



FAO-GEF Project Implementation Report

2021 – Revised Template



Period covered: 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021

1. Basic Project Data

General Information

Region:	Global
Country (ies):	Global
Project Title:	Building global capacity to increase transparency in the forest sector" (CBIT-Forest)
FAO Project Symbol:	GCP/GLO/882/CBT
GEF ID:	10071
GEF Focal Area(s):	Climate Change
Project Executing Partners:	FAO
Project Duration:	2 years
Project coordinates: (Ctrl+Click here)	Not applicable to this global knowledge project [consulted with FLO]

Milestone Dates:

GEF CEO Endorsement Date:	16 October 2019
Project Implementation Start Date/EOD :	01-Jan-2020
Proposed Project Implementation End Date/NTE¹:	31-Dec-2021
Revised project implementation end date (if applicable) ²	30-Jun-2022
Actual Implementation End Date³:	n/a

Funding

GEF Grant Amount (USD):	USD 1,686,320
Total Co-financing amount as included in GEF CEO Endorsement Request/ProDoc⁴:	USD 5,200,000

¹ As per FPMIS

² In case of a project extension.

³ Actual date at which project implementation ends - only for projects that have ended.

⁴ This is the total amount of co-financing as included in the CEO document/Project Document.

Total GEF grant disbursement as of June 30, 2021 (USD m): /	USD 1,051,751
Total estimated co-financing materialized as of June 30, 2021⁵	USD 5,666,886

Review and Evaluation

Date of Most Recent Project Steering Committee Meeting:	12 February 2021
Expected Mid-term Review date⁶:	Not applicable; however, regular meetings with the Project Task Force members (BH, LTO, FLO etc.)
Actual Mid-term review date:	Not applicable
Mid-term review or evaluation due in coming fiscal year (July 2021 – June 2022)⁷:	No
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date:	Jan 2022
Terminal evaluation due in coming fiscal year (July 2021 – June 2022):	Yes
Tracking tools/ Core indicators required⁸	Yes

Ratings

Overall rating of progress towards achieving objectives/ outcomes (cumulative):	Highly satisfactory
Overall implementation progress rating:	Highly satisfactory
Overall risk rating:	Low

Status

⁵ Please see last section of this report where you are asked to provide updated co-financing estimates. Use the total from this Section and insert here.

⁶ The MTR should take place about halfpoint between EOD and NTE – this is the expected date

⁷ Please note that the FAO GEF Coordination Unit should be contacted six months prior to the expected MTR date

⁸ Please note that the Tracking Tools are required at mid-term and closure for all GEF-4 and GEF-5 projects. Tracking tools are not mandatory for Medium Sized projects = < 2M USD at mid-term, but only at project completion. The new GEF-7 results indicators (core and sub-indicators) will be applied to all projects and programs approved on or after July 1, 2018. Also projects and programs approved from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2018 (GEF-6) must apply core indicators and sub-indicators at mid-term and/or completion

Implementation Status <i>(1st PIR, 2nd PIR, etc. Final PIR):</i>	1 st PIR
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Project Contacts

Contact	Name, Title, Division/Institution	E-mail
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2. Progress Towards Achieving Project Objectives and Outcome (DO)

(All inputs in this section should be cumulative from project start, not annual)

Project objective and Outcomes (as indicated at CEO Endorsement)	Description of indicator(s) ⁹	Baseline level	Mid-term target ¹⁰	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2021	Progress rating ¹¹
Objective(s): To strengthen institutional and technical capacities of developing countries on forest-related data collection, analysis and dissemination processes to meet the enhanced transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement.						
Outcome 1.1: Relevant national institutions responsible for forest-related data are able to report and respond to the transparency requirements thanks to improved institutional capacity	Degree of increased institutional capacity on the enhanced transparency framework	0	-	1	70%	HS
	Number of national institutions in targeted countries with the ability to respond to the enhanced transparency framework	0	-	20 national institutions	44 out of 20 (220%)	HS

⁹ This is taken from the approved results framework of the project. Please add cells when required in order to use one cell for each indicator and one rating for each indicator.

¹⁰ Some indicators may not identify mid-term targets at the design stage (refer to approved results framework) therefore this column should only be filled when relevant.

¹¹ Use GEF Secretariat required six-point scale system: **Highly Satisfactory (HS)**, **Satisfactory (S)**, **Marginally Satisfactory (MS)**, **Marginally Unsatisfactory (MU)**, **Unsatisfactory (U)**, and **Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)**.

Outcome 2.1: Enhanced technical capacity of governmental counterparts' in pilot countries in reporting, accuracy and consistency of forest-related data.	Number of countries with demonstrated increased capacity	0	-	At least 6 countries	7 out of 6 (117%)	HS
Outcome 3.1: Increased knowledge sharing among transparency practitioners and experts.	Number of times practitioners accessing case studies/best practices	0	-	At least 200	4 536 out of 200 (2 268 %)	HS
	Number of times practitioners accessing outreach/dissemination products	0	-	At least 400	53 072 out of 400 (12 204 %)	HS

Action plan to address MS, MU, U and HU ratings

Outcome	Action(s) to be taken	By whom?	By when?

3. Progress in Generating Project Outputs

Outputs ¹²	Expected completion date ¹³	Achievements at each PIR ¹⁴	Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments Describe any variance ¹⁵ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR		
Output 1.1.1 - Upgraded Global FRA reporting platform to improve access to forest-related data, support transparency-related activities and tracking process of NDCs designed and implemented.	Q4 Y2	<p><u>A Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) reporting platform and dissemination</u> updated and operational with an open-access dissemination module with the following functionalities: i) visualization of all data reported by individual countries; ii) download of individual reporting tables in csv format; iii) download of regional and sub-regional summary statistics in a non-proprietary spreadsheet format; and iv) bulk download for all data.</p> <p>The FRA reporting and dissemination platform had 29 488 pages views (20 November 2020 - 20 June 2021).</p>	80%	<p>The analysis/reporting modules are being further improved in 2021.</p> <p>Reinvestment of final resources helped make the FRA platform available in all 6 UN languages, adding Chinese and Arabic to the platform.</p>
Output 1.1.2 - Global set of knowledge and training material on forest-related ETF package developed for and accessed by policymakers and technical experts in different languages and with different focus	Q4 Y2	A total of 28 global knowledge products developed: 3 modules in English, French, Spanish and Chinese (total 12 products); posters in English, French and Spanish (total 3 products); National Forest Monitoring Assessment (NFMS) assessment tool in English, Chinese, French and Spanish (total 1 excel-based tool with all languages included); information note for the tool in English, French and Spanish (total 3 products); a quick guidance for the tool in English, French and Spanish (total 3 products); information note on legal matters to institutionalize forest data in English, French and Spanish (total 3 products) and translation of the FRA main report in Chinese, Arabic and Russian (total 3 products).	28 out of 6 (467%)	<p>Reinvestment of the financial resources have contributed to multiple-language products, giving accessibility to ETF-related material to everyone around the world.</p> <p>Additionally, the project has also contributed to the FRA 2020 main report translations being now available in Chinese, Arabic and Russian.</p>
Output 1.1.3 - Regional high-level awareness raising and capacity building with key national stakeholders organized and executed.	Q3-Q4 Y2	<p><u>2 Massive open online courses</u> (MOOC) on forests and transparency under the Paris Agreement delivered with a total of 1225 registered participants from more than 120 countries.</p> <p><u>6 sub-regional webinars</u> “Knowledge exchange and awareness raising on forest-related reporting in the context of the Paris Agreement and other international commitments” delivered to raise awareness with 232 participants from 24 countries and 44 institutions from South East Asia, Mesoamerica and West/Central Africa (32% women; 68% men).</p>	77- 82- 93% [stocktaking assessment with indication of satisfaction includes a range from FRA sub-regional webinars, first and second edition of the MOOC]	<p>To comply with this output, reinvestment of financial resources has helped to deliver 3 editions of the MOOCs to build capacity on the ETF; and sub-regional webinars to raise awareness on international reporting.</p> <p>The third edition of the MOOC will be delivered in Q3-Q4, Y2.</p>
Output 2.1.1 - A global forest field observation repository to assist efforts to measure and report in compliance with the ETF	Q4 Y2/ Q1 Y3	A global forest field observation repository (GFFOR) identified to store national forest inventory (NFI) data: FAO’s Food and Agriculture Microdata (FAM) Catalogue	50%	During the project implementation, FAO’s FAM Catalogue was identified as an existing solution for storing NFI data. Technical and institutional (legal) discussions, with pilot countries (Uganda,

