims at compiling, documenting and sharing good practices and lessons learned (**output 4.1.1**), at national and local levels; it involves the preparation of graphic material (booklets, infographics, articles). Workshops are to be held both in and outside of the country through the Global Coordination Platforms and other networks of South-South cooperation such as the Latin American Network of GHG Inventories.
Outcome 4.2 Monitoring of project performance and project's process and impact aims at developing a M&E Plan, consistent with the Project's Theory of Change (**output 4.2.1**).
Outcome 4.3 Incorporation of progress in mid-term and terminal evaluations, monitoring of Gender action plan, risks, stakeholder engagement plan, relevant M&E meetings aims at including gender information in project progress reports, generating gender-sensitive information and implementing specific workshops/meetings. **Output 4.3.1** is a report that includes findings by sex, including qualitative and quantitative data; and **Output 4.3.2** includes a strategy to ensure that all Project communications and activities include a gender perspective.

Component 4 includes 2 Indicators: Indicator 1.4.1 is unusually included in the PRF as it is the traditional task of the mid-term and final evaluators; **Indicator 1.4.2** is SMART.

Overall, **Indicators** are not always straightforward and its formulation may be complex to understand for newcomers, as it happens with the frequent shift of government officials. The description of the baseline is too extensive and sometimes repetitive. Following consultations with management, a few adjustments are proposed and are signaled in Table 5 - the PRF in blue color: i) text shortened without any change of the meaning to avoid repetition (i.e. part of the baseline of indicator 1.1.1 where the text about uncertainty has been deleted as identical for the baseline of indicator 1.1.2); ii) considering the date of Project signature, revision of the timing, with a simple reference to mid-term and end of project (EoP) instead to a specific year; iii) specification of how some indicators are interpreted (also reported here above in the text); iv) other minor adjustments made from the PIF are already integrated into implementation (i.e. reference to BTR1 instead of BUR4) and reflect a context adjustment due to the time elapsed between Project design and approval and do not affect the approach.

Assumptions and **risks** are well identified in the ProDoc and provide for an initial, solid base for monitoring risks. Overall 12 risks are identified, mostly of an organizational, strategic, and political nature; some of them are too much under management's control to be identified as risks (i.e. Risk N.1 & N.8) or redundant and could be combined (i.e. 5 & 7; and 11 & 12 both concerning COVID 19). The strategy to counteract risks is well identified in *Table 3 as well as at Annex 5 of the ProDoc*. Only one environmental and no social risks are identified at project development stage, considering that no forced displacement or relocation may occur and that environmental benefits are indirectly attended more than any risk likely to materialize. The Social and Environmental Screening Process (SESP) was carried out (*Annex 8 of the ProDoc*) and concluded that as a project centered on the production of scientific information, without major interventions in the field other than those associated with spot sampling (using scientific methods) to calculate activity data and emission factors in categories associated with livestock, the overall risk for the Project is Low.

The Stakeholder Engagement Plan at *Annex 4 of the ProDoc* is complete and well developed; in addition, the *ProDoc (at Annex 9)* includes a well drafted Gender Analysis and Action Plan, with explicit recognition that climate change is not gender neutral. In line with the latest developments of international treaties and laws, and in particular the requirements of the PA and the UNFCCC for the promotion of gender equality, the requirements of the GEF and UNDP policies, gender is considered throughout design and implementation and is made an integral part of the activities with Outcome 1.3 and Outcome 3.2 directly focusing on gender mainstreaming. Understanding the way the information about climate change is collected and how gender participates in consumption patterns, land use and energy is paramount to identify the sectors and activities where women are the main supporters, recommend optimal ways to integrate a gender approach into the accounting mechanisms and support decision-making to identify climate mitigation actions in land use, agricultural practices and energy and thus reducing the vulnerability of women to climate change impacts. Therefore, the approach aims at strengthening capacities and provide recommendations about how to integrate gender considerations into the collection and reporting of information on GHG emissions and removals, particularly in the AFOLU and Energy inventory categories.

4.2 Progress towards Results

4.2.1 Progress towards outcome analysis

The analysis of the two PIRs produced as well as information collected through interviews with relevant stakeholders (Project Manager, beneficiaries, UNDP staff and Government representatives) indicate good progress to date, with mid-term targets mostly achieved and with adequate quality. Nonetheless, there are important implementation delays which materialized for various reasons (details are reported in section 4.3 Project Implementation and Adaptive Management) and affected more the financial than the technical implementation, with the only exception of the design and implementation of the SINGEI platform which is however a key component, absorbing an important amount of the budget. The strategy for implementation and the approach remains valid; workplans adjustments result from activities already performed by the GoC in the period between Project identification and its start of activities, which is a clear indication of its commitment and appropriation of the climate transparency action; this may free funding for eventual alternative activities to further improve the various categories and subcategories of the GHG inventory.

Interviews conducted with various stakeholders indicate appreciation of the technical backing offered and trainings implemented and planned, overall contributing to increase the transparency, coherence, and comparability of the GHG information produced in support of national decision making for mitigation actions and to comply with the UNFCCC and PA international requirements; unfortunately, continuous changes of Government staff, both at leadership and technical level slow progress; the need to reiterate the functioning of the Project and to document all functions so that any newcomer may get a quicker idea of the specificities of the GHG inventory lessens the time available for technical work. Progress towards outcomes is registered in the Results Framework matrix, with achievements here below as Table 5, based on the Project's four components and indicators, with provision of ratings as required by the ToRs with coloring following the GEF MTR Guidelines:

Green: Completed, indicator shows successful achievements	Yellow: Indicator shows expected completion by EoP	Red: Indicator shows poor achievement – unlikely to be completed by EoP

The PRF Matrix should be read in strict conjunction with the comments following the table below which integrate it. Although most mid-term targets appear covered, the green light can only be given when implementation shows full completion which is common not to be so at mid-term:

Table N.5 Results Framework Matrix, with achievements, comments and rating

Objective: Strengthen Colombia's capacity for robust monitoring, estimation, reporting, accounting and verification of GHG emissions and removals.				
Description of Indicator	**Baseline Level**	**End of project target level (mid-term target)**	**Progress as of August 2024**	**Rating & Comment:**
1. (CBIT TT Indicator 3): Quality of MRV System	Rubric based on CBIT tracking tool (10-point scale)	9 (6)	**- (5). Measurement systems are robust**: a good set of activities covered and reported periodically on key GHG indicators; reports are accessible through multiple avenues and formats but may not be complete/transparent; verification is partial as not all data are verifiable. Advances are: - GoC **updated the NDC in 2020 and published it on March 2021**; ii) in **Dec. 2021 Law 2169** was approved, imparting responsibilities to the National Planning Department (NPD) and MinAmbiente to monitor and coordinate the implementation of mitigation actions of the NDC; iii) the institutional framework for the MRV System was enhanced. -An international consultancy was hired to strengthen the MRV in line with the ETF of PA; long and short term actions are proposed at national and sectoral level, i.e.: i) reviewing and adjusting institutional mandates to address new ETF requirements, ii) reviewing and adjusting existing technology platforms such as the National GHG Emission Reduction Registry Platform (RENARE); iii) improve the design of the MRV to make it more efficient for mitigation actions; iv) improve the participation of the Committee on Technical and Scientific Information on Climate Change (CITCCC) of the National Climate Change System (SISCLIMA); v) a detailed roadmap with specific actions, designing and implementing sectoral MRV systems (portfolio sectors), and vi) implementing a training and capacity building plan. -An editorial version of the 2030 roadmap of the MRV system was prepared as well as the MRV ABC Guide to socialize the system with the public -Support and technical information were provided for the preparation of BUR 3 and are being provided for the preparation of BTR-1 and NC4.	**-On track; yet, given the delay in the implementation of SINGEI platform and uncompletedness of certain processes, a value a 5 instead of 6 appears more appropriate**. -There are important advances considering an enabling legal framework, i.e. Decree 1655/2017 for the Forestry Inventory; Law 1844/2017 for the compliance of the PA; Law on Climate Change 1931/2018; Resolution 1447/2018 for the MRV; Law 2169/2021 assigning responsibilities for the coordination of the NDC; Resolution 1383/2023 for the Technical Committee of the National Information System on Climate Change (SNICC) -MinAmbiente and NPD have the authority to play the necessary monitoring and coordinating role, with IDEAM assisting on the technical side; - National capacities for setting up an enhanced MRV, with quality and reliability of GHG emissions/removals information are being created, allowing the country better meet international commitments and improving informed national decision-making. - Colombia's current MRV system has an adequate structure; yet, it requires functional and operational adjustments, i.e. improving the quality and reliability of GHG emissions and emission reduction data; standardizing information collection and active participation of stakeholders. Although feedback loops exist and measurement systems are not fully functional, the process is conducted with standardized methodologies

				-Evidence of actions with references are well provided.
2. (CBIT TT indicator 5) Qualitative Assessment of Institutional Capacity for Transparency-Related Activities	Rubric based on CBIT tracking tool (4-point scale)	3 (2)	**- (2).** Two transparency institutions were identified to support and coordinate the planning and implementation of transparency activities under Art 13 of PA and therefore strengthen the MRV: i) Committee for Technical and Scientific Information on Climate Change (CITCCC) and Committee for National Climate Change Information System (SNICC) -Support was provided to both institutions in reviewing their internal procedures, in the process of launching the BTR and for the establishment of SNICC's Technical Committee. -Consultancies were hired to assess the legal framework and identify institutional arrangements -**SNICC was designated** and MinAmbiente Resolution 1388/2023 was approved to regulate its operation and administration within the Environmental Information System for Colombia (SIAC)'s framework; -As the new government proposed changes in the climate change institutional framework, new MRV technical and legal approaches for institutional arrangements were suggested and documented in "*Proposed Legal Framework for the MRV Mitigation Strategic Vision*" and "*Institutional Arrangements for the MRV System and SINGEI*".	**-Partly on track**. SNICC's Technical Committee has now the function of regulating the system's operational guide; yet, it has still limited staff and authority or mandate to coordinate transparency activities. -Institutional strengthening in this sector requires the establishment of protocols and institutional arrangements not only for the MRV system and the SINGEI, but also for other climate change areas (such adaptation/means of implementation). The Project developed a guide to allow stakeholders to understand what are these MRV protocols and why they are needed; yet, there is still much to do to establish them technically and having them politically approved. -Evidence of actions with references provided, including Resolution 1383/2023 and the draft of the Operational Rules for the functioning of the Technical Committee of SNICC. Overall, these are signs of changes in the legal and institutional framework which strengthen the process and confirm the commitment of the GoC and give value to the support provided by the Project; yet, when reference is made to a document called Institutional arrangements (IND 0.2._b. Documento_Arreglos Institucionales para el sistema MRV y SINGEI) you would expect an organizational document not an explanatory document for organizations to understand what institutional arrangements are.
3. GEF Mandatory Core Indicator 11) N. of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (individuals)	50 beneficiaries: 25 men and 25 women	1500 beneficiaries: 750 men and 750 women (700 beneficiaries: 350 men and 350 women)	- At mid-term **1007 total beneficiaries** of capacity building activities and involved in workshops /meetings (**503 women and 504 men**): *Inception Workshop (May 2022) *Training about National Forestry Information System (SNIF) with environmental authorities (Sept. 2022) *Uncertainty training (Oct. 2022)	-**On track and beyond target**, with a large number of activities, trainings, workshops and participation to events organized with an overall number of beneficiaries already exceeding the mid-term target; events go from formal

			*COP 27 in Egypt - “Latin-American Regional dialogue on climate Transparency” (Nov. 2022) *Training on Gender & Climate Change (Dec. 2022) *Transparency training (Dec. 2022) *Water Resources Information System (SIRH) - Autonomous Corporation of Valle del Cauca CVC Training (Febr. 2023) *Training about National Forestry Information System (SNIF) with environmental authorities (March 2023) *UNFCCC Workshop on Quality Assurance of the country's energy systems information (April 2023) *Workshop on Climate Change Scenarios 4th National Communication (Dec. 2022; May 2023) *Project Technical and Steering Board Meetings (25 May & 2 June 2023) *International Environment Fair "Climate action informed by climate change reports" workshop (June 2023) *Training on improvements in emissions: fluvial and railway sectors (May & June 2023). *Virtual Climate Change Scenarios workshop (July 2023) *3rd Quality Assurance on energy info (Aug. 2023) *Socialization and sectoral MRV needs (Aug 2023) *"Exploring Uncertainty" workshop 1 (Nov. 2023) and "Understanding uncertainty" workshop 2 (Dec. 2023) both with Broadcast on Youtube *Training on "Gender and Climate Change" (Dec. 2023) *Launching of the gender roadmap (Nov. 2023) *Awareness-raising day 'Dialogues for change. Gender & Environ. in institutional agenda' at IDEAM (Nov. 2023) *Sectoral guidelines on MRV system (Oct.-Nov 2023 *Climate week in Panama: workshop to follow up on progress of mitigation commitments in NDCs (Oct. 2023) *First CITCCC steering committee (Mar 2024) *Webinar "Roadmap to 2030 of GHG MRV (Apr. 2024) *Sustainable Mobility Forum on emission factors in land transportation, organized jointly with UPME, IDEAM and the University of Antioquia. (May 2024) *Workshop to socialize Colombia's preliminary results of GHG, black carbon and precursor gas inventory in transport sector for the first BTR (June 2024) -Additional participation in external events include: *International Environment Fair - Stand sponsored by GEF-CBIT and attendees talk "Climate action informed through climate change reports". *Meeting of Colombian environmental authorities *International Summit on Environ. Sustainability and Innovation and 4th International Congress on Environ. Research and Innovation - Information stand	technical training to participation to dissemination of information small fora. -Evidence of actions with references provided

			*Climate Finance event, organized by the NPD, with a MRV Information Hub stand, shared with the dissemination of MRV financing and MRV mitigation.	
4. Percentage of progress in the approval, adjustment and official launch of the SINGEI platform in Colombia	Since 2017 with the TNCC, Colombia has conceptually designed SINGEI (IDEAM internal document not published). In addition, thanks to the support of the USAAL RALI Program, a first design of the SINGEI platform was advanced, and a series of recommendations were left for the final design of it.	By EoP, the 100% of the SINGEI has been tested, adjusted and officially launched (50% by mid-term)	-**40% of design of SINGEI platform achieved**. -The USAID RALI Programme designed an initial architecture of SINGEI which was then updated to include new characteristics, i.e. GHG projections, black carbon, new common reporting tables from the ETF by the hired company SEGEN. Since Oct. 2023, the company failed to deliver agreed products and the contract was terminated. A new tender was implemented and the new contract to implement the entire architecture of SINGEI was to start in Aug. 2024. -Technical experts from the national GHG inventory developed 41 documents detailing each module and functioning of SINGEI, including: Activity Data, Emissions Factors, Calculations, Uncertainty, Reports, GHG Projections and Users administration. -Sectoral linkages of SINGEI were identified and the interoperability with other information systems in IDEAM (i.e. Sole Environmental Registry - RUA (manufacture industries) and SIRH (water) was reviewed. This work produced several tables containing the variables necessary for the interaction between RUARETC and SINGEI. Each table refers to the different RUARETC chapters: raw materials and products, GHG emissions, emissions except GHG and SCPM, water outputs, hazardous and non-hazardous waste.	-**Below expectations** due to SEGEN failing to deliver and obligation to launch a new tender with the selected company which has just started office. -Expressing a percentage of achievement is a bit arbitrary as difficult to calculate; if the design and installment of the platform is considered, 40% of achievement is optimistic but if consideration is given to progress in improving the information that will feed the system and therefore identifying the needs of the system than the percentage is accurate. -SINGEI is one of the most important components of the MRV system; its functionality will be tested assessing the availability, quality, gap reduction of GHG inventory information provided for the preparation of NCs, BTRs, NDC update among others. The level of uncertainty will be reduced with less uncertainty time series and greater coherence; methods for uncertainty calculations used and tested. The operationalization of SINGEI includes information about emissions and removals, projections modules and capacity for reporting among others. -As a lesson learned from the first contract, the need to have an experienced environmentalist, with GHG inventory expertise, was identified, ToRs drafted and CVs revised accordingly; to facilitate the work of the new company for the design of the platform, technical staff is documenting “Users Stories” so that newcomers, either the IT company and government staff turning roles, may quickly understand requirements. -Evidence of actions provided
5. Percentage of development of the module for the calculation	Currently, there is no progress on this issue in the unpublished	By EoP, there will be 100% progress in the development of the module	-**65% progress** at mid-term, with a first draft of the accounting rules available to facilitate the process of defining methods for estimating baselines for	-**On track, with sound achievements** -The preparation of Users Stories are an adaptive management tool to counteract

of scenarios and emission projections for the Energy and AFOLU sectors of SINGEI.	conceptualization documents of SINGEI, beyond identifying its needs.	for the development of scenarios and projections of emissions in the Energy and AFOLU sectors (final version, ready and available) (60% at mid-term with first tests)	GHG projections for all sectors; approval of the scope of the GHG emission projection tools for all sectors obtained, allowing a clear understanding of the calculations to be made in the SINGEI projection module, with methodologies and parameters defined. The categories with the highest contribution from the Energy (1) and AFOLU (3) sectors in INGEI 2022 are classified; based on this, by CO2 eq emissions intensity, categories selected to develop the SINGEI projections module are prioritized: 3A1 - Enteric fermentation 1A3 - Transportation 1A1 - Energy industries 1A2 - Manufacturing and construction industries 1A4 - Other sectors 1A4 - Other sectors 3C4 - Direct N2O emissions from managed soils 1B2 - Oil and natural gas 1B1 - Solid fuels -Additionally, progress made in the *User Stories* of the SINGEI projections module, describing the methodologies to perform the projection of activity data for each of the categories: -Description of the module (HU_M7_001). -Selection of projection methodology (HU_M7_002) -GHG calculations for projected years (HU_M7_003-007) -Reporting of GHG projections (HU_M7_008)	the challenges due to the high turnover of officers, providing a written and summarized document which can guide any newcomer; in addition, they help defining requirements and functionalities from the user's perspective, ensuring better understanding and leading to more focused and precise development. . -Evidence of actions with references provided
6. Progress percentage of the MRV system strengthening process to provide a national inventory with transparent information, accurate and accessible to a wide audience, with feedback of information from MRV flowing into policy design and implementation This indicator could be possibly combined with indicator 1 as the quality of the MRV system includes the	Since 2017 with the TCNCC, Colombia has made progress in strengthening its MRV system, especially in relation to the emission report. INGEIs are developed under the IPCC 2006 guidelines and now cover a part of the categories, with their own emission factors and activity data. In 2019, Colombia delivered its first NIR report as a sample of the progress made in the report of its emissions, updating the improvement plans, so that with the CBIT project there is	By EoP there will be a 100% progress in the process of strengthening the MRV System in terms of having an updated INGEI, with calculations to 2021 and included in the First BTR of Colombia (in accordance with the MPGs of Article 13 of the PA); at the same time a strategy of dissemination of results aimed at various audiences, from the general public to decision makers and policy makers is fully implemented	-**70% progress in strengthening MRV system** to provide a national inventory with transparent information, accurate and accessible to a wide audience, with feedback of information from MRV flowing into policy design and implementation. Among activities implemented: *Participation in the Latin American network of national inventories on inter-institutional agreements meeting; *First draft of document on inter-institutional arrangements for the MRV System and SINGEI. *Sessions to gather needs and lessons learned (i.e. comparative analysis of IPCC categories in past BUR) and support to IDEAM for preparing BTR-2 (to be submitted in Dec. 2024) and 4th NC. *Periodical requests of information made to update the databases for the INGEI estimates for all sectors. *An internal filing system for the GHG inventory generated and updated (i) Traceability); ii) Databases; iii)	-**On track but expressing this percentage may be misleading:** the SINGEI is not yet in place; strengthening the MRV is work in progress which will take longer than the finalization of the Project. -Activities are well implemented, with support provided for the preparation of BTRs and NCs, participation to national and international exchange events…. -Evidence of actions with references provided, particularly important the paper documenting the actualization of the INGEI and the characterization of the BTR.

