Mid-Term Review of the UNEP Project

Global Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) Platform: Unified Support Platform and Program for Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, Phase II (CBIT-GSP II)

GEF ID #: 10088 + 10128

2020 – 2027

Climate Change Division/GEF Climate Change Mitigation Unit

December/2024

Cover Credits:
Front cover: UNEP-CCC, AI-generated image

This report has been prepared by an external consultant as part of a Mid-Term Review, which is a management-led process to assess performance at the project's mid-point. The UNEP Evaluation Office provides templates and tools to support the review process. The findings and conclusions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of Member States or the UN Environment Programme Senior Management.

For further information on this report, please contact:

Climate Change Division
Climate Change Mitigation Unit
United Nations Avenue, Gigiri Nairobi, Kenya
P.O. Box 30552, 00100
Nairobi, Kenya
suzanne.lekoyiet@un.org +254 (0)20 762 1234

Global Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) Platform: Unified Support Platform and Program for Article 13 of the Paris Agreement" Phase IIA & IIB" (CBIT-GSP II)
GEF ID #: 10088 + 10128
December/2024

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This Mid-Term Review was prepared for Climate Change Division/Climate Change Mitigation Unit by Kris B. Prasada Rao.

The reviewer would like to express their gratitude to all persons met/consulted and who contributed to this review, as listed in Annex II.

The reviewer would like to thank the project team and in particular Ms. Suzanne Lekoyiet, Task Manager, Ms. Elca Wabusya, Programme Management Assistant, Ms. Khetsiwe Khumalo, Advisor – Climate Transparency, and Ms. Fatima Zahra, Senior Advisor for their contribution and collaboration throughout the review process. The evaluator(s) would also like to thank the representatives interviewed from UNEP, UNEP-CCC, the UNFCCC Secretariat, the GEF Secretariat, UNDP, FAO, ICAT, PATPA, IGES, and the US EPA. Special acknowledgements to the National CBIT Coordinators that responded to the online survey conducted. Sincere appreciation is also expressed to the UNEP and UNEP-CCC staff and the stakeholders who took time to provide comments to the draft report.

The review consultant hopes that the findings, conclusions and recommendations will contribute to the successful finalisation of the current project, formulation of the next phase and to the continuous improvement of similar projects.

BRIEF EXTERNAL CONSULTANT(S) BIOGRAPHY

Kris B. Prasada Rao holds an MSc in Human Geography and has approximately 25 years of experience in climate change, environment, natural resource management, rural development, agriculture, and livelihoods. He has worked on several aspects of climate change, incl. governance under the UNFCCC framework, adaptation, mitigation, and mainstreaming. He has worked in 46 countries for multilateral institutions incl. UNEP, UNDP, FAO, the EU, and IUCN, as well as a range of bilateral donors and NGOs. Kris has carried out numerous evaluations and reviews incl. strategic, thematic, programme, and project evaluations. Moreover, he has hands-on experience with programme and project implementation, management, and oversight from positions with the Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees, Oxfam America, and IFAD. He has since 2011 been a partner and board member at PEMconsult.

Review Team
Kris B. Prasada Rao – Reviewer

ABOUT THE REVIEW

Joint Review: No

Report Language(s): English.

Review Type: Mid-term Review

Brief Description: This report is a management-led Mid Term Review of the UNEP/GEF projects "Global Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency Platform: Unified Support Platform and Program for Article 13 of the Paris Agreement" Phase IIA & IIB" implemented between 2020 and 2027. The projects' overall development goal were to "provide global streamlined support, capacity building and coordination to help developing countries meet enhanced transparency requirements under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement" (IIA), and "provide streamlined support and capacity building at the country, regional, and global level to enable Non-Annex I countries under the UNFCCC and developing countries under the Paris Agreement to better respond to reporting requirements and to catalyse increased ambition within country NDCs to contribute to the stated temperature goal of well below 2 degrees and if possible 1.5 degrees" (IIB). The review sought to assess project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine outcomes and impacts (actual and potential) stemming from the project, including their sustainability. The review had two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP, the GEF and the relevant agencies of the project participating countries.

Key words: Biennial Transparency Report; Biennial Update Report; BTR; BUR; Capacity Building; Capacity Development; CBIT; Climate Change; Coordination; Enhanced Transparency Framework; ETF; GEF; GEF Project; GHG Inventory, Governance; Greenhouse Gas Inventory, Mid-Term Review; MRV; MTR; National Communication; NC; Peer Learning; Platform; Project Review; Transparency Systems; Transparency; UNFCCC.

Primary data collection period: September-October 2024

Field mission dates: N/A

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF ACRONYMS

BTR	Biennial Transparency Report
BUR	Biennial Update Report
CBIT	Global Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency
CBIT-GCP	Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency – Global Coordination Platform
CBIT-GSP	Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) Platform
CBIT-GSP II	Global Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) Platform Phase II (IIA + IIB)
CGE	Consultative Group of Experts
COP	Conference of the Parties
DTU	Technical University of Denmark
EMG	Executive Meeting Group
ETF	Enhanced Transparency Framework
FAO	United Nations Food ang Agriculture Organisation
FSP	Full-size Project
GCP	Global Coordination Platform
GSP	Global Support Programme
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
HYPR	Half-Yearly Progress Report
ICAT	Initiative for Climate Action Transparency
IGES	Institute for Global Environmental Strategies
IIA	Global Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) Platform Phase IIA
IIB	Global Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) Platform Phase IIB
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
LDC	Least Developed Country
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MENA	Middle East and North Africa (MENA)
MPGs	Modalities, Procedures and Guidelines
MRV	Measurement, Reporting, and Verification
MSP	Medium-size Project
MTR	Mid-term Review
NC	National Communication
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
PATPA	Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement
PIF	Project Identification Form
PIR	Project Implementation Review
PMU	Project Management Unit
PRC	Programme Review Committee
PSC	Project Steering Committee

