Terminal Evaluation of the project GCP/GLO/882/CBT "Building Global Capacity to Increase Transparency in the Forest Sector" (CBIT-Forest)

GEF ID: 10071

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Acronyms and abbreviations

AFOLU	Agriculture, forestry, and other land use
BH	Budget holder
BTR	Biennial Transparency Report
BUR	Biennial Update Report
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBIT	Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency
CD	Capacity development
CEO	Collect Earth Online (CEO)
CFRQ	Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire
CGE	Consultative Group of Experts (UNFCCC)
COMIFAC	Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale
COP	Conference of the Parties (UNFCCC)
EC	European Commission
EM	Evaluation Manager
EQ	Evaluation question
FAM	The Food and Agriculture Microdata Catalogue
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FPMIS	Field Project Management Information System
FRA	Global Forest Resources Assessment
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GFOI	Global Forest Observations Initiative
GCP	Global Coordination Platform
ICAT	Initiative for Climate Action Transparency
IFSA	International Forestry Students' Association
KAP	Knowledge, Attitudes, Practice Survey
LAC	Latin American and Caribbean countries
LTO	Lead technical officer
LTU	Lead technical unit
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
MOOC	Massive open online course
MRV	Measuring, Reporting, and Verification
NDC	National Determined Contributions
NFM	National forest monitoring
NFMS	National forest monitoring system
NSO	National Statistical Offices
OED	FAO Office of Evaluation
PCCB	Paris Committee on Capacity-building
PIR	Project Implementation Report
PPR	Project progress report
PSC	Project Steering Committee
PTF	Project Task Force
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SEPAL	System for Earth Observation Data Access, Processing and

	Analysis for Land Monitoring
SES	Senior Evaluation Specialist
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound
TE	Terminal evaluation
TOC	Theory of change
TOR	Terms of Reference
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
UNREDD	United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation

Executive summary

Project background

1. As part of the 2015 Paris Agreement, countries agreed to an Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) for tracking and reporting the progress of existing and future country commitments, expressed in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). However, developing countries face challenges in establishing systems for implementing their reporting obligations. The GEF-led Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) supports developing countries to build institutional and technical capacities to meet the ETF requirements. The CBIT has three aims: (i) strengthen national institutions for transparency-related activities in line with national priorities; (ii) provide relevant tools, training, and assistance for meeting the provisions stipulated in Article 13 of the Agreement; and (iii) assist in the improvement of transparency over time. The CBIT is an integral part of the GEF's climate change support in GEF-7 (2018-2022). The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a key partner of GEF in supporting CBIT implementation. FAO is currently responsible for 17 CBIT projects, including the project "Building global capacity to increase transparency in the forest sector" (CBIT-Forest).

Project overview

2. The objective of CBIT-Forest was 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. It had three components: (i) 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 ETF; (ii) supporting developing countries to strengthen their technical capacity on data collection, analysis, and dissemination of forest-related data to respond to the ETF; and (iii) sharing knowledge and improving coordination to respond to the ETF. As per project planning documents, the project was to directly benefit 26 targeted countries, including 6 original pilot countries (Cote d'Ivoire, Guatemala, Honduras, Laos, Thailand, Uganda) with Brazil added later, bringing the number of pilot countries to 7. Further, CBIT-Forest aimed to benefit, more broadly, some 187 countries and territories that are part of the global network of National Correspondents for the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA).

3. FAO implemented and executed the CBIT-Forest project, with a grant of USD 1 901 270 from the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) trust fund in January 2020–June 2022. The total budget (GEF grant and co-financing) of the CBIT-Forest project was USD 7 101 270, including FAO co-financing of USD 5 200 000 (planned). The amount of co-financing exceeded the plan at USD 7 739 808.

This evaluation

4. The terminal evaluation serves a double purpose of (i) providing evidence on project performance (delivery of results) for accountability and transparency purposes, and (ii) promoting learning and knowledge sharing within FAO and GEF and among the global and national partners to strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of countries to meet the ETF requirements of the Paris Agreement. The evaluation used a combination of methods to gather information: document review, semi-structured interviews of pilot country representatives, other key stakeholders and CBIT-Forest Partners, and project management and Project Steering Committee members, as well as a brief survey targeted at pilot country partners. The evaluation used interviews and surveys to provide evidence on project performance, with particular emphasis on assessing the achievement of outcomes and impacts, value-added and benefits provided through participation in the CBIT-Forest project, sustainability, general value-added and lessons learned.

Key findings

Relevance:

Finding 1. The CBIT-Forest project concept and outcomes were found to be highly relevant and fully aligned with the UNFCCC strategic priorities, GEF climate change focal area results framework, CBIT programming directions, and FAO strategic priorities, and took into account, during design and implementation phases, ongoing and planned related initiatives.

Finding 2. There have been no major developments affecting the overall context for CBIT-Forest and the presented intervention rationale since the design of the project in 2019; on the contrary, the rationale has been validated and even strengthened.

Finding 3. The project work, including massive online courses (MOOCs) and regional technical webinars, was found to be highly relevant and responsive to the identified organizational and technical capacity development needs and concrete work priorities contributing positively to the ETF preparations.

Effectiveness:

Finding 4. The project effectiveness has been satisfactory; the outputs have been delivered as planned - or even exceeded in cases of trainings - and developing countries' capacities to generate, share and report forest data in compliance with the ETF of the Paris Agreement's Article 13 have been enhanced.

Finding 5. The interviews of pilot country stakeholders and FAO staff highlighted the usefulness of the project's NFMS assessment tool; it was applied successfully in the six pilot countries and also in other countries, including some FAO-managed CBIT country projects, such as Costa Rica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Nicaragua, Ecuador and Angola.

Finding 6. The project successfully implemented activities in seven pilot countries helping them to address identified priority needs, the nature of them depending on the country context, and thus made valuable contributions to improved technical capacity in accuracy, structuring for reporting, facilitating sharing and consistency of forest-related data.

Finding 7. The project supported an open data approach in seven pilot countries and enhanced awareness about the importance of open data in its webinars and MOOCS, knowledge products and communication materials.

Finding 8. The regional webinar in Latin America and the Caribbean also helped to share knowledge on community-based forest monitoring and involved leaders from Indigenous Peoples and local communities from Ecuador, Peru, Colombia and Panama.

Finding 9. The project provided benefits to a significant number of people beyond what was targeted in the original project document, including the total number of beneficiaries, and drew higher than expected female participation.

Efficiency:

Finding 10. The project was implemented very cost-effectively and in a timely manner, making effective use of ongoing work and existing internal and external platforms and networks and adopting a capacity development approach based on virtual training.

Finding 11. The project has disbursed the provided funds efficiently and the use of funds has been accounted for.

Potential for sustainability:

Finding 12. The sustainability of the CBIT-Forest project outcomes was found to be moderately likely because the project was about capacity development, which itself promotes sustainability, and because its design was built on features such as strong links to regular program, continuing the work of the FRA and NFM teams, and the FAO elearning Academy and external platforms and networks with their own financial resources.

Finding 13. Despite this project successfully improving conditions for sustainability, there are still country-specific barriers associated with inadequate technical preparedness, insufficient national commitment, and/or legal, as well as organizational constraints, which need further technical and financial support.

Progress to impact:

Finding 14. The project has contributed positively to the enhanced understanding and capacity of countries to implement the transparency framework of the Paris Agreement and the need to improve the reliability, transparency and sharing of forest data.

Finding 15. Depending on the country context, some barriers may exist and prevent future progress towards achieving long-term impact, including those related to the shortage of human and financial resources to improve country NFM systems to an acceptable standard, and addressing policy and legal constraints related to open access data and sharing forest data internationally.

Finding 16. Country stakeholder interviews provided positive examples on how the adopted open access forest data protocols and sharing platforms have started to feed into research, to provide new data based on analysis, and influence national planning in the forest sector, e.g. in Guatemala, Honduras and Uganda.

Gender:

Finding 17. The project maintained a consistently high level of attention to gender concerns, from design to engagement and reporting, including measures to enhance the understanding of the importance of a gender-sensitive approach to forest monitoring among forestry and environmental practitioners, and training a significant number of women in various aspects of forest monitoring and data transparency.

Quality of project management and monitoring:

Finding 18. The project adopted a clear and appropriate project management setup with allocated roles and responsibilities and a well-functioning project Steering Committee, which, combined with a high-performing Project Coordinator, ensured effective project and financial management.

Finding 19. Necessary co-financing materialized in time and played an important role in ensuring effective project implementation and supported the achievement of the project objectives.

Finding 20. The quality of the project monitoring system and its implementation, including reporting, was satisfactory, effectively covering in a timely manner all needed output information, with some weaknesses in outcome monitoring and reporting.

Stakeholder engagement and communication:

Finding 21 The project design and implementation processes, including identification of lessons learned, were very consultative and systematically and inclusively approached the engagement of key stakeholders at global, regional and country levels, connecting existing networks.

Finding 22. The e-learning based training approach adopted by the project (using for example, the massive open online courses, or MOOCs) and providing material in up to six languages, promoted wider stakeholder engagement in terms of inclusivity and the number of people engaged and created better conditions for stakeholder dialogue and learning.

Finding 23. The project was exceptionally strong, and, to some extent, innovative in its communication and outreach, setting a model for how to implement good communication strategies by applying a range of methods and tools, and engaging partners both in the development and implementation of communication and outreach activities.

Finding 24. Very effective use was made of existing in-house FAO platforms and capacities, global and regional networks, partnerships and ongoing in-house work and processes in communication and dissemination of project information and outputs, which will facilitate scaling-up of project results.

Conclusions

Conclusion 1. The CBIT-Forest project design and implementation were of high quality, effectively applying adaptive management to deliver the planned results, and in the case of trainings, exceeding the targets, in challenging conditions created by the Covid-19 epidemic, while successfully engaging stakeholders and addressing FAO and GEF gender policies.

Conclusion 2. The project outcome related to enhancing the technical capacities of developing countries on forest-related data to meet the ETF requirements has been achieved to the extent possible given the short duration of the project and limited resources available for country level work.

Conclusion 3. The project has globally enhanced awareness of the importance of transparent and reliable forest data for climate action and what needs to be done to meet the ETF requirements, but in many countries more work still needs to be done and there is also a need for external support.

Conclusion 4. The relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impacts and sustainability were all enhanced by building on ongoing FAO work, internal and external networks, and platforms, globally and at the country level during the project design and implementation.

Conclusion 5. This project demonstrated how virtual self-learning and hybrid collaborative approaches to training can effectively complement "traditional" capacity development approaches, and when combined with making materials available in several languages, achieve a much higher number of people trained and provide a more equal and cost-effective approach to capacity development.

Conclusion 6. Development of open forest data platforms and enhancing sharing of global and national forest data, including NFI micro-data, are not only technical issues that can be addressed by FAO, as the degree of data sharing is influenced by national attitudes, traditions and policies, and legislation, as well as organizational structures.

Gender

The project design was aligned to FAO and GEF policies on gender equality. Separate gender analysis, with inputs also gathered from Indigenous Peoples and local community representatives, was conducted to support the project design. The analysis was well documented as a separate annex to the project document and suggested ways of adopting to a gender-responsive approach to implementation. The project staff at FAO received a mandatory training on gender, aligned with GEF policies and guidelines. The project coordinator regularly consulted the gender focal point in the National Forest Monitoring team. The project implemented a range of actions to enhance the understanding of the importance of adopting a gender-sensitive approach to forest monitoring, including integrating gender issues into the training materials; undertaking technical capacity-development activities in the pilot countries, which also addressed gender aspects following the conducted gender analysis; and promoting and tracking women's participation in all project training activities. Gender-disaggregated beneficiary data was collected and reported systematically.

Recommendations

FAO headquarters and its Forestry Division:

Recommendation 1.   Develop and implement a systematic approach to maintain, or even improve, inclusive access to the CBIT-produced training and awareness material and technical outputs worldwide, using all possible channels, including FAO's Forest Division and corporate platforms and external networks and platforms, as part of the project exit strategy.

- This action is needed to enhance the project impacts and sustainability. It means continuing the project's successful communication and outreach activities. Now the challenge is to institutionalize these approaches and methods.
- Fortunately, the project has successfully made use of existing platforms and networks that use their own resources for information dissemination. But without active interaction and follow-up, the work done in this project, and related further-development (for example of training modules), may get lost amongst "competing" information flows. Ensuring visibility is key.
- As part of this recommendation, the FRA and NFM teams would need to make use of CBIT-developed material in their own continuing work at regional and country levels, as appropriate, and in the provision of support to countries based on new requests.
- FAO's corporate websites, such as the FAO elearning Academy, various forestry/climate/AFOLU sites, the Regional Forestry Commission website, the FAO Regional Office websites, and others should be actively used for continuous dissemination and "marketing" of FAO NFI and forest/AFOLU data transparency-related training materials.

Recommendation 2.   Map and pursue opportunities to expand elearning and the use of digital badge[1] certificates, working in collaboration with the FAO elearning Academy, in all work related to forest data and transparency, and other forestry/AFOLU fields where FAO has a comparative advantage and demand for its capacity development services.

- Various FAO evaluations have identified challenges in FAO's capacity development work and pondered what FAO's role should be in promoting education, and this also applies to FAO forest work. Financial and human resources available for capacity development are limited and often dependent on opportunities provided by new projects. Until now, the training approaches have relied largely on face-to-face training. The impacts of training are not well known and there are problems with sustainability in addition to cost-effectiveness. Combining formal training and hands-on training in the field is often needed in NFI/NFMS development, but virtual and hybrid approaches, using both virtual and collaborative training, show great promise.
- The CBIT-Forest Project, and earlier work done by the FAO elearning Academy, have demonstrated the great potential of virtual self-paced and hybrid learning, to complement other approaches and provide more equitable, inclusive and transparent access to education. FAO, in cooperation with selected academic institutions, could become an important global provider of multi-language online forestry education and training services in strategically selected areas. Ideally, there would be a cluster of thematically/technically related training that would form a sensible package. When combined with the digital badge certificate, it could be accepted as part

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[1] Digital badges are online visual representations of learned skills and achievements earned in learning environments. They have already been adopted widely across a range of sectors and are being used to recognize both accredited and non-accredited learning in formal, informal and non-formal settings. Badges can be displayed wherever earners want them on the web, and share them for employment, education or lifelong learning. (https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=587)

of a university degree in many institutions, which again would increase demand for FAO training/education services.

- Ideally, these trainings should make use of the digital badges for certification as much as possible because it would enhance demand for FAO education/training, and provide an accredited, visible validation for skills acquisition and achievements. Both self-paced and collaborative training approaches and modules could be developed working in collaboration with current or possibly some new academic partner organization and the FAO elearning Academy.

Recommendation 3. Map and screen globally or regionally relevant, up to date NFM, FRA and other technical forestry documents, tools and guidelines, and translate them into several FAO languages to enhance transparency and impacts.

- Most technical guides and modules are still available only in English or sometimes in two languages. This evaluation concluded that the CBIT-Forest project's emphasis on enhancing access to information and making it more inclusive, through producing and disseminating it in several languages (as many as six), has been a success.
- Translation is costly and quite demanding, forestry experts are needed to help with translation, but it is likely a cost-effective way of making better use of something – a technical guide or tool – that has already been produced.

Recommendation 4. FAO, through headquarters, regional offices, or country offices, should accelerate their efforts to mobilize financial resources to meet country needs and respond to their requests to continue supporting and expanding activities identified in the project pilot Country Roadmaps, for the continued enhancement of forest-related transparency.