strengthening process which leads institutions to collect and provide useful and reliable data.	clarity about the specific improvement needs.	(50% at mid-term)	Calculations; and iv) Reports) as input for estimating the Colombia GHG inventories and BTR-1. *Sectoral sessions held for guidance on each portfolio's MRV system (environment, agriculture, energy, transportation, industry, waste), with participation of more than 40 officials becoming familiar with developing international reports, importance of sectoral MRV systems and their relationship with other MRV systems. *The CBIT inventory leader, together with IDEAM's AFOLU team, participated in a socialization on the GSP global platform, in the international network of inventories of the AFOLU1 model for enteric fermentation and manure management, in the livestock category. A capacity exchange held with representatives from Chile. These exchanges are useful for capacity building and improving the quality of INGEI's information.	
Component 1: Strengthen the implementation of SINGEI at a national level **Outcome 1.1** Increased transparency and timeliness of Colombia's GHG inventory process by means of a National GHG Inventory System (SINGEI) **Outcome 1.2** Uncertainty of the data to estimate GHG emissions from prioritized inventory categories is estimated and managed **Outcome 1.3** Strengthening of capacities for the incorporation of the gender perspective into the accounting and estimation of GHG emissions and removals GEF budget: US$ 1,213,500				
Output 1.1.1 National SINGEI platform developed and implemented **Output 1.1.2** SINGEI protocols are implemented				
Output 1.2.1 Uncertainty management training program designed and delivered across key data providers for prioritized inventory categories (AFOLU and Energy) **Output 1.2.2** Uncertainty of the data used to estimate emissions and removals in prioritized GHG inventory categories is estimated and reported AFOLU and Energy)				
Output 1.3.1 The Project team trained on gender issues **Output 1.3.2** Analytical document developed and published, containing information on the differential impacts of GHG emissions on men and women, consumption patterns, land and energy use, GHG and climate change **Output 1.3.3** Training workshops on the incorporation of the gender perspective in the collection of information to account for and estimate GHG emissions and removals in sectors (Energy, AFOLU, industrial and waste processes) delivered. **Output 1.3.4** Publication developed and delivered on the incorporation of a gender perspective into the accounting and estimation mechanisms of GHG emissions and removals.				
Description of Indicator	**Baseline Level**	**End of project target level**	**Progress as of August 2024**	**Comment & Rating: On Track**
1.1.1 Delivery dates of the Report Mechanisms compared to the expected delivery dates from the UNFCCC; and the time gap extent (measured in years) between the year of reported national inventory and the delivery date of the Report Mechanism, that includes the inventory, to the UNFCCC.	Colombia delivered to date 3 NC, the first two with an interval of 9 years between them and 7 years between the second and third NC. BUR-1 was delivered in 2015, when it was expected to be delivered from UNFCCC in 2014 and BUR-2 was delivered 3 years after the first (2018). Since 2017 with TCNCC and then with BUR-2, the Country, although it has greatly improved in the structure and date of the report, it remains approx.. 5 years before the date of delivery of the	By EoP, SINGEI, as part of the national MRV System, will support the preparation of the First BTR, and the inventory gap will be reduced to 2 years from the date of delivery to the UNFCCC, allowing an updated, transparent, accurate and accessible report to a wide audience. (By mid-term, SINGEI, as part of the national MRV	-SINGEI, as part of the national MRV, supports the development of BTR-1 (BUR is replaced by BTR) and the update of the GHG Inventory. BUR-3 was submitted in 2021, with INGEI information as of 2018 and therefore a reporting gap of 3 years. -The updated Inventory 1990-2021 and Black Carbon and Precursor Gases 2010-2021 are available, with preliminary results socialized with some information providers. -The development of BTR started, with the construction of sectoral chapters and sectorial graphs; its draft version is under review and data gap is being reduced; climate information series for the reference period was consolidated and	**-Partially on track.** -The Project supports the development of the BTR, with a reduction of both the information gaps and of the uncertainty, with relation to the past. BTR-1 is expected to be presented to UNFCCC by Dec. 2024 with a reduction in information gaps of 2-3 years for most data. -GEF funding has already been secured for the development of BTR-2. -The delivery failure of the first company hired to develop the SINGEI platform together with reportedly failures of various platforms managed by IDEAM in

	reporting mechanisms to UNFCCC (BUR-1 was delivered in 2015 with Inventory to 2012; BUR-2 was delivered in 2018 with inventory to 2014). In addition, the country has designed and developed a national Inventory calculation structure, which is updated and improved with the development of each report, in accordance with existing improvement plans and which were published in the First NIR of Colombia. Within the calculation structure, calculation protocols for each inventory modules stand out, plus a general INGEI calculation and uncertainty protocol. In addition, they have been designed and improved with each report, spreadsheets, and report tables for each module. Additionally, thanks to the support of the USAID RALI Program, a first design of the SINGEI platform was advanced, and a series of recommendations left for final design of the platform.	System, will support the development of BTR-1 (amended of BUR-4), and the inventory gap will be reduced to 3 years from the date of delivery to the UNFCCC, allowing an updated, transparent, accurate and accessible report to a wide audience).	analyzed according to the World Meteorological Organization. The identification of the best model available for Colombia to construct the climate change scenarios is supported. -Enhanced capacity for registering BRT Common Reporting Tables (CRT) on the platform -Further progress in the establishment of the SINGEI platform was halted by the lack of delivery of the company hired (see above) which obliged IDEAM to draft a contingency plan; a new company was selected which is just starting to complete the entire architecture of SINGEI. -The need to purchase Switch Cores for the various platforms managed by IDEAM has been identified so to ensure each of these platforms work at the required speed, without slowing down the entire system; a market study has been done and the material should be soon purchased.	the past suggest that: i) evidently, combining technical GHG inventory knowledge with IT expertise is challenging; this is a lesson learned which led to now require the presence of an expert environmentalist in the team of the new firm to ensure full understanding of the needs for designing sector and subsectors modules; and ii) the design and installment of the platform should not precede the full analysis of requirements and the establishment of protocols regulating interinstitutional agreements to manage information production/delivery. Therefore, Users Stories and Protocols are being established to ensure any newcomer understand the ways in which calculations are made and relative needs; these are short documents which facilitate the work of the IT firm but also of the often rotating government staff. -Evidence of actions with references provided, some of which quite technical in nature.
1.1.2 Inventory uncertainty reduction level for total emissions and for total absorptions; and percentage of activity data in prioritized categories of inventory (Energy and AFOLU) that incorporate uncertainty information. Proposal to measure the development of tools for the successful management of uncertainty in the GHG inventory information.	The uncertainty calculation made between TCNCC and BUR-2 shows an important advance in the reduction of uncertainty. Regarding Average Uncertainty in total emissions the calculation moves from 14% in the TCNCC to 6% in BUR-2 calculations. Likewise, the calculation of average uncertainty of the absorptions passed from 14% in the TCNCC to 7% in the BUR-2. However, it is necessary to continue reducing uncertainty and to have more uncertainty information in the activity	By EoP, the level of uncertainty in the Inventory will have been reduced to 5% for total emissions and 6% for total removals; and in 80% of the data used to estimate emissions and removals in substantially GHG inventory categories (Energy and AFOLU) will include uncertainty information. (By Mid-Term, the level of uncertainty in the Inventory will remain at 6% for total emissions and 7% for total removals; and in 50% of the data used to estimate	-**At mid-term, inventory levels of uncertainty are 6% for total emissions; 7% for total removals; and 50% for data used to estimate emissions and removals in the AFOLU and Energy prioritized GHG inventory categories.** -The methodology to calculate the indicator was reviewed as a fair comparison of uncertainty between BUR-2 vs BUR-3 is complex due to the number of variables and circumstances that changed over time (i.e. methodological approaches, data and data providers); as a fair comparison of uncertainty at sectoral level (Energy or AFOLU) between BUR reports would make results inconclusive, it is proposed to compare subcategories with the same methodological level in the two reports and document the variations in the levels of uncertainty to support the numbers; these analyses can only be performed once a GHG inventory is fully calculated. Advances are:	-**On track** with mid-term targets fully covered. -An **Uncertainty Strategic Plan** is under implementation and to date all categories include uncertainty data. -The calculation of uncertainty between BUR-2 and BUR-3 is almost impossible; uncertainty values may change in two different reports due to data availability, improvement in data quality or methodological changes for emission estimation. Management consulted UNFCCC GHG experts who confirmed that a methodology for comparing uncertainties between two different inventories did not exist. Methodologies are being developed and proposed by the Project to overcome difficulties and provide new modalities, substantiated by

	data, especially for the Energy and AFOLU modules.	emissions and removals in prioritized GHG inventory categories (Energy and AFOLU) will include uncertainty information)	*Uncertainty information on activity data and emission factors collected for all sectors of the inventory. *A draft for the calculation of the key categories to be reported in BTR-1 prepared. * Progress on the basic template for quantitative and qualitative pilot uncertainty estimation for Energy sector. * For the 1990-2018 series, uncertainty analysis was performed by GHG, subcategory, module and the entire inventory, considering both total and net emissions. Uncertainty results are reported for the last year of the series (2018) and disaggregated by main subcategories. -An **Uncertainty Strategic Plan** to improve INGEI uncertainty was formulated and is implemented, including training activities, working groups with information providers and the development of a methodology to assess the uncertainty reduction -Preliminary uncertainty estimates for the AFOLU sector were developed, and a tendency to decrease uncertainty in the total amount of GHG emissions observed (in the period, most quality ratings in indicators tended to be approx. 1, added to the variability in emissions by sub-sector). -To date, all categories include uncertainty data. -All data providers were identified as requiring training for the estimation of uncertainty. -A training programme was prepared and two workshops implemented in Nov./Dec. 2023 on "Exploring uncertainty" and "Understanding uncertainty", both broadcasted on Youtube. An agreement was signed in June 2024 with *Universidad del Rosario* to design and implement a **Massive Online Open Courses (MOOC)** that addresses the evaluation and analysis of uncertainty within INGEI and provides advice to IDEAM for INGEI uncertainty management.	figures; this analysis can only be done once a GHG inventory is fully calculated. -In consideration of the above, it is proposed to measure the development of tools for the successful management of uncertainty in the GHG inventory information. -Before the implementation of the Project, uncertainty information on activity data used to produce emission estimates came from the application of an expert judgement methodology which, although accepted by the most recent IPCC Guidance, had several limitations such as not allowing for targeted decisions on where data improvements are more necessary to produce more accurate emissions estimates. -The fact that all data providers are identified as requiring training allows a massive participation in activities which also serve the purpose of disseminating the information produced by IDEAM for national decision-making and to comply with international agreements; -It is expected that a standard reference for uncertainty calculations procedures to estimate GHG of different sectors, from AFOLU to transportation will be provided. -Evidence of actions with references provided, some of which quite technical in nature.
1.1.3 Number of training programs implemented and with impact evaluation to strengthen capacities in gender mainstreaming in GHG emissions and removals accounting and	There is no baseline in the country on the incorporation of a gender perspective in accounting and transparency mechanisms for GHG emissions and removals	By EoP, 4 (2 at mid-term) training programs to strengthen capacities in gender mainstreaming in GHG emissions and removals accounting and transparency mechanisms will have been implemented	-**Three training programs** implemented for gender mainstreaming in GHG and transparency in information related to climate change. -The **Gender roadmap** was formulated in line with the targets and the new gender policy framework in Colombia, incorporating training sessions, the identification of inventory categories, and the first gender analysis to implement two pilot projects for incorporating gender in GHG accounting/reporting.	-**On track**, notwithstanding a pause due to the need to replace the gender expert in March 2023. - Trainings are part of the capacity-building strategy for climate transparency led by the CBIT Project, considering a socio-environmental perspective that connects gender gaps and inequalities

transparency mechanisms		and evaluated in their impact.	-In Dec. 2022, training delivered to the technical staff of IDEAM, FN, and UNDP on gender and climate change issues, including gender in GHG and transparency mechanisms. -In Nov. 2023, a hybrid (virtual and face-to-face) awareness-raising day was held for all IDEAM staff, including the CBIT team, focused on the prevention of gender-based violence in the workplace from a perspective of new masculinities and women's rights. Climate change and gender topics were also addressed. -In Dec. 2023, a 4-hours capacity building session on gender inequality and relation to climate change held for environmental instructors from the National Training Service (Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje – SENA), a public institution ascribed to the Ministry of Labor that offers and implements comprehensive professional training for the incorporation and development of people in productive activities that contribute to the country's social, economic and technological development; staff of Project was also included. -**Gender and Climate Transparency course** implemented; it included 4 modules for a 7-weeks duration. It attracted the interest of over 600 people and included a virtual learning experience where each person lead his/her process, exploring and moving through various virtual platforms, with the guidance of the project's gender team and IDEAM. In total, 190 persons were certificated.	with one of the main causes of climate change, GHG emissions. -Trainings received a good evaluation, with a call for promoting them more often and include the participation of more men and women from the IDEAM and data providers teams. -The gender approach is recognized as a key aspect to analyze the differentiated impacts of climate change on people. -Reporting on the indicator should include information on the number of people involved, the quality of the training, the satisfaction of the beneficiaries and the effective capacity to apply knowledge. -Evidence of actions with references provided
Component 2. Improving GHG emissions estimates for Colombia's Energy and AFOLU sectors **Outcome 2.1** Reduced uncertainty of the information used to estimate GHG emissions in key Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) categories of the energy sector **Outcome 2.2** Policy-relevant GHG emissions indicators are made available to inform sectoral decision-making **Outcome 2.**3 Improved estimates (reduced uncertainty) of the information used to estimate CO2 emissions and removals in key IPCC prioritized AFOLU land-cover categories GEF budget: US$ 342,400				
Output 2.1.1 Tier 2 and/or Tier 3 methods to estimate GHG emissions from fugitive emissions in the oil & gas sector are developed. **Output 2.1.2** Institutional arrangements to improve information flows to estimate fuel use and fugitive emissions from different sources (i.e. BECO, SIPG and SIMCO) nationwide and subnational (eg. province and sector-level disaggregation) in the following IPCC sectors: 1A1 (Energy); 1A2 (transport); 1A3 (Manufacturing industry including fuel use in mining activities); 1A4 (commercial, institutional, residential, and agricultural sectors); non-energy uses (strengthening of the reference method) and 1B (fugitive emissions from mining and oil production). **Output 2.1.3** Procedures for reporting, and validation activities related to *the RUA Manufacturero* are implemented **Output 2.1.4** Country-specific data on key variables to estimate GHG emissions from transport are developed and/or updated and systematized.				
Output 2.2.1 National and Subnational-level reports of indicators of sectoral emissions are prepared (mining, energy, transport, industrial, residential, agriculture and forest management(to serve as inputs to decision-making.				

Output 2.3.1. Country-specific activity data on key variables to estimate GHG emissions and removals from AFOLU are developed and/or updated and systematized**.** **Output 2.3.2.** Database providing country-specific emission factors with associated documentation for key land-cover change categories of the AFOLU sector is available. **Output 2.3.3.** Data gaps on forest fires, logging and firewood consumption filled through an updated National Forestry Information System (SNIF).				
Description of Indicator	**Baseline Level**	**End of project target level**	**Progress as of August 2024**	**Comment and Rating**
1.2.1 Level of fugitive emissions from the oil and gas sector calculated by applying Tier 2 and Tier 3 methods to reduce the uncertainty of information to estimate GHG emissions in key sectors of the Energy and AFOLU sectors.	Currently, there are no own emission factors in the country at Tier2 and Tier3 levels for oil and gas production. The national inventory is calculated based on country emission factors Tier 1 level and some more based on the IPCC data	By EoP, Colombia will have its first inventory calculations including the estimation of fugitive emissions from the oil and gas subsectors with Tier 2 and Tier 3 calculated using own emission factors. (By 2022, the estimation methodology for Tier 2 and Tier 3 own emission factors will have been developed for the estimation of fugitive emissions from the oil and gas subsectors).	-The last report on estimation of fugitive emissions from the oil & gas sector of BUR 3 used the IPCC methodology, with Tier 1 estimation. **Tier 2 and Tier 3 methodology is being developed** jointly by the MinMinas and Energy and National Agency for Hydrocarbons (NAH); several meetings took place to collect information from Ecopetrol, an integrated energy group that participates in all links of the hydrocarbon chain (exploration, production, transportation, refining, marketing). -The methodology contains a support document with general information on the different emission sources and various alternatives for estimation; a users' guide accompanies the excel sheet. Meetings are held between the GHG team and the Agency to define alternatives for a first approximation of information collection on monthly emissions from venting in operating companies. -The GHG inventory team worked on centralizing a unique file and protocol for emission factors, to be included in the SINGEI design (2006 to 2019).	-**On track**, with sound references to workplans and documents produced. -The use of Tier 2 and Tier 3 methodology is adopted and progress appreciated. -According to the latest report, 62% of the estimates are at level 1, 33% at level 2, and 5% at level 3.
1.2.2 Percentage of reduction of uncertainty in the key categories of the Energy and AFOLU sectors combined with the National Inventory included in the BUR-2. Proposal to combine this indicator with 1.1.2 above and in any case to be understood as the implementation of improvement plans for uncertainty management by data providers and their relative capacity building.	Although from the TCNCC and the BUR the country has begun to calculate the uncertainty in its inventories, it is still necessary to improve this calculation especially in the AFOLU sector and some categories of the Energy sector, which still does not have an associated uncertainty calculation	By EoP, key categories in the AFOLU and Energy sectors will have reduced their uncertainty by 5 – 15% compared to the National GHG Inventory included in Colombia's Second BUR (BUR2) (By 2022, a method to assess uncertainty reduction in key categories in the AFOLU and Energy sectors will have been developed.)	-**Methodology to assess uncertainty reduction in key categories developed and validated** by key stakeholders (IDEAM and the GHG national inventory team with data providers from Energy and AFOLU sector); **a capacity-building workshop on uncertainty held** with the Project team and IDEAM officials; a total of 44 people (21 women and 23 men) trained. -**Strategy for Development of a Comprehensive Uncertainty Reduction Evaluation Method** also available (detailed uncertainty assessment, time series uncertainty assessment, bias and random error considerations, uncertainty analysis of correlated variables). Quantitative and qualitative uncertainty evaluation methods developed to evaluate and compare uncertainty reduction, with the quantitative method already applied to the Energy and AFOLU modules. -AFOLU improvements focused on identifying opportunities for forest restoration, degradation,	- **On track** and already providing indications for the application of the most efficient ways to decrease uncertainty. -However this indicator is not very different from 1.1.2 above and therefore shows the same difficulties in measurement; it should therefore be understood as the implementation of improvement plans for uncertainty management by data providers and their relative capacity building. - Evidence of actions with references provided

			plantations, and fires information from the National Forest Information System. These can also be included in GHG estimations. Therefore, an improvement plan for SNIF was proposed, to be implemented with the support of the Project.	
1.2.3 Number of sector indicators developed and available at national and subnational levels to guide relevant decision making.	At the moment, the country advances in the sectorial work to improve the information that is given to them to guide their decision making, so, both in the TCNCC and in the BUR-2 the national inventory has been delivered by economic sectors and not by modules IPCC, which has improved the understanding of emissions and their implications for mitigation. However, it is necessary to continue working to obtain more and better information that could be available to disposal and guide your decision making.	By EoP, twelve (12) indicators on sectoral emissions at the national and subnational levels will have been developed and being available for the different sectors to guide their decision making. (Six indicators by mid-term)	-**50 indicators on sectoral emissions (energy, waste, industry, transport) at national and subnational levels developed**. -With support from the Biocarbon Fund project, indicators for AFOLU sector developed and included in SINGEI's platform design -Technical support provided to IDEAM in defining national indicators to be reported to OECD; -Inputs provided for the preparation of national accounts to measure quantitative progress in some SDGs for the country's carbon balances. -Analytical documents prepared for climate change indicators related to GHG emissions for each sector. -Technical sheets for each sectoral indicator and their historical calculations prepared. -Sectoral indicators prioritized and validated with key stakeholders as well as basic parameters for carbon indicators of the information, to be reported in the national GHG inventory. Therefore, four types of indicators established: i) % of participation within INGEI; ii) % of participation within the module); iii) Base year variation index; iv) Carbon indicator by activity data. -The "Protocol of indicators in the national system of GHG emission inventories for Colombia" updated to standardize the management of information on INGEI indicators and the contents of the protocols that are part of SINGEI.	-**On track and beyond target**. -Considering the great level of details and specificities, the number of indicators is much greater than expected; yet, they are not yet finalized, operationalized in SINGEI's platform and work remains in progress. - Evidence of actions with references provided
1.2.4 Number of new categories not previously included in the inventory in the Energy and AFOLU sectors included in the National GHG Inventory	According to the information included in Colombia's second BUR, there are 9 categories (comprising sub-categories) which have not been estimated.	By EoP, 4 (2 by mid-term) inventory categories not previously estimated in the Energy and/or AFOLU sectors will have been included in the National GHG Inventory.	- **Two inventory categories not previously estimated for Energy and AFOLU** identified for INGEI to be reported in BTR-1 by end of 2024. -Areas for improvement identified for all GHG inventory sectors (Energy, IPPU, AFOLU, and Waste) and for the new categories with the aim to reduce the uncertainty of the GHG inventory. -The following Not Estimated (NE) subcategories will be included in BTR-1: i) Energy: 1A1ai2 Non-interconnected area; ii) AFOLU: 3B5a Settlements Remaining Settlements (Urban Tree Line).	**-On track.** -Two not previously estimated inventory categories identified for Energy and AFOLU which are the most important emitters in the country; however, areas for improvements were identified for all GHG inventory sectors, including Industrial Processes and Product Uses and Waste. -Evidence of actions with references provided