RF	Results framework
ROLAC	Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
SIDS	Small Island Developing State
TA	Technical Advisory
FE	Final Evaluation
ToC	Theory of Change
ToR	Terms of Reference
UDP	UNEP DTU Partnership (now UNEP-CCC)
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP-CCC	UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre (formerly UDP)
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
USD	United States Dollars
VoIP	Voice over Internet Protocol

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION TABLE

Table 1. Project Summary

GEF Project ID/SMA ID:	IIA - GEF ID: 10128 IIB - GEF ID: 10088	IIA - SMA ID: 92633 IIB - SMA ID: 114538	
Implementing Agency (UNEP Division/Branch/Unit):	Climate Change Division/GEF Climate Change Mitigation Unit	**Executing Agency:**	UNEP-CCC
Sources of Funding (Co-finance):	*Countries:* Global (Non-Annex I Parties to UNFCCC)		*Institution Name/Type:* UN bodies; multilateral funds; environment funds; bilateral donors; national governments
Relevant SDG(s):	SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts		
MTS (at approval):	2018-2021	**UNEP approval date:**	IIA: 13 May 2020 IIB: 1 Jun 2022
POW Direct Outcome(s) number/reference *(applicable for projects approved from 2022):* **OR** **POW Output(s) number/reference** *(applicable for projects approved pre-2022)*	*POW Direct Outcome: Outcome 1.1. Policymaking and decision making for climate action are informed by the latest science-based analysis and data generation.* *Outcome: 1.3 Transparency and accountability of government and non-government climate action, including from the private sector and finance community is strengthened* *POW Output:* n/a	**MTS 2025 Outcome(s) number/reference** *(applicable for projects approved from 2022):* **OR** **POW Expected Accomplishment(s) number/reference** *(applicable for projects approved pre-2022):*	*MTS 2025 Outcome: Outcome 1B: Countries and stakeholders have increased capacity, finance & access to technologies to deliver on the adaptation and mitigation goals of the Paris Agreement.* *Outcome 1C: State and non-State actors adopt the enhanced transparency framework arrangements under the Paris Agreement.* *POW Expected Accomplishment:* Climate Change Outcome Map Objective: Countries increasingly transition to low-emission economic development and enhance their adaptation and resilience to climate change
Sub-programme:	Climate Action (UNEP 2022-2025 MTS)	**Programme Coordination Project:**	Science and Transparency PCP
UNEP approval date:	IIA: 13 May 2020 IIB: 1 Jun 2022	**GEF approval date:**	IIA: 12 Jul 2021 IIB: 18 Dec 2021
GEF Operational Programme #:	CC1 (GEF-7)	**GEF Strategic Priority:**	CCM-3-8: Foster enabling conditions for mainstreaming mitigation concerns into sustainable development strategies through capacity building initiative for transparency CCM-EA: Foster enabling conditions for mainstreaming mitigation concerns into sustainable development strategies

Project type:	IIA: MSP IIB: FSP	**Focal Area(s):**	Climate change
***Expected* start date:**	IIA: 1 August 2021 IIB: 1 October 2022	**Actual start date:**	IIA: 13 May 2020 IIB: 1 Jun 2022
***Planned* completion date:**	IIA: 31 Oct 2024 IIB: 31 Dec 2024	**Actual operational completion date:**	IIA: 31 Oct 2025 IIB: 31 Mar 2027
***Planned* total project budget at approval:**	IIA: USD 2,400,000 IIB: USD 7,067,547	**Actual total expenditures reported as of 30 June 2024:**	IIA: USD 864,000.40 IIB: USD 2,413,340.19
GEF grant allocation:	IIA: USD 2,000,000 IIB: USD 6,567,547	**GEF grant expenditures reported as of 30 June 2024:**	IIA: USD 834,000.40 IIB: USD 2,113,340.19
***Expected* Medium-Size Project/Full-Size Project co-financing:**	*Cash*: 0 *In-kind:* IIA: USD 400,000 IIB: USD 500,000	**Secured Medium-Size Project/Full-Size Project co-financing:**	*Cash:* USD 30,000 (ICAT) + USD 3,973,979 (UNDP) *In-kind:* IIA: 30,000 IIB: 300,000
No. of formal project revisions:	IIA: 4 IIB: 1	**Date of last approved project revision:**	11 Dec 2023
No. of Steering Committee meetings:	2	**Date of Last Steering Committee meeting:**	15 Oct 2024
Mid-term Review/ Evaluation *(planned date):*	N/A	**Mid-term Review/ Evaluation (actual date):**	May-Dec 2024
Coverage - Country(ies):	Global – Non-Annex I Parties	**Coverage - Region(s):**	All
Dates of previous project phases:	*GSP:* UNEP: 1 Sep 2015 – 30 Sep 2021 UNDP: 2 May 2015 – 30 Sep 2021 *CBIT-GCP*: UNEP: 5 Oct 2017 – 31 Dec 2019 UNDP: 15 Jan 2018 – 28 Feb 2020	**Status of future project phases:**	Under development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Background

1. "Global Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) Platform Phase II" (CBIT-GSP II) comprises two distinct, but closely interlinked projects, IIA and IIB, funded under the GEF climate change mitigation focal areas. IIA commenced in May 2020 and will end in October 2025, whereas IIB commenced in June 2022 and will end in March 2027. UNEP's Climate Change Division is the GEF implementing partner, whereas UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre (UNEP-CCC) is the GEF executing partner. With financial support from the GEF, UNEP has for more than 25 years supported Non-Annex I Parties in climate transparency and reporting to the UNFCCC.
2. CBIT-GSP II provides support to the Non-Annex I Parties to the UNFCCC to help them improve their technical capacities and institutional frameworks for managing climate action-related data and reporting to the UNFCCC.
3. *The CBIT-GSP II **objectives** are as follows:*