- The evaluation found that the use of the NFMS assessment tool, and related development of country roadmaps to enhance forest data transparency, were greatly appreciated by the country stakeholders. FAO staff also found it useful in prioritizing their support. However, technical and organizational capacity development takes time; and in many countries, meeting both technical and reporting requirements, resulting from the ETF country commitments, require further work. Countries identified immediate and medium-term action to improve their NFI and open data systems with support from this project, some of which have now been addressed. In most country stakeholder interviews, statements were made concerning a need for further support to complement national efforts.
- In a way, expectations have been raised and FAO should take action to enhance continuity of work in the pilot countries. The needs and barriers differ country by country, but fortunately, the roadmaps are in place and provide directions for future support. In some countries the main challenge may be in generating up-to-date, reliable and harmonized NFI data. In other countries the challenges are related more to the need to improve systems for sharing of data, and open access and linking forest data reporting to established national systems responsible for reporting obligations under the ETF framework. FAO staff linked to efforts in pilot countries are working on ensuring that there would be continuity and linkages with ongoing or new projects that are being planned, for example in Cote d'Ivoire (a GCF proposal) and in Uganda (GCF REDD+ proposal).

Recommendation 5. FAO should continue to systematically, and with a long-term perspective, develop and disseminate innovative tools and technologies for open, transparent, reliable and harmonized forest data to educate stakeholders about the importance of open, reliable forest data and provide the tools to strengthen technical capacity to do it for national and international climate and other reporting purposes.

- The findings indicate the usefulness of FAO's work in this area, and the comparative advantage it has in improving the quality of forest data, improving access to tools and information to generate the data, and helping to share it transparently and effectively nationally and internationally.

- This type of work is already ingrained in the FRA and NFI work, but having projects like CBIT-Forest, with explicit focus on forest data transparency and sharing, as well as reporting to the UNFCCC, would help to meet country demand. More continuous support is especially needed in countries with weak NFM systems and capacities, and in countries which face institutional constraints in increasing forest data transparency and enhancing sharing of data.
- This recommendation is consistent with the [FAO open data (for statistical databases) principles](#), and Forestry Division's NFO Open Data Task Force objectives and the [UNESCO Recommendations on Open Science](#) (2021). FRA is also in the process of integrating the FRA platform with the FAO Hand-in-Hand geospatial platform to allow countries to share their geospatial data in the context of their reports.

Recommendation 6. The FAO Forest Division should continue promoting and supporting countries to share their meta and micro NFI data in the FAO FAM platform, linked to national efforts to develop open data sharing systems, by going after "low hanging fruit" countries, which would set an example and possibly stimulate other countries to follow.

- This recommendation is linked to recommendation 5, but with a special focus on FAO FAM. It is foreseen that several countries are technically already quite well positioned to submit open data, or links to their national open systems.

Lessons learned

Lesson learned 1   Adaptive management and quick decision-making by project leadership can be essential elements of success in short-term, ambitious projects – such as CBIT-Forest.

Lesson learned 2   Involving the key technical partners – in this case the FAO FRA and NFM teams, and the UNFCCC (the owner/client for the global CBIT work) – in the conceptualization and design stages of the project, can enhance the relevance and ownership of the project and quality of the project design and implementation.

Lesson learned 3   The extensive use of collaborative and self-learning online training, using the FAO elearning Academy, combined with the adoption of the digital badge certificate to demonstrate competence, have proven to be a success worth wider consideration and further adoption in FAO capacity development work.

Lesson learned 4. The use of several languages – in the case of this project up to six – in the development of online training modules, forest data platforms and awareness enhancement materials, can greatly enhance the reach and impact of FAO's capacity development work.

Lesson learned 5. The relevance, effectiveness and ownership of a project, or specific project interventions, can be enhanced when the work is coherent and supportive of globally and nationally driven "mandatory" processes and builds on existing networks and platforms.

Lesson learned 6. Project outcomes and related indicators should be defined in such a level and scope that the achievement of the outcome is under project control and achievement can be measured, but in case of possible weaknesses, project management should undertake action to collect information needed to assess outcome performance.

Table GEF evaluation criteria rating table

GEF criteria/sub-criteria	Rating	Summary comments
A. STRATEGIC RELEVANCE		
A1. Overall strategic relevance	HS	Highly relevant globally and regionally and at country level Evidence in section 3.1
A1.1. Alignment with GEF and FAO strategic priorities	HS	Evidence in section 3.1

A1.2. Relevance to national, regional and global priorities and beneficiary needs	HS	Evidence in section 3.1
A1.3. Complementarity with existing interventions	HS	Evidence in section 3.1
B. EFFECTIVENESS		
B1. Overall assessment of project results	HS	
B1.1 Delivery of project outputs	HS	Evidence in section 3.2 Targets exceeded
B1.2 Progress towards outcomes and project objectives	S	
- Outcome 1	HS	Evidence in section 3.2 Targets exceeded
- Outcome 2	S	Evidence in section 3.2
- Outcome 3	HS	Evidence in section 3.2 and in section 3.8 The work and results far exceeded targets and innovative approaches were used.
- Overall rating of progress towards achieving objectives/outcomes	HS	
B1.3 Likelihood of impact	S	Evidence in 3.5
C. EFFICIENCY		
C1. Efficiency	HS	Evidence in 3.1
D. SUSTAINABILITY OF PROJECT OUTCOMES		
D1. Overall likelihood of risks to sustainability	ML	Evidence in section 3.4
D1.1. Financial risks	ML	Evidence in section 3.4
D1.2. Socio-political risks	ML	Evidence in section 3.4
D1.3. Institutional and governance risks	ML	Evidence in section 3.4
D1.4. Environmental risks	L	Evidence in section 3.4
D2. Catalysis and replication	ML	Evidence in section 3.4
E. FACTORS AFFECTING PERFORMANCE		
E1. Project design and readiness	S	Evidence in section 3.7
E2. **Quality of project implementation**	S	Evidence in section 3.7
E2.1 Quality of project implementation by FAO (BH, LTO, PTF, etc.)	S	Evidence in section 3.7
E2.1 Project oversight (PSC, project working group, etc.)	S	Evidence in 3.7
E3. **Quality of project execution** For decentralized projects: Project Management Unit/BH For OPIM projects: Executing agency	S	Evidence in 3.7 and also in 3.3.
E4. Financial management and co-financing	S	Evidence in 3.7
E5. Project partnerships and stakeholder engagement	HS	Evidence in section 3.8
E6. Communication, knowledge management and knowledge products	HS	Evidence in section 3.8
E7. **Overall quality of M&E**	S	
E7.1 M&E design	S	Evidence in section 3.7 and also in 3.6
E7.2 M&E implementation plan (including financial and human resources)	S	Evidence in section 3.7
E8. Overall assessment of factors affecting performance	S	Evidence in section 3.7
F. CROSS-CUTTING CONCERNS		
F1. Gender and other equity dimensions	S	Evidence in 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8
F2. Human rights issues/Indigenous Peoples	S	Evidence in 3.2, 3.6 and 3.8 Rating concerns Indigenous Peoples
F2. Environmental and social safeguards	UA	Not applicable
Overall project rating	**HS**	

1   Introduction

5.   The project GCP/GLO/882/CBT "Building Global Capacity to Increase Transparency in the Forest Sector" (CBIT-Forest) was implemented and executed by FAO from January 2020 to June 2022. The project objective of CBIT-Forest was to strengthen institutional and technical capacities of developing countries in forest-related data collection, analysis, and dissemination processes to meet the enhanced transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement.

6.   This terminal evaluation (TE) report summarizes the findings, conclusions, and recommendations as well as lessons learned during the implementation of the CBIT-Forest project. The evaluation was conducted on 3 January – 31 May 2022, following the Guidelines for Global Environment (GEF) Agencies in Conducting Terminal Evaluation for Full-sized Projects[2] and FAO Office of Evaluation (OED) guidelines. The responsibility for this TE was decentralized to the FAO Forestry Division (NFO) that nominated the Evaluation Manager (EM) and contracted a Senior Evaluation Specialist to conduct the evaluation.[3] The finalization of the report, structured in accordance with the GEF guidelines, benefited from consultations with the Budget Holder (BH), Lead Technical Officer (LTO), the Funding Liaison Officer (FLO) of the GEF-FAO Coordination Unit and Project Steering Committee (PSC). OED provided quality assurance feedback. The evaluation interacted with the partly parallel FAO CBIT cluster evaluation managed by the OED.

1.1   Purpose, scope, and objectives of the evaluation

7.   This terminal evaluation (TE) serves a double purpose of (i) providing evidence on project performance for accountability and transparency purposes, and (ii) promoting learning and knowledge sharing within FAO and GEF and among the global and national partners to enhance transparency of forest data and strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of countries to meet the ETF requirements of the Paris Agreement.

8.   The scope of the evaluation encompasses the assessment of the project performance during the period 1 January 2020 – 30 April 2022, covering the global and regional activities, as well as implementation in the seven pilot countries (Brazil, Cote d'Ivoire, Guatemala, Honduras, Laos, Thailand and Uganda). In addition to addressing overall project performance using standard evaluation criteria, the scope also covers the assessment of the quality of project implementation and execution, including quality at entry, cross-cutting issues, monitoring, and evaluation (M&E), outreach and communication, and stakeholder engagement as required by the GEF guidelines for terminal evaluations.

9.   The evaluation objectives were to (i) identify and verify key project outcomes and outputs and assess the likelihood of delivering environmental impacts; (ii) provide an evidence-based, comprehensive and systemic assessment of the project performance, including quality of execution, implementation, and achievement of the stated objectives, while also addressing sustainability and gender issues; (iii) develop recommendations and synthesize lessons learned, drawing upon evidence-based findings. To the greatest extent possible, the evaluation tried to examine originally unplanned project achievements and potential impacts.

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[2] https://www.gefieo.org/evaluations/gef-guidelines-te-fsp-2017
[3] Evaluation Manager: David Morales-Hidalgo (NFO, FAO); Senior Evaluation Specialist: Marko Katila

1.2   Intended users of the evaluation

10.   The main audience and intended users of the evaluation are:

- national government organizations involved with generating and using forest data to improve transparency and information base for decision-making and international climate and other reporting processes, such as those for sustainable development goals (SDGs) and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);
- the GEF can use the evaluation to assess the performance of its overall CBIT portfolio, improve its allocation of financial resources, improve planning of similar interventions by GEF and the GEF Agencies, and disseminate lessons learned and good practices and tools;
- the FAO Forestry Division and FAO staff involved with AFOLU (Agriculture, forestry, and other land use) and climate monitoring and reporting, can use the report to identify future activities and improve the formulation and implementation of similar projects;
- the CBIT-Forest partners and global stakeholders, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI), and Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) to share the tools and lessons learned; and
- other donors, organizations and institutions involved with CBIT-related activities and transparency-related work in AFOLU sectors.

1.3   Methodology

11.   The approach and methodology used to conduct this terminal evaluation align with the FAO guidelines for project evaluations under Budget Holder's (BH) responsibility and the GEF guidelines for terminal evaluations. The evaluation methodology applied the norms and standards adopted by the UN Evaluation Group (UNEG)[4], and the updated standard OECD DAC evaluation criteria (relevance, effectiveness, and impact; efficiency and sustainability)[5] and anchored the evaluation questions within these criteria. Coherence was not used explicitly as an evaluation criterion because it is not a GEF requirement, but coherence issues were addressed when found relevant. The evaluation also adopted relevant elements of the minimum requirements for assessing capacity development (CD) in FAO evaluations listed in Appendix 1 of the OED Capacity Development Evaluation Framework[6]. The evaluation paid explicit attention to the triangulation of evidence, making use of a combination of methods and data sources to validate findings, and to ensure formulation of evidence-based conclusions and recommendations.

12.   The evaluation approach was participatory and consultative. It included active engagement of all key project stakeholder groups using a mix of means and dialogue with project management and the Project Steering Committee (PDS) members. A key stakeholder matrix was developed to classify stakeholder categories and describe their interest and role in the CBIT-Forest project, their contribution to addressing evaluation questions, and the methods used for eliciting feedback by stakeholder category. Some key stakeholders were also consulted for feedback on the draft evaluation report, e.g. on the validity of presented data, conclusions and recommendations for suggesting ways to improve the evaluation. This was done carefully to avoid endangering the

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[4] http://www.uneval.org/document/detail/1914
[5] https://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/daccriteriaforevaluatingdevelopmentassistance.htm
[6] https://www.fao.org/3/ca5668en/CA5668EN.pdf

independence of the evaluation. The stakeholders consulted during the evaluation are presented in Appendix 1.

13. The evaluation questions and related sub-questions framed the inquiry (Table 1). The evaluation focused on answering the six main evaluation questions. Support questions were used to "operationalize" the main questions. Evaluation methods were adopted to address specific evaluation questions with an understanding that the validation of findings often requires the use of more than one method to answer a question or a sub-question. The evaluation relied on a combination methods and tools. The main methods were semi-structured interviews and desk review of relevant documents complemented by a small survey and online knowledge product user analytics and expert review to evaluate knowledge management. Interview protocols were developed, and questions were adjusted by three main stakeholder categories: FAO staff/PMU/PSC, external partners and stakeholder organizations and country stakeholders/beneficiaries. The survey aimed at rating (numerically) project performance in pilot countries.

14. The desk review covered altogether more than 100 documents (see Appendix 2), including
    - various project documents from the FPMIS (Field Project Management Information System), progress reports and related presentations (PIRs, PPRs, financial reports, project budget, financial statistics), and the presentation "Building global capacity to increase transparency in the forest sector – Two years in numbers – 2022";
    - technical/regional webinar materials, massive open online course (MOOC) reports and other outputs, statistics, training workshop "satisfaction surveys" and Knowledge, Attitudes, Practice Survey (KAP) assessments in the preparation of country roadmaps;
    - CBIT-Forest knowledge products, communication materials and tools such as the Trello Board;
    - FAO-GEF CBIT Projects Portfolio Review report; and
    - others: PSC material (reports to PSC, minutes, decisions, and PSC notes), Progress Report on the Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency 61st GEF Council Meeting in December 2021.

15. Interviews and surveys were conducted to provide evidence on the project performance with focus on assessing the achievement of outcomes and impacts, value-added and benefits provided through participation in the CBIT-Forest project, sustainability and general value-added as well as lessons learned. Altogether 31 persons were interviewed, and 7 persons responded to the survey covering all the pilot countries (Appendix 1).
    - Semi-structured interviews of CBIT-Forest project staff, PMU, PTF, relevant FAO and FAO-GEF coordination unit staff (Funding Liaison Office), and CBIT-Forest stakeholder organizations.
    - Semi-structured interviews of the key representatives of the Direct Beneficiary Group: 7 pilot countries (Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, Guatemala, Honduras, Laos, Thailand and Uganda).
    - An outcome/impact/sustainability focused brief survey, targeted at pilot country representatives[7].

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[7] This represents a change compared to the original survey plan described in the Inception Report. Early interviews were used to test the developed protocols, and it was quickly learned that Indirect Beneficiaries (see Figure 1) are not knowledgeable enough to contribute to the survey. Their exposure to the project has been too limited, capturing only a slice of the project work.