<p>developed for integration to the global forest-related platform</p>		<p><u>6 pilot countries</u> working toward metadata sharing in the FAM catalogue or in their national platforms.</p> <p><u>4 out of 8 NFI</u> modules have been developed. <u>1 out of 8</u> NFI is already published.</p>		<p>Honduras, Thailand, Laos and Guatemala), in order to store and share the country's NFI (metadata and microdata), is on-going. On Q2/Y2 Brazil also joined this open data effort.</p>
<p>Output 2.1.2 - Technical Regional/ National capacity built of relevant focal points on national forest monitoring systems for improved integration and consistency with international reporting processes (NDCs, REDD+)</p>	<p>Q4 Y2/ Q1 Y3</p>	<p><u>6 capacity-building needs and gap assessment</u> completed with the NFMS assessment tool (6 pilot countries).</p> <p><u>6 action plans</u> prepared and approved by the governments.</p> <p>Capacity-Building activities being implemented in <u>7 pilot countries</u>, including Brazil.</p> <p><u>89 virtual meetings</u> and <u>2 face-to-face</u> at national level implemented (32% women participation).</p> <p><u>21 additional countries</u> working towards harmonization of NFIs through the NFI Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) network.</p>	<p>4 834 out of 120 (4 028%)</p>	<p>Reinvestment of financial resources will contribute to the development of 8 learning NFI modules, which will be available online and will complement the work of the GFFOR. The development of the modules started at the end of Q1/Y2.</p> <p>In line with the objectives to enhance National Forest Monitoring Systems, the project has contributed to the translation, into Spanish and French, of a key technical paper "Institutionalization of forest data: Establishing legal frameworks for sustainable forest monitoring in REDD+ countries."</p> <p>The project is supporting the NFI Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) network, with an NFI expert facilitating this process. The project will also support the preparation of the English and Spanish version of the NFI LAC book and its dissemination through webinars. The project found this a good opportunity to reinvest and enhance the objectives of the project. The network was an on-going process and additional funding will be complementary.</p> <p>One additional pilot country has been considered (Brazil), which will be</p>

¹² Outputs as described in the project logframe or in any updated project revision. In case of project revision resulted from a mid-term review please modify the output accordingly or leave the cells in blank and add the new outputs in the table explaining the variance in the comments section.

¹³ As per latest work plan (latest project revision); for example: Quarter 1, Year 3 (Q1 y3)

¹⁴ Please use the same unity of measures of the project indicators, as much as possible. Please be extremely synthetic (max one or two short sentence with main achievements)

¹⁵ Variance refers to the difference between the expected and actual progress at the time of reporting.

				supported to a) define a methodology that will improve integration of remote sensing into the Brazilian National Forest Inventory (NFI); b) Disseminate data of the Brazilian NFI in the Food and Agriculture Microdata (FAM) Catalogue.
Output 2.1.3 - Roadmap in pilot countries on key gaps and barriers for the continued enhancement of national and global forest-related transparency identified and presented.	Q4 Y2/ Q1 Y3	Review of already existing national forest monitoring systems completed for 6 pilot countries.	50%	We are half a way on this output, the first step was done with the NFMS assessment completed for the 6 pilot countries. Between Q4 Y2/ Q1 Y3 we will define with countries a roadmap.
Output 3.1.1 - Best practices and case studies on successful transparency-related activities, identified, documented and shared.	Q4 Y2	<u>6 case studies</u> on forests and transparency developed in 2020 and 2021.	6 out of 3 (200%)	In 2020, DRC, Bangladesh and Costa Rica case studies were developed in English, French and Spanish. Three (3) additional cases studies (Chile, Ghana and Papua New Guinea) were developed and will be launched during the second/third editions of the MOOC as well as the global webinars foreseen in 2021.
Output 3.1.2 - Outreach and communication products developed, published and disseminated	Q4 Y2/ Q1 Y3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An outreach and knowledge management developed. • A communication tool kit developed (Trello Board). • 72 Press release, blog posts, articles and papers. • 43 global webinar were the project participated from which 5 global webinars organized to disseminate global knowledge products of the project. • 18 regional events where global knowledge products of the project were shared. • 1 educational video on forests and transparency • 3 videos of the FRA process in English, French and Spanish • 1 interview with the CBIT Coordination platform • 1 interview project coordinator on the 20 October UN World Statistics Day (GEF SEC) • 1 Blog post on 11 Feb 2021 for the International Day of Women and Girls in Science (GEF SEC) • CBIT-Forest 1 year in number report: http://www.fao.org/3/cb3094en/cb3094en.pdf • Global products available in many web pages at the FAO and also the CBIT Coordination platform. 	72 out of 3 (2 400%)	Reinvestment of financial resources have helped to develop a larger number of products, which combined with the outreach and dissemination plan helped to reach higher figures for this output.

4. Information on Progress, Outcomes and Challenges on Project Implementation

Please briefly summarize main progress achieving the outcomes (cumulative) and outputs (during this fiscal year):

Summary

Progress toward the objectives

The inception phase of the project was completed as planned (report: <http://www.fao.org/3/ca8638en/ca8638en.pdf>). Then, the project implementation phase started almost simultaneously with the COVID-19 outbreak. Hence, to ensure timely and high-quality delivery of objectives/outcomes, the project applied adaptive management to advance with the project in the best way possible and adapt to the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis. The project has directly worked with 49 countries (target: at least 26 countries). The number of direct individuals who benefitted from pilot country work activities, regional networks, webinars, eLearning and massive open online courses was 5 921 (target: at least 160 beneficiaries). Overall, of those participating in the project activities, 39% were women, meeting and surpassing recommendations provided by the gender analysis (target: 30% women participation). Virtual modalities have contributed to a greater number of beneficiaries and a higher percentage of women's participation compared to the targets set.

Progress on the implementation

The project is impactful, and reinvestment of financial resources enabled a fully virtual implementation of the project. The possibility to work with ongoing efforts in the FAO's Forestry Division at global and national levels related to **forest monitoring** provided a great opportunity to expand as well as to ensure sustainability in the future. Despite the COVID-19 outbreak, the overall project work plan was implemented as foreseen. Due to travel restrictions, the project faced the cancellation of planned global events; however, the project quickly adapted by organizing/participating in 43 global and 18 regional webinars/meetings. Additionally, the project took advantage of innovation and technology to deliver its capacity-building activities by running a first and a second edition of a massive open online course with 1 223 registered participants from more than 120 countries. Work with the pilot countries was run completely virtually thanks also to the willingness of counterparts to continue engagement. The project organized 89 virtual meetings and 2 face-to-face at national level, including pilot countries.

Detailed information by component

Component 1: Supporting developing countries to strengthen their institutional capacity to exchange knowledge and raise awareness of the importance of forest-related data to respond to the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF).

Products related to this project outcome include updating the Global Forest Resources Assessment platform (FRA) reporting and dissemination platform, available in 6 languages, which has expanded to users outside of the forestry field. To date, FRA is the world's most comprehensive source for reporting, accessing and disseminating forest data. Design updates to the FRA platform improved access to forest-related data, and the platform had more than **29 488** page views. A user survey found that a vast majority of users found the FRA platform relevant or very relevant.

Knowledge and training materials on topics related to ETF in the forestry sector were developed. The poster “Boosting transparency of forest data for climate action” was designed to raise awareness on transparency in the forest sector and helping to disseminate this information to a broader audience (available in English, Spanish and French). Training materials including the self-paced e-learning course “Forests and transparency under the Paris Agreement” (available in 4 languages- English, Spanish, French, Chinese and soon in Russian and Arabic) were developed and launched. Users were awarded a digital badge certification, acknowledging their completion of the course. In total, the e-learning course has drawn approximately **1 100 participants**. Included in the e-learning course is a learning module that focuses on sustainable National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS), which introduced at the end of this module the NFMS assessment tool and quick guidance publication. The NFMS assessment tool was developed in multiple languages and tested with the 6 pilot countries. The tool is based on FAO’s Voluntary guidelines on national forest monitoring (launched in 2017) reinforced with the REDDcompass resources of the Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI) and it also incorporates 50 years of FAO experience gained in the field. The quick guidance pairs with the tool, providing a description of the NFMS assessment tool’s purpose, which is to assist countries in carrying out a comprehensive capacity assessment of forest monitoring across three complementary themes – institutional arrangements, measurement and estimation, and reporting and verification. The NFMS assessment tool will help experts and practitioners to implement at any time an assessment of needs and gaps of their NFMS. And it will help countries to move towards a robust and sustainable NFMS which will contribute to increase transparency, reliability of the information produced and ensure a long-term perspective.

Regional awareness raising workshops were organized and took place virtually instead of face-to-face, due to Covid. The series of online workshops was developed for South-East Asia, West/Central Africa and the Mesoamerican regions. In total, these workshops drew **232 participants**, from **24 countries** and **44 institutions**. Also, the first two editions of the massive open online course (MOOC) have been launched and comply with the capacity building component of the ETF. These MOOCs on forests and transparency, first ever available in English, French and Spanish, incorporated modules with fora, additional learning material, interactive lessons and webinars. The two editions already launched have seen a total of **1 223 registered participants** from more than **120 countries**.