- IIA: "*To provide global streamlined support, capacity building and coordination to help developing countries meet enhanced transparency requirements under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement*"

4. IIB: "*To provide streamlined support and capacity building at the country, regional, and global level to enable Non-Annex I countries under the UNFCCC and developing countries under the Paris Agreement to better respond to reporting requirements and to catalyze increased ambition within country NDCs to contribute to the stated temperature goal of well below 2 degrees and if possible 1.5 degrees*"
5. The total budget for IIA is USD 2.4 million including the USD 2 million grant from the GEF and the IIB budget is USD 7.0 million including the USD 6.5 million grant from the GEF. A third phase (CBIT-GSP III) is currently under development.

This Review

6. The Global Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) Platform Phase II (CBIT-GSP II) comprises two distinct, but closely interlinked projects, IIA and IIB. The objective of the mid-term review (MTR) was to a) assess the implementation status, performance and progress towards results, and b) provide recommendations vis-à-vis the remaining implementation period of CBIT-GSP II and the planned CBIT-GSP III. The MTR was conducted for IIB as per GEF requirements, whereas no MTR was required for IIA. However, due to the close connection between the two projects, which will be followed by a singly project CBIT-GSP Phase III, the MTR covers both IIA and IIB, in order to capture the complete picture and provide relevant recommendations, taking fully into account the results achieved, and challenges experienced.

Key Findings and Conclusions

7. **Strengths:** The project is performing well with high level of activity, benefitting from the in-house technical capacities of UNEP-CCC, regional networks enabling engagement at the country level, and a partnership approach with workshops with co-implementation and co-financing by partners and national GEF projects. This has enabled CBIT-GSP II to engage at the country level to a surprising degree, with several in-country trainings and technical advice on how to improve draft reports (NCs, BURs, BTRs). Important partnerships include UNDP and Belgium financing and administering two of the eight regional CBIT-GSP II networks and partnership with the

UNFCCC Secretariat. CBIT-GSP II has achieved a high degree of cost-effectiveness through leveraging substantial amounts of co-financing from the partnerships.

8. CBIT-GSP II's output-related end targets have for the larger part already been achieved or even exceeded at mid-term, and with a likelihood of the remaining targets also being achieved before project completion. The support provided by CBIT-GSP II is widely appreciated by country-level beneficiaries, and a clear contribution has been made to enhancing their MRV, transparency/ETF knowledge and capacities. The outcome targets are likely to be achieved, with country-level beneficiaries already (to a significant or moderate extent) applying the knowledge obtained and using the tools for data collection, analysis and reporting, and for setting up ETF institutional arrangements, thus contributing to enhanced compliance with UNFCCC reporting requirements.

9. CBIT-GSP II directly responds to UNFCCC COP decisions vis-á-vis reporting and climate transparency. The project proactively contributes to improving the coordination among climate transparency support providers. UNEP is preparing a third phase of CBIT-GSP, so the risk of a support gap after the completion of CBIT-GSP II is low. Given the continued obligation to report to UNFCCC, countries are likely to continue applying the skills and tools provided by CBIT-GSP. Key stakeholders are well represented in the PSC, the support is informed by participatory needs assessments, and country-level support is demand-driven. There is equal participation of women and men, and women are well-represented in project management and oversight.

10. **Weaknesses:** CBIT-GSP II has been severely affected by external factors outside the control of the project leading to a delayed project start and very limited implementation in 2020-2021, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the legal and administrative transition of UNEP-CCC from DTU to UNOPS, the withdrawal of UNDP as co-implementing agency, and the resignation of the gender consultant. While implementation picked up, budget execution was still low at the end of 2023 (partly a result of cost-savings due to the high degree of co-implementation and co-financing), which is particular concern for IIA, with only approximately one year of implementation remaining. A human rights lens is not applied in the project, although the contribution to enhanced climate transparency contributes to accountability.

11. CBIT-GSP II puts considerable efforts into promoting coordination among support provides, but the ownership and use of the Climate Transparency Platform by support providers is uneven, as they partly perceive the platform as a CBIT-GSP II project website rather than a shared platform.

12. The project design has some shortcomings, including inconsistencies in the ToC and results framework, and indicators not fully capturing the outcomes, which are also not fully reported on. Technical progress reports and financial statements are generally submitted late. Co-financing is underestimated and underreported.

13. **Performance rating:** Overall, the project is rated as 'Satisfactory'. A table presenting all performance ratings can be found in Section VI.A.

Lessons Learned

14. <u>Lesson 1:</u> A concerted partnership approach can substantially enhance the breadth and depth of engagement and results delivery while increasing cost-effectiveness.

15. <u>Lesson 2:</u> A decentralised delivery strategy can enable a global project to adapt support better to the local context, engage more deeply with countries, and enhance South-South peer learning.

16. <u>Lesson 3:</u> It can be difficult to strengthen the coordination among support providers and build effective shared platforms despite a clear and well-understood added value and genuine interest.