			-Additionally, with the support of other entities, progress will be presented in the estimation of: i) ENERGY: 1A2i Mining and quarrying; 1A2k Construction; 1A2a Iron and steel; 1A2b Non-ferrous metal manufacturing. ii) AFOLU: 3B1ai Forest land remaining forest land (natural forest). -CBIT focuses on the two most important GHG emitters in the country, that is Energy and AFOLU; yet, strategies for incorporating the categories not estimated for the entire national INGEI were characterized and generated, thus incorporating the Industrial Processes and Product Uses modules, as well as Waste. -Progress made for incorporating category 1 A2b - Non-ferrous metals to the emissions Inventory -Subcategory of urban arboriculture in settlements is incorporated as a new category for BTR-1.	
Component 3 Improving GHG projections in Colombia's prioritized sectors (Energy and AFOLU) **Outcome 3.1** GHG scenarios and projections estimated for the Energy and AFOLU sectors, through high quality scientific information **Outcome 3.2** A pilot on the identification of inventory categories in prioritized sectors with a gender perspective to guide the further development of differential mitigation measures at the national level GEF Budget: US$ 1,335,450				
Output 3.1.1 Methodologies for the calculation of the key categories in Energy and AFOLU sectors are defined and validated as a main instrument to be used in the construction of the national GHG scenarios. **Output 3.1.2** Accounting rules defined and validated in the energy and AFOLU sectors in line with the NDC update process				
Output 3.2.1 Analytical document on GHG inventory categories including a gender perspective in prioritized sectors (Energy and AFOLU) is developed to assess the feasibility of differential mitigation actions **Output 3.2.2** National GHG inventory booklet developed on a prioritized sector with a gender perspective.				
Description of Indicator	**Baseline Level**	**End of project target level**	**Progress as of August 2024**	**Comment and Rating**
1.3.1 Number of agreed (instead than validated) methods to estimate baselines for the construction of scenarios, according to the sectoral distribution of emissions.	Although Colombia undertook the exercise of estimating a nationally determined contribution (NDC) to make commitments under the Paris Agreement, in the country there is not yet an official methodology to estimate the baseline of emissions, that could facilitate the process of periodic review and update of the commitments made by the Country.	By EoP, eight (8) (4 by mid-term) agreed methods to estimate baselines for the construction of GHG scenarios will have been developed, in accordance with the sectoral distribution of GHG emissions (1. Energy Industries, 2. Industry, 3. Transport, 4. Residential, 5. Commerce/Institutions, 6. Sanitation, 7. Agriculture and 8. Forestry)	- **Emission Projection Methodology developed and validated for 4 sectors**: Industry, AFOLU, Transportation, and Waste. Each methodology to estimate baselines for the construction of GHG scenarios includes drivers, emission equations with their associated factors and sources of information as well as the scope and accounting rules. These methodologies were validated by working groups with MinAmbiente and IDEAM. -The methodology for projecting emissions in the energy industries sector was presented, including the methodology for calculating GHG emissions and growth or decrease rates officially projected by the institutions for each type of energy.	**- On track.** -Information compiled about projections feeds reports for the implementation of the NDC and BTR-1 -Considering that Colombian Law 2169/2021, which impulses low-carbon development through the establishment of goals and measures in order to reach carbon neutrality and resilience, assigned responsibilities to NPD and MinAmbiente to monitor the implementation of mitigation actions under the Colombian NDC, these institutions became key stakeholders to achieve the construction

			-The methodology for projecting activity data for the manufacturing industry category is also described, using the projected GDP as a driver.	and validation of GHG baseline scenarios consistent with NDC implementation.
1.3.2 Number of scenarios and projections made for the Energy and AFOLU sectors that support the work processes of the NDC of Colombia	Currently, in Colombia there are no scenarios and projections of emissions made from the national inventory. Thus, sectoral exercises often use their own projections, which methodologically are not comparable to each other. In order to strengthen the processes for the evaluation of the NDC, it is necessary to improve this situation.	By EoP, there will be at least 4 scenarios (2 by mid-term) and emission projections for the AFOLU and Energy sectors and categories	- **Two scenarios and emission projections developed**: i) Land transportation projection scenario, belonging to Energy, and ii) Projection scenario for AFOLU of the agricultural sector, cattle and non-bovine livestock population. -The calculation route for estimating emissions of categories 1A1 and 1A2 was elaborated to identify the growth driver of each category and the growth/ decrease rate for each type of fuel; -Identification of projections made and published by Min of Energy for consumption of fuels associated to categories 1A1 of its portfolio, and Identification of the growth driver of category 1A2 corresponding to the portfolio of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. -Progress made in the Users Stories of SINGEI projections module, describing methodologies to perform projection of activity data for category.	-**On track.** Some delays occurred due to the late definition of the scope of the GHG projections module for SINGEI; yet, in collaboration with MinAmbiente the projection module has been introduced in the design of SINGEI. -Evidence of actions with references provided
1.3.3 Number of inventory categories identified and prioritized with a gender perspective to guide future mitigation measures at the national level.	No related documents/studies have been developed in Colombia	By EoP, there will be at least 2 categories of inventory identified, with their pilot tests developed, as gender-sensitive to guide future mitigation measures at the national level. (By mid-term, it will be analyzed in all the categories and subcategories of the inventory, to have a preliminary identification of those that can be considered gender sensitive to guide mitigation measures at the national level)	-**Gender sensitive GHG inventory categories and subcategories identified to guide mitigation measures at national level**. -The methodology for identifying gender-sensitive inventory categories was formulated, analyzing secondary sources of information, establishing prioritization criteria, validating them with IDEAM's Environmental Studies Sub direction, and the Project's team. Criteria are: i) % participation in INGEI; ii) Key categories for INGEI in Colombia; iii) Availability of information; iv) Regulatory framework; v) Sector progress (actors); vi) Territory (urban/rural) GEOGRAPHIC AREA OR SPACE *Level of association with SDGs *Level of association with the NDC *Associated gender roles identified *Ongoing projects of the strategic partners (Natura, IDEAM, UNDP) *Strategic relevance for the sector -Thus, these emission categories were selected: *Energy* (1A1 - energy industries; 1A2 - manufacturing and construction industries; 1A3 – Transportation)	-**On track**, notwithstanding the need to replace the gender expert in 2023; in addition, a junior professional joined the team to support gender activities. -Evidence of actions with references provided -The methodology combines qualitative and quantitative approaches, applying both urban and rural participatory development tools/techniques to ensure effective adaptation to the needs of local populations; it is divided into 14 steps that will allow the integration of a gender perspective in GHG data collection. -Two pilot projects are under preparation in two subsectors identified for each prioritized sector: Urban Transport for the Energy sector and animals Manure Management for the AFOLU sector.

			AFOLU: (3B1 - Forest land; 3B2 – cropland; 3B3 – rangeland; 3C1 - emissions from biomass burning; 3C7 - Rice cultivation) *Removals in AFOLU (*3B1 Forest Land; 3B2 – Cropland; 3B3 – Rangeland). -A document prepared for preliminary identification of information needs and information gathering tools for animals' manure management and transportation sectors which will result in the implementation of two pilot activities.	
Component 4 Knowledge Management and M&E **Outcome 4.1** Establishment of international cooperation scenarios to disseminate knowledge and Project's results, and to strengthen institutional arrangements and increase global cooperation **Outcome 4.2** Monitoring of project performance and project's process and impact **Outcome 4.3** M&E Incorporation of progress in mid-term review and terminal evaluations, monitoring of Gender action plan, risks, stakeholder engagement plan, relevant M&E meetings GEF Budget: US$ 719,650				
Output 4.1.1 Good practices and lessons learned will be compiled, documented and shared				
Output 4.2.1 A M&E plan linked to the Project's Theory of Change				
Output 4.3.1 A Report that includes findings by sex, including qualitative and quantitative data. **Output 4.3.2** A strategy to ensure that all Project communications and activities include a gender perspective				
Description of Indicator	**Baseline Level**	**End of project target level**	**Progress as of August 2024**	**Comment and Rating**
1.4.1 Evaluation of how the Project's M&E instruments reflect its Theory of Change and expected results.	The Project has a ToC and UNDP, IDEAM and MinAmbiente have developed arrangements for project tracking (knowledge of rules and procedures)	The Terminal evaluation – and the Mid-Term Review - and other Project M&E instruments reflect the ToC and expected results	-First and second year annual planning developed and approved by the PSC. -M&E plan updated, with identification of periodic reports and follow-up instruments for reporting. -Quarterly project reports regularly prepared and submitted to UNDP. -The Project underwent two spot check reviews convened by UNDP in 2022 and 2023, which yielded satisfactory results. -The Project participated in the platform inauguration of CBIT Global Support Programme, reporting project performance and main results. -The Project attended an audit process convened by UNDP in 2024, with satisfactory results. -Mid-term review under development. -Monitoring tools consolidated/updated: Gender Action Plan, Risk Management, Stakeholder Participation Plan, and Sustainability Plan. -The Project participated in the first Global Transparency Forum, in May, 2024, in Tokyo, where CBIT Colombia was honored as a "Platform Champion," inspiring others to follow their lead in	**On track.** -The Project M&E instruments reflect the ToC and expected results; their quality is generally very good and monitoring is carefully conducted -Evidence of actions with references provided

			advancing climate transparency as a main reporter in the GSP Platform.	
1.4.2.Number of international cooperation scenarios established to disseminate knowledge and Project results	Currently, there are South – South cooperation networks in the areas of National GHG Inventories such as the Latin American Network on GHG Inventories (RedINGEI)	By EoP, the Project will have established four (4) (2 by mid-term) international cooperation scenarios to disseminate knowledge and Project's results	**-2 Cooperation Scenarios developed to disseminate knowledge and Project's results and lessons learned**. -Participation in various international spaces and interaction with actors, among others: *exchanges with Chile and Panama's CBIT projects about GHG inventory improvements, NDC monitoring, and construction of carbon budgets. *During COP27 in Egypt, the Project led the call for the democratization of climate information through the Latin American regional dialogue on climate transparency. The meeting was attended by the Ministers of Environment of the Dominican Republic and Guatemala, and representatives from Chile, El Salvador, Mexico, Uruguay, and Panama. Additionally, Mrs. Miriam Hinostroza, leader of Global CBIT, and UNEP's global focal point for climate transparency, Mr. Filippo Berardi, Climate Change Specialist of GE, and Mr. Richemond Assie on behalf of UNDP's Transparency Advisor and Director of the Climate Transparency Enhancement Project were present. *IDEAM, headed by the CBIT Project coordinator, contributed to the simulation of the technical analysis of BUR-3 of Peru. These simulations are a crucial component for the CBIT-GSP and were a fruitful exchange between the Colombian CBIT Project and the CBIT-GSP to increase the quality and timely submission of reports to UNFCCC. -In Oct. 2023, during the Climate Week in Panama, a workshop organized jointly with CBIT GSP to follow up on progress of mitigation commitments in the NDCs, was attended by 39 representatives from different countries of Latin America and Spanish-speaking Caribbean region of the Climate Transparency Network. IDEAM's participation in the event was supported; lessons learned and exchange of experiences with other CBIT projects emerged. -An additional international cooperation scenario is under preparation: "*Training for the development and submission of national inventory reports under the enhanced transparency framework of the PA*";	**-On track**, with sound exchange of experiences and integration of lessons learned -A Communication Strategy has been drafted, including the dissemination of various KM products targeting both internal actors to be better and easily acquainted with the task required by an enhanced transparency framework in climate change as well as external technical public and private sectors and the public at large. -Evidence of actions with references provided

			the event is co-organized by CBIT-GSP, the Paris Agreement Transparency Partnership (PATPA) and the GoC.	

Notwithstanding a poor financial execution on the first two years of implementation, management is on track with relation to mid-term targets which are mostly achieved; this confirms the Satisfactory rating in PIRs with relation to progress towards the development objective; and the Moderately Unsatisfactory rating of PIR 2023 and the Moderately Satisfactory rating of PIR 2024 with relation to implementation due to a very low financial execution. This arises from a combination of challenges for: i) management in conducting bidding and hiring processes for consultancies (see below on section 4.3); and ii) UNDP CO in transitioning from the Atlas to the new Quantum/PIMS platforms which left a few expenses unregistered for quite a long time and hampered required budget revisions. Achievements are nonetheless there thanks to: i) an enabling legal framework; ii) a surprisingly capacity of the GoC to continue enhancing reporting and transparency objectives notwithstanding continuous turnover of staff and an institutional asset which requires efficiency and efficacy improvements; iii) the CBIT sustained effort to support interinstitutional exchanges and the development of methodologies to improve sectorial GHG production of data and information; and iv) adaptive management strategies, including the systematic preparation of descriptive papers for all transparency requirements and of *Users Stories* which overall document experiences and provide a basis for newcomers, either consultants or government officials. At mid-term financial management considering expenses and commitments is well in line with the overall project programme.

The SINGEI – the informatic and technology framework for hosting and elaborating information is not yet in place and only partially designed but a great work has been conducted to methodologically improve and strengthen the capacity to produce sectoral data and information and reduce data gaps and uncertainty which will later feed the platform and therefore the national capacity to monitor, estimate, report, account and verify GHG emissions and removals, overall consolidating the MRV 2030 strategy; it could be said that the box in not yet there but the material which go inside is being enhanced. Notwithstanding frequent changes of Government staff, the capacity to mobilize stakeholders, establish links and promote alliances is outstanding which may be regarded as an added value of the NGO implementation modality adopted, with FN at the forefront of managing activities and facilitating coordination and alliances, together with IDEAM and partly with MinAmbiente. In addition, gender mainstreaming across the Project components with a focus on transparency mechanisms, identifying emission categories influenced by gender considerations and differential mitigation actions is a key characteristic of this CBIT Project, one of the few full-sized GEF CBIT of the region and a rewarded Project among the GEF CBIT Global Support Programme (GSP).

The following comments complement the analysis in Table 5 – PRF Matrix – and should be jointly read.

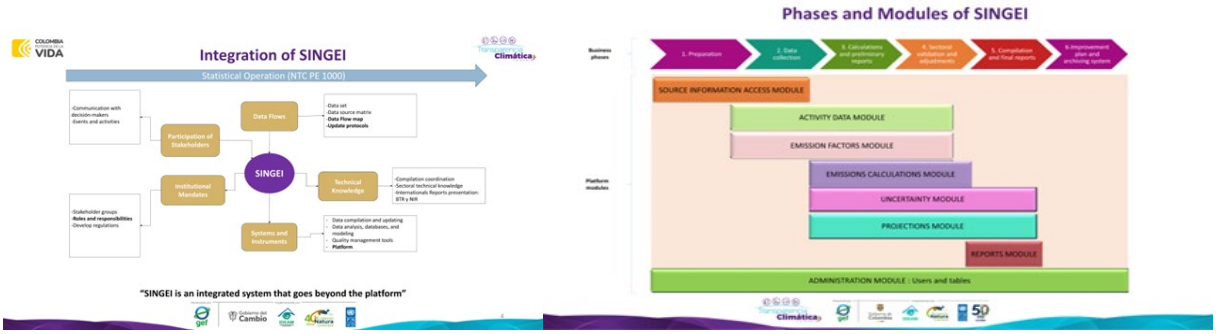
Component 1 Strengthen the implementation of SINGEI at national level.

SINGEI Platform. The design of the SINGEI goes through phases; a first concept and recommendations for its configuration was initiated under the USAID RALI Programme; at Project start, a local company was hired to complete the design, including new characteristics (i.e. GHG projections, black carbon, and other requirements from the ETF) and duly consider all sectors/subsectors, according to needs. The company did not perform as expected and the contract was terminated, without major financial consequences. Even so, preliminary products were delivered such as the conceptual design, the functional and non-functional requirements, roles and permissions mapping which constitute a solid basis, not expected to undergo major changes. A new bidding process was launched; it took time for IDEAM to carefully revise ToRs, expected deliverables and CVs of bidders; this time, the presence of an environmentalist, experienced in GHG inventories, was made a requirement, its absence having being considered a major drawback in the first contract. The chosen company - NEXURA - took office during the development of this MTR.

Users Stories and Protocols. With respect to BURs, BTRs bring new requirements and challenges which obliged to change tables, structures, calculations factors and other technical elements. IDEAM IT staff, supported by the SINGEI Project consultants, are drafting what are called *Users Stories*, which is a sound way of documenting in a few pages the needs of a certain functionality, the experience and lessons learned and thus facilitate the work of the new IT developers; their first tasks are the studying of the available documentation and of the requirements of different sectors/subsectors undergoing emissions/removals

calculations and analysis. *Protocols* are also being established to ensure that any newcomer (either the new IT software company or government staff frequently rotating) well understand the ways in which calculations are made for each sector/subsector and how indicators are overall calculated.

Hosting and management of the platform. The platform will be hosted and managed by IDEAM which is already hosting various platforms, reasons for which the purchase of Switch Cores is required to ensure that each platform works at the required speed, without the all system together being slowed down;



a market study has been done internally and the material is to soon be purchased. IDEAM is undergoing a staff restructuring to ensure that IT and technical staff will be in place to manage and troubleshoot the platform once installed; there are already commitments to ensure a support budget while IT hardware and software are mostly already available within IDEAM.

Reducing the gap of information. SINGEI is a key part of the MRV and it is clearly as good as the information and data contained in the INGEI. Before the CBIT Project, Colombia had already delivered 3 NCs (2001; 2010; 2017), BUR-1 in 2015 with the inventory updated to 2012 and BUR-2 in 2018 with the inventory updated to 2014; although efforts for keeping the pace and improving the information were there, an important data gap and the need to reduce the level of information uncertainty - especially for the Energy and AFOLU sectors, the key emitters in Colombia - challenged reporting to UNFCCC. BUR-3 was prepared in the period between the design of this CBIT Project and its formal approval, and submitted to UNFCCC in Jan. 2022, just when the CBIT Project was starting; information is updated to 2018, that is with a 3-years reporting gap. Currently, the country disposes of the INGEI updated for the period 1990-2021 and the Black Carbon and Precursor Gases 2010-2021 which provide inputs for the preparation of BTR-1 to be submitted by December 2024, with a reduced data gap, a reduced level of uncertainty, enhanced transparency and the possibility to identify the best model available for Colombia for its climate change scenarios; technical regulation 1000/2000 rules out the inventory quality standards required by DANE, the institute of statistics.