Component 2: Supporting developing countries to strengthen their technical capacity on data collection, analysis and dissemination of forest-related data to respond to the ETF.

Amongst the activities related to the repository, FAO has encouraged **6 pilot countries** to advance their efforts to transparently report their forest information to the public. Two seminal papers, one through the IISD SDG Knowledge Hub (<https://sdg.iisd.org/commentary/guest-articles/pandemic-lessons-open-data-for-forest-and-climate-action/>) and another academic one published in *Scientific Data* (<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41597-020-00766-x>), intended to jump-start appraisal about sharing forest data among academics and the public in general, and another paper is currently being edited (‘Towards transparent and open data in National Forest Inventories’) as part of a book on forest harmonization in LAC (involving 21 countries). Meanwhile, National Forest Inventory (NFI) metadata templates for NFIs in Guatemala, Honduras, Brazil, Uganda, Lao PDR and Thailand have been developed and approved by governments. Countries were encouraged to publish them either in FAO’s **Food and Agriculture Microdata** (FAM) repository or on their own platforms, together with their microdata. As for today, four countries agreed to share microdata on the FAO’s FAM platform: Guatemala, Honduras, Brazil, and Uganda. The CBIT-Forest

project has allowed the first forest-related data to be shared in the FAM repository -prior to this project, FAM included agricultural data only- (<https://microdata.fao.org/index.php/catalog/central/about>). During the dialogue with countries, to support discussions on data sharing, FAO also produced a tool to help countries identify variables subject to confidentiality as part of disclosure control policies.

To complement the FAM process, new training materials have been developed, in the form of National Forest Inventory (NFI) modules. The CBIT-Forest project is co-financing the development of these modules. The NFI modules will provide **8 online technical training material** to support countries in the implementation of NFIs from planning to data analysis and reporting through the production of standardized lessons, which will serve to complement guidance provided by FAO NFI technical experts. The NFI modules are being designed for country counterparts, specifically forest technicians responsible for implementing their respective NFIs. The modules are envisioned to be a living e-learning reference that is continually updated with new lessons, as needed and financed by FAO's regular budget.

Action plans were developed, using the NFMS assessment tool, for the project's **6 pilot countries** - building technical capacity on NFMS for improved integration and consistency with international reporting processes. Use of the NFMS assessment tools in this way became the first trial run/testing of the tool. In terms of capacity-building activities, **89 virtual** meetings and **2 face-to-face** workshops were held at national level, including pilot countries, with women accounting for **32% of participants**.

The following statements describe the specific progress being made in each pilot country, some key activities have been delayed due to COVID-19, availability of staff, etc.:

Honduras: The National Institute of Forest Conservation's (ICF) main priorities have been developing protocols for data sharing and to increase the transparency of the NFI by sharing the metadata and microdata of the first NFI cycle in the FAM platform. There have been delays in reaching these goals due to timely availability of key officials, natural disasters (tornado) and COVID-19 related setbacks. However, the legal instruments related to accessing information and sharing data from the forestry sector have been identified and there is still a need to develop the protocol for data sharing. The metadata of the NFI have been developed and the microdata is expected to be finished by Q3 Y2.

Lao PDR: Lao PDR is halfway through its planned activities. An information note to inform policymakers on comparing national forest areas from FRA to the UNFCCC submissions, in English and in Lao language, has been developed and is ready to be launched (delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions in Laos). The lockdown is expected to end by July 2021, which will allow planning ahead. The first training on NFI data analysis was held in April 2021 and the second training is planned for July (both in Lao language and face-to-face). Capacity-Building will allow the country to take appropriate steps to understand and develop data analysis themselves. The NFI metadata description has been endorsed by the Forest Inventory and Planning Division and will be hosted on the Lao REDD+ website in English and Lao.

Thailand: An action plan was approved for Thailand in late 2020, however, activities were delayed because the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) staff were out on assignment in the field and 2 lockdowns have occurred since the beginning of 2021.

The first capacity building training on forestry data analysis is planned for 29 June - 02 July (2021), targeting 10 participants with prior experience on forestry data analysis and 5 additional participants on NFI design (online). The NFI metadata has been reviewed by DNP and will be hosted on the DNP website (in English and Thai). The other 2 trainings and one high level workshop on nationally determined contributions (NDC) were moved and will be implemented in September and October, respectively.

Guatemala: The NFMS tool supported the development of the National plan to enhance the measure, reporting and verification system of the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector. A committee for discussing the NFI data repository, was established in September 2020 with participation from the technology information department, legal department, forest management department of the National Forest Institute of Guatemala, and was invited to join the National Protected Areas Council. Guatemala is the first country in the world to upload metadata of the NFI to the FAO's FAM platform (<https://microdata.fao.org/index.php/catalog/1915>). The microdata is under organization to be hosted in the Forestry Information System of Guatemala (SIFGUA, *Sistema de Información Forestal de Guatemala*).

Cote d'Ivoire:

Increased awareness of the establishment of an NFMS for Côte d'Ivoire has been developed and implemented. Regular online meetings are taking place to accomplish this activity, where different stakeholders and institutions are being involved. A training workshop on QA/QC protocols is in the early stages of development. The planned field activity was canceled due to COVID. To further develop data management skills three workshops are planned.

Uganda:

A plan for Capacity Building was developed and is being implemented. Emission Factors were harmonization for the plantation datasets, a final report and comparison with the international dataset is to be completed - the activity is slightly delayed due to the unavailability of the team. NFI data has been securely stored and organized to be uploaded to the FAO's FAM platform (metadata and microdata). The data sharing protocol in a draft version, the recent COVID-19 outbreak in Kampala forced the National Forest Authority (NFA) to reorganize the task force coordination.

Brazil:

Brazil was recently added to the project as a **seventh pilot country**. The FAO will continue to strengthen this collaboration with the Brazilian Forest Service with two main objectives, to explore possible synergies of integration of remote sensing into the Brazilian NFI and to facilitate sharing of the Brazilian NFI data through the FAO's FAM platform. Workshops and meetings are foreseen, as well as a final report.

Finally, the CBIT-Forest project is supporting the NFI Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) network to harmonize NFI processes. An NFI expert is helping to facilitate the process and deliver the first publication produced by the network, which will compile and publish the NFI information from **21 countries from Latin American and the Caribbean** (in English and Spanish - launching late 2021). This volume has **78 authors**, 39%

women and 61% men contributing. The book is an initiative supported by FAO, the National Institute of Agricultural and Food Research and Technology of Spain (INIA), the Federal University of Amazonas from Brazil, and the National Forest Institute from Chile.

Component 3: Sharing knowledge and improving coordination to respond to the ETF.

The virtual nature of much of the project allowed for a strong focus on knowledge sharing among transparency practitioners and experts. Best practices and case studies on successful transparency-related activities were identified, documented and shared. These case studies developed for Bangladesh, Costa Rica, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Chile and Papua New Guinea, are available in multiple languages and were disseminated through the MOOCs and 5 global webinars (2 additional webinars are planned for July and November 2021). A comprehensive outreach and knowledge management (KM) strategy was developed and implemented for the project, and all activities and outreach products are being published on the project's webpage and Trello Board, which are both being constantly updated. The number of visits to the CBIT-Forest website is **12 340**.

Many other outreach materials have been produced, including a press release, multiple blog posts, and a video on forests and transparency which has been viewed roughly **1 000 times**. These additional outreach materials are promotional in nature (i.e. for the MOOC and e-learning course) or cover a range of topics related to forests and transparency in the context of international commitments. Additionally, at the end of 2020, products of the project were disseminated through the new FAO's Corporate Climate Change Knowledge Hub (launch during the 5th Anniversary of the Paris Agreement) and the FAO's ETF webpage. These outreach products were achieved with support from key stakeholders, liaison with these stakeholders to ensure products are disseminated, including UNFCCC, GFOI, ICAT, UNEP, UNDP, International Forestry Student's Association (IFSA) etc.

What are the major challenges the project has experienced during this reporting period?

The COVID-19 pandemic posed perhaps the greatest challenge to the CBIT-Forest project, as project implementation began at the same time the pandemic emerged. COVID-19 has prevented travel during the project period, limiting liaison with pilot countries. Additionally, the pandemic limited face-to-face workshops and other actions. When working with the pilot countries, in some cases, delays resulted when staff fell ill from the COVID-19 virus. Virtual meetings were more labour intensive, and more staff time was needed for preparation and follow-up with the governmental counterparts. However, these were not major obstacles and did not prevent the project from continuing successful implementation. Some challenges were also introduced due to the poor internet connection of governmental counterparts working from home (e.g. Africa). However, lockdown also left more time for governmental counterparts to work from home having a good internet connection. It also allowed them to accelerate their Digital Government strategies (e.g. LAC). Pandemic limitations resulted in a budget revision, which allowed for the production of additional knowledge and training materials, as well as translations of these materials into multiple languages.