Recommendations

17. Recommendation 1: Further increase the capacity of CBIT-GSP to respond to an anticipated increased demand and need for support for BTR preparation.
18. Recommendation 2: Further ramp up efforts to promote strengthened coordination of climate transparency support providers.
19. Recommendation 3: Review indicators and end targets.
20. Recommendation 4: Explore opportunities for enhancing the profile of human rights and gender in CBIT-GSP II

I. PROJECT OVERVIEW

21. **Project problem and justification:** Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) have committed to periodically submit reports to the Convention. Moreover, the reporting requirements under UNFCCC have become more sophisticated and comprehensive over the years. Article 13 of the Paris Agreement requires Non-Annex I Parties to establish Enhanced Transparency Frameworks (ETF) providing a clear overview of their progress on climate action and the support that they receive. At the same time, ETF presents an opportunity to streamline measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) activities by approaching the common elements of transparency activities in a holistic way. This approach can thus reduce the time burden and financial burden on developing countries. All Non-Annex I Parties are committed to submit National Communications (NCs), Biennial Update Reports (BURs), and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Moreover, Parties to the Paris Agreement are required to submit their first Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) no later than 31 December 2024; the BTRs will replace the BURs. Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) may submit information required for BTRs at their discretion.

22. However, while various reports to UNFCCC have been prepared for many years, many non-Annex I Parties still face significant capacity constraints vis-à-vis the preparation and submission of quality reports on a regular basis. Many countries have relied on (international) consultants for the preparation of the reports, with limited scope for strengthening national reporting capacities and building up national structures. Many Non-Annex I Parties have established institutional frameworks for handling reporting to UNFCCC, but still face several challenges vis-à-vis the compliance with current and future reporting requirements, such as:

- Insufficient institutional arrangements for data collection, analysis, and reporting
- Gaps in data availability and data sharing
- Gaps between the information presented in country reporting and the country's climate policies and programmes
- Insufficient arrangements for inter-agency decision-making bodies on climate change and country ownership of reporting processes
- Insufficient progress on the transition to ongoing, country-owned, self-funded arrangements for reporting

23. Technical capacity constraints vis-à-vis reporting

- Gaps in GHG inventories and insufficient progress towards universal use of the 2006 IPCC good practice guidelines
- Insufficient processes for stakeholder consultation
- Insufficient collection of gender-disaggregated data, understanding of the gender implications of mitigation and adaptation measures, and mainstreaming of gender issues and participation of women in climate policies and institutions

24. **Institutional context of the project:** Originally, the Global Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) Platform Phase II (CBIT-GSP II) was intended as a single project receiving a one GEF grant. However, the funding was provided as two separate grants as a) the GEF had funding available under two different windows, and b) a medium-sized grant would enable an earlier start bridging the period between the first phase and the full-sized grant for CBIT-GSP II. Hence, two projects, CBIT-GSP IIA (IIA) and CBIT-GSP IIB (IIB) with separate grants, results frameworks and reporting, were initiated. However, in practice, the two projects are closely intertwined in the implementation, with a shared overall objective and using the same implementation, execution and management structure and staff. To partners and beneficiaries, the

two projects appear as a single initiative. The separation into two projects is thus purely administrative (financially and reporting-wise), whereas technically they are implemented as one initiative, which henceforth will be referred to as CBIT-GSP II.

25. The GEF implementing entity is the GEF Climate Change Mitigation Unit of UNEP's Climate Change Division (formerly the Industry and Economy Division), and the executing entity at the global level was initially the UNEP-DTU Partnership (UDP, administered by the Technical University of Denmark) and currently UNEP-CCC, which is administered by UNOPS, following the executive decision to transfer the UNEP DTU Partnership from the Technical University of Denmark (DTU) to UNOPS.

26. At the national level, CBIT-GSP II activities are executed by the participating countries' designated government focal institutions for climate change and UNFCCC. CBIT-GSP II does not target specific countries but is open to participation of all interested developing countries, i.e. all Non-Annex I parties to the UNFCCC.

27. CBIT-GSP IIA was endorsed by the GEF Chief Executive Officer (CEO) on 12 July 2021 and implementation started on 13 May 2020. CBIT-GSP IIB was endorsed by the GEF Chief Executive Officer (CEO) on 18 December 2021 and implementation started on 01June 2022. IIA was scheduled for completion on 31 October 2024, but extended by one year, to 31 October 2025. IIB is scheduled for completion on 31 March 2027.

28. **Project management:** Figure 1 below depicts the management setup for CBIT-GSP II.

29. Project Steering Committee (PSC): The PSC comprise representatives from UNEP, UNEP-CCC, the UNFCCC Secretariat, the GEF Secretariat, one representative from other GEF Implementing Agencies working on climate transparency, two representatives from Non-Annex I Parties participating in CBIT-GSP II, and one representative from Annex I Parties/development partners. The PSC is intended to meet annually but has only met twice (in November 2023 and October 2024).

30. Executive Meeting Group (EMG): The EMG comprises the responsible senior managers from UNEP and UNEP-CCC. The EMG oversees implementation and is intended to meet twice annually but has only met twice (in 2020 and 2023).

31. Project Management Unit (PMU): The PMU, housed at the UNEP-CCC, is responsible for day-to-day project coordination and implementation, including capacity development, technical advisory. It comprises a Project Coordinator and Project Assistant recruited by UNEP-CCC. The PMU is supported by a UNEP-appointed Project Liaison housed by UNEP-CCC.