Table 1. The evaluation matrix

Evaluation Criteria	Key EQs and Sub-EQs	Method/Key sources of data
1) Relevance	EQ 1. Were the identified project outcomes congruent with (i) the GEF focal areas/operational program strategies, including CBIT programming directions[8]), (ii) beneficiaries' and country needs and priorities, and (iii) FAO Country Programming Framework? Sub-question 1.1. To what extent has the project responded to identified organizational and individual capacity development needs? EQ 2. Has the project design remained relevant, and implementation adapted to possible changes in the context and operating environment?	• Desk review • Semi-structured interviews
2) Effectiveness	EQ 3. To what extent did the project meet the set objectives for strengthening developing countries' institutional and technical capacities, raise awareness and exchange knowledge to support transparency-related efforts? Sub-question 3.1. Which factors explain the performance (achievements and/or delays related to delivery of outputs and outcomes) Sub-question 3.2. Were there any unintended/unplanned positive results or adverse impacts? Sub-question 3.3. In which way have the institutional and technical capacities to generate, share and report data increased vis-à-vis implementation of the Paris Agreement's Article 13? Sub-question 3.4. Are target beneficiaries implementing/using developed tools, knowledge, and information for improved forest monitoring and/or UNFCCC/Paris Agreement related reporting? Sub-question 3.5. Has the sharing of best practices, tools and information increased?	• Desk review • Semi-structured interviews • Survey of pilot country representatives • Web-page user analytics • Expert review
3) Efficiency	EQ 4. Has the project been implemented cost-effectively? Sub-question 4.1 Were objectives achieved on time? Sub-question 4.2. Did the project make use of pre-existing related projects and other initiatives, internal FAO work, partnerships, networks, tools and other synergies/complementarities to increase project efficiency? Sub-question 4.3 How efficiently have the funds been disbursed and use of funds accounted for?	• Desk review • Semi-structured interviews
4) Progress to Impacts	EQ 5. To what extent has the project enhanced understanding and capacity of countries to implement the transparency framework of the Paris Agreement. Sub-question 5.1. To what extent likely long-term impacts can be attributed to the project? Sub-question 5.2 Are there impacts and beneficiaries which extend beyond the project scope (target countries)? Sub-question 5.3. Are there any barriers or other risks that may prevent future progress towards achieving long-term impact?	• Applying the TOC model • Semi-structured interviews • Survey of pilot country representatives • Web-page user analytics

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[8] https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/EN_GEF.C.50.06_CBIT_Programming_Directions_0.pdf

5) Sustainability	EQ 6. What is the extent and the likelihood that the capacity development outcomes will continue after the end of the project? Sub-question 6.1 What mechanisms and achievements are in place to ensure sustainability of the project benefits? Sub-question 6.2 Which are the main risks affecting sustainability (financial, socio-political, institutional)?	• Semi-structured interviews • Semi-structured interviews • Survey of pilot country representatives

16. The project also assessed performance against the GEF rating scheme (see Appendix 3) and addressed performance regarding project monitoring, implementation and execution, financing, stakeholder engagement, and gender (see section 3.9 for the rating). Environmental and social safeguards were not applicable in this project.

1.4 Limitations

17. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, there were no major limitations affecting the conduct of this terminal evaluation. Face-to-face meetings would have been preferrable in some cases, but video calls provided a good, cost-effective substitute. Due to the nature of the project, including limited country level activities, country travel would not have been needed anyhow. Key pilot country stakeholders, FAO regional/sub-regional and country staff, and global stakeholders were, in the end, effectively reached using online methods, although the COVID-19 epidemic (sick leaves) caused a few delays in completing interviews.

18. This is a two-year project with focus on capacity development. In such a short time it is difficult to directly assess the impacts of project activities, in terms of improvement in institutional and technical capacities, in countries which have engaged with the CBIT-Forest project directly or indirectly. The project provided comprehensive access to many beneficiaries but the extent to which this has led, or in the future will lead, to improved monitoring and reporting capacities to meet the ETF requirements is difficult to assess. Capacity development is a long process, affected by other interventions beyond this project, so both the timeline and attribution pose a challenge. This challenge was tackled by using a targeted survey instrument and interviews to ask directly about the likelihood of delivering more lasting capacity development outcomes and impacts and by applying a theory-based approach and applying the developed theory of change (TOC) model.

1.5 Structure of the report

19. The document is structured following the template for GEF project terminal evaluation reports and considering the GEF guidelines for terminal evaluations (TE)[9]. It includes the purpose, scope of the final evaluation, intended users, methodology and limitations (this section); followed by the background, context of the project, and its Theory of Change (section 2); and the summary of major evaluation findings structured around the key evaluation questions (section 3). Section 4 presents conclusions and recommendations, followed by lessons learned in section 5. The report is accompanied by the following three annexes: List of People Consulted; List of Documents Consulted; and FAO – GEF Evaluation Criteria Rating Scheme.

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[9] https://www.gefieo.org/evaluations/gef-guidelines-te-fsp-2017

2   Background and context of the project

Box 1. Basic project information

GEF Project ID Number: 10071
Recipient country: Global with 7 pilot countries: Brazil, Cote d'Ivoire, Guatemala, Honduras, Laos, Thailand, Uganda Implementing Agency: FAO Executing Agency: FAO Date of project start and expected end: 1 November 2019, 31 December 2021 Actual EOD: 1 January 2020 Actual NTE : 30 June 2022 Total budget: USD 7 101 270 : GEF TF: USD 1 901 270, Total co-financing: USD 5 200 000 Date of Mid-term Evaluation: Not applicable

2.1   Context

20.   The CBIT-Forest project design is fully anchored in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, which established an Enhanced Transparency Framework for action and support, i.e. ETF for reporting and review to ensure the transparency of mitigation and adaptation actions and the transparency of support. Every two years, Parties are required to submit a Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) providing country-specific information on their implementation of the Paris Agreement, namely, a national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory, and information necessary to track progress in implementing and achieving their NDCs. The Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) was created at the request of Parties to help strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of non-Annex I countries to meet the enhanced transparency requirements defined in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement.

21.   The rationale for the project design is linked to the need to support developing countries in their efforts to build institutional and technical capacities for tracking and reporting the progress of existing and future country commitments following the ETF requirements. The developing country Parties of the Paris Agreement face challenges in establishing their Measuring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) systems and implementing their reporting obligations, which were confirmed through key informant interviews and two stakeholder surveys carried out during the project design process.

2.2   Project description

22.   The project objective was *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*. This objective was to be reached through three key outcomes:
   1.   Relevant national institutions responsible for forest-related data can report and respond to the transparency requirements thanks to improved institutional capacity.
   2.   Enhanced technical capacity of governmental counterparts in pilot countries in reporting, accuracy, and consistency of forest-related data.
   3.   Increased knowledge sharing among transparency practitioners and experts.

23. The above outcomes were to be achieved through the delivery of eight specified outputs, structured around three project components (see Appendix 4 where outputs are described under respective components linked to the outcomes):

- **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): upgrading the global FRA reporting platform, developing knowledge products and training material, regional training, awareness raising, etc.*

- **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: capacity development needs assessment, global forest field observation repository, technical training, country roadmap development, etc.*

- **Component 3**: *Sharing knowledge and improving coordination to respond to the ETF: Best practices and case studies, development, publishing and dissemination of outreach and communication products, etc.*

24. The first component focuses primarily on the Direct Beneficiary Group NFI LAC+Trainings-FRA Network, Component 2 is more focused on the 7 (6+1) pilot countries and Component 3 on both direct and indirect beneficiaries (Figure 1). As per project planning documents, the project was to directly benefit 26 targeted countries, including 6 original pilot countries (Cote d'Ivoire, Guatemala, Honduras, Laos, Thailand, Uganda) with Brazil added later, bringing the number of pilot countries to 7. Further, CBIT-Forest aimed to benefit, more broadly, some 187 countries and territories that are part of the global network of National Correspondents for the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA). Figure 1 describes the scope of the project by beneficiary category.

Figure 1.Direct and indirect beneficiaries targeted during the implementation of the CBIT-Forest project
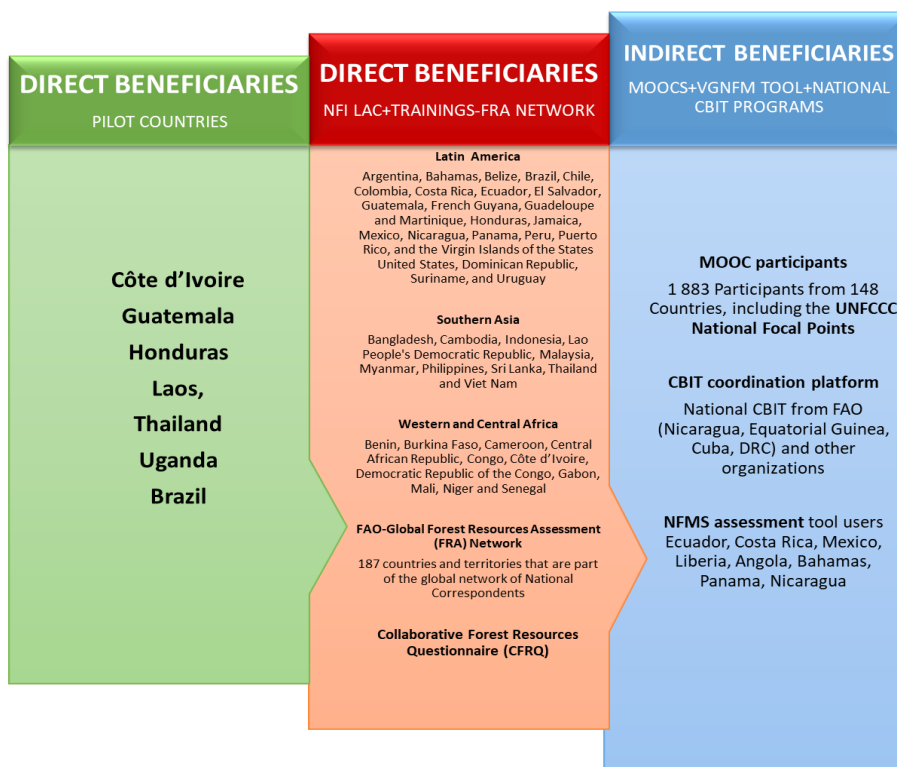
2.3 Project budget and co-financing

25. The CBIT-Forest project was implemented with a grant of USD 1 901 270 from the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) Trust Fund. The total budget (GEF grant and co-financing) of the CBIT-Forest project was USD 7 101 270, including FAO co-financing of USD 5 200 000. FAO grant co-financing came from the FRA and National Forest Monitoring country programs and UN-REDD Technical Assistance, amounting in total to USD 7 739 805 thus exceeding the original co-financing target.

Table 2. FAO-GEF CBIT-Forest Co-financing

Sources of Co-Financing	Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing	Amount Confirmed at CEO Endorsement/Approval	Actual Amount Materialized at 31 March 2022	Expected total disbursement by the end of the project
GEF Agency	FAO (FRA)	In-kind	200 000	234 2680	200 000
GEF Agency	FAO (FRA)	Grant	1 000 000	3 470 224	1 000 000
GEF Agency	FAO (NFM)	Grant	4 000 000	4 034 904	4 000 000
TOTAL			**5 200 000**	**7 739 808**	**5 200 000**

2.4 Theory of change

26. Based on the review of the original narrative theory of change (TOC) and the project logical framework, and discussions with project management, a TOC diagram was formulated (Figure 2). No changes were made to the formulation of key elements of the narrative TOC; they were all found to be valid and logical, and outcomes fully aligned with the global CBIT objectives.

27. The TOC in Figure 2 pays explicit attention to the main assumptions enabling moving along the causal pathway and adds an additional step *"Progress towards impacts"*. This was necessary to acknowledge that capacity development is a long-term process, depending on efforts outside the project control to strengthen the individual and organizational capacity and create an enabling environment for long term capacity improvement. This addition is consistent with the FAO OED capacity development evaluation framework. The TOC helped to frame the evaluation and contributed to the formulation of some of the evaluation sub-questions.

Figure 2.   CBIT-Forest Project Theory of Change

Project Objective: 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
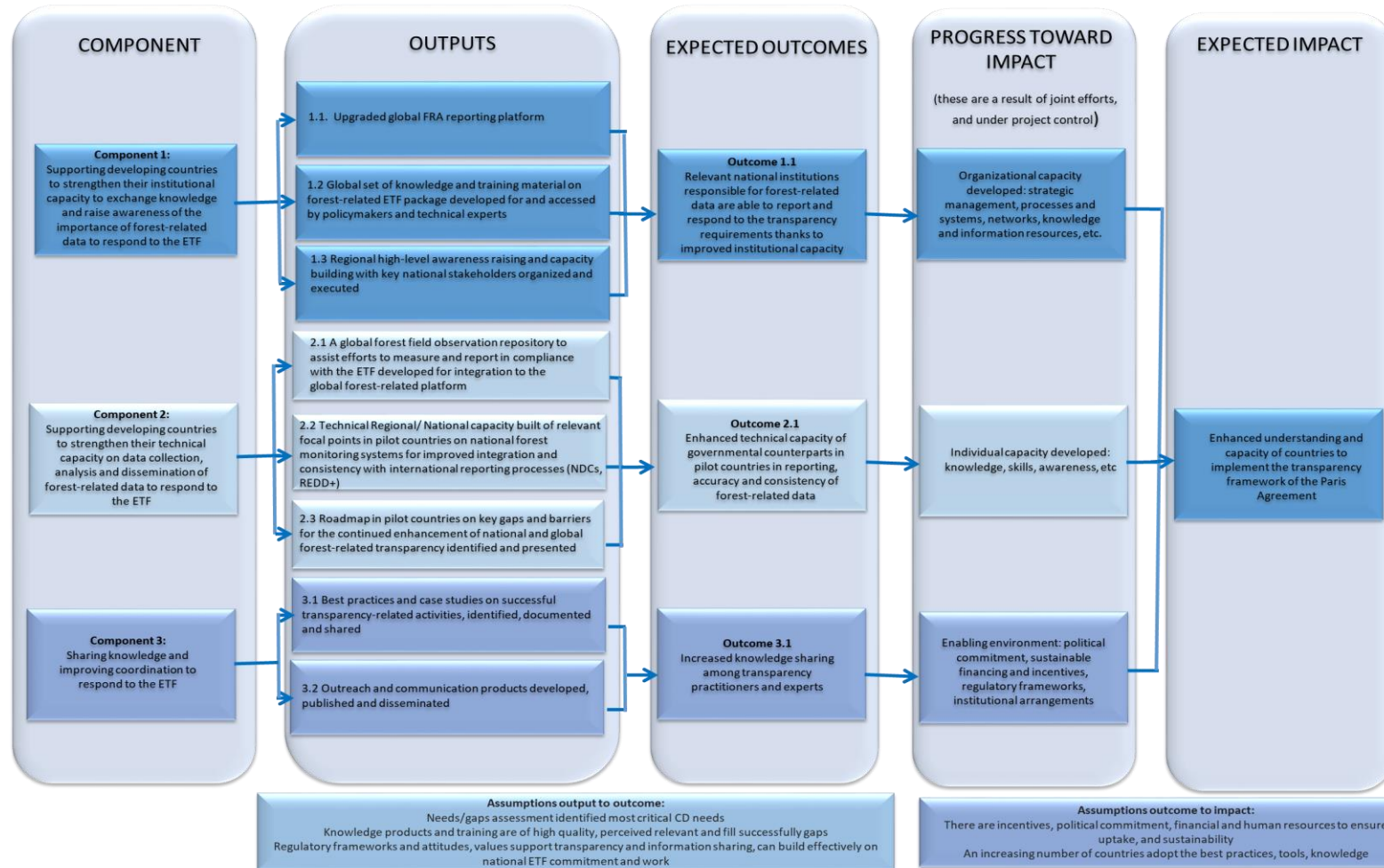
3   Main findings

3.1   Relevance

28.   **Finding 1**   *The CBIT-Forest project concept and outcomes were found to be highly relevant and fully aligned with the UNFCCC strategic priorities, GEF climate change focal area results framework, CBIT programming directions, and FAO strategic priorities, and took into account, during design and implementation phases, ongoing and planned related initiatives.*
- The CBIT-Forest project's strategic relevance stems from the fact that the project design is fully anchored in the UNFCCC Paris Agreement's Article 13 on ETF. The CBIT-Forest project objective, and the three outcomes, are practically identical to the general global CBIT objectives. The project addresses a global need to help countries meet the ETF requirements in the forest sector.
- The project was also aligned with FAO's global strategic framework, especially in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation capacity, and GEF's climate change focal area results framework.
- Project relevance was enhanced by linking the work closely with the ongoing FAO Forest Data and Statistics workstream, under the FRA and NFM teams. Already at the design stage, two surveys – a survey of FRA national correspondents and alternates, and a survey of FRA Advisory Group Members (19), including national and international research institutions, universities, UNFF, UNEP, COMIFAC, UNECE, Forest Europe and UNFCCC – were undertaken to identify key problems and prioritize activities and deliverables to meet the identified needs and utilize ongoing FRA and NFM work.
- The project optimized synergies with ongoing work and avoided duplication of efforts, but it can be that some outputs were not necessarily incremental. For example, improvements to the FRA platform were fully relevant, but possibly these improvements would have been made anyhow. GEF, through CBIT-Forest, has contributed to the ability to accelerate and move ahead with FRA being open to all and available in different languages.
- The FAO CBIT-AFOLU project and CBIT-Forest project are interconnected but there was no duplication or overlap because these two projects had different focuses. CBIT-AFOLU had emphasis on ETF-related reporting, including related awareness raising and guidelines, GHG monitoring and reporting, and broader ETF knowledge-sharing, while CBIT-Forest looked at the transparency of forest data and ETF requirements. This allowed CBIT-Forest to focus strongly on their areas of expertise and global comparative advantage and make use of the complementary resources and build on ongoing work. There was no country overlap.
- The pilot countries were relevant, but many other countries would have been relevant too; the choice was affected by the availability of resources and opportunity to leverage related ongoing work, e.g., on NFI development, and MRV work for REDD and can be justified from that perspective.
- CBIT-Forest has contributed to the momentum towards Universal Participation in the ETF. The "Sharing the Experience of the multilingual MOOC on Forests and Transparency under the Paris Agreement" course is being promoted in this web page: https://unfccc.int/universal-participation-more-info#eq-1.