Further challenges included natural disasters (such as the tornado in Honduras), and staff schedules due to many virtual meetings. In many pilot countries, staff who were tasked with implementing CBIT-Forest actions also worked on field assignments. In these cases, staff scheduling and availability may have caused delays and impaired communication and collaboration efforts.

Development Objective (DO) Ratings, Implementation Progress (IP) Ratings and Overall Assessment

Please note that the overall DO and IP ratings should be substantiated by evidence and progress reported in the Section 2 and Section 3 of the PIR.

For DO, the ratings and comments should reflect the overall progress of project results.

	FY2021 Development Objective rating¹⁶	FY2021 Implementation Progress rating¹⁷	Comments/reasons¹⁸ justifying the ratings for FY2021 and any changes (positive or negative) in the ratings since the previous reporting period
Project Manager / Coordinator	HS	HS	The project is fully achieving the goal to increase institutional and technical capacities and to boost knowledge-sharing and awareness-raising about the ETF, particularly, in the forest sector. The possibility to work with ongoing efforts in the FAO's Forestry Division at global and national levels related to forest monitoring provided a great opportunity to expand as well as to ensure sustainability in the future. Additionally, the collaboration with key global stakeholders, as well as existing networks and platforms, helped to reach a vast audience of foresters, climate and/or environmental officers/practitioners. The COVID-19 outbreak has resulted in the identification of new modalities to implement project activities.
Budget Holder	HS	HS	The project implemented the activities with an appropriated use of the resources. Despite COVID-19, 64% of the budgeted funds has been spent. Large part of the remaining 36% percent will be committed in the Q4Y2/Q1Y3.
GEF Operational Focal Point	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lead Technical Officer¹⁹	HS	HS	The project is fully meeting its objectives/goals as foreseen, adapting to the COVID-19 Pandemic, with important deliverables, and benefitting a large audience of experts, practitioners and policymakers.

¹⁶ **Development/Global Environment Objectives Rating** – Assess how well the project is meeting its development objective/s or the global environment objective/s it set out to meet.

For more information on ratings, definitions please refer to Annex 1.

¹⁷ **Implementation Progress Rating** – Assess the progress of project implementation. For more information on ratings definitions please refer to Annex 1.

¹⁸ Please ensure that the ratings are based on evidence

¹⁹ The LTO will consult the HQ technical officer and all other supporting technical Units.

<p>FAO-GEF Funding Liaison Officer</p>	<p>HS</p>	<p>HS</p>	<p>The greatest challenge to delivering the project timely - the Covid-19 related restrictions on mobility - has been managed in such a way that new opportunities have been created, eventually ensuring a wider outreach than originally foreseen. Indeed, face-to-face workshops have been promptly transformed in MOOCs and virtual events that drew interest from many practitioners. All virtual events have been well attended and this thanks to, amongst others, the tailored content, smart learning and training methodologies, and availability of multi-lingual material. Work in focus countries has been developing rather smoothly, and also here solutions have been proposed in order to advance despite the obvious limitations and restrictions imposed to managed the pandemic. The project management team has also invested greatly in visibility and awareness raising, using mainstream media outlets, platforms and partnerships. The project complements other global CBIT efforts, by regular exchanges and coordination with the project teams. Despite the efforts, the project has been extended beyond its originally planned closing date. Nevertheless, the project team is diligent and secures full compliance with FAO and GEF policies and procedures, oftentimes going an extra mile (e.g. ensuring the project fully accounts for the rights and needs of indigenous people in this global normative project).</p>
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5. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

Not applicable to CBIT-Forest

Under the responsibility of the LTO (PMU to draft)

This section of the PIR describes the progress made towards complying with the approved ESM plan, when appropriate. Note that only projects with **moderate** or **high** Environmental and Social Risk, approved from June 2015 should have submitted an ESM plan/table at CEO endorsement. This does not apply to **low** risk projects. Please add recommendations to improve the implementation of the ESM plan, when needed.

Social & Environmental Risk Impacts identified at CEO Endorsement	Expected mitigation measures	Actions taken during this FY	Remaining measures to be taken	Responsibility
ESS 1: Natural Resource Management				
ESS 2: Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Natural Habitats				
ESS 3: Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture				
ESS 4: Animal - Livestock and Aquatic - Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture				
ESS 5: Pest and Pesticide Management				
ESS 6: Involuntary Resettlement and Displacement				
ESS 7: Decent Work				
ESS 8: Gender Equality				
ESS 9: Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage				
New ESS risks that have emerged during this FY				

In case the project did not include an ESM Plan at CEO endorsement stage, please indicate if the initial Environmental and Social Risk classification is still valid; if not, what is the new classification and explain.

Overall Project Risk classification (at project submission)	Please indicate if the Environmental and Social Risk classification is still valid ²⁰ . If not, what is the new classification and explain.
LOW	

<i>Please report if any grievance was received as per FAO and GEF ESS policies. If yes, please indicate how it is being/has been addressed.</i>

6. Risks

Risk ratings

RISK TABLE
<p><i>The following table summarizes risks identified in the Project Document and reflects also any new risks identified in the course of project implementation. Please make sure that the table also includes the Environmental and Social Management Risks captured by the Environmental and social Management Risk Mitigations plans. The <u>Notes</u> column should be used to provide additional details concerning manifestation of the risk in your specific project, as relevant.</i></p>

²⁰ **Important:** please note that if the Environmental and Social Risk classification is changing, the ESM Unit should be contacted and an updated Social and Environmental Management Plan addressing new risks should be prepared.

	Risk	Risk rating²¹	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions²²	Notes from the Project Task Force
1	FRA national correspondents do not make active use of the FRA reporting platform and do not participate to the training/raise awareness activities.	Medium/low	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct targeted communication actions with FRA national correspondents on the importance of their active participation on FRA reporting platform and training. 2. Ensure trainings are conducted collaboratively to allow partners to see value and utilize outputs 3. Ensure partners receive appropriate recognition for their contributions. 	Use of the FRA platform has expanded to a wider audience. Good communication with FRA correspondents has allowed for informed progress to be implemented.	

²¹ GEF Risk ratings: Low, Moderate, Substantial or High

²² If a risk mitigation plan had been presented as part of the Environmental and Social management Plan or in previous PIR please report here on progress or results of its implementation. For moderate and high risk projects, please Include a description of the ESMP monitoring activities undertaken in the relevant period".

	Risk	Risk rating²¹	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions²²	Notes from the Project Task Force
2	Relevant national institutions are not willing to contribute to the enhanced transparency framework and do not actively incorporate knowledge and take action in their respective institutions.	Low	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct targeted communications on the benefits of enhancing transparency framework 2. Ensure knowledge sharing sessions is conducted collaboratively to allow relevant national institutions to take action in their respective institutions. 	The virtual nature of the CBIT-Forest project enabled strong communication among partners, which strengthened coordination among various actors.	
3	Appropriate people are not identified and capacity building training is not relevant for national needs	Low	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with countries to select adequate trainees. 2. Ensure training is tailored to meet the national needs. 	The NFMS assessment tool provided a way to identify needs and gaps, as well as prepare a targeted action plan for each pilot country.	

	Risk	Risk rating ²¹	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions ²²	Notes from the Project Task Force
4	Pilot countries are not interested to participate to capacity building activities on NFMS.	Low	1. Ensure that pilot countries are actively involved into capacity building activities on NFMS.	Validation processes with the NFMS assessment tool have helped countries to better understand their NFMS and allowed for the development of action plans for each pilot country. Global virtual events have also promoted engagement for pilot countries, particularly the global webinars and MOOC, which both drew significant participation.	
5	Practitioners do not make active use of the case studies/best practices.	Low	1. Ensure that practitioners are aware of case studies and best practices, so they can share their knowledge in their respective countries.	Case studies were linked to other aspects of the outreach and communication plan, which helped promote their use. Multiple case studies were introduced during global webinars, included in the elearning material, and incorporated into the multiple editions of the MOOC.	

	Risk	Risk rating ²¹	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions ²²	Notes from the Project Task Force
6	New risk COVID-19 pandemic continues to limit the possibility to deliver face-to-face trainings and work with pilot counties was delayed.	Medium	Alternative modalities of stakeholder involvement are put in place	Several modalities have been already tested, evaluated and used with country counterparts. Trainings, workshops and other actions were replaced with virtual alternatives (i.e. MOOC).	

Project overall risk rating (Low, Moderate, Substantial or High):

FY2020 rating	FY2021 rating	Comments/reason for the rating for FY2021 and any changes (positive or negative) in the rating since the previous reporting period
Low	Low	Although most risks associated with this project are low, the risks posed by the COVID-19 pandemic are medium. For this reason, the overall low risk of this project, including limitations on face-to-face trainings and work with pilot countries, was mitigated by maintaining close communication with partners and pilot countries, and transitioning to virtual events and actions.