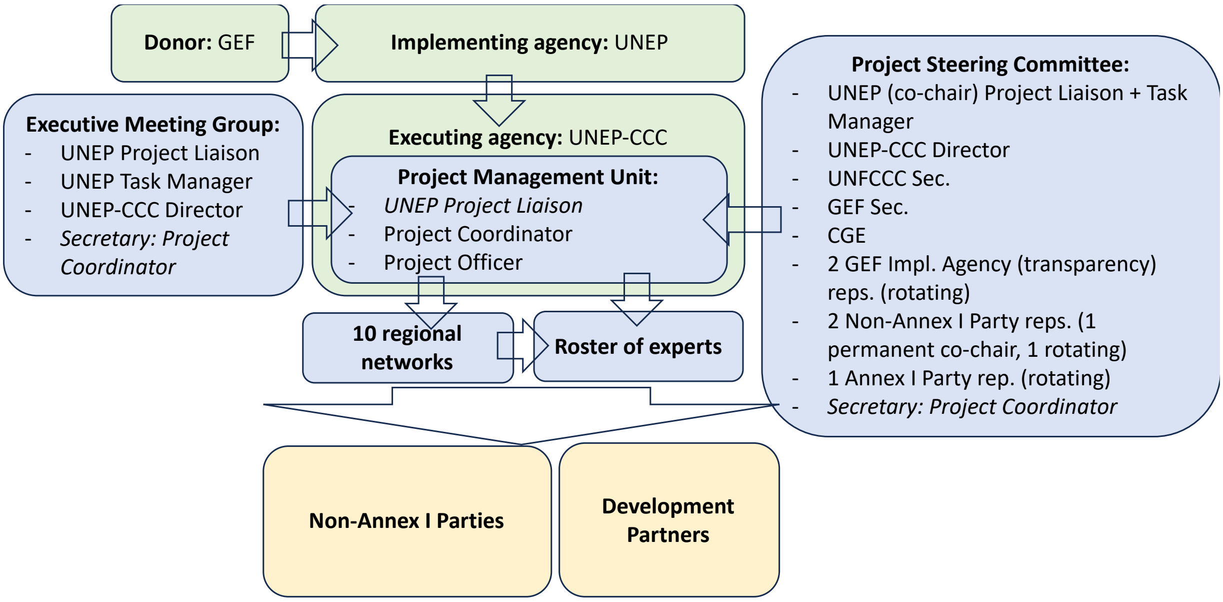
32. Regional networks: Ten regional networks are responsible for providing technical advice for countries in their region and for facilitating regional-level project activities. Nine networks were established between 2016 and 2020 (several established under GSP), whereas the Middle East and North Africa network was established under CBIT-GSP II. Each network has a full-time coordinator (except Central Asia and Caucasus, which has a 60 pct. time coordinator). The coordination arrangements are as follows.

33. Eight networks are coordinated by consultants contracted by CBIT-GSP II, each covering one of the following regions: Anglophone Africa, Anglophone Caribbean, Asia, Central Asia and Caucasus, Eurasia, Middle East and North Africa, the Pacific, Spanish-Speaking Latin America and Caribbean

    - Two networks are coordinated by Coordinators recruited by UNDP under the UNDP Climate Promise: Francophone and Lusophone Clusters. Unlike the other networks, the language clusters are not funded by the GEF grant, but with a contribution from Belgium to UNDP. However, at the technical level, their participation in, and reporting to, CBIT-GSP II is identical to that of the other networks.

34. Roster of experts: CBIT-GSP II maintains a roster of experts with relevant expertise, which can be mobilised to: a) conduct desk reviews of draft BTRs, NCs, and BURs; b) provide targeted on-demand support to countries; c) conduct regional training; and d) provided follow-up support.

Figure 1: Organigram of the project with key project stakeholders



35. **Project objectives:** The CBIT-GSP II **objectives** are as follows:

- IIA: *"To provide global streamlined support, capacity building and coordination to help developing countries meet enhanced transparency requirements under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement"*

36. IIB: *"To provide streamlined support and capacity building at the country, regional, and global level to enable Non-Annex I countries under the UNFCCC and developing countries under the Paris Agreement to better respond to reporting requirements and to catalyze increased ambition within country NDCs to contribute to the stated temperature goal of well below 2 degrees and if possible 1.5 degrees"*

37. It should be noted that while the objectives of IIA and IIB are phrased with some difference, the focus and essence is the same for both.

38. IIA and IIB each comprise three **components**

- IIA:
  39. Component 1: *Streamlined knowledge development and delivery in support of Article 13*
  40. Component 2: *Global stakeholder outreach and dissemination of best practices*
  41. Component 3: *Knowledge management and monitoring and evaluation (M&E)*

- IIB:
  42. Component 1: *Capacity strengthening for developing countries through customized support and South-South sub-regional peer networks and learning to support current and future reporting requirements*
  43. Component 2: *Ongoing development and delivery of knowledge in support of Article 13*
  44. Component 3: *Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)*

45. IIA and IIB are expected to deliver the outcomes and **outputs** presented in table 2.

Table 2: Project outcomes and outputs

Outcome	Output
IIA	
Outcome 1: *Developing countries and practitioners increasingly access and use information and knowledge on new and existing reporting requirements*	1.1 Existing Global Support Program (GSP) and CBIT platforms merged and redesigned into an integrated web platform
	1.2 Platform content and features maintained and updated regularly
	1.3 Knowledge products on the Paris Rulebook and other reporting under the UNFCCC, including associated training modules, updated, developed, and customized
Outcome 2: *Developing countries can document and share progress, support needed and received, and good practice on Article 13 implementation, including gender mainstreaming*	2.1 Annual stocktaking of progress, capacity needs, and support to all non-Annex I countries conducted
	2.2 COP side events and outreach efforts organized to disseminate results
	2.3 Coordination among support providers facilitated
	2.4 Assistance provided to countries with integrating the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan into enhanced transparency frameworks
	2.5 Fostering of south-south peer exchange in climate transparency actions in the LAC region piloted
Outcome 3: N/A	N/A
IIB	
Outcome 1: *Developing countries have improved capacity to undertake measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) and enhanced transparency framework (ETF) activities*	1.1 Assistance provided to countries with development and reviews of climate change reporting and documentation upon request
	1.2 Regional and sub-regional MRV/Transparency networks maintained and strengthened
	1.3 Training provided to address gaps and needs as they are identified
	1.4 South-South support and technical backstopping to support the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region in meeting existing MRV requirements and building capacity to meet future transparency requirements
Outcome 2: *Developing countries increasingly access information and get knowledge in support of Article 13 of the Paris Agreement*	2.1 Integrated Platform content and features managed and updated regularly
	2.2 Paris Rulebook knowledge products including training modules updated, developed, and customized
Outcome 3: *Project management and approaches to country reporting are informed by M&E*	3.1 Project monitored to support results-based management
	3.2 Knowledge and lessons learned generated