To date, all categories include Uncertainty data using a qualitative or quantitative method. A number of activities were and are being implemented within the developed **Uncertainty Strategic Plan** to improve the levels of uncertainty of INGEI, including trainings, working groups with information providers and the development of methodologies for assessing uncertainty reduction. Reportedly, the levels of uncertainty at mid-term are 6% for total emissions, 7% for total removals and 50% for data used to estimate emissions and removals in the AFOLU and Energy prioritized inventory categories. Project experts point to: i) comparisons of uncertainty in the produced BURs is complex due to the number of variables and circumstances changing over time; methodologies to partly overcome these challenges are proposed so that comparisons can be substantiated by numbers; and ii) up to now, uncertainty information on activity data used to produce emission estimates came from the application of an expert judgement methodology which, although accepted by the most recent IPCC Guidance, had several limitations such as not allowing for targeted decisions on where data improvements are more necessary to produce more accurate emissions estimates. Following the identification that all data providers required training on uncertainty calculations, the University of *Rosario* has been involved to design and implement a **Massive Online Open Courses (MOOC) programme** which is ongoing and provides the opportunity to i) widely disseminate the information

produced by IDEAM for both national decision-making and international compliance and ii) provide a standard reference for uncertainty calculations in activity data and emission factors to estimate GHG of different sectors.

The incorporation of a Gender Perspective in Accounting and Transparency Mechanisms for GHG Emissions and Removals is addressed through a specific output of Component 1 as follows:

- the development of a **Gender Roadmap**, in line with the current national policy framework;
- the development of **a 14-steps methodology** for identifying INGEI categories and subcategories with the greatest potential for incorporating a gender approach in GHG accounting and reporting mechanisms; this is based on the analysis of the sexual division of labour, the visibility of care work and its contribution to productive processes that generate GHG emissions, the identification of gender patterns that influence emission activities such as transportation, and the integration of gender disaggregated data in GHG accounting mechanisms; it is intended to be gradual, replicable, scalable and comparable;
- a gender analysis to implement **two pilot projects** for incorporating gender in GHG accounting/reporting in subcategories of the AFOLU (manure production from different animals); and Energy (transport and in particular road/urban transport) categories which were prioritized as the most gender-sensitive;
- the **building of capacities for the gender approach in transparency and climate action** which includes i) a 7weeks/4modules Climate Transparency with a Gender Perspective Training (100% virtual, 80% autonomous work, 20% live work guided by the Project's gender team) which focused on inventory uncertainty management, climate change and gender; publicized on the web, the training certified about 190 persons (70% women) over the 600 people who manifested interest to participate from FN, IDEAM, UNDP, MinAmbiente, Ministry of Agriculture, UPME, DANE, NPD, Agrosavia as well representatives of civil society; and ii) production of Knowledge Management (KM) material such as infographics and informative pieces that are disseminated to the public and specialized audiences and seek to make visible the work on gender mainstreaming as well as to present educational content;
- the **issuing of recommendations for the incorporation of the gender approach in GHG emissions reporting and accounting mechanisms** in order to consider the differentiated effects and needs of men and women in terms of GHG emission and absorption activities.

Training is well received and appreciated; interviews confirm stakeholders' eagerness to be further exposed to gender and climate change training, the subject being recognized as paramount to assess the diverse impact of climate change on men and women. The availability of reliable, standardized, and periodic information on GHG emissions with a gender perspective will strengthen the formulation of Colombian mitigation actions towards more equity.

Component 2 Improving GHG emissions estimates for Colombia's Energy and AFOLU sectors

Activities under this component are tailored to improve sectoral capacities (AFOLU and Energy in particular) for monitoring and reporting on key variables required to estimate emissions nationwide and at subnational level (i.e. provinces and sector-level disaggregation) in key categories in the energy sector (i.e. energy use, fuel consumption in mining activities and industry manufacturing) by i) strengthening national instruments and sources of information to better develop GHG inventories[3]; and ii) enhancing the capacity to report to the UNFCCC Tier 2 and Tier 3 emissions estimates for prioritized categories in the Energy Sector (oil&gas). Relevant stakeholders include Ecopetrol, UPME, MinMinas, universities and research centres. Progress is sound also for this component focusing on the AFOLU and Energy sectors, which - as reflected in Colombia's BUR3 - together account for 90% of the country's total emissions. While BUR-3 still used IPCC Tier 1

[3] To be noted that a modification from the PIF led to include a number of information sources and not only the National Energy Balance (BECO) but also sources as CONCENTRA, SIPG and National Mining Information System (SIMCO) to estimate emissions at both national and subnational level of fuel use and fugitive emission in a number of IPCC sectors (**output 2.1.2**); however, during Project development occurred changes such as: CONCENTRA being no longer a primary source of information and being replaced by the *Bolsa Mercantile* of Colombia through the manager of the gas market; the Project collaborates with UPME to ensure that information reported by SIMCO for energy use for activities such coal extraction and mining is incorporated within BECO; this last one is undergoing a revision process according to the International Recommendations for the Energy Statistics so that information collected can be useful for the INGEI.

estimations (with the latest report indicating 62% of the estimates at level 1, 33% at level 2 and 5% at level 3), current advances are: i) **Tier 2 and Tier 3 methodologies and a Users' Guide** are being developed by the MinMinas and the National Agency for Hydrocarbons (NAH) for the management and determination of fugitive emissions in oil&gas facilities (upstream); ii) a **methodology to reduce uncertainty** in key categories for AFOLU and Energy is developed and validated as well as a **Strategy for Uncertainty Reduction**; iii) **50 indicators** (well above target) **on sectoral emissions** (energy, waste, industry, transport) at national and subnational levels are developed to be integrated in SINGEI and to standardize the Protocol of Indicators, with support from the Biocarbon Fund; iv) **two new inventory categories not previously estimated** for Energy and AFOLU are identified together with a number of Not Estimated (NE) subcategories, included in INGEI and will be reported in BTR-1, thus reducing the uncertainty levels; yet, interviews with stakeholders indicate that areas for improvement were identified for all GHG inventory sectors, including Industrial Processes and Product Uses and Waste; the final version of the calculation of indicators for the transport, industry, energy and waste sectors is available and validated by stakeholders.

Colombia may have interesting opportunities to implement mitigation actions in the oil&gas sector, particularly in terms of fugitive emissions management, which need clear and specific technical support so that GHG emissions reduction potentials can be quantified and therefore, be integrated into national accounting systems. The development of a methodology for country-specific emission factors for fugitive emissions in the oil&gas subsectors is the basis to develop mitigation actions in the sector.

Component 3 Improving GHG projections in Colombia's prioritized sectors (Energy and AFOLU)



Progress includes the development and stakeholders' validation of an **Emission Projection Methodology for four sectors**: **Industry, AFOLU, Transportation and Waste**, each one including drivers, emission equations with their associated factors and sources of information as well as the scope and accounting rules. Colombian Law 2169/2021 impulses low-carbon development through the establishment of goals and measures to reach carbon neutrality and resilience.

Stakeholders reports that as this law assigned responsibilities to NPD and MinAmbiente to monitor the implementation of mitigation actions under the Colombian NDC, these institutions became key entities for the construction and validation of GHG baseline scenarios, consistent with NDC implementation. **Two scenarios and emission projections** have been developed for the subsector of Transport on Land (Energy) and Animal Manure (AFOLU). Finally, **Gender sensitive GHG inventory categories and subcategories** are being identified to guide future mitigation measures; the methodology was developed (see above Component 1), analyzing secondary sources of information, prioritizing and validating criteria; it combines qualitative and quantitative approaches, applying both urban and rural participatory development tools/techniques to ensure effective adaptation to the needs of local populations. Training and capacity building is carried out for the incorporation of the gender approach in the activities and processes of collecting information of the GHG emissions and removals accounting and estimations mechanisms by sectors (Energy, AFOLU, Industrial and waste processes); it is expected that each participating entity/ministry designate gender focal points for each sector. The focus of this component was on the improvement of GHG emissions projections for the prioritized sectors (Energy and AFOLU), using wherever possible a Tier 2 level, based on country-specific data. Due to lack of quality data, traditionally national reports applied default emission factors from the IPCC, with great uncertainties onto the estimates given their diversity. For Energy, an important progress is registered with the development of national emission factors for the upstream segment of the oil&gas industry. Collaboration with the NAH and through the MRV system of MinMinas allowed the development of technological tools and institutional arrangements with the **private sector**, so that oil firms can estimate and manage fugitive, burning and venting information.

The analysis of the information collected by the NAH will allow the construction of more accurate emission factors.

Component 4 Knowledge Management and M&E and implementation of a M&E system that is linked and consistent with the Project's ToC.

This component includes all M&E activities which are being carried out according to GEF and UNDP rules as well as the implementation of the Communication Strategy with a Gender Perspective which includes the production of KM material to be socialized and disseminated through the communication tools – in four different areas: i) products with a gender focus: i.e. infographics elaborated to spread the CBIT gender approach in an accessible way for non-technical people but yet complete and exhaustive; the MOOC training course will generate guides and videos which can be utilized for the presentation of other future trainings; ii) products related with uncertainty: these are more technical in nature as target the data providers; an upcoming training course with the support of the University of Rosario will also generate KM material; iii) MRV-related products: i.e. a roadmap has been elaborated and published and a MRV ABC Guide is under development; iv) Products related with the INGEI inventory. The strategy targets data and information providers, institutions, and eventually also the private sector and civil society. Yet, having products revised and approved by the different stakeholders – FN, Government and UNDP – is time-consuming; most of the work is still in progress but already a certain number of videos and publications have been or are being produced. Trainings and workshops implemented have already benefitted and sensitized a great number of stakeholders. Lessons learned are systematized and shared at different levels and within different spaces even outside of the nation, contributing to positioning Colombia as a climate change leader at international level and as a "Platform Champion" within the CBIT GSP for being one of the main platforms disseminating best practices among countries. Notably, the GoC with the support of the Project participated in COP27 in Egypt and hosted a Latin American dialogue on climate transparency.

4.2.2 Remaining barriers to achieving the project objectives

Most mid-term targets are reached, with good quality; management expects that all targets/indicators will be fulfilled by EoP with due consideration for specific interpretations of some of them as reported in blue color in the PRF Matrix above. An enabling legal framework and IDEAM being fully appropriate and committed set the Project on the right path towards achieving and institutionalizing planned targets; yet, this will have to be carefully appreciated with the Terminal Evaluation considering that MinAmbiente has not been as active and while line ministries are participating high turnovers of government staff at both leadership and technical levels impede to progress with an increased speed. Results at mid-term are encouraging but the full implementation of the SINGEI and methodological and institutional processes may take longer than expected to be fully achieved, tested, fine-tuned and sustainable. The barriers identified in the ProDoc are still operating; during the MTR it was possible to appreciate that:

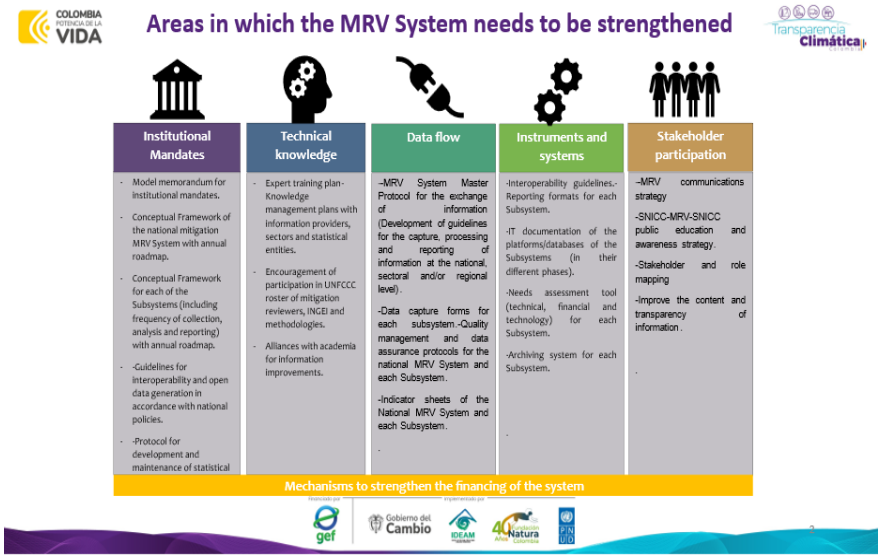
Financial barriers: Government commitments and the securing of GEF funding for CBIT, for NC-4 and BTR-2 represent encouraging signs; cooperation with external projects also represent a support.

Cultural barriers: it is crucial to keep fostering a culture among organizations that recognizes data and information as public goods due to the high turnover of officials which may cause priorities to be placed over different targets and knowledge be lost; adaptive management is well implemented with the Project documenting activities through Users Stories and drafting protocols to institutionalize information sharing; progress is there but not always concretized sufficiently, i.e. the document called Institutional Arrangements does not present current institutional arrangements but informs about which of them are necessary for the management of a MRV system.

Gender barriers are slowly being abated with an increasing understanding of the importance to take a gender perspective in climate change and GHG information; there is still the need to advance on the creation of a comprehensive country vision on gender and climate change which includes MRV topics, to enhance analyses and differential decision-making on adaptation and mitigation.

Technical barriers: guidelines and protocols for the national MRV are being developed; it is still necessary to develop the master protocol and have guidelines adopted at sectoral level as line ministries and other institutions need proper guidance; it is also crucial that line ministries advance in designing sectoral MRV systems and conduct pilot activities to test them; each sector leader must define the scope of the sectoral MRV, aligning it with the national approach. Colombia's current MRV system has an adequate structure; yet, it requires functional and operational adjustments, i.e. improve the quality and reliability of GHG emissions and emission reduction data; standardizing information collection and active participation of stakeholders. Although feedback loops exist and measurement systems are not fully functional, the process is conducted with standardized methodologies. Additionally, the Project requires specific technical expertise, not always available. This causes, on the one hand, a longer procurement process, and on the other hand, longer review and approval of technical outputs, and in some cases, it implies opening more than one time the procurement processes.

Institutional barriers: turnover of government staff and even in the PMU causes instability and the need to always restart the process of presenting planning and creating links and relationships; particularly difficult is the situation in MinAmbiente - which leads transparency activities – because it generates risks of project schedule delays, commitments, and loss of continuity and knowledge in technical teams. Also, the lack of a unique public repository hinders the easy availability of project results, ending up relying the visibility and effective dissemination of achievements and the value generated by Project.



Administrative barriers: Risks associated with contracting of companies/consultants are identified (it generated an additional Risk 13), as a result of the alert generated by the consulting company in charge of the design of the SINGEI platform which failed to execute but also for the time-consuming process of approval of CVs, deliverables and ToRs by the Government. Measures to mitigate the risk were promptly adopted with a monitoring tool to evaluate progress and detect bottleneck as soon as possible to avoid delays of and lack of quality in expected deliverables. The UNDP CO transition to the new administrative platforms of Quantum/PIMS should be almost completed but certainly impacted on financial execution.

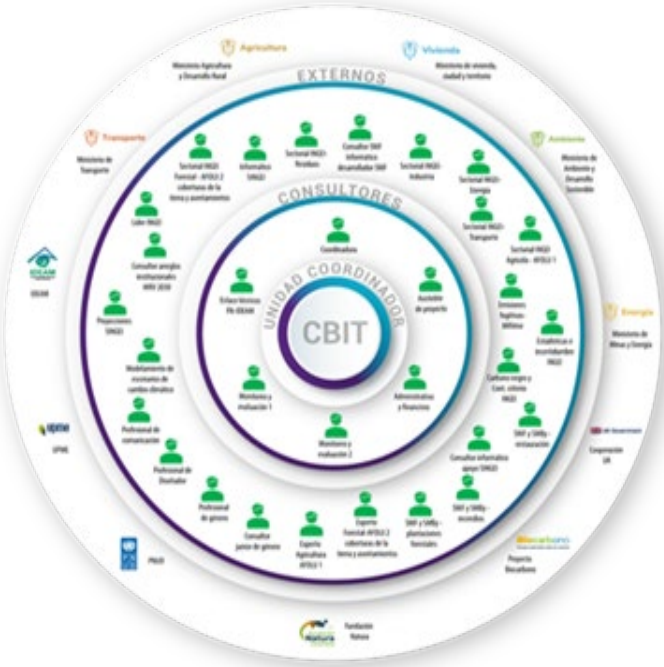
4.3 Project Implementation & Adaptive Management

4.3.1 Management Arrangements

Management is rated as satisfactory, with a great level of commitment and dedication of staff, an outstanding capacity for establishing monitoring tools and effectively apply them as well as an appropriate and professional coaching of institutions involved. A PMU has been established and is based at IDEAM - Department of Environmental Studies – which is, by legal mandate, the institution responsible for preparing GHG Inventories and reports to the UNFCCC, and for coordinating the implementation of the MRV 2030 Strategy. The PMU constitutes a large team, currently integrated by the PC, the Financial and Administrative Officer, the M&E Officer, a M&E assistant mainly tasked with the logistical support for the preparation of PSC and the Technical Committee, an assistant for hiring processes, and a liaison officer between IDEAM, UNDP and FN; the team has growth as the need to follow up on specific technical aspects requested it and also to

catch up on implementation delays. In addition, a large number of consultants, outside of the PMU, support technic specific activities.

The NGO implementation modality is not widespread in CBIT Projects in the region although there are successful examples for the preparation of BURs and BTRs; it is however fully in line with the explicit reference made in the PA to *non-state actors to expand their actions against the climate phenomenon, as their intervention is critical to the achievement of global goals*. Fundación Natura is given a unique opportunity to demonstrate the effectiveness of this modality, articulating and coordinating other initiatives – either under its management or not - related to mitigation of GHG in wetlands ecosystems and forests and/or concerning MRV procedures. Interviews confirm that with guidance and coaching from UNDP and a strict collaboration with IDEAM and MinAmbiente, FN is well responding to technical, administrative and financial challenges. Certainly, a period of adjustment has been necessary to align to different organizational and hiring procedures among Government, FN and UNDP; in addition and unfortunately, the Project started in the middle of the UNDP transition from the Atlas to the Quantum/ PIMS platforms; the situation has impacted on efficiency and financial execution. Yet, at present, all the necessary administrative and monitoring tools are in place to expect a more efficient performance in the next years, i.e. an Operational Manual, which not only defines the implementation rules of the CBIT Project but also contributes to reinforce and add confidence among stakeholders and administrative rigour to the procedures adopted by FN in its customary management of projects. The PC is responsible for all aspects of project operations, including implementation, management, partnership development, knowledge management and M&E of the programme; she is well trusted and well supported by a capable team of experts. Overall the NGO Implementation Modality as a full NIM contributes to further strengthen the learning experience and capacity of FN in all phases of the project cycle and to positioning itself as a leader NGO in climate change.



Steering and technical committee meetings are regularly held (to date, 4 PSC and 2 Technical Committee) to share and socialize information, identify barriers and bottlenecks and provide guidance as necessary. The great majority of these meetings are virtually held which is a sound way to ensure savings of funds and time and a larger participation, considering that although officials have been constantly changing, all invited institutions are usually present (*see below section on M&E for further details*).

UNDP as IA provides technical guidance, support to management, quality assurance and oversight services both at CO and regional levels as well as value-added benefits as programme implementation proceeds in synergy with overall UNDP, GEF and UNDP CO programming. The Colombian UNDP is a large CO with a consistent portfolio; its representation on the PSC supports synergy with other projects in the country, plays a role in establishing formal relations with government authorities, keep the link with the GEF CBIT GSP for exchange of lessons learnt and experiences. Notwithstanding undoubtful challenges at financial and administrative level – frankly occurring to UNDP CO offices all over the world - UNDP Colombia is fully involved in the Project and provides an effective presence and support, as rarely occurring.