**7. Adjustments to Project Strategy –
Only for projects that had the Mid-term review (or supervision mission)
Not applicable to CBIT-Forest**

If the project had a MTR review or a supervision mission, please report on how the MTR recommendations were implemented as indicated in the Management Response or in the supervision mission report.

MTR or supervision mission recommendations	Measures implemented
Recommendation 1:	
Recommendation 2:	
Recommendation 3:	
Recommendation 4:	

Adjustments to the project strategy.

Please note that changes to outputs, baselines, indicators or targets cannot be made without official approval from PSC and PTF members, including the FLO. These changes will follow the recommendations of the MTR or the supervision mission.

Change Made to	Yes/No	Describe the Change and Reason for Change
Project Outputs		
Project Indicators/Targets		

Adjustments to Project Time Frame

If the duration of the project, the project work schedule, or the timing of any key events such as project start up, mid-term review, final evaluation or closing date, have been adjusted since project approval, please explain the changes and the reasons for these changes. The Budget Holder may decide, in consultation with the PTF, to request the adjustment of the EOD-NTE in FPMIS to the actual start of operations providing a sound justification.

Change	Describe the Change and Reason for Change
Project extension	<p>Original NTE: 31 Dec 2021 Revised NTE: 30 June 2022</p> <p>Justification: The project implementation started almost simultaneously with the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, the budget allocated for face-to-face workshops and trips has not and will not be used as planned. In addition, the pandemic has caused implementation delays in some pilot countries. Because of these two factors, a budget revision and a no/cost extension are foreseen to reflect the necessary changes in budget categories and to meet all objectives of the project.</p>

8. Stakeholders Engagement

Please report on progress, challenges, and outcomes on stakeholder engagement (based on the description of the Stakeholder engagement plan included at CEO Endorsement/Approval (when applicable))

A complete **stakeholder engagement matrix** is available in Annex II of the project document. During the project preparation grant (PPG) phase, all the key global stakeholders, related to the forest sector, were informed and feedback obtained.

In December 2019 the project was presented at the *UN Climate Change Conference (COP25)* during a side event of the *Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI)* at the High-Level Event on Forests, involving 70 participants from *governments* and *international organizations*.

As primary beneficiaries of the project's activities the following groups have been directly involved in the project activities at all levels, when working with pilot countries: *National Correspondents, REDD+ focal points, NFI coordinators, NFMS coordinators, UNFCCC National Focal Points* and, where applicable, *focal points of the national CBIT projects*.

FAO teams and divisions were involved in the project have been engaged in a CBIT-Forest Inception Workshop which took place on 19 February 2020 and through continuous consultations during the project period (inception report: <http://www.fao.org/3/ca8638en/ca8638en.pdf>).

Starting in March 2019, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related travel restrictions, the project faced the cancellation of physical events and staff moved to a virtual implementation modality. Knowledge was shared by organizing events or actively participating in partners' meetings. More stakeholders have been engaged through digital platforms for events and communications, aimed at strengthening linkages between knowledge generation, capacity development, and measures to meet ETF requirements. To ensure dissemination of products and uptake of messages from the project, liaison with key stakeholders have occurred constantly (including *UNFCCC, UNDP, UNEP, IFSA, GFOI, ICAT, UN-ESCAP, Agreenium, etc*).

In 2020, Capacity-Building needs and gap assessment to enhance National Forest Monitoring Systems was carried out with the *six pilot countries (Cote d'Ivoire, Guatemala, Honduras, Laos, Thailand, Uganda)* engaging different stakeholders. In addition to them, other countries have been engaged and/or benefit from the project activities/products (including *Colombia, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Mexico, Nicaragua and Sudan*). Between April 2020 and June 2021, **89 national virtual** meetings/workshops/trainings and **2 face to face** workshops/trainings (Thailand and Lao DPR) involving these countries took place. In 2021, Brazil was also included as a new pilot country to work on open data. Additionally, the project is supporting 21 countries (*Belize, Chile, Puerto Rico & Virgin Islands, México, Peru, Honduras, República Dominicana, Guatemala, Uruguay, Suriname, Brasil, Argentina, Nicaragua, Panamá, Costa Rica, French Guiana, Martinique, Guadalupe, El Salvador,*

Jamaica, Bahamas, Colombia and Ecuador) of the regional network of National Forest Inventory managers and experts in LAC to facilitate harmonization of data from NFIs.

Four global webinars were run in 2020 (<http://www.fao.org/in-action/boosting-transparency-forest-data/news/detail/en/c/1330887/>) and one in 2021 (<https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=672>), in collaboration with the FAO eLearning Academy. These webinars offered an opportunity to launch the English version of the eLearning, to share knowledge, to disseminate and to raise awareness of the project activities. The webinars reach out to a wider audience (*governments, NGOs, international organizations, university/research institutions, and private sector*) than originally planned. The speakers included representatives from the *UNFCCC, GEF Secretariat, Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI), FAO experts, and country representatives from Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Uganda.*

On 2 October 2020, the event **Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 and the way forward** run during the World Forestry Week informed Member *countries* about the project (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8NinEQWntZo>). This event is part of the preliminary activities that were implemented just before the virtual **Committee on Forestry** (COFO), which is the highest FAO Forestry statutory body.

The Spanish and French versions of the eLearning course have been launched during **regional webinars** organized by FAO regional offices in **Latin America and the Caribbean** (13 October 2020) and in Africa for **West Africa** (15 October 2020). The former aimed at sharing knowledge on community-based forest monitoring, and involved also leaders from *indigenous peoples and local communities* from Ecuador, Peru, Colombia, and Panama (<https://nacionesunidas.org.co/noticias/actualidad-colombia/bosques-territorios-de-vida-con-guardianes-comunitarios>).

Six virtual *Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA)* **subregional workshops** were held in March 2021 in collaboration with *UNFCCC* to consolidate linkages between forest-related reporting processes and increase awareness on the *FRA* process. *FRA* National correspondents, *UNFCCC* and *SDG* national focal points were invited. In total 232 participants from 44 governmental and international organizations from 24 countries were involved:

- **Central America and Mexico:** <http://www.fao.org/in-action/boosting-transparency-forest-data/news/detail/en/c/1379802/>
- **Western and Central Africa:** <http://www.fao.org/in-action/boosting-transparency-forest-data/news/detail/en/c/1379816/>
- **Southeast Asia:** <http://www.fao.org/in-action/boosting-transparency-forest-data/news/detail/en/c/1378206/>

The project took advantage of the latest innovations and technology to develop capacities.

Two editions of a massive open online course (MOOC) on 'Forests and transparency under the Paris Agreement' have been organized in collaboration with the FAO eLearning Academy and the *UNFCCC*:

- first edition (30 November till 11 December, 2020): <http://www.fao.org/in-action/boosting-transparency-forest-data/news/detail/en/c/1361949/>
- second edition (24 May till 11 June, 2021): <http://www.fao.org/in-action/boosting-transparency-forest-data/news/detail/en/c/1361949/>

For the first MOOC, almost seventy percent of the respondents in the survey found the course interesting and useful for their jobs and almost sixty-five percent of them replied they would recommend it to other professionals or students. In the second edition, eighty-three percent were satisfied/very satisfied and eighty-four percent of them agree/strongly agree the relevance for their work.

Collaboration with the **FAO eLearning Academy** for the implementation of the global webinars and the MOOC implementation allow to engage a large number of partners and stakeholders, including Universities, Academic Institutions and Research Centers, Non-Governmental and Civil Society Organizations, United Nations, Development Agencies and Regional Organizations, Private Sector and Donors and International Networks and Global Initiatives (<https://elearning.fao.org/mod/partner/view.php?id=4704>). In 2020, the achievement report of the Academy (<https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=665>) included products development for the project and shared with more than 10,000 professionals (pages 10, 11, 13, 37, 39, 43, 48).

Participants from the **private sector** were involved as audience members in the global events and as learners in the eLearning course and in the MOOC. In the second edition of the MOOC, some of the participants work with forest data and in the Information Technology sector or as climate change advisors for industries and tourism.

Share of private sector's participation in CBIT-Forest activities

Global webinars	ELearning course: 4%
• 15 July 2020: 5%	
• 21 July 2020: 3%	
• 23 September 2020: 13%	
• 11 November 2020: 5%	
• 17 March 2021: 4%	

The complete **calendar of events** is included in the project's Trello board (<https://trello.com/b/XHO51A7K/cbit-forest>), together with all the key knowledge and communications products.