Source: CEO Endorsement Request (2021)

46. No subsequent revisions were made to the objectives, outcomes, or outputs, but some changes were made at the activity-level in the first revision of IIB. This revision also included an extension of the project completion date and adjustment of the annual budgets to reflect actual spending. For IIA, four revisions were made, which concerned extension of the project completion date, adjustment of annual budgets to reflect actual spending, transfer of funds from UDP/DTU to UNEP-CCC/UNOPS, ad to amend the institutional arrangements due to the UDP/DTU-UNEP-CCC/UNOPS transition.

47. **Stakeholders:** Table 3 presents the main stakeholders and their interest in, and influence on, CBIT-GSP II implementation.

Table 3: Stakeholder Analysis

Stakeholder	Power over project results/implementation and level of interest	Participation in project design, and how	Role in project	Expected change in behaviour	Power and interest rating*
UNEP	Responsible for project implementation, control over financial resources. Appointed Project Liaison housed by UNEP-CCC.	Yes – led the design process.	Project oversight, reporting to the GEF. Control over financial resources. Represented in PSC and EMG.	Integration of best practices and experiences from CBIT-GSP II in CBIT-GSP III and other projects.	A
UNEP-CCC (formerly UDP)	Responsible for project execution, control over financial resources. Housing PMU, recruited Project Coordinator and Project Assistant.	Yes – engaged in design process.	Global project management, technical advisory, capacity building, activity planning and execution. Provision of in-kind co-financing. Represented in PSC and EMG.	Integration of best practices and experiences from CBIT-GSP II in CBIT-GSP III and other projects.	A
Regional networks (8 UNEP-CCC, 2 UNDP)	Facilitate regional-level project implementation.	Yes – consulted and provided inputs to the design.	Facilitate regional-level project activities and provide TA for countries.	Integration of best practices and experiences from CBIT-GSP II in CBIT-GSP III.	A
GEF Secretariat	Control over disbursements to the project. Approval of spending. PSC member. Funds national CBIT projects	Yes – reviewed and approved design.	Participate in CBIT-GSP II events at global level, incl. COP and SB side events.	Approval of the integration of CBIT-GSP II lessons in CBIT-GSP III. Funding the implementation of elements of TAPs and NCs.	A
UNFCCC Secretariat	Responsible for supporting the implementation of COP decisions.	Yes – consulted and provided inputs to the design.	Participate in CBIT-GSP II events at global and regional level. Joint activities, provision of resource persons for events. Represented in PSC.	Facilitating follow-up on CBIT-GSP II results and lessons in UNFCCC processes	C

Stakeholder	Power over project results/implementation and level of interest	Participation in project design, and how	Role in project	Expected change in behaviour	Power and interest rating*
CGE (Consultative Group of Experts)	Technical guidance vis-à-vis the implementation of MRV/transparency commitments under UNFCCC.	Yes – consulted and provided inputs to the design.	Participate in CBIT-GSP II events at global and regional level. Joint activities, provision of resource persons for events. Represented in PSC.	Facilitating follow-up on CBIT-GSP II results and lessons in UNFCCC processes	C
Non-Annex I Parties *(100+ countries)* – Incl. countries with GEF-funded CBIT projects	Decide whether to participate in project activities. Express needs to project. Decide if/how to implement knowledge and skills obtained.	Yes – views collected by MTRs and FEs of GSP and CBIT-GCP, and in 2019 CBIT global meeting. Participated in 2023 inception workshop.	Primary beneficiaries. Participate on project activities. Use skills and knowledge impacted in national MRV and ETF work. 2 representatives in PSC.	Enhanced national implementation of MRV and ETF, increased compliance with UNFCCC reporting requirements.	A, B, C, or D *(depending on entity)*
Private sector	Decide whether/how to engage in project and in MRV.	No.	May participate in project activities, especially at national and regional levels.	Enhanced engagement in MRV.	C or D *(depending on entity)*
Civil society	Watchdog function, advocacy, engagement in transparency.	No.	May participate in project activities, especially at national and regional levels.	Enhanced engagement in climate transparency.	C or D *(depending on entity)*
Technical experts/consultants (roster)	Contracted under CBIT-GSP II or by countries.	No.	Participate in regional and national-level activities. Provide technical support for national stakeholders.	Technical support for climate transparency beyond the project.	C
ICAT (Initiative for Climate Action Transparency)	Provides in-kind co-financing. Provide climate transparency support to Non-Annex I Parties.	Yes – DTU staff involved in ICAT engaged in design. Participated in 2023 inception workshop.	Participate in global activities and coordination. Joint activities.	Enhanced coordination and sharing of experiences.	C
PATPA (Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement)	Provides climate transparency support to Non-Annex I Parties.	Yes – informed/consulted in ETF Group of Friends meetings. Participated in 2023 inception workshop.	Participate in global, regional activities and coordination.	Enhanced coordination and sharing of experiences.	C