4.3.2 Work Planning

Implementation started in January 2022, after the endorsement letter which legally approved FN as IP. The first disbursement was done in March 2022 contextually with the hiring of the PC; the inception workshop took place in May 2022, according to planning but later than the three months period since the start of the Project as required. Implementation challenges emerged, mostly due to national regulations but not only:

- at the end of September 2022, FN was obliged to suspend hiring processes due to a request made by the National Employment Service to publish the vacancies through its platform, as per national rules; applications reopened on 10th of November 2022 after legal consultations and by clarifying that the Project's vacancies were service contracts and not permanent job positions; therefore, FN was not under the obligation of publishing vacancies through the requested platform;
- the need for enlarging the PMU with respect to the roles identified in the ProDoc which required drafting of the ToRs and lengthy processes of approval by the Government;
- the same difficulties affected the hiring of consultants in general; in addition, the gender consultant resigned and the consultancy firm for the SINGEI had to be replaced; this last one has been particularly challenging as it has been necessary to assess the work already done, draft new ToRs, design expected deliverables and accurately revise CVs to avoid the problems encountered with the first firm; both consultancies are now in place but clearly the delay in the development of SINGEI represents an important drawback for both technical and financial implementation given the substantial amount of the contract and because its development and testing is a prerequisite for the entire MRV functioning;
- in Colombia, the availability of experts in such specialized areas as the GHG inventories and climate transparency is infrequent which often obliges to hire younger people and train them accordingly with an important capacity building contribution but also more time-consuming processes and less expertise;
- UNDP administrative transition from Atlas to Quantum and PIMS challenged the possibility to make budget revisions on time and reduced funding availability for operations, overall delaying the payment of salaries or requiring FN to cover them in the meantime;
- even though the Project operated with a Certificate of Common Utility for tax exemption issued by UNDP in 2022, the Colombian Presidential Agency for International Cooperation issued a new procedure on December 2021 requesting Certificates of Common Utility for all international cooperation projects. FN started the process on 10th April, 2023 and the certificate was issued in July 2023 which obliged the Project to pay taxes until that date;
- the change of presidential administration in June 2022 has affected leadership positions as well as technical posts in relevant ministries and IDEAM; the transition obliged management to revise the "low probability of the risk of low levels of information on the CBIT Project by stakeholders" and to brief newly installed leaders in IDEAM, MinAmbiente, MinMinas and UPME; as Government staff keeps changing, all PSC meetings require that actions proposed and roles of institutions involved are continuously contextualized which is time consuming and delays decision making.

Adaptive management is well implemented, by reinforcing capacities, adopting monitoring tools at all levels and often creating further opportunities for work and alliances. Although the Project's financial execution is lower than expected (*see below section 4.3.3*) for both 2022 and 2023, the technical execution of the Annual Work Plans is satisfactory and currently, considering commitments it is perfectly in line with overall programming. Technical and administrative functions are in place and well-functioning; to date, the Project has hired a remarkable amount of 69 professionals considering both staff for the PMU and external consultants; 30 of them have already terminated their contract, other rotated but still leaving a large number of experts in activity; the number of international consultants is minimal. FN demonstrated the financial and administrative capacity to cover eventual difficulties caused by the mentioned transition of UNDP to new administrative platforms. Interinstitutional partnerships are well consolidated and sound links are established with other initiatives and entities with which synergy is possible and desirable.

The most significant drawback has been the delay in developing the SINGEI platform; technical misunderstandings of the requirements (i.e. definition of the modules for the main sectors but also for

subsectors/subcategories) caused the company not to perform as desired; evidently, combining environmental and IT expertise is challenging and it remains as a lesson learned. A sort of contingency plan was prepared, which involved: i) utilization of the first products delivered, ii) internal conduction of the market study to stablish the budget required to develop and commissioning SINGEI's platform; iii) launching of a bidding process in strict collaboration with IDEAM and MinAmbiente – (however a lengthy process as explained above) - revising the ToRs to ensure the presence of an environmentalist, experienced in GHG, on the team of the newly contracted firm; iv) revision of risks for consultancy hiring, with the identification of risk N. 13; v) hiring of a PMU assistant for contractual processes.

The COVID 19 situation may impacted the project's approval from the GEF but during the implementation has not altered the approach of the Project and the commitments of the Government but certainly caused some delays and had a negative impact on the Colombian economy. Innovative virtual and remote methods for meetings and workshops were adopted in the period, some of which are still used when deemed necessary and efficient for the implementation, allowing greater participation of people and cost savings.

Project planning required updating, due to the long time elapsed between CEO's approval and the start of field activities; in between, the GoC already implemented certain envisaged activities such as the preparation of the BUR, the enhancement of the inventory information for certain categories with the support of other projects (i.e. AFOLU) and of the national MRV policy framework which may free resources for additional activities. Adaptive management is also required to counteract the difficulties coming from the high turnover of government leader and technicians; in addition to reconstruct relationship and re-present the Project, an interesting adaptive tool with which management face the problem is the preparation of *Users Stories* that is written and summarized documents describing a certain SINGEI's functionality which can guide any newcomer.

4.3.3 Finance and co-finance

The Project budget amounts to USD 5,601,688 out of which USD 3,791,550 from the GEF and USD 1,810,138 as co-financing from Government partners and from the IP. The Project was endorsed by CEO on August 25th, 2021, officially started on January 06th, 2022, with the signature of the ProDoc but expenditures initiated with the hiring of the PC and then the implementation of the Inception Workshop, respectively in March and May 5th, 2022. Under the full NIM, the GoC has chosen the NGO implementation modality; therefore, funds are received by UNDP and transferred to FN which administers them according to agreed procedures. Correctly, an HACT micro capacity assessment of the IP was performed before Project start in March 2020 (well-structured and well-documented) to assess any risk of performance and to plan appropriate training for the IP financial officers to be conversant with UNDP procedures.

UNDP, as the GEF Implementing Agency, is responsible for the oversight and quality assurance of the GEF resources. Project implementation and expenditures are done in accordance with the annual workplan; funds are advanced to the IP which prepares quarterly and other financial reporting, in accordance with UNDP Programme Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP), the Cooperation Agreement signed between UNDP and FN on Jan. 20th, 2022 and the Operational Manual prepared by management. Quarterly financial reports are revised by UNDP and used to produce the quarterly financial reports for the UNDP RTA and GEF. Associated operational and administrative costs are covered in the budget as Project Management Costs. Compliance is ensured thanks to a strict collaboration between the UNDP CO Finance Officers and those of FN, with regular meetings and provision of the necessary assistance.

As usual, the GEF amount approved by the GEF Council is fixed and project management costs cannot exceed it. As per UNDP requirements outlined in the POPPs, the PSC may allow expenditures up to the tolerance level beyond the approved budget amount for the year, without requiring a revision. Budget revisions are allowed within a tolerance level which: i) should not exceed a budget re-allocation among component of 10% or more of the total project grant; and ii) should not introduce new budget items/components exceeding 5% of the original GEF allocation; if this happens, UNDP/GEF approval is required as these are considered major

amendments. At present, 3 budget revisions are reported, all within the required parameters and approved. Savings result from: i) some activities already performed by the Government before the start of the implementation; ii) differential of the exchange rate US$ versus the Colombian peso; iii) lower staff salaries than those originally expected. Some of these savings have already been used for enlarging the PMU with additional experts. Should any over expenditure be incurred beyond the available GEF grant amount, this has to be absorbed by non-GEF resources (e.g., UNDP TRAC or cash co-financing). This has to be well considered when the Project proceeds with a request for an extension.

The budget is managed by Components, Outcomes and Outputs; Project management is listed under a separate budget line. The production of financial figures for the MTR was readily done, with a few inconsistencies between those produced by FN and those revised by UNDP CO but which were promptly reconciled upon request. No particular delay is registered in any of the key Project milestones and the execution of the Annual Work Plan is successful; yet, financial execution is not at expected levels and justify the Moderately Unsatisfactory rating in the first PIR and the Moderately Satisfactory rating in the second PIR; as mentioned, this has not reverted negatively on the production of deliverables, except for the component envisaging the design and implementation of SINGEI. Table 6 below report expenses to date:

Table N.6 Budget allocations and expenditures per Component (US$)

Budget line/Amounts	Original GEF allocation	GEF allocation revised & approved	GEF Expenses Year 2022	GEF Expenses Year 2023	GEF Expenses Year 2024	Cumulative Expenses at August 2024	Funds already committed
Component N.1	1,213,5000	1,222,971.94	93,359.67	182,043.72	84,586.45	359,989.84	261,989.51
Component N.2	342,400	321,830.97	11,162.13	46,608.33	79,806.44	137.576.90	51,716.19
Component N.3	1,335,450	1,313,321.12	69,964.44	154,579.31	160,903.91	385,447.66	306,774.00
Component N.4	719,650	752,875.97	81,670.70	129,340.06	98,417.68	309,428.44	145,437.15
Project Management	180,550	180,550,00	25,611.29	56,527.22	31,966.92	114,105.43	21,491.61
Total (% of annual approved budget)*	**3,791,550**	**3,791,550**	**281.768 (76%)**	**569,098.64** (70%)**	**455,681.40*** (31%)**	**1.306,548.27*** (49%)**	**787,408.46 54%**
Total cumulative %			**7%**	**22%**	**34%**	**34%**	**21%**

*Referring to solar year.
**This is the amount executed if all-year expenses are considered; yet UNDP Combined Delivery Report did not register the month of December expenses, thus presenting a figure of USD 421,647 which would penalize project financial execution.
*** As of August 2024.

In addition to the delays already documented above, in 2023 the Project faced some challenges that prevented the finalization of the budget revision, and the consequent delay caused by the need to adjust a budget line. Additionally, the transition and provision of the new UNDP Quantum/PIMS platforms made the adjustment of this budget line more difficult, and thus impacted the reduction of the financial execution rate. This problem manifested for most projects and most UNDP COs at global level, although probably full NIM projects more than those UNDP supported. As a result, the situation prevented UNDP CO from preparing the GEF budget revision, long requested by both the RTA and the IP; therefore, the approval and delivery of operational funding could not be completed. Reportedly, a 30% advance of resources were released for most projects around the world to keep them operational, including this CBIT. The Project has still been able to perform and contract consultancies but has delayed the payment of staff on payrolls. At present, the situation seems reconciled; the Project has a good and ongoing M&E strategy that allows for the creation of alerts for technical and financial execution through monthly financial reports, quarterly/annual technical reports and financial legalizations; with new instruments in place (i.e. a follow up hiring tool monitored quarterly), key consultancy contracts assigned and a technical assistant recently hired, the expenditures delivery rate is expected to climb. Table N. 6 above shows an extremely low delivery rate for 2022; which increases to 22% in 2023 and to 34% as cumulative expenses at August 2024; duly considering already committed funds, projections for the end of the year show an encouraging slightly higher than half percentage of financial execution for the GEF funding.

A project audit was conducted in April 2024 and the IP underwent two spot checks (on 2023 and on 2024, this last one analyzing three FN managed projects together) which confirmed sound financial management and application of good practices; the problems described above did not emerge from these controls which overall did not identify any issue at all nor made any specific recommendation.

Table 7 shows that co-financing has effectively been mobilized; in the first year of implementation, a 76% of the total co-financing expected was already mobilized, that is US$ 1,380,375 which further increased to the current US$ 1,633,075, almost covering commitments.

Table N.7 Co-Financing Table

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount confirmed at CEO endorsement (US$)	Actual amount contributed at Mid-Term (US$)	Actual % of Expected Amount
Government	IDEAM	In-kind	900,000	724,454	80,50%
Government	MinAmbiente	In-kind	122,996	101,570	82,58%
Government	UPME	In-kind	657,142	657,142	100%
NGO	Fundación Natura	In-kind	140,000	149,907	100%
Total			**1,810,138**	**1,633,075**	90,2%

Co-financing reflects a high level of commitment and has included the support of: MinAmbiente and IDEAM for preparing ToRs, evaluating bidders and awarding the contract for the SINGEI and for identifying information needs and strengthening the MRV system; MinMinas and UPME for estimating uncertainty and no uncertainty information in the energy sector; government entities for identifying gender-sensitive inventory categories and implementing the methodology. As IP, FN has even exceeded initial commitments.

4.3.4 Project-level Monitoring and Evaluation Systems

Monitoring is extremely well conducted, in compliance with UNDP and GEF policies and procedures (UNDP POPP and Evaluation Policy; GEF Monitoring Policy, GEF Evaluation Policy among others); using traditional monitoring and reporting instruments, i.e. Inception Workshop, PIRs, Quarterly Reports for the use of UNDP and the PSC, GEF Core Indicators/Tracking Tools, PRF indicators, MTR and Terminal Evaluation; in addition, specific monitoring tools have been prepared for following up on the gender action plan, on contractual issues, on stakeholders engagement, management of risks and sustainability. The MTR is taking place as expected in Aug./Sept. 2024. The Office for International Affairs of MinAmbiente also request semestral reports in their own format and finally FN asks short internal reports as well.

The ProDoc includes a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan and Budget with an estimated cost of USD 169,802 (no co-financing budget) which is further detailed in annex (*Annex 3 of the ProDoc*); this is a comprehensive document, identifying tasks, indicators, targets, frequency of monitoring, roles and responsibilities and risks and assumptions. Indicators and targets express further details with respect to those in the PRF. PIRs are the main tool to inform higher management and key inputs for external evaluations; two PIRs have been prepared; comments from MinAmbiente have been sought but the Ministry did not contribute to any of the two PIRs. The Risk Management log appears to be systematically updated in Quantum, as confirmed by UNDP CO; management closely monitors, update and report risks to all stakeholders as well-documented in PIRs and in the PSCs Minutes of the Meetings (MoMs).

Depending on the thematic, monitoring tasks are shared among team members, with the M&E expert fully in control of tasks and high capacity for reporting. Monitoring meetings are constantly implemented to complement the meetings of the PSC and of the Technical Committee. UNDP CO and FN also periodically meet and have a strict collaboration. Operational and financial oversight is adequately provided by UNDP and the RTA for quality assurance even though the UNDP transition to the Quantum and PIMS platforms has caused implementation challenging. Difficulties in speeding up administrative and especially contractual

processes led FN to enlarge the PMU, draft an Operational Manual and prompt specific monitoring and alert tools to identify contractual and/or financial bottlenecks.

The PSC well performs its role of oversight, approval and revision of strategic execution and of annual workplans and targets. As per the ProDoc, a Technical Committee is established, expecting to meet twice a year or as needed, ideally before the PSC to make this last one more executive; it includes the PC, a representative of FN, representatives of MinAmbiente and IDEAM and the Official of the Programme for the Environment and Sustainable Development of UNDP or his/her delegate. According to the thematic agenda, other institutions are invited; the participation of UPME and MinMinas is always ensured. The Technical Committee provides guidance and makes recommendations, facilitating the decision-making process of the PSC. There have been 4 PSC and 2 Technical Committee's meetings; all consultations are widely participated; together with training activities, these are learning opportunities, occasions to exchange ideas and redress the course of the implementation, if needed. MoMs are detailed and informative, complete with annexes, well-structured; however and unfortunately, continuous Government staff turnovers both at decision-making and technical levels, make these meetings overly formal and repetitive for the need to contextualize the Project and explain the roles of these committees; this prevents the Technical Committee from truly distinguishing itself from the PSC and being essentially technical.

The UNDP CO ensures that UNDP and GEF M&E requirements meet high quality standards in a timely fashion (PIRs, Evaluations); supports management as needed; provides Quality Assurance Assessments (completely independent from management, given the NIM modality); and ensures compilation of the ATLAS/Quantum risk log. The UNDP RTA provides oversight support, troubleshooting and quality assurance, The GEF and the UNFCCC Operational Focal Points are located in MinAmbiente and ensure consistency with GEF and UNFCCC policies and synergies with other GEF projects in the country; the GEF Operational Focal Point who is also the head of the International Affairs Office, has been recently nominated by MinAmbiente as the representative of the Ministry in the PSC replacing but being assisted by the Climate Change and Risk Management Direction delegate.

Monitoring of the PRF includes monitoring of the GEF Tracking Tools and Core Indicators which are integrated into the PRF; here below Table N.8 report the Core Indicator relative to the number of beneficiaries, disaggregated by gender; Tracking Tools are reported in Annex G, as a separate annex.

Table N.8 Core Indicators

Core Indicator 11	**Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment**					***1500***
			Number			
			Expected			
			PIF stage	**Endorsement**	**MTR**	**TE**
		Female	*25*	750	503	
		Male	*25*	*750*	*504*	
		Total	*50*	*1500*	***1007***	

4.3.5 Stakeholder Engagement

The ability to engage in local dialogue and exchange of information processes with the main stakeholders (MinAmbiente, IDEAM, FN, line ministries, government agencies at both national and territorial levels, research centers, as well as private partners) is outstanding in terms of institutional participation; unfortunately the high level of staff turnover means that the participant is often a new person and or a delegate[4]. Surprisingly, the continuous turnover of officials has not significantly hampered the collaboration for sharing sectoral information and for validating data and preliminary results. Technical and decision-making meetings and exchanges are regularly implemented but also workshops, trainings and participation

[4] This occurred also during the interviews for this MTR which saw the participation of a delegate more than of the nominated/invited person.

to events are key involvement activities which revert into knowledge and facilitate decision-making. Management is appreciated in its role of being the articulating axis from IDEAM and towards line ministries. The team provides sustained technical support; relevant is the work conducted to provide a gender perspective to the climate change action, with a real and well appreciated effort to create capacities for gender mainstreaming in sectoral entities, which help overcoming traditional resistances of scientists working in areas as specific as GHG inventories. As part of the implementation of the Gender Action Plan, the presence of women in most Project activities and workshops is significant, aiming at strengthening the capacities of the inventory data providers and formulate recommendations for integrating gender into the mechanisms for accounting and estimating GHG emissions and removals. Table 9 below reports the main stakeholders' participation to events:

Table 9 Stakeholder Participation to events

Type of participant/Type of Training	GHG Inventory	MRV	Gender	Uncertainty	Energy sector	Dissemination of Project results
Internal CBIT team and implementing partners, i.e. IDEAM SEA, FN, and UNDP	13 (8 women)	27 (16 women)	179 (111 women)	21 (16 women)	32 (17 women)	2 (1 women)
Ministries/agencies representatives	6 (4)	38 (24)	7 (6)	25 (10)	20 (10)	16 (6)
Information providers	1 woman	7 (4)	-	3 women	5 (2)	6 (2)
Academia / NGOs	15 (9)	11 (5)	-	5 (4)	146 (40)	14 (11)
Civil society	61 (34)	20 (13)	-	7 (5)	21 (10)	44(24)
Private sector/ associations	3 women	21 (13)	-	5 (3)	187 (65)	3 (1)
International stakeholders in spaces of cooperation with other countries.	-	-	-	-	-	36 (22)
TOTAL= 1007 (503 are women)	**99 (59 women)**	**124 (75 women)**	**186 (117 women)**	**66 (41 women)**	**411 (144 women)**	**121 (67 women)**

Although overall a more active participation is impeded by the high turnover of staff in all ministries, IDEAM - as one of the main beneficiaries - has fully embraced the Project and actively participates both technically and in decision-making. Recently the GEF Operational Focal Point has been appointed as MinAmbiente representative on the board and carefully follows up on the approval of POA strategies and financial execution; instead, the delegate of the technical arm of the Ministry, represented by the Climate Change and Risk Management Direction, changed three times since Project start; MinAgricultura, MinMinas, and UPME participate in the development of sectoral products and share sectoral information; universities, and research centers participate in training sessions and workshops. As the participation of the academia and environmental authorities could be difficult due to their location, online resources, and in-person training sessions have been adopted; interaction with the private sector is mainly related to the update of information for the GHG inventories, with occasional participation in sectoral meetings and working groups.