A very successful example of partnership was the project involvement in the outreach event organized by *the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT)* in May 2021, **#Data4BetterClimateAction side event @LACCW21**, with fourteen partners: <https://climateactiontransparency.org/data-for-better-climate-action-14-global-climate-initiatives-join-forces-to-promote-the-value-of-climate-transparency>

International institutions have directly participated to project's activities and contributed to dissemination as follows:

- *UNFCCC* representatives and country focal points have been engaged as speakers in the global webinars as eLearning reviewers, participants to MOOC sessions and in global webinars, and the *CBIT-Forest* project participated in almost ten events organized by UNFCCC (1 October - 'Capacity-building for Recovering Better Together' webinar organized by the PCCB network; 26 May - Stakeholder dialogue on ETF; 5 June - 9th Durban Forum on Capacity-building; 26 June - Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB) Network meeting; 15 October - UN Discussions: Building the ETF; 21 October - Virtual meeting of the Group of Friends on MRV/transparency framework for developing countries organized by UNFCCC/UNDP GSP; 22 March - 18th meeting of greenhouse gas inventory LR meeting; 27 April - 2nd annual meeting of the PCCB Network; 10 May - Attuning capacity-building efforts to developing countries' needs and priorities);
 - The *GEF Secretariat* took part in the first global webinar (speakers) and has helped with communications across its network through web stories (in 2019: These 7 climate stories illustrate partnership in action: <https://www.thegef.org/blog/these-7-climate-stories-illustrate-partnership-action>; in 2020: Connecting forest health to climate action: <https://www.thegef.org/news/connecting-forest-health-climate-action>) and/or newsletters (Nov 2019, Nov 2020, March 2021).
 - Communications and knowledge products are disseminated through the *UN-REDD Programme*, *CBIT Coordination platform*, *Paris Committee on Capacity-Building (PCCB)* from the *UNFCCC* and *Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI)* networks;
 - The *International Forestry Students Association (IFSA)* was invited in the webinars and MOOC and reached out with key project products;
 - Collaboration with the *Brazilian Forest Service* and the *Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE: Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza)* and *Latin American and Caribbean (LAC)* countries supporting the regional network of NFI in LAC;
 - *FAO* supported dissemination of the products across forestry, climate, statistics networks, several forest/climate-related D-Groups and communication channels also at regional and national levels.
- For more information on dissemination activities and channels see the knowledge management section 10.

9. Gender Mainstreaming

Information on Progress on gender-responsive measures as documented at CEO Endorsement/Approval in the gender action plan or equivalent (when applicable)

A gender expert has been hired to advise on stakeholder engagement and project design, and to undertake the gender analysis of the project (see Annex XIII of the project document). The gender analysis has been undertaken during the project preparation phase (April 2019) involving various stakeholders. Following the implementation of the recommendations of this analysis, the project leveraged on existing gender-related materials and networks.

The project staff at FAO received a **mandatory training on gender** which is aligned with GEF policies and guidelines. Moreover, the project coordinator regularly consulted the **gender focal point** in the National Forest Monitoring team.

The project is trying to **curb the uneven access to socio-economic benefits and services of women** as opposed to men, by (i) undertaking strategies to increase women’s participation in the project and ii) raising awareness on the role of women in forest monitoring and reporting.

The **UN-REDD checklist for gender-responsive workshops**

(<https://www.unredd.net/documents/global-programme-191/gender-and-womens-empowerment-in-redd-1044/global-gender-resources/17255-checklist-for-gender-responsive-workshops.html>) has been consulted and implemented to mainstream gender in actions carried out in pilot countries.

The **recommended target of 30 percent for women’s participation in workshops and fora was met and exceeded in most of the project’s key activities**. Shifting to virtual modalities owing to the pandemic has contributed to further increases in women’s participation.

Share of female participants in CBIT-Forest project activities

Pilots Countries*	Global webinars	Regional Workshops
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cote d’Ivoire: 24% • Guatemala: 29% • Honduras: 37% • Lao People's Democratic Republic: 17% • Thailand: 51% • Uganda: 33% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 July, 2020: 48% 21 July, 2020: 44% 23 September, 2020: 39% 11 November, 2020: 42% 17 March, 2021: 52% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13 October (Spanish): 43% 15 October (English): 25% 15 October (French): 10% 10 March (French): 35%
<p><i>*As of 21 June 2021</i></p>	<p>MOOC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> first edition (2020): 37% second edition (2021): 39% 	<p>6 FRA sub-regional workshops (March 2021): 32%</p> <p>eLearning course: 41%</p>

Besides, the project has tracked the active women’s participation (women able to express their opinion as suggested by CIFOR, 2014). The project can report that in the activities with the pilot countries, Cote d’Ivoire, Guatemala, Honduras, Thailand, and Uganda, women were leading discussions as well as expressing their opinion, even in meetings where women’s participation was low.

Project technical topics have been reviewed through a gender angle, which led to the creation of *ad hoc* products and communications. Success stories of countries or individuals have been highlighted and disseminated through various platforms, including social media.

By highlighting the benefits of a gender-sensitive approach among environmental practitioners, the project is contributing to raising awareness of the importance to enhance women’s contributions to this sector. A dedicated section on gender and forest monitoring aspects has been addressed in lesson 2 of the e-learning course ‘Forests and Transparency under the Paris Agreement,’ developed

both for high profile and technical target audiences, in collaboration with the FAO eLearning Academy. In particular, the article '**Gender at the forefront of National Forest Monitoring Systems**' highlights the valuable role of men and women in forest-related data collection, analysis and dissemination (<https://www.un-redd.org/post/gender-at-the-forefront-of-national-forest-monitoring-systems> - also available in Spanish and French).

At the beginning of 2020, the CBIT coordination platform dedicated an interview to the CBIT-Forest project coordinator, Rocío Córdor (<https://www.cbitplatform.org/index.php/articles/perspectives/global-cbit-forest-project-will-strengthen-countries-capacities-transparency>). At the end of 2020, the GEF Secretariat did an online interview and dedicated an article '**Connecting forest health to climate action**' to the inspiring story of the CBIT-Forest project coordinator, who encouraged women to pursue a career in environmental protection (<https://www.thegef.org/news/connecting-forest-health-climate-action>; here a reduced version; <https://thegef.medium.com/meet-7-inspiring-women-working-in-environmental-science-8421113a5935>). In May 2021, the project coordinator was invited to share knowledge and experience during a global webinar organized by the UNFCCC '**Attuning capacity-building efforts to developing countries**' needs and priorities' (<https://unfccc.int/event/capacity-building-talk-on-attuning-capacity-building-efforts-to-developing-countries-needs-and>).

By developing women's capacities in forest monitoring and providing access to knowledge and tools, the project helped countries understand the power of and identifying areas for improvement. The article '**Empowering women to boost forest sciences**' (FAO: <http://www.fao.org/gef/highlights/detail/en/c/1373204/>; GEF SEC <https://www.thegef.org/news/empowering-women-boost-forest-sciences>) focuses on the story of Joanita Nabulime, a GIS Technician at the National Forestry Authority (NFA) of Uganda who participated in the meetings/training. It was launched during the celebration of the *International Day of Women and Girls in Science* (11 February, 2021). Joanita noted the challenges faced by women in the field of forestry and confirmed that the CBIT-Forest project has empowered her and her female colleagues. She found the capacity building activities to be particularly insightful in understanding the power of her ongoing work on creating Land Cover and Land Use maps and statistics.

10. Knowledge Management Activities

Knowledge activities / products (when applicable), as outlined in knowledge management approved at CEO Endorsement / Approval

A **comprehensive outreach and knowledge management (KM) strategy** and action plan dealing both with capturing and dissemination of project-related materials has been developed in 2019. The strategy has been periodically revised based on outreach and KM monitoring efforts and results to ensure effective scaling up of dissemination opportunities. In particular, the strategy was revisited due to covid-19 outbreak and all the communications and knowledge sharing efforts have gone digital. This significant challenge has been turned into a unique opportunity to involve a wider audience and increase the share of **women's** and **youth** participation.

A **visual identity** has been developed in the early stages of the project (Nov. 2019), including templates which facilitate consistent branding and raised the profile of the activities conducted under

the project. FAO ensured the visibility of GEF Secretariat financing across all the project's materials by including logo and textual acknowledgments and links and social media handles as appropriate. The launch of the project, its goals and objectives was effectively shared via a variety of international, regional and national media outlets and social accounts. The outreach was ensured through the publication of an FAO global [press release](#) (available in [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Italian](#), [Portugal](#), [Russian](#), [Spanish](#)), the development of a [dedicated webpage](#) and the production of the project flyer (available in [English](#), [Spanish and French](#)).

Knowledge and communications products have been developed to share messages, experiences, or tools which could help countries increase forest data transparency and improve national forest monitoring systems for consistent international reporting. Different modalities have been used to reach out to various target-audiences of the project, including the development of products in multiple languages.

Success stories from the pilot countries have been scaled up from local experiences into global lessons learned and best practices to advocate for the key role that transparent forest data play in achieving the Paris Agreement. Three **case studies per year** have been published, in multiple languages:

2020

- **Bangladesh** (<http://www.fao.org/3/cb1912en/cb1912en.pdf>; es/fr)
- **Costa Rica** (<http://www.fao.org/3/ca8618en/ca8618en.pdf>; /es/fr)
- **Democratic Republic of the Congo** (<http://www.fao.org/3/cb0702en/CB0702EN.pdf>; /es/fr)

2021

- **Chile** (<http://www.fao.org/3/cb4253en/cb4253en.pdf>; es/fr)
- **Ghana** (<http://www.fao.org/3/cb4778en/cb4778en.pdf>; /es/fr)
- **Papua New Guinea** (<http://www.fao.org/3/cb4911en/cb4911en.pdf>; es/fr).