29.   **Finding 2**   *There have been no major developments affecting the overall context for CBIT-Forest and the presented intervention rationale since the design of the project in 2019; on the contrary, the rationale has been validated and even strengthened.*

- The importance of forestry in climate mitigation, and the need to monitor progress regarding national commitments featured strongly in the most recent UN climate summit (COP26) in Glasgow in November 2021. Among the most significant announcements made at COP26 was the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, in which 137 countries committed to collectively end forest loss and land degradation by 2030 and affirmed the importance of all forests in limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees °C, adapting to the impacts of climate change, and maintaining healthy ecosystem services. Following this commitment, requires reliable information on forest area, growing stock, carbon stock, sequestration and emissions.
- During Glasgow COP26 in 2021, a decision was adopted on the methodological issues relating to the Enhanced Transparency Framework for action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement. Now this guides the MRV of climate actions as part of the ETF process. The CBIT-Forest project plays a role in assisting countries with tools and training as they prepare their Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs), first ones due by December 2024.

30. **Finding 3** *The project work, including massive online courses (MOOCs) and regional technical webinars, was found to be highly relevant and responsive to the identified organizational and technical capacity development needs and concrete work priorities contributing positively to the ETF preparations.*
    - All 31 interviews uniformly highlighted the relevance of the project, or its country support, or the training and technical guidance, such as training material, NFMS assessment tool (http://www.fao.org/3/cb0988en/CB0988EN.pdf), new NFI modules (https://www.fao.org/national-forest-monitoring/areas-of-work/nfi/modules/en/), and improvements to the FRA reporting platform (work mainly under Component 1). An internal user survey found that a vast majority of users found the updated FRA platform (https://fra-data.fao.org/) relevant or very relevant.
    - Pilot country stakeholder interviews especially highlighted the relevance of the NFMS assessment tool because it helped to assess the status of their NFMS, and identify and prioritize action to improve the system and, for example, organize the data to meet the ETF or FAO FAM requirements. It also helped prioritize FAO support, which enhanced the relevance of CBIT-Forest country level work (primarily under Component 2).
    - The webinar and MOOC satisfaction surveys and KAP surveys in pilot countries rated the usefulness of the training content very high. For instance, in the cases of the three MOOC trainings, almost 95 percent of the participants found the training highly relevant or relevant for their own work.
    - The workshop statistics and FAO staff interviews provide evidence on representatives from FAO CBIT project countries also attending MOOC trainings.

3.2 Effectiveness

31. **Finding 4** *The project effectiveness has been satisfactory; the outputs have been delivered as planned - or even exceeded in cases of trainings - and developing countries' capacities to generate, share and report forest data in compliance with the ETF of the Paris Agreement's Article 13 have been enhanced.*
    - The comparison of project progress against the set targets in the project document and its logical framework matrix validates successful project performance, including timely delivery of outputs (see Appendix 4). Interviews of key stakeholders, including UNFCCC representatives, support this finding. In fact, all interviews, including national level stakeholders, express satisfaction with what the project has delivered, stating in many cases, that the project has delivered even more than expected.

- The project has 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 9 802 individuals (61 percent men; 39 percent women) as of 7 April 2022; (target: at least 160 beneficiaries).
- Improvements in the technical and institutional capacity development achievements are not easily measurable at the point of project completion, although MOOC surveys, digital badge certification, surveys linked to country roadmap preparation, NFI LAC network survey, and the FRA survey on the use of the platform have provided evidence on capacity improvement. Based on the TOC model, and having evidence on delivering the outputs as planned, and meeting most of the TOC assumptions needed to move from output to outcome level, one can infer that project action has resulted in positive contributions to the defined outcomes. The actions and outputs contributing to the outcomes are specified in more detail and by outcome below.
- Because the project monitoring indicators for the three outcomes do not alone provide an adequate illustration of all project outcomes, other outcome related evidence is provided below to assess project performance.

Achievement of Project Outcomes

32. **Outcome 1** *Relevant national institutions responsible for forest-related data can report and respond to the transparency requirements thanks to improved institutional capacity.*
    - 44 national institutions engaged and benefited from project support in terms of contributions to capacity development and enhanced awareness about transparency requirements and future action needed to address identified gaps. The project design target was 26. Pilot countries benefited from the provided support in areas identified through an NFMS assessment tool exercise that also allowed for sharing of experiences, including making use of the project-developed case studies. The NFMS assessment process itself strengthened institutional capacity through a participatory process, dialogue and analysis that clarified future development needs in a form of action plans (roadmaps). This dimension of capacity development was highlighted in several country stakeholder interviews. In addition, they benefited from the knowledge sharing events, such as global webinars and the MOOCs.
    - Although no systematic data is available, on improvements in institutional capacity to respond to the enhanced transparency framework requirements, various information collected by the project provides complementary evidence on contributions to this outcome. 842 out of 1650 learners of the self-paced e-learning course, "Forests and transparency under the Paris Agreement", were awarded a digital badge certification after demonstrating competence. The amount of people that passed was extremely high when comparing it with the number of learners that did the course, and high compared to other elearning courses, according to a representative from the FAO elearning Academy.
    - Provision of digital badge certification after demonstrating competence. In addition to country focal point interviews, the conducted mini-survey provides evidence on contributions to improved capacity and that the provided training and tools can be used in reporting to the UNFCCC (Table 3), and naturally, the delivery of all planned outputs, and sometimes, exceeding the targets, suggests positive contributions to this outcome as well to the outcome linked to technical capacity improvement.
    - Main outputs:
      - o FRA reporting platform and dissemination updated and operational with an open-access dissemination module.
      - o A total of [42 global knowledge products](#) developed compared to target of at least 6.

- o 3 Massive open online courses (MOOC) on forests and transparency under the Paris Agreement delivered with a total of 1 883 registered participants for 148 countries. And the "Sharing the Experience of the multilingual MOOC on Forests and Transparency under the Paris Agreement" course shared in three languages:
    - o English: https://elearning.fao.org/local/search/infocourse.php?id=746
    - o French: https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=758
    - o Spanish: https://elearning.fao.org/local/search/infocourse.php?id=759
- o 6 sub-regional webinars, "Knowledge exchange and awareness raising on forest-related reporting in the context of the Paris Agreement and other international commitments", delivered to raise awareness about forest-related climate reporting in the context of the ETF of the Paris Agreement with 232 participants from 24 countries and 44 institutions from Southeast Asia, Mesoamerica and West/Central Africa (32 percent women; 68 percent men) (see Trello Board).
- o The CBIT-Forest project organized 16 global webinars throughout the project's lifespan, 8 of which developed MOOC global webinars organized in 2020-2022.
- o Developed materials include the self-paced e-learning course, "Forests and transparency under the Paris Agreement", available in 6 languages.

33. **Outcome 2** *Enhanced technical capacity of governmental counterparts in pilot countries in reporting, accuracy, and consistency of forest-related data.*
    - Interviews of pilot country representatives, and the survey, provide evidence on contributions to improved technical capacity (see Table 3 and evidence on Finding 1 earlier); 7 countries with increased capacity; the original number of target/pilot countries was 6 (Brazil was added). The mini-survey indicated that the provided training and developed tools have improved their personal skills in forest monitoring and reporting, and that they will making use of these in monitoring and reporting. Interviews of pilot country focal points, and technical webinar and MOOC satisfaction surveys indicate national forest department staff intend to use the obtained knowledge through project training in their own work.
    - 6 pilot countries supported in efforts toward NFI metadata and microdata sharing in the FAO Food and Agriculture Microdata (FAM) Catalogue (https://www.fao.org/food-agriculture-microdata/en/) or in their national platforms.
    - Capacity-building needs and gap assessment completed with the NFMS assessment tool in 6 out of 7 pilot countries. In Lao PDR, technical experts from FAO and JICA drafted a gap assessment of Lao PDR National Forest Monitoring System based on previous initiatives such as the REDD-compass Country Need Assessment, and the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on National Forest Monitoring.
    - 6 action plans, country roadmaps, prepared and approved by the governments.
    - Various capacity-building activities, based on identified needs, implemented in 7 pilot countries, including Brazil.
    - 8 NFI modules developed with co-financing from the CBIT-Forest project to provide 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. They complement the guidance provided by FAO NFI technical experts. The work was done in co-operation between FAO and University of Göttingen with CBIT-Forest project co-financing (available at: FAO National Forest Inventory Learning Modules).
    - 94 virtual meetings, 2 hybrid and 26 face-to-face meetings at the national level organized (32 percent women participation).
    - CBIT-Forest project has facilitated knowledge exchange with webinars and supported harmonization of NFIs in the LAC countries through co-financing a book: National Forest

Inventories of Latin America and the Caribbean: Towards the harmonization of forest information in Spanish and English. 21 LAC countries contributed to this book, with facilitation support from FAO regional staff (https://www.fao.org/3/cb7791es/cb7791es.pdf).

34.   **Outcome 3** *Increased knowledge sharing among transparency practitioners and experts.*
- The project developed and implemented a comprehensive outreach and knowledge management strategy, and all activities and outreach products have been published on the project's webpage and Trello Board, which are constantly updated. Section 3.8 provides a detailed assessment of the project's communication and outreach activities and complements the evidence provided below.
- The main technical outputs included best practice case study reports on Bangladesh, Papua New Guinea, Chile, Costa Rica, Ghana and the Democratic Republic of Congo. They are available in three languages and were disseminated through the three MOOCs and 8 global webinars. The case studies had been downloaded 6 375 times by the end April 2022 compared to the target of at least 200 times.
- NFMS tool was downloaded 536 times and related Quick Guidance document 1605 times by 30 April 2022.
- "Legal matters to institutionalize forest data Information Note" 820 downloads, and related technical paper 522 times by the end of April 2022.
- FRA Platform in 6 languages has been viewed 74 413 times as of 30 April 2022.
- The project website has been viewed 27 323 times as of 30 April 2022.
- Accessing videos: NFI video elements (59 views), NFI modules video (190 views), video on forests and transparency (1 329 views) and FRA videos in multiple languages (2 793 views).

Table 3.   Summary results of the pilot country surveys

No	Survey question	Avg. rating (1, 2 or 3)
1	CBIT-Forest project <u>has made a positive contribution to organization's capacity, or your individual capacity to address enhanced transparency and related reporting requirements</u> under the UNFCCC Paris Agreement.	2.5
2	CBIT-Forest project activities <u>have enhanced the understanding of the importance of accuracy, consistency and transparency of forest-related data</u> and <u>what action needs to be undertaken</u> to improve national forest monitoring systems (NFMS), forest data transparency and forest-related related climate change reporting to the UNFCCC and to meet national needs.	2.8
3	Forest data sharing and the transparency of forest data may increase in the future in your country, partly due to this project.	2.8
4	As a result of this project, practitioners and experts in your country have <u>improved access</u> to relevant FAO national forest inventory (NFI) tools/modules, training materials, information and best practices and <u>will likely use (some of) them</u> for improving national forest monitoring systems and forest data transparency and international climate reporting.	2.3
5	The CBIT-Forest project-related capacity development benefits, to improve the NFMS and forest data transparency, <u>will continue even after the end of the project without external support</u> from FAO or other international organizations.	2.2

Rating of responses: Entirely agree   3   Partly agree   2   Disagree   1

35.   **Finding 5** *The interviews of pilot country stakeholders and FAO staff highlighted the usefulness of the project's NFMS assessment tool; it was applied successfully in the six pilot countries and also in other countries, including some FAO-managed CBIT country projects, such as Costa Rica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Nicaragua, Ecuador and Angola.*

- The tool is based on FAO's Voluntary guidelines on national forest monitoring (launched in 2017) and strengthened with the REDDcompass resources of the GFOI. It has been made available in 6 languages, the related Quick Guidance document in six languages for practitioners and information note for policy makers in three languages.
- All the country stakeholder interviews highlighted how the tool helped them to assess strengths and weaknesses of their NFMs and identify action for the CBIT project support but more importantly for planning and prioritizing their NFMS development work in general. The tool was essential for the formulation of the roadmap for the continued enhancement of forest-related transparency.
- Interviews of FAO regional staff also provided evidence on the NFMS assessment tool being applied in places other than project pilot countries (e.g. Costa Rica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Nicaragua, Ecuador and Angola) and plans to apply e.g., in Indonesia.
- Country stakeholder and FAO country staff interviews also indicated that the NFMS assessment, including the validation workshops, facilitated dialogue between experts and different institutions, and sharing information and good practices. In this it contributed to capacity improvement.

36. **Finding 6** *The project successfully implemented activities in seven pilot countries helping them to address identified priority needs, the nature of them depending on the country context, and thus made valuable contributions to improved technical capacity in accuracy, structuring for reporting, facilitating sharing and consistency of forest-related data.*
- The conducted interviews of the country focal points and other national experts and the survey (see Table 3) indicate great satisfaction with the CBIT-Forest Project support and results.
- In all these countries, awareness raising on forest-related reporting in the context of the Paris Agreement and other international commitments has been enhanced.
- **Brazil:** Under the CBIT-Forest project, Brazil sought to use a remote sensing sampling-based approach to improve the Brazilian NFI and ensure data was available and accessible online throughout the process. This approach was carried out through different phases: methodological definition and set up the Collect Earth Online platform for data collection in the NFI conglomerates were developed; a pilot study with data collection at state level was performed and the results were analyzed.
- **Guatemala**: See Box 2 on Guatemala achievements.
- **Honduras**: The CBIT-Forest project supported the government in developing institutional regulations and legal protocols to develop the information system for data exchange. It also helped Honduras to strengthen the reinforced transparency framework for the National Forest Inventory (NFI) data, secure data storage, establish information flow protocols and prepare for sharing the microdata from the 1st and 2nd cycle of the NFI and submit data also to FAO FAM. There were problems with progress in Honduras due to limited personnel and complete change in the government. Agreement on FAM metadata is available but has not yet been signed. A Roadmap for the continued enhancement of forest-related transparency in Honduras was prepared.
- **Côte d'Ivoire:** The project helped to increase awareness about concrete action that needs to be taken to establish a modern, well-functioning NFMS in the country. Technical training provided, e.g. in the use of R statistical software, FAO FAM and other platforms for sharing NFI data, data sharing protocols, and developing a communication plan. A Roadmap for the continued enhancement of forest-related transparency in Côte d'Ivoire was prepared. Enhanced awareness about ETF requirements and what needs to be done. The project succeeded in securing a very active and broad engagement of stakeholders in the process. Very large

participation, including academia and all the major actors, allowing them to learn what others are doing.

- **Uganda:** In Uganda, the CBIT-Forest Project built partly on the earlier "Support to institutionalization of a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) for REDD+ in Uganda" project (UTF/UGA/O52/UGA). CBIT-Forest activities included a needs and gaps assessment of the NFMS, and capacity building activities aimed at providing the NFMS with functionalities to improve its effectiveness and increase its forest data transparency. The developed roadmap for the continued enhancement of forest-related transparency in Uganda included data management plans, data-sharing agreements, data securitization and dissemination, and the evaluation of the impact and importance that the data dissemination can have in the country development plan in the forest sector. Completed project work included: emission factors harmonization of forest plantation data and developing a data sharing and management protocol. Uganda became the first tropical country to make the metadata, microdata, and relevant documentation of its NFI openly available in the country and through submitting the data to FAO FAM. Enhanced awareness about ETF requirements and what needs to be done to address them.