4.3.6 The Gender Dimension

Gender considerations are not only directly included in the Project's components, in particular in Outcome 1.3 and Outcome 3.2 but also mainstreamed into the overall implementation. The Quantum Gender Marker Rating for the Project is **GEN2**: *gender equality as a significant objective, aiming at contributing to closing the gender gaps in access to and control over resources and at improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance*. The ProDoc includes a well drafted Gender Analysis and Action Plan, with a focus on ensuring that the collection of information about GHG emissions and removals is done with a gender approach and that capacities are built and strengthened accordingly within the entities tasked with these activities; the action plan was updated and a gender roadmap established; the first trainings involved the Project team to ensure their full understanding of the links between gender and climate change. The Gender Action Plan envisages specific measures to monitor gender mainstreaming, define indicators and means of verification; this is well-conducted by the M&E specialist, in collaboration with the gender consultants. Setting the stakeholders participation at half women and half men may appear optimistic or schematic and it is quite surprising that effectively the number of participants at mid-term is reported as half

women and half men. Notably, the PMU is composed of almost all women, including the PC and also 52% of the Project's consultants are women.

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An effort to build a country vision of climate change and gender inclusion is undeniable and a gender perspective can be appreciated in the Colombian reporting mechanisms to the UNFCCC (i.e. BUR-2, the Colombian Low Carbon Development Strategy and REDD+). The analysis of women participation in various areas has greatly increased in the last decade as a result of the "Quota Law" adopted by Law 1475/2011; more specifically for climate change decision making, in sectors like mining and energy, housing, sanitation and AFOLU, the ProDoc reported that women represented around 59,3% out of the total of workshops participants and in spaces to collect information for the INGEI. Women represent approximately the 45% (13) of the persons working in the Intersectoral Committee on Climate Change; good participation is reported in regions through the Nodes of Climate Change.

Despite achievements, the gender gap remains in areas like poverty, natural resources access and time use, especially affecting rural areas, considering that women are more exposed and vulnerable to the impact of climate change and less supported by technical services for production activities. Since 2018, the explicit recognition in BUR-2, and later in BUR-3 in 2022, of the different impact of climate change on man and women generated the need to know which sectors and subsectors require the establishment of specific indicators and which institutions had to be trained accordingly; it emerged the need to overcome the resistance of climate change and GHG scientists in including a gender vision which had to be addressed with the provision of specific training but also of political positioning. Even before the implementation of this CBIT Project, a programme to strengthen capacities and a Gender and Climate Change Action Plan were formulated. These processes are being reinforced through the CBIT Project; i.e. i) ensuring the presence of gender a focal point/expert in the various entities became a priority; ii) supporting the transformation of the gender actions from a merely responsive to a truly transformative modality, now favored by a facilitating legal framework, built-in capacities in line ministries and greater economic capacity; iii) preparing a Roadmap which involved strategic stakeholders and implement tailored trainings; iv) developing material (infographic and video) to deliver information to both a specialized audience as well as to the wider public. The strategy aims at including a gender component in each sector and eventually subsector of the GHG inventory to monitor the evolution of the man/women relation when data are collected and systematically analyzed; the action needs to be institutionalized to ensure that Government changes to do not affect the process. In strict collaboration with IDEAM, the CBIT has identified two areas in the prioritized sectors of AFOLU and Energy to conduct pilot projects which explicitly provide a view on how climate change impacts differently on man and women and how getting this gender perspective provides added value to climate transparency as it allows more complete and integrated information for decision-making and policy-making.



Overall, the gender approach of the Project explicitly recognizes that climate change is not gender neutral and works towards the availability of reliable, standardized, and periodic information on GHG emissions with a gender perspective to strengthen the formulation of Colombian mitigation actions towards more equity. This contributes to position Colombia as a leader country within the GEF CBIT GSP, able to keep a dialogue with other similar CBIT projects in the Latin American and the Caribbean area (Uruguay and Chile) and produce lessons useful even outside of the region.

4.3.7 Reporting

Reporting is outstanding; PIRs are well drafted and informative, with a good narrative, systematic and inclusive of all thematic, with references to all documents produced; risk management is well considered and reported; the PSC MoMs are informative and complete but eventually overly repetitive. The team provides sustained technical support to IDEAM in reporting, i.e. the definition of national indicators to be reported to the OECD; inputs for the preparation of national accounts to measure quantitative progress in some SDGs in terms of the country's carbon balances; inputs for the formulation of Colombia's NC-4 and BTR-1 and 2 to UNFCCC.

Overall, documents produced are of good quality. If a recommendation can be made is to further simplify and synthetize in order to ensure messages are straightforwardly delivered and reach the targeted audience. Management informs that training satisfaction reports are systematically compiled and they generally indicate satisfaction of participants; gender training has effectively attracted interest and has been required to be continued to reach a wider audience.

4.3.8 Communications

The GEF attaches great importance to knowledge management and communication and the Project has fully embraced its belonging to the CBIT GSP as a learning hub. The Communication Strategy with a Gender Perspective includes KM activities and is the focus of Component 4. As mentioned, it integrates lessons learned and share information about the Project at different levels and within different spaces even outside the nation, contributing to positioning Colombia as a climate change leader at international level. The approach is two-fold: i) synthetize and systematize technical know-how generated to the benefit of decision-makers, academia, scientific community, public and private data providers as well as general society; and ii) personalized know-how is delivered through person-to-person communication to be further shared at local level and through the wider CBIT GSP network. Overall, KM and communication activities are proven to be effective; public awareness, the success of organized events, institutional capacity building, improved visual identity and innovation in digital media are just some of the achievements which significantly contribute to the visibility, understanding and commitment to GHG mitigation in Colombia, aligning with the strategic objectives of the GHG MRV System; among others:

- **Environmental Awareness/Education Campaigns**: i.e. the "Did you know?" campaign contributed to increase public awareness of climate change and the importance of GHG mitigation; widely disseminated, it generated a high level of interaction on social networks, reflecting growing community engagement.
- **High Impact Events**: i.e. the Forum on Emission Factors from Fuels in Road Transportation and Webinars were highly successful, achieving massive participation and facilitating the exchange of knowledge and the strengthening of networks among experts and stakeholders. Another example is the support provided to the GoC to host a Latin American regional dialogue on Climate Transparency at COP27 in Egypt, calling for the democratization of environmental information and the visibility of communities under the ETF of the PA. The event hosted the Ministers of Environment of the Dominican Republic and Guatemala, representatives from Colombia, Chile, Paraguay, El Salvador, Mexico, Uruguay and Panama, as well as from GEF, UNDP, and UNEP to discuss how to proactively and collectively advance towards the production of BTRs in the region as an innovative instrument for decision makers and an information tool for vulnerable communities in Latin-American countries.
- **Institutional Capacity Building**: collaboration with various institutions, such as UPME and the University of Antioquia, and advice for training courses such as the "Climate Transparency with a Gender Approach Course" significantly improved the technical and analytical capacities of participants.
- **Effective Coordination and Planning** updating and maintaining the overall communication timeline has ensured efficient and coordinated execution of all planned activities, enabling compliance with established deadlines and ensuring that all initiatives are aligned with the Project's strategic objectives.
- **Visual and Communicational Identity Enhancement**: a new MRV Logo and institutional formats contribute to clearer and more coherent communication and to strengthen the Project's visual identity.

There is an attempt to lower the technical language of the narrative of communication products so that it remains interesting for scientists and data providers but can also reach a wider public. The Project does not have a website and information is delivered through the websites of the existing entities, mainly IDEAM

which is the institutional leader in the area of climate change and GHG inventories; yet, IDEAM website has not been functioning well and communicating through it for the moment is not straightforward.

Workshops, trainings, events include:
-Inception Workshop, May 2022
-Training about National Forestry Information System - SNIF with environmental authorities - 1 September 2022
-Training in uncertainty assessment in GHG inventories - 20 October 2022
-COP 27 in Egypt - "Latin-American Regional dialogue on climate Transparency" - 11 November 2022
-Training for gender and climate change - 14 December 2022
-Transparency training - December 2022
-Water Resources Information System -SIRH - Autonomous Corporation of Valle del Cauca CVC Training - 1 February 2023
-Training about National Forestry Information System - SNIF with environmental authorities- 13 March 2023
-UNFCCC Workshop on quality assurance of the country's energy systems information - 17 to 19 April 2023
-Workshop on Climate Change Scenarios 4th National Communication - 1 December 2022 and 31 May 2023
-Technical and Steering Board Meetings of the project - 25 May & 2 June 2023
-Workshop at the International Environment Fair "Climate action informed by climate change reports" workshop - 15 June 2023
-Training on improvements in emissions: fluvial and railway sectors - 18 May & 23 June 2023
-Virtual Workshop: Climate Change Scenarios (7 Jul-2023)
-3rd Workshop on quality assurance of the country's energy information (9 Aug-2023)
-Workshop: Socialization and sectoral MRV needs (23 Aug-2023)
-Workshop 1 on uncertainty. "Exploring Uncertainty" (November 27-2023) - Youtube broadcasting
-Workshop 2 on uncertainty "Understanding uncertainty" (December 12-2023) - Broadcast on Youtube
-Training workshop "Gender and Climate Change" (5 December-2023)
-Launching of the gender roadmap (November 22-2023)
- Awareness-raising day 'Dialogues for change. Gender and Environment in the institutional agenda' at IDEAM (November 24-2023)
-Workshop on sectoral guidelines on the MRV system (Oct. 31 to Nov. 2-2023)
- Climate week in Panama: Organization of a workshop to follow up on progress of mitigation commitments in the NDC (Oct 23 to 25-2023).
- First CITCCC steering committee (Mar 5 -2024)
-Webinar "Roadmap to 2030 of the Colombian GHG Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System - MRV". (apr /2024)
- Sustainable Mobility Forum on fuels emission factors for road transportation, organized with UPME, IDEAM and Univ. of Antioquia. (may /2024)
- Workshop to socialize preliminary results of GHG inventory, black carbon and precursor gas inventory in the transport sector for BTR-1 (june 2024)

External events with project´s participation:
- International Environment Fair - Stand sponsored by GEF - CBIT and attendees talk "Climate action informed through climate change reports".
-Meeting of Colombian environmental authorities
-International Summit on Environmental Sustainability and Innovation and 4th International Congress on Environmental Research and Innovation –
-Climate Finance event, organized by the National Planning Department, and there was a MRV Information Hub stand, shared with the dissemination of MRV financing and MRV mitigation.
- Facilitative Sharing of Views for the BUR 3 in the COP28 was facilitated by the project, successfully closing the BUR 3 reporting requirements for Non-Annex I Parties under the UNFCCC.
- The project participated in the first Global Transparency Forum, held on May 20-21, 2024, in Tokyo, where CBIT Colombia was honored as a "Platform Champion", inspiring others to follow their lead in advancing climate transparency as a main reporter in the GSP Platform.

Project's information in the GEF website:
- https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/10121
- Project and Country information at the Global Support Programme website:
- https://climate-transparency-platform.org/country/colombia
- https://climate-transparency-platform.org/cbit-projects/colombias-2030-mrv-strategic-vision
- UNFCCC website - International consultation and analysis-Outcome cycle 3/Facilitative Sharing of views – Colombia
- -https://unfccc.int/ICA-cycle3

Social media coverage includes wide and instrumental use of Instagram, YouTube, Twitter
-https://dcc.miambiente.gob.pa/panama-participa-en-el-dialogo-regional-latinoamericano-de-transparencia-climatica/
-http://pronosticos.ideam.gov.co/web/sala-de-prensa/noticias/-/asset publisher/LdWW0ECY1uxz/content/lanzamiento-del-proyecto-gef-cbit-vision-estrategica-mrv-2030-de-colombia-
-https://www.undp.org/es/colombia/noticias/cop27-colombia-lidero-dialogo-regional-latinoamericano-de-transparencia-climatica
-https://www.undp.org/es/colombia/news/comenz%C3%B3-la-implementaci%C3%B3n-del-proyecto-gef-cbit-%E2%80%9Cvisi%C3%B3n-estrat%C3%A9gica-mrv-2030-de-colombia%E2%80%9D
-https://climate-transparency-platform.org/news/tokyo-hosts-groundbreaking-global-transparency-forum-climate-action
-https://climate-transparency-platform.org/news/invitacion-para-el-foro-movilidad-sostenible-foro-sobre-factores-de-emision-en-transporte

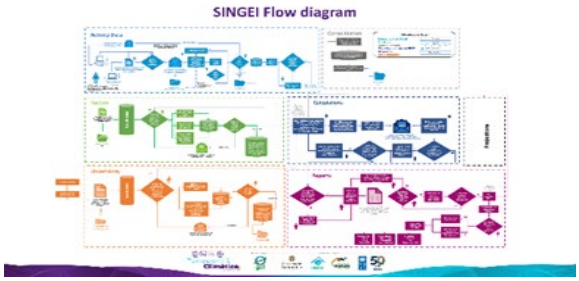
4.4 Sustainability

The CBIT Project supports strategic alliances among government agencies, academic and research institutions, and other relevant stakeholders, to comprehensively enhance its MRV system while drawing on existing technical and management capacities from previous processes under the UNFCCC such those for the preparation of NCs and BURs. Supporting IDEAM in strengthening its technical and coordination capacity as the leader scientific national authority on climate change, and specifically on GHG inventories and assisting sectoral and territorial agencies in developing emissions baselines, modelling, projections, scenarios, and policy-relevant analysis and database management, the CBIT Project holds sustainability within the same conception of the actions proposed; it create capacities for better informed national decision-making (i.e. more ambitious mitigation actions and increasing public awareness through KM and media engagement) and for improving in terms of quality and timing the modalities with which the GoC adhere and respond to its international commitments, i.e. NDC revision and updating; NCs, BURs/BTRs and overall the requirements of the ETF – a system conceived to be flexible and continuously updated to ensure transparency, accuracy, exhaustiveness, comparability and coherence with other instruments. Activities are country-driven, fully participatory and inclusive; the SINGEI platform is delayed but the Project has progressed importantly in creating the tools and the capacities which generate more quality and updated data and information, in more structured formats and within a coordination mechanism where line ministries participate. Lessons learned are integrated into the overall MRV conceptualization and approach.

4.4.1 Financial risks to sustainability

IDEAM's appropriation of the activities and the fact that during the period between CEO's Project approval and effective starting of the implementation the GoC operated towards coverage of some of the actions planned by the Project (expanding the GHG data and inventory, especially in the AFOLU and Energy sectors which are the two key emitters in the country) should be a guarantee that financing for the operation of the entire MRV, including the SINGEI systems/platforms should be there. While circumstances are promising, they are still to be verified at EoP ensuring that specific protocols not only for data and information sharing but also for the operation of the SINGEI are put in place. The consolidation of SINGEI – which is to be hosted and managed by IDEAM in close collaboration with MinAmbiente - encompasses a variety of elements that range from the strengthening of institutional arrangements, to all operations linked with the preparation of GHG inventories, the development of a web platform that enables user-friendly access by external stakeholders, the definition of standardized methods and procedures, database development and software-based systematization to integrate all processes into a single application; in this sense, financial sustainability goes hand in hand with technological sustainability as IT staff and IT troubleshooting will be required. A first approximation of needs has been conducted, including annual resources for maintenance. IDEAM is undergoing a restructuring to ensure that: i) a specific IT role and technical support for sectors are guaranteed for daily administration and troubleshooting once the platform is installed; and ii) its failure is avoided as instead happened for other information systems in the past. Consequently, the MRV System roadmap targets the strengthening of the different components that support information management processes (data archive, data flows, trainings, institutional mandates) before concentrating efforts in the development of the software platform. IDEAM is already hosting various platforms, reasons for which the purchase of Switch Cores has been required to ensure that all of them work at the required speed without the entire system together being slowed down. Within the SIAC framework, IDEAM constantly maps technological needs; reportedly, it intends to apply to the newly created *Fondo para la Vida* which makes available public funding for the environment.

SINGEI is one of the most important components of the MRV system; its functionality will be tested, assessing the availability, quality, gap reduction of GHG inventory information for the preparation of NCs, BTRs, and NDC update, among others; the uncertainty of the information time series will be reduced and greater coherence sought; methodologies for uncertainty calculations are being prepared and tested.



The operationalization of SINGEI includes information about emissions and removals, projections modules and capacity for reporting among others. Expressing the current percentage of achievement is a bit arbitrary as difficult to calculate; if the design and installment of the platform is considered, 40% of achievement is probably optimistic but if consideration is given to progress in improving the information that will feed the system and therefore identifying the needs of all the categories and subcategories of the system than the percentage is accurate. Evidently, it is work in progress which will go even beyond the life of the Project. It may also be appropriate to consider under financial and technical sustainability the lesson learned that the development of the platform requires a team of IT specialists but integrated by an experienced environmentalist, with GHG inventory expertise, the lack of whom negatively impacted in the first SINGEI contract; to facilitate the work of the new consultants for the design of the platform, technical staff is documenting the experience and needs of certain functionalities through *Users Stories* so that newcomers, either the IT company and government staff turning roles, may quickly understand requirements.

Sustainability should be ensured by the integration of SINGEI into the existing national environmental information system (SIAC), which is also administered by IDEAM. SIAC is Colombia's centralized platform for environmental information management at national level and facilitates access to environmental indicators generated by IDEAM and other institutions. Responsibilities of IDEAM includes the management of platforms, integration of information, sustainability of information generation processes, maintenance of existing platforms developed by IDEAM and management of interoperability among existing information systems. Financial sustainability should also result by the synergy and complementarity with projects/activities such as the technical cooperation of the BioCarbon Fund and other international climate funds projects, optimizing resources for the operationalization of SINGEI; in addition, Project support facilitated the identification of needs for the preparation of the next climate change reports and led to the request and approval of GEF resources for the formulation of Colombia BTR-2 and NC-4.

Encouraging is the mobilization of the Project's co-financing that at mid-term already covers 90% of commitments, a clear sign of interest. Co-financing is entirely in-kind and involves various government agencies as well as the IP in support of the preparation of ToRs and the evaluation of bidders for the selection of consultants, the identification of the MRV and SINGEI requirements both in terms of IT and for capacities strengthening as well as the collaboration to identify gender-sensitive inventory categories. The IP provides a valuable support, with co-financing going even beyond expectations and initial commitment.

4.4.2 Socio-economic risks to sustainability

The CBIT Project promotes an instrumental use of alliances with stakeholders invited to participate in activities at institutional level but also involving the academia and the private sector when they may be key data providers. Links are established with actors that were previously less involved as allies in activities such as climate change scenario development and accessing the latest academic research on emission factors. The presence of a well reputed NGO as IP reinforces the participation of civil society and the capacity of the NGO to act in the climate change arena as a capable leader and technical partner.

The gender component of the Project constitutes a serious and all-encompassing approach which contributes to a broader view of the reasons for climate change and the influence of gender relations on GHG emissions and absorption activities. This generates a virtuous circle between climate transparency and gender equality as it is assumed that climate actions on climate change mitigation and adaptation, which are based on the production of transparent, comparable and usable information, must also be able to promote other fundamental aspects such as gender equity. Methodologies are developed for gradually integrating capacity building, data and social analysis and demonstrating how gender-focused GHG information collection can influence outcomes through two pilot activities in two subsectors of each prioritized sector, that is AFOLU

and Energy. Interviews confirm appreciation of gender training received and eagerness to expand it to involve further stakeholders.