Global key messages have been collected in:

- a **poster** (<http://www.fao.org/3/ca9905en/ca9905en.pdf>; /es/fr)
- an educational **video** on the Enhanced Transparency Framework (<https://youtu.be/CGxRW'hagnOI>)
- an **animation** on the FRA data collection, analysis, and dissemination process in
 - English: <https://youtu.be/SmMyfNIZ-jQ>
 - Spanish: <https://youtu.be/bNZNZdtuCOM>
 - French: <https://youtu.be/inJOU45yBbY>

All the detailed technical knowledge has been systematically compiled in an **eLearning course**, which contains 3 modules, available in:

- English: <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=587>
- French: <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=616>
- Spanish: <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=610>
- Chinese: <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=647>

Other knowledge and technical material includes:

- the excel-based **National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) assessment tool**, promoted via:
 - the info note on the **National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) assessment tool** (<http://www.fao.org/3/ca9903en/ca9903en.pdf>/ es/fr)

- the quick guidance of the NFMS assessment tool (<http://www.fao.org/3/cb0988en/CB0988EN.pdf> / es/fr)
- the infonote '**Legal assessment to set up and operationalize an NFMS**' (<http://www.fao.org/3/cb3759en/cb3759en.pdf> / es/fr)
- **National Forest Inventory (NFI) modules**, designed to support forest technicians in the implementation of NFIs from planning to data analysis and reporting through the production of standardized lessons. One module is published: <https://360.articulate.com/review/content/330400a8-4e88-48d2-80dc-8ad853a2c930/review>
- a comprehensive reference book on the **harmonization of National Forest Inventory (NFI) in Latin American and Caribbean (LAC)** countries is under development in cooperation with the Brazilian Forest Service and the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE: *Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza*).

All these knowledge and technical materials have been presented during technical meetings, regional workshops and global webinars as well as during the two editions of the **MOOC** which have been conducted in English, French and Spanish.

Moreover, **digital campaigns** to disseminate project activities and products have been launched using the FAO global, regional and national networks as well as partners' networks. These included:

- over **seventy web stories/blog posts** in different languages on the FAO CBIT-forest website (<http://www.fao.org/in-action/boosting-transparency-forest-data/en/>) and websites managed by the teams involved in the project (<http://www.fao.org/redd/overview/en;> <http://www.fao.org/forest-resources-assessment>). Several articles have been also published on partners' websites and other media outlets (e.g. UN-REDD, GFOI, International Institute for Sustainable Development-IISD, GEF Secretariat, CBIT coordination platform and others).
- dissemination via **newsletters** (e.g. project e-alerts; FAO Forestry inFOflash; GEF monthly newsletters; the REDD+ Resource; FAO Climate change newsletter; Global Forest Information Service, Global Forest Observations Initiative e-alerts).
- social **media** from key FAO corporate accounts (@FAONews, @FAOclimate, @FAOforestry, @FAOStatistics, @FAOKnowledge, @OpenForis); regional accounts (@FAOAsiaPacific, @FAOMesoamerica, @FAOWestAfrica, @FAOCapacitacion); FAO country offices accounts (@FAOChile, @FAOGuatemala, @FAOHonduras, @FAOCotedIvoire, @FAOUganda, @FAOCostaRica, @FAOColumbia, @FAOPeru etc.); and external Partners (@theGEF, @GFOI_forest, @ICATclimate, @UNREDD, @UNEPDTU, @IFSAdotnet etc.). LinkedIn and Weibo have been also used.
- **links on partners' platforms and communities of practices**: CBIT Global Coordination Platform, FAO' Climate Change knowledge hub, Sustainable Forest Management toolbox, FAO Climate, FAO ETF corporate (developed by CBIT-AFOLU), FAO Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism – Dgroups, FAO FRA web page, FAO Statistics, FAO REDD+ web page, FAO's GEF Unit web page, IISD, UNEP-DTU, UN-REDD).

For a comprehensive overview of knowledge and communications products and activities please check the **CBIT-forest Trello board** (<https://trello.com/b/XHO51A7K/cbit-forest>), a repository of project's activities and products, and which provides an overview of the website, publications, social media, newsletters, events, partnerships. All the materials published under the project are also stored and in the **FAO document repository**. Administration and management documents related to the project are stored in a specific one drive folder. For a summary of the activities conducted in 2020 and

their impact see the one-year summary of the project:

<http://www.fao.org/3/cb3094en/cb3094en.pdf>.

Following the virtual shift, more efforts and resources have been dedicated to obtain **multiple language materials**. In fact, materials developed under the project have been translated in three languages (English, French and Spanish). Additionally, the project supported the translation of key UN-REDD publication, into Spanish and French: *Institutionalization of forest data: Establishing legal frameworks for sustainable forest monitoring in REDD+ countries*. Some other key global materials were translated in additional UN languages. In particular, the project supported the translation in other UN languages of:

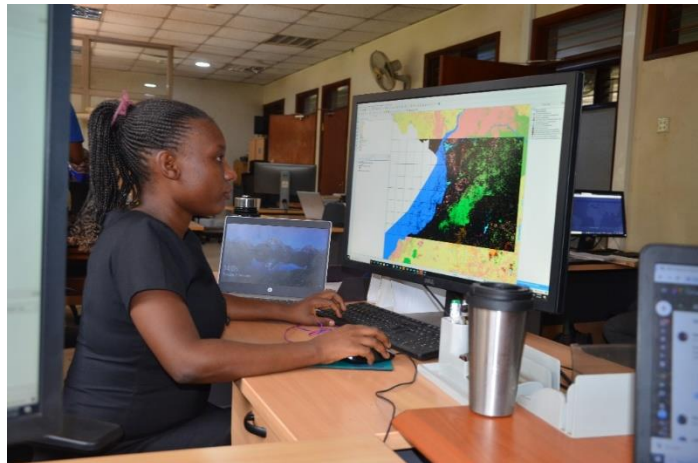
- the **FRA reporting and dissemination platform** in Arabic and Chinese (<https://fra-data.fao.org/>),
- and the **FRA 2020 Main Report in Russian** (<http://www.fao.org/3/ca9825ru/ca9825ru.pdf>), **Chinese** (<http://www.fao.org/3/ca9825zh/ca9825zh.pdf>), and **Arabic** (<http://www.fao.org/3/ca9825ar/ca9825ar.pdf>).

This was a great achievement which has been promoted by FAO through an important multi language campaign (<http://www.fao.org/forest-resources-assessment/global-forest-data-online-in-6-languages/en;es/fr/zh/ru/ar>) with significant involvement of external partners (<https://sdg.iisd.org/commentary/guest-articles/innovative-platform-makes-forest-data-available-in-all-6-un-languages/>).

An **example of a human-interest story** from the project is reported in the article ‘Empowering women to boost forest sciences’ (<http://www.fao.org/gef/highlights/detail/en/c/1373204/>). Joanita Nabulime, a GIS Technician at the National Forestry Authority (NFA) of Uganda, participated in the pilot workshops.

“The CBIT-Forest project has empowered me and my female colleagues to not only collect data but to also be involved in the inventory cycles. The project has also guided us in identifying areas of improvement.”

Joanita Nabulime,
National Forestry
Authority (NFA) of
Uganda



Two communications and knowledge management experts are employed by the project, **Maryia Kukharava** (maryia.kukharava@fao.org) and **Sara Maulo** (sara.maulo@fao.org). The project coordinator has dedicated also time to share knowledge and activities related to the project through LinkedIn and the tweet account ([@rocio_condor](https://twitter.com/rocio_condor)), with an average 30,000 impressions by month in the last 15 months. For more details, the CBIT-Forest has produced outreach reports, all included as an Annex to the Project Progress Reports (PPR) of this project.

11. Indigenous Peoples Involvement

Are Indigenous Peoples involved in the project? How? Please briefly explain.

No on-the-ground development intervention is foreseen to take place in the context of the project; however, its activities may potentially have an indirect effect on indigenous communities. In this regard, the project gathered inputs from indigenous peoples' and local communities' representatives in Asia and Latin America during the project formulation phase. Indigenous peoples' representatives in both Asia and Latin America were interviewed (by teleconference – see *Stakeholder Engagement Matrix* in the prodoc). The concerns they raised have been considered and addressed in the CBIT-Forest project implementation, where possible within the project's scope of action.