Stakeholder	Power over project results/implementation and level of interest	Participation in project design, and how	Role in project	Expected change in behaviour	Power and interest rating*
UNDP	Finances and administers two regional networks. Provide climate transparency support to Non-Annex I Parties.	Yes – reviewed and approved project designs. Participated in 2023 inception workshop.	Finances and administers two regional networks. Participate in global, regional and in-country activities and coordination.	Integration of best practices and experiences from regional networks. Enhanced coordination and sharing of experiences.	A
GEF Implementing Agencies working on transparency (FAO, Conservation International, IADB, FECO, WWF-US)	Provide climate transparency support to Non-Annex I Parties.	Yes – reviewed and approved project designs. Participated in 2023 inception workshop.	Participate in global, regional and in-country activities and coordination. 1 representative in PSC.	Enhanced coordination and sharing of experiences.	C
Development partners/Annex I Parties engaged in transparency	Provide climate transparency support to Non-Annex I Parties.	Yes – informed/consulted in ETF Group of Friends meetings and 2019 CBIT global meeting. Participated in 2023 inception workshop.	Participate in global activities and coordination. 1 representative in PSC.	Enhanced coordination and sharing of experiences.	C or D *(depending on entity)*

*Power and interest rating:
A: High power / high interest = Key player
B: High power/ low interest = Meet their needs
C: Low power/ high interest = Show consideration
D: Low power /low interest = Least important

48. **External challenges:** The project started during the COVID-19 pandemic, during which training and meetings could only be conducted virtually. The transition from the Technical University of Denmark (DTU) to UNOPS involved terminating contracts of personnel and projects under UDP and moving them to UNEP-CCC and establishing new executing arrangements with UNEP-CCC in 2022. During the transition process, UNEP-CCC could not recruit staff, so key staff were mobilised with consultant contracts, but it was not possible to mobilise to fully cover the project needs. Initially, UNDP was intended to be GEF implementing agency jointly with UNEP, as the predecessor projects/phases (CBIT-GCP and the Global Support Programme (GSP)) had been jointly implemented by UNEP and UNDP, but UNDP decided to leave CBIT-GSP II before implementation commenced due to the institutional change of the executing agency. CBIT-GSP II was initially envisaged as a single grant from the GEF for a full-sized project, but due to delay in the approval by the GEF Secretariat, which delayed the start of the full-sized project, an additional grant for a medium-sized project (CBIT-GSP IIA) to bridge the gap between CBIT-GCP I and the CBIT-GSP IIB full-sized project.

49. **Funding and spending:** The project budgets for IIA and IIB were broken down by project component. However, UMOJA does not provide an overview of spending per component, but only by budget classes, i.e. staff/personnel, transfers/grants to implementing partners, operational other costs, and it is thus not possible to establish the actual spending per component. CBIT-GSP II is supported by the GEF-7 Trust Fund with an allocation of USD 2,000,000 for IIA and USD 6,567,547 for IIB, complemented with an anticipated in-kind co-financing of USD 400,000 for IIA and USD 500,000 for IIB from UNEP-CCC. Spending under IIA has been very low considering the project completion is scheduled for October 2025, whereas spending under IIB appears moderately low with the scheduled completion in March 2027 (see table 4). The low spending is in part due to the lower than anticipated personnel and activity costs in the beginning of the project due to a) the transition of administration from DTU to UNOPS limiting the ability to hire personnel, and b) the COVID-19 pandemic inhibiting the ability to travel and conduct in-person trainings. This in particular affected IIA.

50. As of June 2024, the realised co-financing for IIA was USD 30,000 and for IIB USD 4,273,979. The reported co-financing includes USD 3,273,979 cash co-financing for two of the ten regional networks (Lusophone Cluster, Francophone Cluster), which are managed by UNDP and funded by the Government of Belgium USD 30,000 in cash from ICAT, with the remaining being USD 300,000 in-kind from UNEP. However, the figures on realised co-financing only capture part of the contribution from UNEP-CCC (specifically the contribution from UNEP-CCC's engagement in ICAT), and do not capture the significant cash and in-kind co-financing mobilised from multiple sources (incl. other support providers, GEF enabling activities, national CBIT projects, governments) for numerous joint activities at global, regional, and country level; thus leading to underestimation of the realised co-financing. As such, the reported co-financing realised is highly above target, even if the realised co-financing is under-reported. The high degree of co-financing at least in part

Table 4: Expenditure (as of 30 June 2024)

Project	Estimated cost at design (USD)	Actual Cost/ expenditure (USD)	Expenditure ratio (actual/planned)
CBIT-GSP IIA			
- GEF funding	2,000,000.00	834,000.40	41.8%
- Co-financing	400,000.00	30,000.00	7.5%
CBIT-GSP IIB			
- GEF funding	6,567,547.00	2,113,340.19	32.2%
- Co-financing	500,000.00	4,273,979.00	654.8%

II. REVIEW METHODS

51. The MTR was conducted for IIB as per GEF requirements, whereas no MTR was required for IIA. However, due to the close connection between the two projects, which will be followed by a singly project CBIT-GSP Phase III, the MTR covers both IIA and IIB, in order to capture the complete picture and provide relevant recommendations, taking fully into account the results achieved and challenges experienced.