KM and communication activities consider outreaching to the wider civil society. Sharing knowledge becomes particularly important and efforts are being made to produce videos, publications and infographics utilizing a language which aims to maintain scientific relevance while being accessible to non-technical people; the material produced to inform about the climate change with a gender perspective is relevant, not only for the wider public but specifically for GHG scientists who are opening to this vision, slowly reducing the resistances that the gender approach generated until recently. Systematization of lessons learned and knowledge management is a key element to reduce socio-economic risks for sustainability. Innovative and successful activities may materialize and often scientists do not have the openness to visualize the causality between actions and results. Sharing knowledge through videos, printed material, and the organization of exchange events, fairs and forums is key to allow people to access knowledge and experience and decide to scale up and/or replicate successful activities.

4.4.3 Institutional framework and governance risks to sustainability

Efforts to identifying technical and capacity weaknesses and opportunities of the Colombia's MRV system make the action of the CBIT Project strategic for the country's institutions. The undeniable appropriation and ownership of the Government, with IDEAM in the forefront should ensure the delivery of expected products as well as of the sustainability of the processes, methodologies, and systems which are being established for GHG emissions and removals management and for ensuring optimal transparency of data and mechanisms. Colombia's MRV system has an adequate structure and utilizes standardized methodologies; yet, it requires functional and operational adjustments, i.e. improve the quality and reliability of GHG emissions and emission reduction data; standardizing information collection and active participation of stakeholders. Recommendations to strengthen the MRV, in line with the ETF were made; a roadmap designed; and the legislative framework assessed.

Progress towards reviewing and adjusting institutional mandates and strengthening the transparency body identified is still incipient. While the effort to prepare informative documents about what are and how the MRV system (MRV ABC Guide) and Institutional Arrangements (IND 0.2._b *Documento Arreglos Institucionales*) function is notable, much remains to be done to have an institution with a clear mandate, authority and resources to lead the transparency process and to sign Memorandum of Understandings with concerned entities; it is noted that the mentioned *Documento Arreglos Institutionales*, properly referred in PIR, is just an explicatory document and not a draft towards institutional arrangements as one would expect from the title. Reportedly, the legal implications are such that these are time-consuming processes. At present, two institutions have been designated for coordinating transparency activities and both of them are supported by the Project: i) the Committee for Technical and Scientific Information on Climate Change (CITCCC) where all government and also research centers are represented, therefore a larger forum where legal and institutional proposals can be discussed and ii) the Technical Committee of the National Climate Change Information System (SNICC) where participation is restrained to the key entities authorized for monitoring and coordinating climate change information, that is MinAmbiente, IDEAM and the NPD.

The legal framework has positively evolved during the years; among others, the adoption of Resolution 1383/2023 which has upgraded the regulation for climate change data management and actions can now focus on delivering guidelines to sectors and local MRV systems and to the two transparency instances mentioned above; in particular, the Technical Committee of SNICC has now the function of regulating the MRV's operational guidelines; although it still lacks staff and a clear mandate, the emphasis on strengthening the governance of the Climate Change Information System through the development of guidelines for managing sectoral and territorial information reinforces existing the institutional framework for climate change management.

Intended and unintended positive effects should not minimize the barriers that still exist for effective partnerships and for the establishment of the SINGEI and the overall MRV system. Line ministries requires the strengthening of capacities not only to share but also to generate information, with the required quality. The experience of the GoC in organizing and implementing the INGEI to date has delivered important lessons that feed current implementation; among them, of paramount importance is that information providers receive ongoing training and capacity strengthening both because NDC tracking indicators and GHG accounting and projections as well as the entire ETF framework pose significant challenges and undergo continuous evolution but also because there is continuous turnover of staff in government, both at decision-making and technical level. Effectively, Government elections in June 2022 led to changes of leaders and technicians but unfortunately turnovers of civil servants continued also after the installment of the new Government. Overall, this leads to the need of: i) a continuous dialogue; and ii) a structured capacity building plan, with the delivery of continuous training, refresh activities and the compilation of a register of people trained as a database to retrieve experts when needed, considering that specialized expertise in GHG inventories is minimal in the country. The Project is implementing a strategy of involving more junior experts, capacitating them and ensuring a continued presence.

The institutional and technical sustainability and ownership of the MRV system is a function of: i) the commitments to collect, share and manage data and this seems to be out of question; ii) the commitments to ensure the IT functioning of the online platform; this will have to be valued at EoP as at mid-term stage advances are not yet such to appreciate IT and overall management challenges; iii) the training received by officials which is sound up to now but which requires to be ongoing and refreshed; iv) its being hosted within and managed by IDEAM which appears to be solid. Civil servants' turnovers may represent a challenge as the historical memory of the actions may be lost but the establishment of protocols and methodologies may reduce the problem; in addition, KM products are produced also for each technical area, targeting the same civil servants with infographics, a MRV Roadmap and ABC Guide.

4.4.4 Environmental risks to sustainability

Environmental risks are not expected; instead, activities are expected to have significant multiple environmental benefits, i.e. reduced GHG emissions, improved Energy and AFOLU policies, reduced deforestation and increased afforestation, improved ecosystem services and air quality, improved understanding of the different impacts of climate change over men and women and through the analysis of the relative causes improved climate change policies.

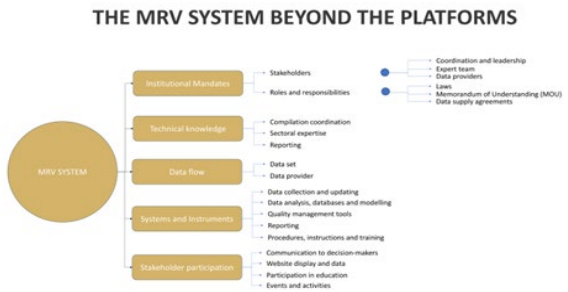
Awareness raising activities are key for environmental sustainability and efforts are sound and appreciated. Substantial knowledge management has been well documented above; participation to international events such as the COP 27 workshop in Egypt for a Latin American regional dialogue on Climate Transparency or the presentation of climate change reports and the future of climate information during the International Environment Fair in Bogota in June 2023 are key occasions to communicate sectoral and local opportunities in national climate information and to allow Colombia to position itself as a global climate change leader.

5. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusions

The Project is **relevant** in relation to GEF CBIT strategies, aligned with UNDP and national policies and plans and instrumental for GHG inventory management; the design is solid but very technical and overly detailed; a few modifications to some of the indicators or at least explanations of their interpretation are proposed to facilitate understanding and reporting. **Progress of implementation** is rated as satisfactory; notwithstanding initial delays and challenges, this MTR confirms the view of stakeholders that the Project is well managed and executed. A large number of PMU and external consultants is engaged in supporting activities which are very technical in nature (sectoral methodologies to calculate GHG in different sectors and subsectors) and innovative (a genuine and professional approach to gender mainstreaming in the GHG accountancy of emissions and removals). **Efficiency, and particularly financial management** has been affected by delays caused by a mixture of: national bureaucracies; the need to harmonize the administrative procedures of the Government, UNDP and FN; the transition of UNDP CO to new administrative platforms; and finally the turnovers of Government officials; yet, progress can be appreciated in all technical areas without affecting any of the mid-term target in a negative way. An extension appears anyway necessary to catch up with delays and ensure that once activities are consolidated and the SINGEI platform installed, all parts of the system undergo the necessary testing and fine-tuning for full operativity. Co-financing pledges are almost fully covered at mid-term which is a clear sign of the GoC's intention to fully progress towards the fulfillment of the commitments towards UNFCCC

and the PA in terms of transparency enhancement. The Project team is encouraged to continue to explore collaboration with all stakeholders with an enhanced effort to involve the academia and the private sector and synergies with external partners to promote the upscaling and replication of methodologies developed and implemented.



Progress towards the Development Objective is satisfactory, with most mid-term targets reached, with an appreciated quality; work developed by the GoC even before the start of the CBIT Project contributed to the current level of technical performance. Methodological and technical guidance to implement the MRV system and to enhance the GHG inventories have been delivered; the Project plays a key role in the development of the first Colombian BTR, in the preparation of NC-4 and the overall application of the ETF. A large number of consultants have been hired for specific technical areas and their work is generally appreciated by IDEAM which is the scientific and coordinating authority, in strict collaboration with MinAmbiente. The roadmap for the national MRV System indicates the need to strengthen its components by supporting information management processes (data archive, data flows, trainings to staff, institutional mandates, among others) and not only concentrating efforts in the development of software platforms. The implementation of trainings and the setting up of procedures and protocols are considered as key elements of a reinforced MRV. The legal framework is enabling; Resolution 1383/2023 upgraded the regulation of climate change data management, allowing the Project to focus its support to the transparency instances and on delivering sectoral/territorial guidelines. Tier 2 and Tier 3 methodologies and a Users' Guide are being developed for the management and determination of fugitive emissions in oil&gas facilities (upstream), in collaboration with NAH and MinMinas; methodologies to reduce uncertainty are developed, although working on uncertainty remains quite complex for data providers. Overall, the Project supports the enhancement of data and information that will be used for updating the NDC and preparing the next BTRs and NCs as well as facilitating national decision/policy-making in mitigation and adaptation. The Project has progressed in mainstreaming gender through the formulation of a gender roadmap, the identification of gender-sensitive inventory categories, the implementation of tailored trainings and the pilot incorporation of gender in GHG accounting and reporting. Meaningful capacity building and knowledge management activities are implemented contributing to exchange views and experience, and integrate lessons learned; the "Climate Transparency with a gender perspective" online course has attracted over 600 people and finally certificated 190 of them coming from

different regions in Colombia to improve their technical and analytical capacities in connecting gender gaps and inequalities with GHG emissions.

Finally, the Project supports the organization and participation of the country in national and international events which contribute to position it as a leader in the climate change action. The Project is recognized as a *Platform Champion* by the CBIT GSP for demonstrating an exceptional commitment in sharing and using the platform for dissemination and public awareness of transparency activities in Colombia.

5.2 Recommendations

The following recommendations are tailored to improve Project implementation and sustainability.

Table N.10 Summary of Recommendations

N.	Recommendation	Responsible
A	**Component level**	
A.1	**Component N.1.** The operationalization of the MRV system encompasses much more than the instalment and operation of the SINGEI platform; it is paramount to quickly progress in establishing the legal functioning of the platform, including: i) supporting the identified transparency institutions and ensure they have the means and mandate to operate; and ii) ensuring institutional arrangements through Memorandum of Understandings with involved actors for the correct production and flow of information in view of reporting commitments but also for national decision/policy-making; iii) drafting a financial analysis and plan for its operation and maintenance; iv) ensuring specific regulations are prepared for SINGEI to support the processes of interoperability and the mandatory involvement of other institutions for the generation of data and periodic reporting.	PMU, Consultants, IDEAM and line ministries, UNDP CO
A.2	**Component 4.** Consider creating a Project website or quickly reinforce and/or modify existing portals to give it more visibility.	PMU, IDEAM
B	**Project Implementation and Adaptive Management**	
B.1	**Indicators.** Modification or interpretation is proposed for a couple of indicators, highlighted in Table 5 – the PRF matrix. It is recommended to adopt it formally during the PSC. The revision does not affect the meaning and does not operate any major change. **Gender Indicators.** Setting the GEF Core Indicator of beneficiaries' participation at half men/half women and then reporting that participation is effectively half/half appears forced. Considering that GHG scientists are usually mostly men, specifically targeting men can help overcome their traditional resistance to a gender perspective	PC, PSC, UNDP
B.2	**No-cost extension.** Without a Project extension, the capacity of IDEAM and other Government actors to test and fine-tune all the functionalities of the SINGEI platform, considering all sectors/subsectors would be compromised. More time is needed to strengthen and harmonize all components of the MRV. Technically, also the management of Uncertainty requires longer time as data providers are not used to work with it. An extension of at least 6 months, and according to funds availability, is suggested; Capacity building is an ongoing process which due to staff turnovers requires time.	PMU , UNDP, PSC
B.3	**PSC and Technical Committees meetings.** Turnovers of Government staff make meetings overly formal and repetitive, therefore time-consuming, reducing the time for decision-making and preventing the Technical Committee from truly distinguishing itself from the PSC. It is suggested to reduce the formalities, prepare Project presentations for newcomers to acquaint before the meetings and ensure the Technical Committee operates at a technical level and possibly in presence. Various stakeholders suggest the possibility to hold a PSC every three months.	PMU staff, PSC and Technical Committee
B.4	**Transition to new administrative platforms**. Ensure and follow-up that the transition to Quantum/PIMS no longer affect expenses registration, budget revisions and operational funding availability.	UNDP
C	**Sustainability**	
C.1	**Develop a capacity building/training plan.** Given the fast-evolving situation in the science of GHGs and transparency activities, the high turnover of decision-makers and technical staff and the lack of expertise in GHG in the country, a comprehensive capacity building plan should be developed, considering training at managerial and technical levels, sectoral levels and targeting data producers/providers (i.e. UPME, DANE among others); retraining; refresh training sessions and the compilation of a register of trained people to keep truck of who in the country can be available.	PMU
C.2	**Socio-economic and Institutional Sustainability.** Foster a culture among organizations that recognizes data and information as public goods due to the high turnover of officials which may cause priorities to be placed over different targets and knowledge be lost.	PMU, IDEAM
C.3	**Financial Sustainability.** Develop a financial analysis and investment plan, carefully analyzing needed resources for managing, maintaining and troubleshooting of SINGEI after commissioning.	PMU, IDEAM

Annex A – Terms of Reference,

Annex B – Document consulted/available for consultation

General documents

- TORs for the Mid-Term Review
- UNDP Guidance for Conducting Mid-Term Review of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects, 2014
- Marco de Cooperación de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo Sostenible Colombia (UNSDCF), 2020-2023
- Marco de Cooperación de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo Sostenible Colombia (UNSDCF), 2024-2027
- UNDP Country Programme Document for Colombia 2021-2024

Project documents

- Project Document: Colombia's 2030 MRV Strategic Vision, with annexes
- CEO Endorsement Request and Letter
- Project Implementation Review (PIR) 2022-2023 and draft of the 2023-2024
- Informe Taller de Inicio Mayo 5, 2022, y anexos
- Colombia Gender Analysis and Action Plan
- Project Steering Committee and Technical Committee MoMs (2022, 2023, 2024)
- Termination Act SEGEN Group
- Bidding procedures for consultancies
- SINGEI and INGEI Project documentation
- Guia ABC MRV
- Institutional arrangements for MRV and SINGEI document
- Legal Framework for the MRV Strategic Vision of Mitigation
- Documents related with Gender Capacity Building for climate change and GHG accounting
- Video Climatic Transparency and Gender Perspective
- Training Course in 4 Modules Climatic Transparency with a Gender Perspective
- Training material for Uncertainty
- Annual Work Plans 2022, 2023, 2024
- Results of the capacity assessment (HACT) of the project implementing partner
- Project Tracking Tools and Core Indicators (Initial and at Mid-Term)
- Co-financing letters: from Fundacion Natura, IDEAM, MinAmbiente, UPME
- Stakeholder Engagement Plan
- Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP)
- Project Sustainability M&E tool report
- Stakeholder M&E tool report
- Gender M&E tool report
- Audit report, April 2024 and two spot checks reports
- Co-financing reports
- Communication and Knowledge Management material
- List of related projects/initiatives contributing to project objectives

Annex C – Schedule and institutions/people interviewed: August-September 2024

Task/Interview in August/Sept. 2024 - Rome time (local time)	Date – Time	Location	Contact
Interviews with the Implementing Agency UNDP and GEF staff			
-Mr. Diego Olarte, Programme Officer, **UNDP CO, Member of PSC**	05/09 at 18:30	Virtual	diego.olarte@undp.org
-Ms. Diana Catalina Quintero Pinzón, focal point CBIT Project, **UNDP CO**	30/08 05/09 at 18:30	Virtual	diana.quintero@undp.org
-Ms. Angela Tabla , Associated Financial Manager **UNDP CO** -Rosa Andrade, Budget/Financial Analyst **UNDP CO, PSC support** -Santiago Rueda, Administrative & Financial Associate, **UNDP CO**	5/09 at 15:00	Virtual	angela.tabla@undp.org rosa.andrade@undp.org angel.rueda@undp.org
-Ms. Analisa Palacios, **UNDP BPPS** Programme Associate	06/09 at 18:00	Virtual	ana.lisa.palacios@undp.org
-Mrs. Thania Eloina Felix Canedo, **UNDP RTA**	04/09 at 20:30	Virtual	thania.eloina.felix.canedo@undp.org
Interviews with Implementing Partner (IP), NGO Fundación Natura (FN) – PMU staff			
-Ms. Clara Solano, CBIT Project manager -Ms. Lorena Franco, Deputy Director	10/09 at 21:00	Virtual	csolano@natura.org.co lfranco@natura.org.co
- Ms. Laura Aranguren, CBIT Project Coordinator -Ms. Natalia Garzón, CBIT Project Monitoring Leader	2/09 - 17:00 04/09 15:30 17/09 19:00	Virtual	laranguren@ideam.gov.co nagarzon@natura.org.co
-Ms. Viviana Sora – CBIT Administrative and Financial Professional	6/09 at 16 :00	Virtual	financieracbit@natura.org.co
-Mr. Iván Dávila - Knowledge Management **Consultant**, CBIT -Mr. Cesar Charris – Communications **Consultant**, CBIT	05/09 at 17:00	Virtual Focal Group	iodavila@natura.org.co comunicacionescbit@natura.org.co
Interviews with Government counterpart and key informants			
-Ms. Elizabeth Patiño, Deputy Director, IDEAM, Environmental Studies, and **PSC member** -Mr. Leonardo Pineda – Global Change Group Coordinator, and **Technical Committee member**	4/09 at 18:00	Virtual	epatino@ideam.gov.co lapineda@ideam.gov.co
MinAmbiente GEF Operat. Focal Point, PSC Member delegates: -Ms. Ana Maria Garcia, International Affairs Office -Mr. Juan Pertuz, International Affairs Office	09/09 at 16:00	Virtual	mtbecerra@minambiente.gov.co
-Ms. Maryeny Enríquez, professional, Demand Group, representing **Mining & Energy Planning Unit (UPME),** as member of PSC and of Technical Committee and as **gender training beneficiary** -Ms. Juliana Chaparro, in representation of the Office of Social and Environ. Affairs, **Ministry of Mines and Energy**, **member of PSC and of Technical Committee**	13/09 t 15:00	Virtual	maryeni.enriquez@upme.gov.co
MRV system, SINGEI, Transparency, Uncertainty -Ms Vanessa Vanegas - MRV Assistant, CBIT -Mr. Leonardo Pineda – Global Change Group Coordinator- IDEAM -Ms. Luisa Perez – **Consultant**, National Climate Change Information System (SNICC) – CBIT	11/09 at 15:00	Virtual Focal Group	vvanegasp@natura.org.co lapineda@ideam.gov.co lufperez@natura.org.co
SINGEI platform -Ms. Ana Julia Sarria – IT **Consultant**, CBIT -Ms. Yuly Pedraza – Professional of Global Change Group – IDEAM -Ms Vanessa Vanegas - MRV Assistant, CBIT	9/09 at 15:00	Virtual Focal Group	ajsarria@natura.org.co vvanegasp@natura.org.co
Gender -Ms.Laura Niño, Gender **Consultant** leader, CBIT -Ms.Fiorella López, gender team **Consultant**, CBIT -Mr. Juan Andrès Casas – National Focal Point on Gender & Climate Change, **MinAmbiente**	06/09 at 15:00	Virtual Focal Group	lcanino@natura.org.co filopez@natura.org.co juandrescasas@gmail.com
Participants to trainings (Gender, Uncertainty, MRV) -Ms. Lina Alejandra Obando Estupiñon -Ms. Maryeny Enríquez, professional, **UPME**	12/09 at 16:00	Virtual Focal/Group	
Debriefing and final interviews			