- **Lao PDR**: The project helped the country develop its capacity for forest monitoring with a focus on improving the capacity of the Forest Inventory and Planning Division of the Department of Forestry to analyze and share NFI data. A note on reconciling national forest cover estimates was developed and disseminated. Two data analysis trainings were conducted at the National University of Lao's Faculty of Forest Science on topics such as how to use R (a free and open-source statistical programming language) to cross-check and analyze raw forest inventory data. The training was tailored to the specific need of the Lao side and constituted a solid reference for more use of the program R in the coming NFIs and other data analysis. The project provided support to disseminate NFI metadata and results, through an information note and publication of the NFI metadata. Metadata was shared in a national platform.

- **Thailand**: In Thailand, the project was built on earlier work under the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility. The NFMS assessment tool helped Thailand identify capacity gaps and weaknesses and address its NFMS needs. A Roadmap for the continued enhancement of forest-related transparency in Thailand was prepared. Project provided training on the analysis of country's forest inventory data, and a data management plan was drafted to improve transparency and data sharing. Metadata was shared in a national platform. Important support was provided on how to improve forest data for including forest sector in NDCs.

Box 2. CBIT-Forest and Guatemalan experiences in enhancing transparency of forest information

Guatemala has solid tradition in forest management, has been systematically carrying out forest resource inventories and is now in its 2nd NFI cycle and will soon start the 3rd cycle. Guatemala's NFI is one of the main components of forest monitoring in the country, which is why the National Forest Institute and the National Council for Protected Areas are working together to continuously collect data and make it freely available. Further, the two institutions are coordinating the country's second NFI. Guatemala has also been developing a National Information System on Climate Change and taking steps towards open data in the forest sector. CBIT-Forest Project contributed to these efforts based on priorities identified by using the NFMS assessment tool. It was regarded as useful in identifying development needs including, for example, how to structure and present NFI data for enhancing data transparency. According to the interviews of two senior government forestry experts, this tool was very useful in assessing the overall state of NFMs in the country. Using the analysis and after consultations and dialogue, a Roadmap for the continued enhancement of forest-related transparency in Guatemala was prepared; it will provide guidance to Guatemala beyond the CBIT-Forest activities.

"The National Forest Institute has now made the metadata and microdata of its first National Forest Inventory openly available with CBIT-Forest support. Information from the country's first NIF is available through the National Forest Information System of Guatemala, which can be accessed via the FAO Food and Agriculture Microdata Catalog (FAM). Guatemala's metadata includes information on how the first NFI was conducted, while the microdata contains data tables of the sampling units; characteristics of forests and land use classes,; the attributes of living trees, dead trees and stumps; natural regeneration; and the use and management of forest products and services. In addition, the microdata maintains information confidentiality standards.
With this action, Guatemala has become the third tropical country in the world, and the first in Central America, to make its NFI data openly available. This data may be used by analysts and scientists to develop research on the country's forests and plan the sustainable management of forest resources. Additionally, it will enable the development of reports and the formulation of projects that mobilize funds for the management and conservation of forest resources and for climate change mitigation and adaptation." (Extracted from a news article "Guatemala emerges as a pioneer of transparent forest information in Latin America" (https://www.fao.org/national-forest-monitoring/news/detail/en/c/1480156/). The interviews of national stakeholders during this evaluation confirmed the value of enhanced data sharing, e.g. in contributing to research and generating new data and knowledge through analysis.

37. **Finding 7**   *The project supported an open data approach in 7 pilot countries and enhanced awareness about the importance of open data in its webinars and MOOCS, knowledge products and communication materials.*
    - This project opened an open data work stream with its country support and global work which has been summarized in a FAO publication "Towards open and transparent forest data for climate action: Experiences and lessons learned" (https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb8908en).
    - It supported 6 countries in developing their open data systems to share data nationally for various purposes and sharing NFI metadata and microdata through the FAO Food and Agriculture Microdata (FAM) Catalogue . NFI metadata templates for NFIs in Guatemala, Honduras, Brazil, Uganda, Lao PDR and Thailand were developed and approved by the governments. By the end of the project, likely 4 countries (Guatemala, Honduras, Brazil and Uganda) have shared open forest data in FAM. Uganda was the first tropical country to share data openly in the FAM, followed by Guatemala, which was the first Latin American country to submit forest data to FAM, and then Brazil as well as Honduras.

- The six case studies summarized country experiences and successes in transparency-related activities. Developed online training materials, incorporating lessons related to development of open data systems. The project also increased the accessibility of the FRA dataset in the platform by making information available in three additional official UN languages.

38. **Finding 8** *The regional webinar in Latin America and the Caribbean also helped to share knowledge on community-based forest monitoring and involved leaders from Indigenous Peoples and local communities from Ecuador, Peru, Colombia, and Panama.*
    - The webinar tracking system indicates active participation of representatives of Indigenous Peoples and local community groups.
    - They attended the launch the eLearning course and discussed their contributions to community-based forest monitoring; the topic was also covered by the eLearning course on forests and transparency.

39. **Finding 9** *The project provided benefits to a significant number of people beyond what was targeted in the original project document, including the total number of beneficiaries, and drew higher than expected female participation.*
    - As indicated earlier in this report, the shift toward large-scale virtual capacity development increased the number of people trained manyfold compared to what was originally planned, and enhanced inclusivity in terms of ensuring access to training to various stakeholder categories, including academia and Indigenous People's (IPs) groups. IPs also participated in the third edition of the MOOC. Women also participated very actively (Table 3).
    - Due to continuing online access to training materials, the number of beneficiaries will further increase (see sections dealing with impacts, sustainability, and communication and outreach).
    - Two interviews of senior forestry directors in Costa Rica and Mexico provide concrete examples of the added value provided by the CBIT-Forest project beyond the pilot countries. They highlighted the following: (i) the provided training was found very useful; they and many of their colleagues attended the project training, which helped to understand the relevance of forest monitoring for complying with the UNFCCC ETF requirements for GHG emission reporting and identify areas for improvement; (ii) they plan to use the obtained information and invite other colleagues, either inside their own institution or in other related institutions, to make use of FAO CBIT-Forest online training and technical guidance; and (iii) limited financial resources and shortage of technically strong staff in GHG monitoring and reporting constraints for international climate reporting in the forest sector.

3.3 Efficiency

40. **Finding 10** *The project was implemented very cost-effectively and in a timely manner, making effective use of ongoing work and existing internal and external platforms and networks and adopting a capacity development approach based on virtual training.*
    - It is not possible to identify an alternative project design and implementation approach that could have delivered more with the available resources within the changing project context (COVID-19 epidemic).
    - The project work plan was implemented as planned with no extra use of resources, although the project was extended due to the Covid epidemic beyond its originally planned closing date. In fact, project delivered more with the available resources than originally planned (see findings under 3.2).

- Interviews of relevant FAO staff and PSC members indicate satisfaction with project efficiency; those knowledgeable with other CBIT projects or related capacity development projects commented that this project achieved more than average. The existing resources and past and ongoing work was leveraged successfully, which allowed the achievement of more than a project starting from scratch would have achieved. The use of existing networks and platforms also increased efficiency with potential positive impacts on enhancing impact and sustainability.
- Review of project progress reports, training statistics and stakeholder interviews all suggest that full-scale adoption of the elearning approach, including self-paced learning, regional technical webinars, and massive open online courses (MOOC), and providing online access to technical guidance and tools, has improved efficiency in terms of scope of people trained.

41. **Finding 11** *The project has disbursed the provided funds efficiently and the use of funds has been accounted for.*
    - The evaluation identified no issues related to the disbursement of funds; there were no delays in disbursements. As of 30 April 2022, two months before the end of the project, USD 1 625 913 (85.5 percent) of the total GEF grant of USD 1 901 270 had been disbursed; this represents 96.42 percent of the planned disbursement by that date. Co-financing was delivered in time.
    - No problems in accounting have been identified.

3.4   Potential for sustainability

42. **Finding 12** *The sustainability of the CBIT-Forest project outcomes was found to be moderately likely because the project was about capacity development, which itself promotes sustainability, and because its design was built on features, such as strong links to regular program, continuing the work of the FRA and NFM teams, and the FAO elearning Academy and external platforms and networks with their own financial resources.*
    - The demand for the project outputs, such as the improved FRA reporting platform, NFI eLearning modules and various training materials related to NFI and forest transparency, will remain high even after the project. Many countries still need to improve their NFM systems and capacity for their national needs and reporting internationally to UNFCCC such as, regarding contributions to the SDGs.
    - Interviews of national stakeholders, the project technical webinar, and MOOC satisfaction surveys indicate that a significant majority of trained beneficiaries, for example, national forest department staff, plan to use the knowledge transmitted during the project training in their own work in the future. The survey of pilot country focal points and/or senior staff engaged with the project provides support to this finding (Table 3).
    - Interviews of relevant FAO stakeholders working with forest data indicated that CBIT-Forest project outputs have been integrated into their work (such as, FRA reporting platform, NFM technical guidance and tools) and will be continued to be used in the future, for example, in NFI-related training, or assessments of the state of country NFMS using the developed NFMS assessment tool.
    - Importantly, the fact that this project adopted such a strong focus on the development of elearning materials means that the project training outputs are likely to continue to be available on FAO web sites, including e.g., the Forest Division's own sites and the FAO elearning Academy website, contributing to sustainability in terms of institutionalization. Training modules will also be available for country use through different channels inside and outside FAO, including external platforms and networks such as UN-REDD and GFOI, and those linked directly to the UNFCCC.

- o Inside the FAO elearning Academy, all courses and the global webinar materials, including recordings, are available.
- o Apart from the CBIT-Forest webpage which provides all info, FAO's NFM web page: https://www.fao.org/national-forest-monitoring/resources/publications/en/ FRA https://www.fao.org/forest-resources-assessment/initiatives/en/ are sharing and will keep sharing all material.
- o Lessons learnt from CBIT-Forest are being transferred to FRA (FRA Fin project) and NFM (SEPAL) new projects.
- No environmental or social risks affecting sustainability were identified. This project was a capacity development project aimed at improving the quality of forest-related data transparency and reporting and hence cannot really pose environmental risks. In the project design stage, the project was rated as low risk for Environmental and Social Risk Management; Environmental and Social Safeguards and related monitoring did not apply.

43. **Finding 13** *Despite this project successfully improving good conditions for sustainability, there are still country-specific barriers associated with inadequate technical preparedness, insufficient national commitment, and/or legal, as well as organizational constraints, which need further action.*
    - Interviews of FAO forestry staff in headquarters and regional/sub-regional and country offices identified barriers to enhancing open access to forest data and data sharing. Barriers vary country by country. In some countries, like those in Western Africa, further action is needed, including external support to help fill data gaps, whereas some countries are technically more progressed and have supportive policy and legal frameworks to enhance transparency of forest data, also internationally.
    - In some countries (such as Lao PDR), there is still not enough commitment to share forest data – or government controlled data in general – openly and/or the existing policy and legal frameworks do not allow it.
    - Interviews also identified cross-sectoral coordination challenges to bring all relevant forest, climate and environmental data together at the country level to harmonize forest reporting, related to climate reporting under the ETF framework, and within the broader AFOLU context.

3.5   Progress to impact

44. **Finding 14** *The project has contributed positively to the enhanced understanding and capacity of countries to implement the transparency framework of the Paris Agreement and the need to improve the reliability, transparency and sharing of forest data*
    - The evaluation interviews, and the project-conducted satisfaction and KAP surveys, as well as the evaluation survey (see Table 3), demonstrate enhanced awareness about the importance of reliable and transparent forest data in general and what type of requirements need to be met in countries within the ETF framework.
    - The basic elements for enabling movement towards scaling up and more lasting impacts, in the form of improved technical guidance, tools and training materials, have been developed and made easily available online through implementing the communication and outreach strategies and different FAO and NON-FAO platforms and networks, like the CBIT coordination platform. Those who were engaged with the CBIT-Forest project know about them and can continue using them and/or informing others in their organization about the available FAO online support as many indicated in the interviews.
    - The capacity development approach adopted by the CBIT-Forest project provides an opportunity for an increasing number of countries to adopt the related best practices, tools and

knowledge, including improvements and additions to what the CBIT-Forest project has produced. Large scale uptake rests on the assumptions that all these project-produced outputs really remain available in all the relevant platforms and networks, and that people in the future and outside the scope of this specific project would know about them (see the TOC model and its assumptions in Figure 2).

- Although at this stage it is not yet possible to have hard evidence on the capacity development impact of the project and uptake, building on the TOC model, some judgements can be made. The fact that project training activities have reached many times the number of beneficiaries originally planned, in thousands, and can continue doing so through online access to quality training materials, increases the likelihood of delivering more lasting and broader impacts. Though this will require continuous updating of training materials and active communication and outreach beyond the project life. Evidence of impacts beyond the project include a global recently launched SEPAL 2 project that will make use of the CBIT-Forest lessons learned linked to capacity development, including MOOC and virtual delivery.

45. **Finding 15** *Depending on the country context, some barriers may exist and prevent future progress towards achieving long-term impact, including those related to the shortage of human and financial resources to improve country NFM systems to an acceptable standard, and addressing policy and legal constraints related to open access data and sharing forest data internationally.*

- Several interviewed country stakeholders commented – understanding well the constraints faced by a small project with limited resources – that although FAO support was relevant, it represented just a slice of the action that is needed. Some countries need more support because their NFM systems may not yet be well advanced or there's a shortage of resources to update the NFI data regularly up to a good standard, and some countries are not yet fully committed to open forest data sharing. This finding is also supported by the conducted pilot country survey (see Table 3).
- Also, there are organizational, policy and legal barriers in some countries. The CBIT-Forest project introduced a useful tool to assess the state of NFMS, which also covered these dimensions and related strengths and weaknesses, in addition to technical issues, but it did not have the time and resources to provide extensive support to pilot countries to address institutional development needs.

46. **Finding 16.**   Country stakeholder interviews provided positive examples on how the adopted open access forest data protocols and sharing platforms have started to feed into research, to provide new data based on analysis, and influence national planning in the forest sector, e.g. in Guatemala, Honduras and Uganda.

- Evidence is available from pilot countries as indicated in the effectiveness section of this report and references, e.g. to NFI open data having been submitted to the FAO FAM catalogue. Guatemala has created a national system to share data and have linked it to FAO FAM. Honduras has signed a legal agreement and now they are in the process of registration of the open data to be shared with FAM.
- The examples provide an indication of potential future benefits.

3.6 Gender

47. **Finding 17** *The project maintained a consistently high level of attention to gender concerns from design to engagement and reporting, including measures to enhance the understanding of the importance of a gender-sensitive approach in forest monitoring among forestry and environmental*

practitioners, and training a significant number of women in various aspects of forest monitoring and data transparency..

- The project design was aligned to FAO and GEF policies on gender equality. Separate gender analysis, with inputs also gathered from Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' representatives, was conducted to support the project design. The analysis was well documented as a separate annex to the project document and suggested ways of adopting to a gender-responsive approach to implementation.

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

- The project has enhanced the understanding of the importance of adopting a gender-sensitive approach among forestry and environmental practitioners as described below:
  - The project training, "Forests and Transparency under the Paris Agreement" for high profile and technical target audiences contained a dedicated section on gender and forest monitoring aspects. Technical capacity-development activities in the pilot countries also addressed gender aspects following the gender analysis.
  - Women participated actively in all training activities at country and regional levels. Gender-disaggregated beneficiary data was collected and reported systematically. Figure 3 demonstrates the extent of training provided to women. Overall, an estimated 38 percent of those who attended project training activities were female, which exceeded the project target by 8 percent. It is possible that the use of virtual training modalities has made it easier for women to participate in trainings.
  - The project tracked women's participation in pilot countries and reported in the 2021 PIR that in the pilot countries Cote d'Ivoire, Guatemala, Honduras, Thailand and Uganda, women were leading discussions, as well as expressing their opinions, even in meetings where women's participation was low.