The project aims at enhancing data transparency and making it more responsive to the needs of various stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities. While no direct involvement of indigenous people is foreseen, given the fact that most of the pilot countries (Guatemala, Honduras, Thailand, Laos, Uganda) account for a significant indigenous peoples' presence, the situation has been reassessed to involve indigenous peoples' representatives in selected project activities.

The eLearning course dealt with the theme of indigenous communities' contribution to forest monitoring in lesson 1. The Spanish eLearning course was launched during an event organized by FAO regional offices in Latin America and the Caribbean (13 October 2020), with the inclusion of leaders from *indigenous peoples and local communities* from Ecuador, Peru, Colombia, and Panama. The event aimed at sharing knowledge on community-based forest monitoring:

<https://nacionesunidas.org.co/noticias/actualidad-colombia/bosques-territorios-de-vida-con-guardianes-comunitarios>; <http://www.fao.org/colombia/noticias/detail-events/es/c/1317207/>

An advocacy post has been published on the UN-REDD blog: '**Indigenous peoples paving the way for inclusive forest monitoring**'. Exploring the link between indigenous communities and forest monitoring, the article advocates for the need that countries recognize Indigenous rights and learn how to integrate traditional forest monitoring practices into NFMS. Indigenous peoples have a deep knowledge and connection to forest ecosystems, making their contribution essential to forest monitoring at the national level. The integration of indigenous traditional forest monitoring in NFMS makes them more efficient and long-lasting. CBIT-Forest project is mentioned among the initiatives that help increase recognition of community forest monitoring benefits and the role indigenous peoples play in forest data quality and transparency. Full article available here: <https://www.un-redd.org/post/indigenous-peoples-paving-the-way-for-inclusive-forest-monitoring>.

12. Innovative Approaches

Please provide a brief description of an innovative²³ approach in the project / programme, describe the type (e.g. technological, financial, institutional, policy, business model) and explain why it stands out as an innovation.

²³ Innovation is defined as *doing something new or different in a specific context that adds value*

The COVID-19 pandemic stimulated innovative approaches in the CBIT-Forest project, as the vast majority of trainings, workshops, outreach projects, etc. were implemented remotely. This digital innovation allowed the project to target a larger, **global audience**. The project's largest events and materials that were most significant in delivering and implementing transparency capacity-building, include the elearning courses (available in four languages), through which users were awarded a digital badge certification, the two **massive open online courses** (first ever held in three languages- English, Spanish and French), and 5 **global webinars** delivered in 2020 and 2021. As the MOOC was offered simultaneously in multiple languages, it was able to reach a broader audience and enabled better participation from countries worldwide, including pilot countries.

The elearning course was particularly innovative by providing users with a **digital badge certification**, which indicates their completion of the course and emphasizes the user's knowledge of the subject. The MOOC is innovative as it combines a variety of virtual learning materials and events, including interactive lessons, new knowledge material, fora and webinars with simultaneous translation. MOOC participants could also be awarded a digital badge certification via an online test taken upon completion of the course and the certificate of attendance. Many of these virtual events and materials were made freely available, online, all around the world, including all 5 global webinars. The first edition of the MOOC was shared via invitations to FRA national correspondents from 187 countries and territories, all UNFCCC-NFP and pilot countries. The second edition did a similar invitation but included also participants from other projects (West Africa, Central Africa, etc.) and platforms (CBIT coordination platform, UNFCCC Consultative Group of Experts etc.). The virtual nature of these events also allowed for greater collaboration among actors, **strengthening partnerships** among FAO, UNFCCC, GFOI, IFSA, ICAT, etc., all of whom were involved in the development and implementation of events and products, including #Data4ClimateAction, a side event for LAC Climate week, and webinars, MOOCs and elearning materials.

Technological innovation also played a part in implementing the CBIT-Forest Project. Through the use of the **national forest monitoring assessment (NFMS) assessment tool**, which built off of existing framework, countries were better able to identify needs and gaps of their NFMSs. The FRA reporting and dissemination platform- which expanded to users outside of the forestry field- is the most comprehensive source of forest information ever at global, regional and national levels in 6 UN languages. While technical and legal discussions with pilot countries took place, in order to share metadata and microdata of the national forest inventory (NFI), the publication of a legal info note consolidated important information from those discussions and served as a useful guide to continue those efforts related to **open data**. All of the tools and products developed under the project have a global scope, even lessons learned from work in pilot countries can be applied elsewhere.

Technical, social, and ecological considerations are faced by countries when disclosing information while ensuring transparency. To support pilot countries in the choice of forest information to be disclosed, a **risk assessment excel tool** has been developed. It helps identify the disclosure sensitivity and utility for each variable in the NFI to help prioritize the discussion on disclosure and speed up decision-making.

13. Possible impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the project

Please indicate any implication of the Covid-19 pandemic on the activities and progress of the project. Highlight the adaptative measures taken to continue with the project implementation.

Undoubtedly, the COVID-19 pandemic posed a challenge to the CBIT-Forest project, but ultimately, most project outcomes and desired products were able to be altered to work in a virtual world. Rather than hosting in-person trainings and workshops, these meetings and discussions were moved online via Zoom and other video conferencing software. As a result of these adaptations, most outcomes/outputs were still achievable, although the timeline did shift, mainly with the work with pilot countries. The switch to remote products and events ultimately saved the project money, which allowed CBIT-Forest to expand its desired outcomes and fund work in a seventh pilot country- Brazil, and deliver several editions of the massive open online course.

Adaptability is probably the greatest lesson from this project. The ability to adapt to changing conditions saved this project and allowed it to flourish. Planning events that could be shifted to remote environments enabled communication among pilot countries and partners to continue smoothly. Adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic even allowed for translation of materials into more languages than what was initially planned, meaning the project had an even greater scope, reaching a much larger audience.

The CBIT Forest has also foreseen the inclusion of an **experience capitalization** process, based on FAO official procedures for experience capitalization for the robust documentation of project approaches and results. The process involves interviewing and or surveying beneficiaries – FAO staff, staff of partner institutions such as the UNFCCC, and national government staff – that were engaged in various outputs of project implementation, in order to gather and document in a structured and participatory manner the varied experiences of the project, the project’s strong points as well as points for improvement for future projects. The responsivity and adaptability of this project to the **Covid19 pandemic** will be of particular interest.

14. Co-Financing Table

Sources of Co-financing ²⁴	Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing	Amount Confirmed at CEO endorsement / approval	Actual Amount Materialized at 30 June 2021	Actual Amount Materialized at Midterm or closure (confirmed by the review/evaluation team)	Expected total disbursement by the end of the project
GEF Agency	FAO (FRA)	In-kind	200,000	100,000	N/A	200,000
GEF Agency	FAO (FRA)	Grant	1,000,000	2,659,623	N/A	1,000,000
GEF Agency	FAO (NFM)	Grant	4,000,000	2,907,263	N/A	4,000,000
		TOTAL	5,200,000	5,666,886		5,200,000

Please explain any significant changes in project co-financing since Project Document signature, or differences between the anticipated and actual rates of disbursement

²⁴ Sources of Co-financing may include: Bilateral Aid Agency(ies), Foundation, GEF Agency, Local Government, National Government, Civil Society Organization, Other Multi-lateral Agency(ies), Private Sector, Beneficiaries, Other.

Annex 1. – GEF Performance Ratings Definitions

Development/Global Environment Objectives Rating – Assess how well the project is meeting its development objective/s or the global environment objective/s it set out to meet. **DO Ratings definitions:** **Highly Satisfactory (HS)** - Project is expected to achieve or exceed **all** its major global environmental objectives, and yield substantial global environmental benefits, without major shortcomings. The project can be presented as “good practice”); **Satisfactory (S)** - Project is expected to achieve **most** of its major global environmental objectives, and yield satisfactory global environmental benefits, with only minor shortcomings); **Moderately Satisfactory (MS)** - Project is expected to achieve **most** of its major relevant objectives but with either significant shortcomings or modest overall relevance. Project is expected not to achieve **some** of its major global environmental objectives or yield some of the expected global environment benefits); **Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)** - Project is expected to achieve of its major global environmental objectives with major shortcomings or is expected to achieve only **some** of its major global environmental objectives); **Unsatisfactory (U)** - Project is expected **not** to achieve **most** of its major global environment objectives or to yield any satisfactory global environmental benefits); **Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)** - The project has failed to achieve, and is not expected to achieve, **any** of its major global environment objectives with no worthwhile benefits.)

Implementation Progress Rating – Assess the progress of project implementation. **IP Ratings definitions:** **Highly Satisfactory (HS):** Implementation of all components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised implementation plan for the project. The project can be resented as “good practice”. **Satisfactory (S):** Implementation of most components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan except for only a few that are subject to remedial action. **Moderately Satisfactory (MS):** Implementation of some components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with some components requiring remedial action. **Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU):** Implementation of some components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with most components requiring remedial action. **Unsatisfactory (U):** Implementation of most components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan. **Highly Unsatisfactory (HU):** Implementation of none of the components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.