Annex D – Evaluation Questions

Evaluative Criteria Questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology
Project Design and Strategy: How appropriate is the strategy and project design? (Relevance)			
• Review the problem addressed by the project and the underlying assumptions. Review the effect of any incorrect assumptions or changes to the context to achieving the project results as outlined in the ProDoc. • Review the relevance of the project strategy and Theory of Change and assess whether it provides the most effective route towards expected/intended results. Were lessons from other relevant projects properly incorporated into the project design? • Review whether project is aligned with relevant GEF and UN System priorities, including thematic objectives at the national/regional and international levels. • Review how the project addresses country priorities. Review country ownership. Was the project concept in line with the national sector development priorities and plans of the country? • Review decision-making processes: were perspectives of those who would be affected by project decisions, those who could affect the outcomes, and those who could contribute information or other resources to the process, taken into account during project design? • Review the extent to which relevant gender issues were raised in the project design. • Review if project design adequately identifies, assess and design appropriate mitigation actions for the potential social and environmental risks posed by its interventions?	• Existence of a clear relationship between project objectives and GEF and UN policies and strategies • Degree of coherence between the problems addressed and underlying assumptions • The Theory of Change clearly indicates how project interventions and projected results will contribute to the reduction of identified capacity barriers • Degree of coherence between project strategy and most effective route to achieving results • Degree of coherence of the project proposal with national environmental and development priorities • Stakeholders mapping and ways to engage them • Appreciation from national stakeholders with respect to adequacy of project design and implementation to national realities and existing capacities: evidence of incorporation of their perspective • Degree of involvement of stakeholders in project design and implementation • Evidence of lessons learnt incorporated in project design • Evidence of SESP checklist compiled appropriately and risks and mitigation actions identified	• Project documents • PIF • UNDAF/UNDP/GEF/policies and strategies • National and regional policies and strategies • Key project partners and stakeholders (IDEAM, MinAmbiente, Fundación Natura, line ministries, UNDP/GEF staff) • SESP Annex	•Documents analyses •UNDP website •GEF website •Interviews with UNDP, GEF, project staff and participating national stakeholders • Guidance for Conducting MTR of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects •Interviews with relevant stakeholders
PROJECT STRATEGY: Results Framework/Logframe			

Evaluative Criteria Questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology
• Undertake a critical analysis of the project's logframe indicators and targets, assess how "SMART" the midterm and end-of-project targets are (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound), and suggest specific amendments/revisions to the targets and indicators as necessary (for future similar projects). • Are the project's objectives and outcomes or components clear, practical, and feasible within its time frame? • Ensure broader development and gender aspects of the project are being monitored effectively. Develop and recommend SMART 'development' indicators, including sex-disaggregated indicators and indicators that capture development benefits.	• Level of coherence between project expected results and project design internal logic • Level of coherence between project expected results and actions to be implemented • Adequacy of Indicators (SMART) • Evidence of gender monitoring	• Project documents • Results Framework • Key project stakeholders	• Document analysis • Key interviews
PROGRESS TOWARDS RESULTS: Progress towards outcome analysis			
• Review the Result's Framework indicators against progress made towards the mid-term and end-of-project targets and following the Guidance for Conducting MTR of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects; color code progress in a "traffic light system" based on the level of progress achieved, assign ratings and make recommendations. • Is the project contributing directly to any changes in legislation or policy in line with the project's objectives? • Is the project developing and leveraging the necessary and appropriate partnerships with stakeholders? Do they continue to have an active role in project decision-making that supports efficient and effective project implementation? • Participation and public awareness: To what extent is stakeholder involvement and public awareness contributing to the progress towards achievement of project objectives? • Compare and analyze the GEF Tracking Tool/Core Indicators at the Baseline with those completed right before the MTR. • Identify remaining barriers to achieving the project objective in the remainder of the project. • By reviewing aspects of the project that have already been successful, identify ways in which the project can further expand these benefits.	• Indicators in Project Document/Results Framework • GEF Tracking Tool/Core Indicators information • Examples of supported partnerships • Evidence that particular partnerships/linkages will be sustained • Draft legislation • Appreciation by stakeholders and degree of involvement • Identification of risks and assumptions • Quality of risk mitigations strategies developed and followed	• Project documents • Quarterly Progress Reports • Project Implementation Reports (PIRs) • Project team and relevant stakeholders • Beneficiary testimony • Project Steering Committee's MoMs	• Documents analysis • Interviews with project team • Interviews with relevant stakeholders
PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT: Management Arrangements/Work Planning			

Evaluative Criteria Questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology
• Review overall effectiveness of project management as outlined in the ProDoc. Have or are changes being made and are they effective? Are responsibilities and reporting lines clear? Is decision-making transparent and undertaken in a timely manner? • Review the quality of execution of the Executing Agency/Implementing Partner(s) and recommend areas for improvement. • Review the quality of support provided by the GEF Partner Agency (UNDP) and recommend areas for improvement. • Were risks related to COVID19 managed?	• Management Arrangements • Evidence of efficiency of management procedures • Analysis of delays and respect of timeline • Adaptive management demonstrated with necessary changes integrated into planning, workplans and budgets • COVID-related risks were defined against project activities with mitigation actions proposed	• Project documents • UNDP/GEF • Project team • Project Steering Committee's MoMs	• Document analysis • Review of files • Key interviews
• Review any delays in project start-up and implementation, identify the causes and examine if they have been resolved. • Are work-planning processes results-based? If not, suggest ways to re-orientate work planning to focus on results? • Examine the use of the project's results framework/ logframe as a management tool and review any changes made to it since project start.	• Timeliness and adequacy of work planning • Evidence of efficiency of management tools	• Project documents • UNDP and Project team	• Document analysis • Interviews
PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT: Finance and Co-finance			
• Consider the financial management of the project, with specific reference to the cost-effectiveness of interventions. • Review the changes to fund allocations as a result of budget revisions and assess the appropriateness and relevance of such revisions. • Was co-financing adequately estimated during project design (sources, type, value, relevance), tracked during implementation and what are the reasons for any differences between expected and realized co-financing? • Does the project have the appropriate financial controls, including reporting and planning, that allow management to make informed decisions regarding the budget and allow for timely flow of funds? • Is the project adequately using relevant national systems (procurement, recruitment, payments) for project implementation where possible?	• Availability and quality of financial and progress reports • Level of discrepancy between planned and utilized financial expenditures • Cost in view of results achieved • Co-financing is being tracked continuously throughout the project lifecycle and deviations identified and alternative sources identified • Cash or in-kind co-financing funds committed and effectively delivered and level of its strategic use	• Project documents • Annual Workplans • Quarterly reports • Steering Committee MoMs	• Document analysis • Review of files • Key interviews
PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT: Project-level M&E Systems and Reporting			
• Review the monitoring tools used: Are they providing the necessary information? Are they involving key partners? Are they aligned or mainstreamed with national systems? Are they using existing	• Quality of results-based management • Occurrence of change in project design/ implementation approach (i.e.	• Project documents • UNDP/GEF • Project team	• Document analysis • Review of files • Key interviews

Evaluative Criteria Questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology
information? Are they efficient? Are they cost-effective? How could they be made more participatory and inclusive? • Examine the financial management of the project monitoring and evaluation budget. Are sufficient resources being allocated to M&E? Are these resources being allocated effectively?	restructuring) when needed to improve project efficiency • Participatory monitoring		
• Assess how well the Project Team and partners undertake and fulfil GEF reporting requirements • Assess how lessons derived from the adaptive management process have been documented, shared and internalized by key partners.	• Quality of results-based management reporting (progress reporting, M&E) • Timeliness and adequacy of reporting provided	• Project documents • UNDP/GEF • Project team	• Document analysis • Review of files • Key interviews
PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT: Communication			
• Review internal project communication with stakeholders: Is communication regular and effective? Are there key stakeholders left out of communication? Are there feedback mechanisms when communication is received? Does this communication with stakeholders contribute to their awareness of project outcomes and activities and investment in the sustainability of project results? • Review external project communication: Are proper means of communication established or being established to express the project progress and intended impact to the public (is there a web presence, for example? Or did the project implement appropriate outreach and public awareness campaigns?)	• Level of Project's communication efforts • Quantity and Quality of knowledge management material	• Project documents • UNDP/GEF • Project team	• Document analysis • Review of files • Key interviews
SUSTAINABILITY:			
• Validate whether the risks identified in the ProDoc, Annual Project Review and Quantum Risk Management Module are the most important and whether the risk ratings applied are appropriate and up to date. If not, explain why. Financial risks to sustainability: • What is the likelihood of financial and economic resources not being available once the GEF assistance ends (consider potential resources can be from multiple sources, such as the public and private sectors, income generating activities, and other funding that will be adequate financial resources for sustaining project's outcomes)? Socio-economic risks to sustainability:	• Identification of risks and assumptions • Quality of risk mitigations strategies developed • Evidence / quality of sustainability strategy • Evidence / quality of steps taken to ensure sustainability • Level and source of future financial support and commitments following project ends • Level of recurrent costs after completion of project and funding sources for those recurrent costs if any	• Project documents and reporting • Project Case Studies • UNDP/GEF, project staff and partners • Beneficiaries	• Document analysis • Interviews • Beneficiaries

Evaluative Criteria Questions	Indicators	Sources	Methodology
• Are there any social or political risks that may jeopardize sustainability of project outcomes? What is the risk that the level of stakeholder ownership (including ownership by governments and key stakeholders) will be insufficient to allow outcomes/benefits to be sustained? Do the various key stakeholders see that it is in their interest that project benefits continue to flow? Is there sufficient public/ stakeholder awareness in support of the long term objectives of the project? Are lessons learned being documented by the Project Team on a continual basis and shared/ transferred to appropriate parties who could learn from the project and potentially replicate and/or scale it in the future? Institutional Framework and Governance risks to sustainability: • Do the legal frameworks, policies, governance structures and processes pose risks that may jeopardize sustenance of project benefits? Environmental risks to sustainability: • Are there any environmental risks that may jeopardize sustenance of project outcomes?	• Degree to which project activities and results have been taken over by local counterparts or institutions/organizations • Level of financial support available to continue activities • Exit strategy includes explicit interventions to ensure financial, technical, environmental and socio-political sustainability of relevant activities • Key stakeholders are assigned specific, agreed roles and responsibilities outlined in the exit strategy • MoUs exist for on-going monitoring, maintenance and oversight of phased down or phased over activities		
• IMPACT: Are there indications that the project is contributing to, or enabled progress toward, reduced or mitigation of climate change?			
• Are there verifiable improvements in environmental data management that contribute to reduce and/or mitigate climate change, that can be linked directly to project interventions?	• The project is contributing directly to reduce/mitigate climate change and environmental management (i.e. the establishment of the MRV for the ENDC contribute directly to the implementation of the Colombian MRV 2030 strategy)	• Quarterly Reports • PIR • Monitoring Reports • Pilot Data • Analysis/Reports	• Desk Review of Documents • Key interviews • Online demonstrations

Annex E – Interviews Guide

Interview Guide CBIT Colombia Mid-Term Review

Evaluation questions are to be considered a guide and not a constraint; keeping them in mind as per the general structure, the evaluator will try to cover the entire content of the evaluation questions but posing simpler and more direct questions in a guided but essentially free-flow conversation, according to the context, the knowledge and experience of the interviewee; questions may be amended/adapted/integrated as needed and posed in a different order, depending on the situation and the stakeholder. This Interview Guide is a further support.

Each interview will include: a presentation of the evaluator/interviewee; an explanation of the aim of the evaluation; the general assurance of confidentiality; and assurance that online interviews will be no longer than 40 minutes with an eventual request for a further session if needed, to avoid virtual interviews fatigue.

Project design, Consultation and Theory of Change

-The Project appears to be designed according to needs identified and in consultation with relevant stakeholders. Do you agree with this statement? There is any shortcoming in terms of project design that you would like to highlight? Were barriers to reach the Project's objective well-identified? Were assumptions clear and valid? Was the strategy correct to produce the required changes? If Project was to be designed today, what would you add/delete? What changes to design have been necessary during implementation, if any?
-As the Project started implementation later than expected, what progress has the Government of Colombia reached in the meantime and how this affects overall Project planning and availability of financial resources? How resources will be utilized differently?
-Were line ministries and partners in development involved in project design? Was your department involved? To what extent? Is this documented?
-Is the Project in line with national needs and priorities?
-Can you provide a picture of the national climate change context in terms of planning and commitments to international agreements and development objectives?

Management, Adaptive Management, Risks and Efficiency

-Were there delays in hiring the Project Coordinator? Is staff involved (any kind) stable in post or turnover is high? Are the technical assistant, the M&E specialist and the gender consultant in place?
-Is management well performing? What do you appreciate of it and what could be improved?
-COVID 19 has affected implementation. In which way and how did you face the situation? Which other important challenges have affected implementation?
-What are the causes of the delays in implementation and the low financial execution? How are you facing the consequences? Are now activities being implemented timely and in a cost-effective way?
- Are roles and responsibilities, including accountability, clearly defined for the various stakeholders and entities (PMU, PSC, IP and line ministries)?
-Is the PSC well-functioning and providing the necessary guidance?
-What kind of support is UNDP providing and is this adequate, timely and useful? Any area where UNDP could do better? Were changes to the Project Result Framework and/or to the workplan necessary and/or required UNDP approval? Were budget changes necessary and required UNDP/GEF approval?
-How is the NGO Implementation Modality functioning? Was this the right choice? How can this be compared to other type of projects in the country or within the CBIT projects' family?

-Is procurement of goods and services fully managed through the NGO Implementation Modality? What kind of support is UNDP providing? Is the process smooth?
-Are risks well-considered and addressed? Are risks well-registered in Atlas/Quantum (for UNDP)? Are you shifting to the new system? Any issue? Reference to the enregistered expenditures in 2023
-Project reporting. Is this regularly done and instrumental for communication and for adaptive management?

Co-financing

-Are the various entities of the GoC and Fundación Natura fully honouring their co-financing commitments? How is this co-financing utilized? Is the co-financing report prepared and available?

Effectiveness

-Since design and during Project implementation, are there significant changes in the social, economic, environmental context in the country? Any change in Government's asset and legislation? How is this affecting the achievement of Project results, in a positive or negative way?
-How established/functional is the inter-ministerial mechanism for coordinating and overseeing the process of GHG emission/mitigation monitoring and data system? What specifically has been the role of CBIT in this regard? Are line ministries all active in the same way or are there ministries showing more leadership? Is consensus reached easily? What are the challenges and the strengths? Are meetings periodically held?
-Which are the key emitters in the country? Is there a coordinated approach to data sharing by line ministries involved, particularly in the waste, AFOLU, energy and IPPU sectors? Does the mechanism for collating and sharing these data function effectively as per 2006 IPCC guidelines?
-Are civil society and the private sector involved? If yes how; if not why?
-What mechanisms exist for effective communication with line ministries? Are there advocacy actions taken by the Project to engage the GoC and regional governments? How much are local governments involved?
-Is the MRV/SINGEI/INGEI in place? What is still needed to make it operative? Can you provide an online demonstration?
-Are the roles and tasks of each stakeholder involved clearly defined for the implementation of the MRV?
-Are stakeholders involved in training and are capacity being effectively strengthened as necessary? How many people involved in how many different workshops/trainings? (i.e. MOOC, Gender, training for the implementation and management of the MRV; for the preparation of BTR and National Communications, among others). Is this well documented?
-Is the training provided sufficient, of good quality and appreciated? Do stakeholders identify the need for additional training? In which areas?

M&E

-Which instruments/tools are you using to monitor and report on project's activities?
-Do you have a staff dedicated to M&E?
-Do you find indicators and targets useful and SMART to monitor Project's activities? Are they useful for adaptive management?
-How do you keep track of performance indicators? How do you collect information from the participating stakeholders?
-Are you using Tracking Tools/Core Indicators?
-Is there a practice of analysing and documenting lessons emerging from the Project?

Consultation & participation and gender

-Are stakeholders being fully involved? (line ministries, academia, private sector, civil society; national; regional and local level). In which way?
-Are participants to the trainings and the consultative forum manifesting their satisfaction? Is the gender balance reached as expected?
-What efforts have you done to ensure a balanced and meaningful gender participation in the different phases of Project implementation? Could more be done?
-As a consequence, are experts in key sectoral ministries and local levels fully conversant on the transparency framework? What is needed more?
-Are national universities involved and how?

Preliminary Impact manifesting

-What do you consider to be the most positive outcomes? Is the climate change transparency system well understood by the different stakeholders? Do you consider that data collection widened and improved using the 2006 IPCC guidelines? Is the MRV functioning? Any changes/impact/influence in the legal and policy environment to sustain climate change reduction and mitigation measures?
-Considering the positive outcomes, what interactions and support did the Project have with other development partners? Were roles well identified and collaboration sound? What was the contribution of the CBIT project? What evidence exists?
-Considering shortcomings, what are the challenges and what could have been done differently?
-Are partnerships solid and effective? Could you have done more or do you need to do more to involve all sectors of society, including civil society and the private sector?

Sustainability

-Does the government provide regular budget support and other line ministries for systematic MRV activities?
-How adequate is this support for IDEAM and MinAmbiente's ability to ensure transparency and quality in the GHG inventory data?
-What is the strategy for ensuring the continuation of the activities implemented once the CBIT project is over? Are there other donor projects taking over for some activities and what are those activities that will be internalized and financially sustained by the government?
-What are needs not covered by the CBIT project which should still be solved? What should still be strengthened to ensure the initiative does not fail? What are the main weaknesses that should be addressed to ensure sustainability of the actions implemented?
-What is the commitment of the institutions to sustain Project's activities and bring them further up towards an Enhanced Transparency Framework according to the Paris Agreement?
-What actions are you implementing to ensure civil society and private sector support?

Annex F – Tracking Tools (separate annex)

Annex G - UNEG Code of Conduct for Evaluators/Midterm Review Consultants[5]:

Evaluators/Consultants:

1. Must present information that is complete and fair in its assessment of strengths and weaknesses so that decisions or actions taken are well founded.
2. Must disclose the full set of evaluation findings along with information on their limitations and have this accessible to all affected by the evaluation with expressed legal rights to receive results.
3. Should protect the anonymity and confidentiality of individual informants. They should provide maximum notice, minimize demands on time, and respect people's right not to engage. Evaluators must respect people's right to provide information in confidence, and must ensure that sensitive information cannot be traced to its source. Evaluators are not expected to evaluate individuals, and must balance an evaluation of management functions with this general principle.
4. Sometimes uncover evidence of wrongdoing while conducting evaluations. Such cases must be reported discreetly to the appropriate investigative body. Evaluators should consult with other relevant oversight entities when there is any doubt about if and how issues should be reported.
5. Should be sensitive to beliefs, manners and customs and act with integrity and honesty in their relations with all stakeholders. In line with the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, evaluators must be sensitive to and address issues of discrimination and gender equality. They should avoid offending the dignity and self-respect of those persons with whom they come in contact in the course of the evaluation. Knowing that evaluation might negatively affect the interests of some stakeholders, evaluators should conduct the evaluation and communicate its purpose and results in a way that clearly respects the stakeholders' dignity and self-worth.
6. Are responsible for their performance and their product(s). They are responsible for the clear, accurate and fair written and/or oral presentation of study limitations, findings and recommendations.
7. Should reflect sound accounting procedures and be prudent in using the resources of the evaluation.
8. Must ensure that independence of judgement is maintained and that evaluation findings and recommendations are independently presented.
9. Must confirm that they have not been involved in designing, executing or advising on the project being evaluated.

MTR Consultant Agreement Form

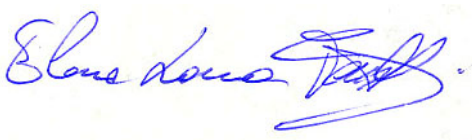
Agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN System:

Name of Consultant: _____Elena Laura Ferretti_____

Name of Consultancy Organization (where relevant): _____

I confirm that I have received and understood and will abide by the United Nations Code of Conduct for Evaluation.

Signed at __*Florence*_____ *(Place)* on _*11/09/2024*_____ *(Date)*



Signature: _____ _____

[5] http://www.unevaluation.org/document/detail/100