Figure 3. Share of female participants in the CBIT-Forest project activities[10]
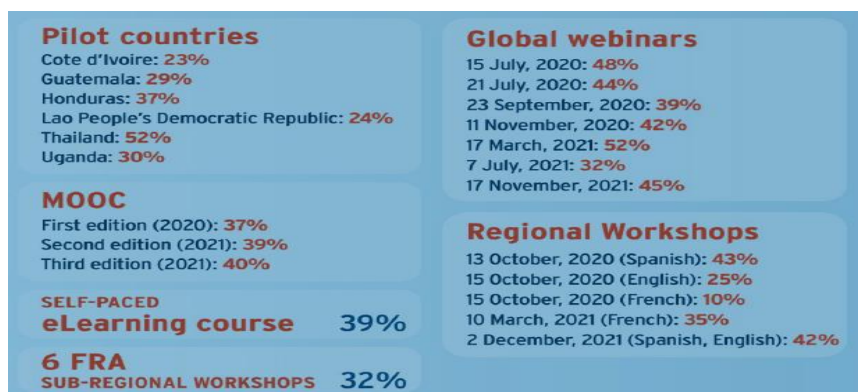
3.7 Quality of project management and monitoring

48. **Finding 18** *The project adopted a clear and appropriate project management setup with allocated roles and responsibilities and a well-functioning project Steering Committee, which, combined with a high-performing Project Coordinator, ensured effective project and financial management.*
    - According to key stakeholder interviews, quality of project management was rated high or very high; it has been effective, flexible, and consultative. This finding is supported by the review of project implementation against set targets; for example, the training targets and production of knowledge products were exceeded manifold.
    - FAO implemented/executed the project with internal staff resources and built on ongoing work and platforms so the implementation could commence quickly and smoothly. The project was not affected by staff turnover, and the PMU was well-versed with FAO and GEF procedures.
    - Project risks were well-managed, exemplified by the timely modification of the project implementation approach due to the constraints created by the COVID-19 epidemic.
    - The PSC met regularly and provided adequate guidance to the project.
    - Project annual work plans and PPR (in 2020) and PIR (2021) were submitted to the GEF Coordination Unit, and the Project Steering Committee Reports to the PSC, in a timely manner. Their quality was regarded as satisfactory, and in some respects highly satisfactory. The mix of systematic progress reporting using the project results framework and infographics was highly appreciated by the key partners.
    - Project communication internally, and to external stakeholders using the FAO corporate platform and the use of different communication means, was rated high in key stakeholder interviews.
    - There have been no issues concerning financial management, disbursements have progressed more or less as planned and financial reports have been delivered in a timely manner. The financial information available is complete and extracted from the FAO financial system. Financial statements and confirmation of co-financing have been provided to the GEF Coordination Unit in due time as per the cooperation agreement.

49. **Finding 19** *Necessary co-financing materialized in time and played an important role in ensuring effective project implementation and supported the achievement of the project objectives.*
    - The amount of co-financing provided was USD 7 739 808 as of 31 March 2022, more than originally planned. This co-financing helped to deliver the planned results. The provided co-financing data is shown in Table 2.
    - Co-financing from the two FRA projects (financers E and NICFI) contributed especially to Component 2 objective while co-financing from the NFM project contributed to the Component 3 objective.

50. **Finding 20** *The quality of the project monitoring system and its implementation, including reporting, was satisfactory, effectively covering in a timely manner, all needed output information, with some weaknesses in outcome monitoring and reporting.*
    - The project logical framework matrix that provided the framework for monitoring was well structured around the three components; it established clear links between the project outputs, outcomes, and the global CBIT-objectives. However, the presented assumptions were sometimes too technical with inadequate strategic focus. It is not easy to see which assumptions are the most crucial ones to enable moving effectively from activity-output level to the output-outcome and impact level. This issue applied also to the presented narrative TOC.
    - Project output indicators were comprehensive, well-defined, measurable, achievable, relevant and time bound, and related performance data was collected and reported systematically. The

available data, statistics and documentation on the CBIT-Forest activities and outputs are very comprehensive; they are easily accessible and based on a transparent, well-documented monitoring and reporting system.

- The project implementation reports (PIRs), project progress reports (PPRs), MOOC and other training reports, and PSC reports provide comprehensive information specifically to ascertain the progress in implementing planned project activities and delivering outputs. Most of this information is quantitative concerning completed activities and summarizing the delivery of outputs against the logical framework matrix (results framework).

- Common to many other projects, there were some deficiencies with outcome indicators and related data; it is more difficult to develop good outcome indicators than output indicators. For example, in the case of the overall project objective that highlights capacity development, the two indicators refer to forest data and disaggregated gender data; the logical link between these is vague. Outcome 1.1 indicator refers to "Degree of increased institutional capacity"; how institutional capacity is defined in the outcome and how the "degree" is measured is not clear. Baselines were listed but the assessment of incrementality was difficult to assess in some cases, such as Outcome 1.1[11] because the baseline of zero (0) is difficult to justify. In case of this outcome, it is also difficult to understand what the scope is, i.e. where the improvements in capacity are to take place, and what the role of others is, like the attribution problem.

- When it comes to the available information on the degree of achievement of outcomes, the PIR and annual progress reports provided some useful information and proxies, but suffered from the identified weaknesses in the adopted indicators, and of course, there are challenges related to the timeline concerning the delivery of outcomes. This same problem was identified in the FAO-GEF CBIT Projects Portfolio Review. However, the CBIT-Forest project has collected other relevant information, such as training workshop "satisfaction surveys" and Knowledge, Attitudes, Practice Survey (KAP) assessments in the preparation of country roadmaps which provided valuable complementary evidence to assess the project contribution to the delivery of the planned three key project outcomes.

3.8 Stakeholder engagement and communication

51. **Finding 21** *The project design and implementation processes, including identification of lessons learned, were very consultative and systematically and inclusively approached the engagement of key stakeholders at global, regional and country levels, connecting existing networks.*

- The review of the project of design process, and various project progress reports, webinar training reports and satisfaction surveys, as well as stakeholder interviews, provide consistent evidence on very effective and inclusive stakeholder engagement.

- A comprehensive stakeholder mapping was conducted covering all key technical partners inside and outside FAO, relevant external stakeholders, and representatives from beneficiary countries (candidate pilot countries), civil society, private sector, Indigenous Peoples, and academic institutions. The stakeholder matrix used in the finalization of the project design and in project implementation,

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[11] The baseline was set to zero for the two Outcome 1.1. indicators: degree of increased institutional capacity on the Enhanced Transparency Framework and number of national institutions in targeted countries with the ability to respond to the Enhanced Transparency Framework.

- Stakeholder consultations during the project design included strategic key informant/stakeholder interviews and two surveys - A survey of FRA national correspondents and alternates, and a survey of FRA Advisory Group Members (19), including national and international research institutions, universities, UNFF, UNEP, COMIFAC, UNECE, Forest Europe and UNFCCC – to identify key problems to be addressed and prioritize activities and deliverables to meet the identified needs.
- The project implementation approach, from project steering to the development of training material (NFI modules, awareness and communication material) organizing technical webinars and MOOCs, and disseminating project outputs and information, relied on partnerships and engaging global, regional and country stakeholders, including the FRA National Correspondents Network, NFI LAC Network members, UNFCC, GFOI, ICAT, CBIT Coordination Platform, Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB), International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA), etc.
- Development of various project outputs benefited from partnerships, such as the NFI modules, which were developed together with the University of Göttingen and virtual training materials with the FAO elearning Academy.

52. **Finding 22** *The e-learning based training approach adopted by the project (using for example the massive open online courses, or MOOCs) and providing material in up to six languages) promoted wider stakeholder engagement in terms of inclusivity and the number of people engaged and created better conditions for stakeholder dialogue and learning.*
    - This project paid a lot of attention to having training and communication material available in several languages. The project developed together with the FAO elearning Academy a self-paced forest data transparency course in six languages (link to Arabic provided as an example Arabic). At present, at FAO there are only a couple courses available in all FAO languages. MOOCs were organized in three languages: English, Spanish and French and the experience was shared later in the FAO elearning Academy. The FRA reporting platform and Quick Guidance on the NFMS Assessment Tool were made available in all six FAO languages. The project contributed to translating the FRA main reports into Chinese, Russian and Arabic. Case studies on practices in forest transparency were also produced in three languages.
    - Countries were engaged effectively. The three editions of the Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) involved 1 883 representatives from 148 countries. The seven pilot countries covered Latin America, Africa, and Asia in a balanced manner. The sub-regional webinars engaged 232 participants representing 44 institutions from 24 countries.
    - The project technical webinar summary report[12] provided a satisfaction score for the opportunity to converse with international experts and share experiences and opinions of 3.5 out of 5 for the Asia and Africa workshops and 4.6 out of 5 for the LAC workshop. Similarly, evaluation interviews of FAO staff and regional and country stakeholders indicated great satisfaction with the project-provided opportunities to connect and learn from other countries and colleagues and interact with different stakeholder groups, including academia.

53. **Finding 23** *The project was exceptionally strong, and, to some extent, innovative in its communication and outreach, setting a model for how to implement good communication strategies by applying a range of methods and tools and engaging partners both in the development and implementation of communication and outreach activities.*

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[12] "Workshop series report on knowledge exchange and awareness raising on forest-related data reporting in the context of international commitments." CBIT-Forest. 2021.

- Interviews with key stakeholders, including those involved globally with CBIT work and those helping with dissemination and awareness raising about CBIT and ETF, uniformly praised CBIT-Forest project's communication, and outreach activities in terms of quality and intensity. Several commented that in this respect, the CBIT-Forest project has stood out as a positive example; the project has been more active and visible than an average project.
- The project mobilized a communication and outreach expert to help with design and reporting on the implementation of a comprehensive, modern communication strategy.
- The use of communication means was very extensive, including the use of social media (Twitter, Youtube, etc.) project website, blogs, project newsletter, articles/blogs in partner newsletters, use of links to related in-house and external platform websites (listed in Appendix 2), animations and videos, 89 press releases/web stories/blog posts on project and partner websites (as of 1 April 2022, scientific papers, and dissemination using 13 internal and external newsletters and targeted lists).
- Active participation, including presentations, in relevant global conferences such as UN COP25, UN COP26, XV World Forestry Congress, and 18th/19th meeting of GHG Lead Reviewers meeting (UNFCCC) among others.
- The use of the [Trello Board](#) has enabled easy access to all up-to-date relevant project material in one place[13] and can be regarded as an innovative approach, worth consideration in other FAO initiatives.

54. **Finding 24** *Very effective use was made of existing in-house FAO platforms and capacities, global and regional networks, partnerships and ongoing in-house work and processes in communication and dissemination of project information and outputs, which will facilitate scaling-up of project results.*
    - The project communication made use of some 30 FAO corporate, regional, and country office and external stakeholder Twitter accounts and 10 partner (such as GEF, UN-REDD, PCCB, UN-Climate Change Capacity-Building, UN Climate Change Transparency) Facebook, Linkedin, and Weibo accounts.
    - The CBIT Global Coordination Platform, PCCB/UNFCC, GFOI, FAO Climate Change, FAO FRA, FAO NFM, FAO Forestry Communication Kit, the FAO elearning Academy, UN-REDD, UN Innovation Network, ICAT and some other websites as well as meetings organized by these bodies were used in dissemination work.
    - As an example, the project worked with ICAT on the [#Data4ClimateAction campaign for COP26](#) in Glasgow and in 2022 on a regional UNFCCC meeting – LAC Climate Change Week (a side event organized by ICAT). ICAT has helped in the dissemination of products and information about project events using social media, e.g. released tweets related to resources/trainings/e-learning modules and using website posts to discuss a technical meeting related to LULUCF data in Argentina. In March 2022, the project participated in the ICAT Partner Forum 2022: Improving NDC implementation through transparency, where lessons learned from the project were shared.
    - UNFCCC provided a representative for the CBIT-Forest PSC and provided feedback on the project design and implementation and the various stages of this evaluation. UNFCCC representatives and country focal points have been engaged as speakers in the global webinars

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[13] The Trello Board was also use extremely useful for the conduct of this terminal evaluation because practically all project outputs, project documents, works plans, progress reports, social media material, links to partners' web sites, etc. were immediately available for review.

- as eLearning reviewers, participants to MOOC sessions and in global webinars. The CBIT-Forest project participated in almost ten events organized by UNFCCC; for example, the project coordinator attended the 2nd UNFCCC Capacity-building Talk: Attuning capacity-building efforts to developing countries' needs and priorities in 2021. In case of the UNFCCC/PCCB, an example is provided by the Network Newsletter (Issue 6, May 2021) that contains a link to a CBIT-Forest video, and information on project work in Thailand.
- 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).
- The CBIT Global Coordination Platform was used to disseminate project capacity development material and project information, including publications and training opportunities. The CBIT-Forest project had its own project profile on the CBIT Global Coordination Platform website that the project manager could update when needed. The project manager was interviewed, and a web story published. The CBIT FAO team was always invited to CBIT Global workshops where they had the opportunity to present their global/regional and national activities and meet the CBIT countries and key transparency. The project was presented at the 2019 global workshop in Rome.
- Project products and information, such as trainings, were also disseminated through the new FAO Corporate Climate Change Knowledge Hub, FAO's ETF webpage and across forestry, including NFM and FRA webpages, climate, statistics networks, several forest/climate-related D-Groups and communication channels at global, regional, and national levels.

3.9 Project rating

55. Based on the findings from this evaluation, the project demonstrates performance at the 'Highly Satisfactory' level (a table of ratings against all evaluation criteria is in Appendix 3).

Table 4. GEF evaluation criteria rating table

GEF criteria/sub-criteria	Rating	Summary comments
A. STRATEGIC RELEVANCE		
A1. Overall strategic relevance	HS	Highly relevant globally and regionally and at country level Evidence in section 3.1
A1.1. Alignment with GEF and FAO strategic priorities	HS	Evidence in section 3.1
A1.2. Relevance to national, regional and global priorities and beneficiary needs	HS	Evidence in section 3.1
A1.3. Complementarity with existing interventions	HS	Evidence in section 3.1
B. EFFECTIVENESS		
B1. Overall assessment of project results	HS	
B1.1 Delivery of project outputs	HS	Evidence in section 3.2 Targets exceeded
B1.2 Progress towards outcomes and project objectives	S	
- Outcome 1	HS	Evidence in section 3.2 Targets exceeded
- Outcome 2	S	Evidence in section 3.2

- Outcome 3	HS	Evidence in section 3.2 and also in section 3.8 The work and results far exceeded targets and innovative approaches were used.
- Overall rating of progress towards achieving objectives/outcomes	HS	
B1.3 Likelihood of impact	S	Evidence in 3.5
C. EFFICIENCY		
C1. Efficiency	HS	Evidence in 3.1
D. SUSTAINABILITY OF PROJECT OUTCOMES		
D1. Overall likelihood of risks to sustainability	ML	Evidence in section 3.4
D1.1. Financial risks	ML	Evidence in section 3.4
D1.2. Socio-political risks	ML	Evidence in section 3.4
D1.3. Institutional and governance risks	ML	Evidence in section 3.4
D1.4. Environmental risks	L	Evidence in section 3.4
D2. Catalysis and replication	ML	Evidence in section 3.4
E. FACTORS AFFECTING PERFORMANCE		
E1. Project design and readiness	S	Evidence in section 3.7
E2. **Quality of project implementation**	S	Evidence in section 3.7
E2.1 Quality of project implementation by FAO (BH, LTO, PTF, etc.)	S	Evidence in section 3.7
E2.1 Project oversight (PSC, project working group, etc.)	S	Evidence in 3.7
E3. **Quality of project execution** For decentralized projects: Project Management Unit/BH For OPIM projects: Executing agency	S	Evidence in 3.7 and also in 3.3.
E4. Financial management and co-financing	S	Evidence in 3.7
E5. Project partnerships and stakeholder engagement	HS	Evidence in section 3.8
E6. Communication, knowledge management and knowledge products	HS	Evidence in section 3.8
E7. **Overall quality of M&E**	S	
E7.1 M&E design	S	Evidence in section 3.7 and also in 3.6
E7.2 M&E implementation plan (including financial and human resources)	S	Evidence in section 3.7
E8. Overall assessment of factors affecting performance	S	Evidence in section 3.7
F. CROSS-CUTTING CONCERNS		
F1. Gender and other equity dimensions	S	Evidence in 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8
F2. Human rights issues/Indigenous Peoples	S	Evidence in 3.2, 3.6 and 3.8 Rating concerns Indigenous Peoples
F2. Environmental and social safeguards	UA	Not applicable
Overall project rating	**HS**	

4 Conclusions and recommendations

4.1 Conclusions

56. **Conclusion 1** *The CBIT-Forest project design and implementation were of high quality, effectively applying adaptive management to deliver the planned results, and in the case of trainings, exceeding the targets, in challenging conditions created by the Covid-19 epidemic, while successfully engaging stakeholders and addressing FAO and GEF gender policies.*
    - The pandemic created both challenges and opportunities. The project made use of these opportunities by being adaptive and innovative, and changing the project's *modus operandi* towards large scale online training (MOOCs), more institutionalized elearning, including the digital badge certificate through the FAO elearning Academy and investing significantly into stakeholder engagement, communication and outreach using a comprehensive mix of means, and tools, including social media, and several languages.

57. **Conclusion 2** *The project outcome related to enhancing the technical capacities of developing countries on forest-related data to meet the ETF requirements has been achieved to the extent possible given the short duration of the project and limited resources available for country level work, but it is difficult to get hard evidence on the degree of achievement of this outcome.*
    - Evaluation findings show that the project delivered all the outputs as planned and thus contribute to the achievement of set outcomes, although measurement of the achievement of outcomes and improvement of capacity is challenging. As acknowledged in many country stakeholder interviews, lasting capacity development impacts require time, beyond the two years of this project, and a broad range of action.
    - This project produced those outputs and outcomes it can realistically be expected to do and has provided some important elements that provide a conducive environment for scaling up. It takes time, before one can see to what extent the tools, and methods developed by CBIT-Forest or shared by CBIT-Forest are adopted and scaled up in countries for climate-change related data sharing and reporting.

58. **Conclusion 3** *The project has globally enhanced awareness of the importance of transparent and reliable forest data for climate action and what needs to be done to meet the ETF requirements, but in many countries more work still needs to be done and there is also a need for external support.*
    - Evaluation findings highlight the importance of project outputs such as the improved FRA reporting platform, new NFI modules, NFMS assessment tools, NFM case studies, provided regional training and MOOCs, and improved access to useful training material in making a strong contribution to enhancing awareness about the importance of open data in the forest sector. Pilot country support was found to advance forest data transparency, best exemplified by three countries already sharing NFI data in the FAO FAM catalogue, and possibly fourth country doing the same before the end of the project.
    - At the same time views were expressed that more needs to be done in some pilot countries and beyond. There is considerable variation in the levels of progress between countries on setting up transparency systems between countries and hence also variation in terms of need for further action and possibly external support.

59. **Conclusion 4** *The relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impacts and sustainability were all enhanced by building on ongoing FAO work, internal and external networks, and platforms, globally and at the country level during the project design and implementation.*

- This conclusion may sound exaggerative but concrete evidence of project achievements and stakeholder and project management interviews indicate that the project could not have achieved what it did if its design and implementation approach would have been based on a "stand alone" project. The mobilization of the project, implementation, integration of the project outputs into relevant platforms and ongoing initiatives, and dissemination of project outputs and lessons learned took place quicker and leveraged existing, complementary resources and workstreams. Impacts and sustainability are enhanced because of improved relevance and ownership.

60. **Conclusion 5** *This project demonstrated how virtual self-learning and hybrid, collaborative approaches to training can effectively complement "traditional" capacity development approaches, and, when combined with making materials available in several languages, achieve a much higher number of people trained and provide a more inclusive and cost-effective approach to capacity development.*
    - In principle, the project has made capacity building easily available to people with adequate internet access around the globe, and enabled greater and more inclusive regional participation in capacity development. It has also facilitated peer-to-peer and south-to-south learning and sharing of experiences and connecting government and non-government partners and enhancing technical dialogue between FAO national/regional staff across regions.
    - Both open self-learning training and collaborative training platforms, such as MOOCs are needed. The former type of training is appropriate for more general topics, such as enhancing awareness about climate change reporting and transparency of forest data, the latter for targeted audiences with focus on more technical topics.

61. **Conclusion 6** *Development of open forest data platforms and enhancing sharing of global and national forest data, including NFI micro-data, are not only technical issues that can be addressed by FAO, but the degree of data sharing is influenced by national attitudes, traditions and policies, and legislation as well as organizational structures.*
    - The CBIT-Forest project, and FAO NFM and FRA work in general, have enhanced the understanding of the importance of open access to information, and developed related tools which based on this evaluation, are greatly appreciated, but it does not mean that they are "automatically" made use of. Some countries like Brazil, Guatemala, Honduras, and Uganda have supportive policies and a more open attitude to sharing forest data and the have submitted NFI data to the FAO FAM Catalogue. However, many countries are simply not used to sharing data openly and face various types of constraints, including some related to policies and legislation, to sharing forest data nationally and internationally, for example, to the FAO Microdata (FAM) Catalogue. This applies to many developing countries, as was indicated through interviews of regional FAO staff and national stakeholders, and in fact, to many developed countries as well. A small, technically oriented, FAO project cannot change this alone and in a short time, more work will be needed. This challenge is demonstrated in the project TOC model (Figure 2), there are several critical assumptions which must be met when moving towards lasting impacts along the impact pathway.

4.2 Recommendations

FAO headquarters and its Forestry Division:

62. **Recommendation 1** *Develop and implement a systematic approach to maintain, or even improve, inclusive access to the CBIT-produced training and awareness material and technical outputs*

worldwide, using all possible channels, including FAO's Forest Division and corporate platforms and external networks and platforms, as part of the project exit strategy.

- This action is needed to enhance the project impacts and sustainability. It means continuing the project's successful communication and outreach activities. Now the challenge is to institutionalize these approaches and methods.
- Fortunately, the project has successfully made use of existing platforms and networks that use their own resources for information dissemination. But without active interaction and follow-up the work done in this project, and related further-development (for example, of training modules), may get lost amongst "competing" information flows. Ensuring visibility is key.
- As part of this recommendation, the FRA and NFM teams would need to make use of CBIT-developed material in their own continuing work at regional and country levels, as appropriate, and in the provision of support to countries based on new requests.
- FAO's corporate websites, such as the FAO elearning Academy, various forestry/climate/AFOLU sites, the Regional Forestry Commission website, and the FAO Regional Office websites, and others should be actively used for continuous dissemination and "marketing" of FAO NFI and forest/AFOLU data transparency-related training material.

63. **Recommendation 2** *Map and pursue opportunities to expand elearning and the use of digital badge certificates, working in collaboration with the FAO elearning Academy, in all work related to forest data and transparency, and other forestry/AFOLU fields where FAO has a comparative advantage and demand for its capacity development services.*

- Various FAO evaluations have identified challenges in FAO's capacity development work and pondered what FAO's role should be in promoting education, and this also applies to FAO forest work. Financial and human resources available for capacity development are limited and often dependent on opportunities provided by new projects. Until now, the training approaches have relied largely on face-to-face training. The impacts of training are not well known and there are problems with sustainability in addition to cost-effectiveness. Combining formal training and hands-on training in the field is often needed in NFI/NFMS development, but virtual and hybrid approaches, using both virtual and collaborative training, show great promise.
- The CBIT-Forest Project, and earlier work done by the FAO elearning Academy have demonstrated the great potential of virtual self-paced and hybrid learning, to complement other approaches and provide more equitable, inclusive, and transparent access to education. FAO, in cooperation with selected academic institutions, could become an important global provider of multi-language online forestry education and training services in strategically selected areas. Ideally, there would be a cluster of thematically/technically related training that would form a sensible package. When combined with the digital badge certificate, it could be accepted as part of a university degree in many institutions, which again would increase demand for FAO training/education services.
- Ideally, these trainings should make use of the digital badges for certification a much as possible because it would enhance demand for FAO education/training, and provide an accredited, visible validation for skills acquisition and achievements. Both self-paced and collaborative training approaches and modules could be developed working in collaboration with current or possibly some new academic partner organization and the FAO elearning Academy.

64. **Recommendation 3** *Map and screen globally or regionally relevant, up to date NFM, FRA and other technical forestry documents, tools and guidelines, amd translate them into several FAO languages to enhance transparency and impacts.*

- Most technical guides and modules are still available only in English or sometimes in two languages. This evaluation concluded that the CBIT-Forest project's emphasis on enhancing access to information and making it more inclusive, through producing and disseminating it in several languages (as many as six), has been a success.
- Translation is costly and quite demanding, forestry experts are needed to help with translation, but it is likely a cost-effective way of making better use of something – a technical guide or tool – that has already been produced.

65. **Recommendation 4** *FAO, through headquarters, regional offices, or country offices, should accelerate their efforts to mobilize financial resources to meet country needs and respond to their requests to continue supporting and expanding activities identified in the project pilot Country Roadmaps, for the continued enhancement of forest-related transparency.*
    - The evaluation found that the use of the NFMS assessment tool, and related development of country roadmaps to enhance forest data transparency, were greatly appreciated by the country stakeholders. FAO staff also found it useful in prioritizing their support. However, technical and organizational capacity development takes time; and in many countries, meeting both technical and reporting requirements, resulting from the ETF country commitments, requires further work. Countries identified immediate and medium-term action to improve their NFI and open data systems with support from this project, some of which have now been addressed. In most country stakeholder interviews, statements were made concerning a need for further support to complement national efforts.
    - In a way, expectations have been raised and FAO should take action to enhance continuity of work in the pilot countries. The needs and barriers differ country by country, but fortunately, the roadmaps are in place and provide directions for future support. In some countries the main challenge may be in generating up-to-date, reliable and harmonized NFI data in other countries the challenges are related more to the need to improve systems for sharing of data and open access and linking forest data reporting to established national systems responsible for reporting obligations under the ETF framework. FAO staff linked to efforts in pilot countries are working on ensuring that there would be continuity and linkages with ongoing or new projects that are being planned, for example, in Cote d Ivoire (a GCF proposal) and in Uganda (GCF REDD+ proposal).

66. **Recommendation 5** *FAO should continue to systematically, and with a long-term perspective, develop and disseminate innovative tools and technologies for open, transparent, reliable, and harmonized forest data to educate stakeholders about the importance of open, reliable forest data and provide the tools to strengthen technical capacity to do it for national and international climate and other reporting purposes.*
    - The findings indicate the usefulness of FAO's work in this area, and the comparative advantage it has in improving the quality of forest data, improving access to tools and information to generate the data, and helping to share it transparently and effectively nationally and internationally.
    - This type of work is already ingrained in the FRA and NFI work, but having projects like CBIT-Forest, with explicit focus on forest data transparency and sharing, as well as reporting to the UNFCCC, would help to meet country demand. More continuous support is especially needed in countries with weak NFM systems and capacities, and in countries which face institutional constraints in increasing forest data transparency and enhancing sharing of data.
    - This recommendation is consistent with [the FAO open data (for statistical databases) principles](#) and Forestry Division's NFO Open Data Task Force objectives and the [UNESCO](#)

Recommendations on Open Science (2021). FRA is also in the process of integrating the FRA platform with the FAO Hand-in-Hand geospatial platform to allow countries to share their geospatial data in the context of their reports.

60. **Recommendation 6** *The FAO Forest Division should continue promoting and supporting countries to share their meta and micro NFI data in the FAO FAM platform, linked to national efforts to develop open data sharing systems, by going after "low hanging fruit" countries, which would set an example and possibly stimulate other countries to follow.*
   - This recommendation is linked to recommendation 5, but with a special focus on FAO FAM. It is foreseen that several countries are technically already quite well positioned to submit open data, or links to their national open systems.

4.3   Lessons learned

67. The CBIT-Forest project document explicitly identified action for identifying and disseminating lessons learned from the project implementation. A lessons learned exercise, "experience capitalization", was initiated in mid-2021. This was a participatory, consultative process that engaged global, regional, and national partners and culminated in a publication, "Towards open and transparent forest data for climate action: Experiences and lessons learned" (also available in Spanish and French). On 23 March 2022, an international technical webinar, "Learning from experiences to increase forest data transparency for climate action", was organized to disseminate lessons learned2022.

68. This section presents a summary of lessons learned, making use of (i) the project's own lessons learned assessment, (ii) conducted interviews during the evaluation, (iii) assessment of project documents, and (iv) FAO CBIT project portfolio review from 2021 (whose lessons learned were summarized in the CBIT-Forest evaluation Inception Report).

69. **Lesson learned 1** *Adaptive management and quick decision-making by project leadership can be essential elements of success in short-term, ambitious projects – such as CBIT-Forest.* This is important, especially when operational risks are realized due to drastic changes in the implementation environment. Given the constraints created by the Covid-19 epidemic, this project would have likely failed if it had stuck to its original implementation approach and had not quickly changed its *modus operandi* towards virtual training and education and devoting significant attention to communication and outreach using an innovative mix of means. Adaptive management and quick decision-making are so important that the selection process of project coordinators/managers/team leaders should pay attention to the related capabilities and personal characteristics of the candidates. Also, necessary flexibility to adapt management needs to be secured to project leadership, instead of requiring rigid compliance with the initial project design implementation approach.

70. **Lesson learned 2** *Involving the key technical partners – in this case the FAO FRA and NFM teams, and the UNFCCC (the owner/client for the global CBIT work) – in the conceptualization and design stages of the project, can enhance the relevance and ownership of the project and quality of the project design and implementation.* This project was not designed by a GEF-FAO consultant, but the idea was borne internally by FAO experts working already closely with forest resource monitoring and forest data transparency and reporting issues, globally and nationally. A senior technical expert, knowledgeable with the topic and already connected to relevant networks, was selected to oversee the project design and implementation, working close collaboration with the FRA and NFM team leaders, as well with the UNFCCC throughout the project.

71. **Lesson learned 3**   *The extensive use of collaborative and self-learning online training, using the FAO elearning Academy, combined with the adoption of the digital badge certificate to demonstrate competence, have proven to be a success worth wider consideration and further adoption in FAO capacity development work.* In this case, the capacity development strategy approach shifted away from in-country and regional face-to-face training to virtual support, as necessitated by the COVID-19 related travel constraints, but which turned out to be an opportunity to try new things. Virtual training cannot substitute more hands-on training and it is not an appropriate approach to some technical topics or training that need to take place in the field. The use of digital badge certificates provides an additional incentive to participate in training, while also ensuring that training has had an impact compared to just recording participation in training activities. This always requires extra effort and is not always easy, but, based on the conducted interviews, the CBIT-Forest and FAO elearning Academy investments into developing training modules, with online tracking and digital certification, has been worthwhile, and has potential for replication. MOOCs and technical webinars, especially when made more interactive and practical, hold great promise as a cost-effective mainstream approach to capacity development.

72. **Lesson learned 4**   *The use of several languages – in the case of this project up to six - in the development of online training modules, forest data platforms and awareness enhancement materials can greatly enhance the reach and impact of FAO's capacity development work.* This project paid a lot of attention to making project outputs available in as many languages as possible. Self-paced elearning courses were made available in English, Spanish, French, Arabic, Chinese and Russian languages. With support from the project, FAO's Global Forest Resources Assessment Platform reporting modules were translated into Arabic, Chinese, French, Spanish and Russian. Translation at this scale requires extra investment, but the benefits of this approach, in terms of enhancing outreach, uptake and inclusivity, were evident in this project. Stakeholder interviews demonstrated appreciation for having access to material in several languages.

73. **Lesson learned 5**   *The relevance, effectiveness and ownership of a project, or specific project interventions, can be enhanced when the work is coherent and supportive of globally and nationally driven "mandatory" processes and builds on existing networks and platforms.* In the case of CBIT-Forest, the linkage was related to the national commitment towards NDC progress on monitoring, establishing the necessary arrangements to implement the ETF requirements and time-bound preparation of Biennial Transparency Reports to the UNFCCC. Further, the CBIT-activities built on the workstreams of the FRA and FAO's FRA National Correspondents Network and NFI LAC Network countries, which had a positive impact on the effectiveness of dissemination and peer-to-peer sharing of lessons learned to harmonize NFIs. It also enabled enhanced dialogue between different focal points in a country that use and report forest data and amongst FAO staff working at global, regional, and country levels.

74. **Lesson learned 6**   *Project outcomes and related indicators should be defined in such a level and scope that the achievement of the outcome is under project control and achievement can be measured, but in case of possible weaknesses, project management should undertake action to collect information needed to assess outcome performance.* In this project, outcomes were fully relevant, being linked to the overall CBIT objectives, but in two cases expressed at such an aggregate level and in such a way that there was a mismatch between ambition reflected by the outcome and what a small project can realistically achieve, and development of SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound indicators) became a challenge. Instead of broadly stating that an outcome is improved institutional capacity, one could specify those elements of institutional

capacity development the project will address and the scope. At minimum, one should aim at specifying and operationalizing concepts expressed in outcome definitions. In this project, this issue did not create problems – beyond the challenge of obtaining good outcome performance related data and reporting outcomes, e.g. to the PSC members. However, rigid application of such outcome definitions may put a project in an unfair situation, in a sense of being held accountable for something that is not entirely feasible. In this project, as demonstrated earlier in the report, project management undertook (initially unplanned) action, such as satisfaction and user surveys, and adopted an approach of certifying competence after providing training that provided useful information for assessing the achievement of outcomes.

Appendices

Appendix 1: List of People Consulted
Appendix 2: List of Documents Consulted
Appendix 3: FAO - GEF Evaluation Criteria Rating Scheme
Appendix 4: Achievements against the Project Logical Framework Matrix

Appendix 1: List of People Consulted

FAO staff

First name	Last Name	Position	Organization/ location
Seda	Kojoyan	Evaluation Manager, OED	FAO, Rome
Mirella	Salvatore	CBIT-AFOLU Project Coordinator, Climate Change Officer	FAO, Rome
Rocio	Condor	CBIT-Forest Project Coordinator	FAO, Rome
Julian	Fox	Team Lead National Forest Monitoring, Senior Forestry Officer	FAO, Rome
David	Morales-Hidalgo	Forestry Officer	FAO, Rome
Javier	Garcia Perez	International Consultant in Forestry Statistics, National Forest Monitoring/REDD+ Team	FAO, Rome
Cristina	Petracchi	Leader of the FAO elearning Academy, Capacity Development Officer	FAO, Rome
Carla	Ramirez	Regional advisor on NFI and REDD+	FAO, Costa Rica
Anssi	Pekkarinen	Team Lead Global Forest Resources Assessment, Senior Forestry Officer	FAO, Rome
Maria Carmen	Ruiz	Focal point Latin America REDD+ NFM	FAO, Panama
Gael	Sola	Forest and REDD+ Technical Expert	FAO, Hanoi
Rebecca	Tavani	Forestry Officer (NFI co-lead)	FAO, Rome
Maude	Veyret-Picot	Natural Resources Officer	FAO, Rome
Aw	Mohamadou	Program Officer	FAO, Senegal
Matieu	Van Rijn	Forestry Officer	FAO, Bangkok
Antonello	Salis	Forestry Officer	FAO, Kampala
Sara	Maulo	Communications and networking Specialist	GFOI/FAO

External stakeholder organizations

First name	Last Name	Position	Organization
Jenny	Wong	Programme Officer	UNFCCC
Ellen	Bruzelius Backer	Policy Director – Environmental Integrity	Ministry of Climate and Environment, Norway (earlier at NICFI)
Tania	Daccarett Pinzás	Project Specialist Affiliate Climate Change Mitigation Unit, CBIT global manager	UNEP
Henning	Wuester	Director of the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT)	ICAT

National stakeholders

First name	Last Name	Position	Country
Jose Armando	Alanis de la Rosa	Manager of the National Forest Monitoring System	National Forestry Commission, Mexico
Humberto	N. de Mesquita Jr.	Coordenador Geral de Inventário e Informações Florestais, Diretoria de Desenvolvimento Florestal, Serviço Florestal Brasileiro	Brazil
Rafael	Monge	Director, CENIGA, Ministry of Environment and Energy	Costa Rica

Kenset	Riveiro	NFMS Coordinator, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	Guatemala
Rodrigo	Rodas	INAB, Planificacion	Guatemala
Carlo	Paredes Valiente	INAB, Manejo forestal	Guatemala
Nery	Sandoval	INAB, Manejo forestal	Guatemala
Gerson Samuel	Perdomo	Jefe depto del Centro de Informacion y Patrimonio Forestal, Forest Conservation Institute	Honduras
Albert	Lasme	NFI Lead, Ministry of Water and Forests,	Cote d'Ivoire
John	Diisi	Coordinator, National Forest Authority	Uganda
Bob	Kazungu	Forest Officer, Ministry of Water and Environment	Uganda
Soukkanh	Bounthabandid	Forest Inventory Division, Department of Forestry, Lao PDR	Laos
Douangchai	Xaypanyar	Forest Inventory Division, Department of Forestry, Lao PDR	Laos
Somyot	Saengnin	CBIT-Forest Focal Point	Thailand

Appendix 2: List of Documents Consulted

Project documents:
- Project Document, with annexes
- CBIT-Forest Inception Report

Project plans, progress reports and presentations:
- Work plan
- Project progress reports (PPRs, PIR)
- Briefs on project progress for the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and minutes of the PSC meetings
- CBIT-Forest: One Year in Numbers, and Two Years in Numbers
- Progress Report on the Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency 61st GEF Council Meeting in December 2021
- Report/ Analyses of the First, Second and Third Editions of the Massive Open Online Course on Forest and Transparency under the Paris Agreement
- Workshop Series Report on Knowledge Exchange and Awareness Raising on Forest-related Data Reporting in the Context of International Commitments, 2021

CBIT outputs:
- National forest monitoring system assessment tool.
- National forest monitoring system assessment tool. Quick guidance
- Updated Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) reporting
- National forest inventory (NFI) E-learning modules, new NFI modules
- National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) assessments in seven pilot countries and related capacity building action plans
- Case studies: Bangladesh, Chile, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Papua New Guinea
- Massive open online course (MOOC) on "Forest and Transparency under the Paris Agreement
- Awareness raising and communications materials produced by the project, such as brochures, leaflets, presentations given at meeting, address of project website, Trello Board, etc.
- Concept Note on CBIT-Forest Resource Assessment Reporting
- Draft Roadmaps for the continued enhancement of forest-related transparency
- "Towards open and transparent forest data for Climate Action – experience and lessons learned"
- CBIT-Forest flyer https://www.fao.org/3/ca7424en/ca7424en.pdf
- E-learning course flyer https://www.fao.org/3/cb1479en/CB1479EN.pdf, MOOC flyers
- The importance of sharing global forest data in a world of crises by Jingjing Liang & Javier G. P. Gamarra. Scientific Data volume 7, Article number: 424 (2020)
- National Forest Inventories of Latin America and the Caribbean: Towards the harmonization of forest information. CBIT-Forest co-financed this book, together with many other organizations

Other:
- Report of the FAO-GEF CBIT Projects Portfolio Review

- OED Capacity Development Evaluation Framework (FAO)
- Guidelines for GEF Agencies in Conducting Terminal Evaluation for Full-sized Projects

CBIT-Forest related web sites:
- https://trello.com/b/XHO51A7K/cbit-forest
- Website on FAO CBIT-Forest (http://www.fao.org/in-action/boosting-transparency-forest-data/en/)
- https://www.fao.org/in-action/boosting-transparency-forest-data/news/detail/en/c/1456805/
- https://www.fao.org/climate-change/our-work/what-we-do/transparency/projects/en/
- FAO NFM web site https://www.fao.org/national-forest-monitoring/en/
- FRA online platform https://fra-data.fao.org/
- https://www.fao.org/forest-resources-assessment/initiatives/en/
- https://www.fao.org/forestry/communication-toolkit/en/
- MOOC https://elearning.fao.org/local/search/infocourse.php?id=746
- *https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=587*
- A compilation of all 2021 global webinars: https://www.fao.org/in-action/boosting-transparency-forest-data/news/detail/en/c/1457822/
- NFI eLearning modules: bit.ly/NFIonline
- CBIT-Forest case studies strengthen knowledge sharing among countries working with forest data transparency: http://www.fao.org/in-action/boosting-transparency-forest-data/news/detail/en/c/1415104/
- Web story http://www.fao.org/in-action/boosting-transparency-forest-data/news/detail/en/c/1398115/
- https://www.cbitplatform.org/about

Other climate and CBIT-related material that was consulted:
- FAO. 2021. Institutionalisation of forest data: Establishing legal frameworks for sustainable forest monitoring in REDD+ countries. Rome. https://doi.org/10.4060/cb3525en. UN-REDD, FAO, UNDP, UNEP.
- IPCCa. 2021. Sixth Assessment Report. The Working Group I contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.
- IPCCb. 2021: Summary for Policymakers. In: Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.
- UNFCCC. 2020. Reference Manual for the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement. Understanding the Enhanced Transparency Framework and its linkages to nationally determined contribution accounting

Appendix 3: FAO - GEF Evaluation Criteria Rating Scheme

Rating Scheme

A. Overall Outcome ratings

Rating	Description
Highly Satisfactory (HS)	*"Level of outcomes achieved clearly exceeds expectations and/or there were no short comings."*
Satisfactory (S)	*"Level of outcomes achieved was as expected and/or there were no or minor short comings."*
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	*"Level of outcomes achieved more or less as expected and/or there were moderate short comings."*
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	*"Level of outcomes achieved somewhat lower than expected and/or there were significant shortcomings."*
Unsatisfactory (U)	*"Level of outcomes achieved substantially lower than expected and/or there were major short comings."*
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	*"Only a negligible level of outcomes achieved and/or there were severe short comings."*
Unable to Assess (UA)	The available information does not allow an assessment of the level of outcome achievements.

B. Project Implementation ratings (Assess Implementation and Execution separately)

Rating	Description
Highly Satisfactory (HS)	There were no shortcomings and quality of **implementation or execution** exceeded expectations.
Satisfactory (S)	There were no or minor shortcomings and quality of **implementation or execution** meets expectations.
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	There were some shortcomings and quality of **implementation or execution** more or less meets expectations.
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	There were significant shortcomings and quality of **implementation or execution** somewhat lower than expected.
Unsatisfactory (U)	There were major shortcomings and quality of implementation substantially lower than expected.
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	There were severe shortcomings in quality of **implementation or execution**.
Unable to Assess (UA)	The available information does not allow an assessment of the quality of **implementation or execution**.

C. Monitoring and Evaluation Design or Implementation Ratings (Overall M&E design, Assess Design, and Implementation separately)

Rating	Description
Highly Satisfactory (HS)	There were no shortcomings and quality of **M&E design or M&E implementation** exceeded expectations.
Satisfactory (S)	There were no or minor shortcomings and quality of **M&E design or M&E implementation** meets expectations.
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	There were some shortcomings and quality of **M&E design or M&E implementation** more or less meets expectations.

Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	There were significant shortcomings and quality of **M&E design or M&E implementation** somewhat lower than expected.
Unsatisfactory (U)	There were major shortcomings and quality of **M&E design or M&E implementation** substantially lower than expected.
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	There were severe short comings in **M&E design or M&E implementation.**
Unable to Assess (UA)	The available information does not allow an assessment of the quality of **M&E design or M&E implementation**

D. Sustainability

Rating	*Description*
Likely (L)	There is little or no risk to sustainability.
Moderately Likely (ML)	There are moderate risks to sustainability.
Moderately Unlikely (MU)	There are significant risks to sustainability.
Unlikely (U)	There are severe risks to sustainability.
Unable to Assess (UA)	Unable to assess the expected incidence and magnitude of risks to sustainability.

Appendix 4: Achievements against the Project Logical Framework Matrix

Progress towards targets as of 9 May 2022					
Results	**Indicators**	**Baseline**	**Progress to date**	**Percentage achieved against target for the reporting period**	**End target (expected value at project completion)**
Impact 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.	Number of countries with enhanced and more transparent forest-related data.	0	49	188%	At least 26 countries
	Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment [GEF-7 Core Indicator 11]	0	9802 (+) (61% men; 39% women)	6 126%	At least 160 beneficiaries
Project 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	N/A	100%	1
	Number of national institutions in targeted countries with the ability to respond to the Enhanced Transparency Framework	0	44 (++)	220%	20 national institutions
Output 1.1.1	Global FRA reporting platform updated and operational	FRA reporting platform with 2 modules/ functionalities operational	1	100%	FRA reporting platform with 2 additional modules/func tionalities operational
Output 1.1.2	Number of global knowledge products on the forest-related ETF developed and successfully disseminated	3	42 (+++)	700%	At least 9 global knowledge products
Output 1.1.3	Percentage of stocktaking assessments from country participants with indication of satisfaction	None	N/A	96% (++++)	At least 70% of participants satisfied

Project 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	N/A	117% (x)	At least 6 countries
Output 2.1.1	Repository developed and operational	0	N/A	100%	1
Output 2.1.2	Number of beneficiaries from capacity building activities from the project (disaggregated by gender)	None	8 152 (xx) (62% men; 38% women)	6 793%	At least 120 beneficiaries
Output 2.1.3	Number of roadmap(s) completed	0	N/A	100%	6
Project Outcome 3.1 Increased knowledge sharing among transparency practitioners and experts.	Number of times practitioners accessing case studies/best practices	0	6 375	3 188 %	At least 200
	Number of times practitioners accessing outreach/dissemination products	0	121 281 (xxx)	30 320 %	At least 400
Output 3.1.1	Number of global case studies/best practices identified and disseminated.	0	6	200%	At least 3
Output 3.1.2	Number of global outreach/communication products disseminated	0	89 blog posts and peer reviewed articles published in 3 languages (*)	2 967%	At least 3

Notes:

(+) counting pilot countries (897 individuals), webinar/events participants (5422 individuals), MOOC accessing the platform (1833 individuals) and learners accessing the self-paced eLearning course (1650 individuals);

(++) Final report, with statistics: https://www.fao.org/3/cb4595en/cb4595en.pdf

(+++) A total of **42** global knowledge products developed: 3 modules in English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Russian and Arabic (total 18 products); posters in English, French and Spanish (total 3 products); National Forest Monitoring Assessment (NFMS) assessment tool in English, Chinese, French, Spanish, Arabic and Russian (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, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese and Russian (total 6 products); information note on legal matters to institutionalize forest data in English, French and Spanish (total 3 products); translation of the FRA main report in Chinese, Arabic and Russian (total 3 products); and translated version of the paper institutionalization of forest data in Spanish and French (total 2 products); lessons learnt publication EN, ES, FR (total 3 products).

(++++) information was collected from the satisfaction survey from the third edition of the MOOC. We have considered question 6 (see Annex III) – 205 responded from which 102 very satisfied and 95 satisfied;

(x) Brazil was added as pilot country in 2021.

(xx) counting pilot countries (897 individuals), webinar/events participants (5422 individuals), MOOC accessing the platform (1833 individuals)

(xxx) includes publications (10 601 views), web page visit views (27 323 views), press releases (2 273 views), FRA data platform page views (74 413 views), OCC story of Dina (2 300 views), NFI video elements (59 views), NFI modules video (190 views), video on forests and transparency (1 329 views) and FRA videos in multiple languages (2 793 views).

(*) includes press releases, web stories and blog posts