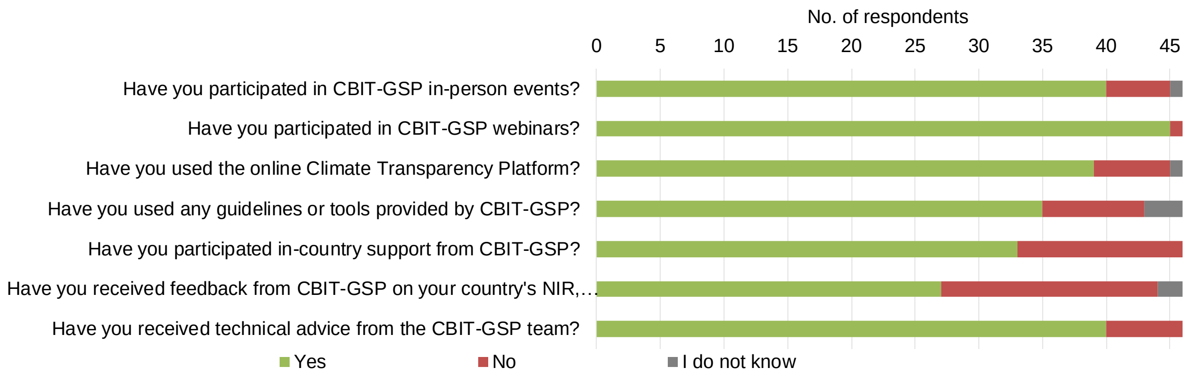
52. Given the close connection between IIA and IIB (see section I), which from a technical perspective are implemented as a single initiative with a shared objective and managed by the same team and given that the next phase of IIA and IIB will be one project (CBIT-GSP III) UNEP decided to conduct a joint MTR covering both projects to ensure a holistic view on the overall initiative is applied in the MTR.

53. The MTR adheres to UNEP/GEF MTR guidelines. The MTR was carried out as a desk evaluation combined with visits to UNEP-CCC, which was initiated on 28 May 2024. The inception report was completed on 30 August 2024 and data were collected and documents reviewed in September 2024 – October 2024. The below combination of qualitative methods was used to gather and triangulate information and thereby ensure their solidity and reduce information gaps.

54. Document and secondary data review: Available project documentation was reviewed (see annex III). The assessment of results (outcomes) utilised the project's own indicators, targets, and monitoring data as much as possible and appropriate.

55. Stakeholder consultation: Interviews and discussions were held with key stakeholders identified by UNEP and UNEP-CCC. UNEP-CCC prepared a long-list of global and regional UNEP and UNEP-CCC staff involved, contact persons for collaborative partners on joint activities, and other key informants. Based on this long-list, a short list with the highest priority individuals was identified, based on the following agreed criteria: a) depth of engagement with the project, b) centrality and importance of their role in the project, and c) ensuring coverage of the key areas of work under the project. At the global level, key staff/representatives at UNEP, UNEP-CCC, UNDP, FAO, ICAT, PATPA, IGES (Institute for Global Environmental Strategies), the UNFCCC Secretariat, and the GEF Secretariat were interviewed. These interviews were semi-structured and guided by evaluative questions and indicators. Of the ten CBT-GSP Regional Network Coordinators, three (2 women, 1 man) were interviewed (randomly selected, but omitting the two networks that were established recently). Interviews with UNEP-CCC staff were carried out in person in Copenhagen, whereas all other interviews were carried out virtually. A total of 34 persons (23 women, 11 men) were interviewed. See Annex II for a list of interviewees. Moreover, the National CBIT Focal Points from all Non-Annex I Parties to the UNFCCC were invited to complete an online survey. A total of 46 respondents (23 women, 22 men, 1 unknown) filled out the survey. However, after receiving 17 responses, it was realised that the survey needed to be adjusted, hence, for some questions, only 29 responses are available. Most of the respondents have participated in both global/regional and country-specific CBIT-GSP II activities (see figure 2).

Figure 2: Survey respondent participation in CBIT-GSP activities



56. Analysis and reporting: The analysis of findings was an iterative process throughout the MTR. Information and data from different written and oral sources were compared and triangulated. Initial findings and recommendations were discussed with stakeholders as the MTR progressed, to ensure their validity and appropriateness, as well as stakeholder participation and ownership. Key stakeholders in UNEP and UNEP-CCC were provided with the opportunity to comment on the draft evaluation report. Due to the policy and capacity development nature of the project, most information and data was qualitative. Information from the survey was used for quantitative analysis.

57. The Terms of Reference (ToR) provided a comprehensive set of strategic questions and evaluation criteria for the MTR. These were further crystallised with indicators and data sources.

58. Performance was rated using the standard UNEP rating method, criteria, and calculation tool.

59. **Ethics and human rights:** Throughout the MTR process and in the compilation of the MTR report, effort was made to represent the views of all stakeholders. Data were collected with respect to ethics and human rights issues. All information was gathered after prior informed consent from people, all discussions and survey responses were kept anonymous, and all information was collected according to the UN Standards of Conduct.

60. **Limitations:** Stakeholder consultations were mainly virtual interviews, only stakeholders based in Copenhagen were met in person. The MTR consultant was not able interview country representatives and beneficiaries that have participated in CBIT-GSP II. Considering the very diverse contexts and specificities of each region and participating country, the general picture obtained by the MTR consultant may not be fully applicable for all regions. The online survey was a tool to mitigate this limitation and enabled broader participation. The MTR consultant did not visit the participating countries and was thus not able to make a detailed assessment/verification of the application of the skills and capacities gained at the national level or obtain the perspectives of a broader selection of national stakeholders, nor was the MTR consultant able to make an in-depth assessment of other factors promoting or inhibiting the application of the skills and capacities at the country level.

61. The various questions and categories in the GEF tracking tool for mitigation and adaption were of limited applicability to CBIT-GSP II, as it does not engage in the implementation of tangible mitigation or adaptation actions.

62. Auditing of the finances of the project is done as part of the overall UNEP and UNEP-CCC auditing, as per the rules and regulations for each institution. Internally executed projects are not audited. No separate statements have been made on the project as part

of the overall UNEP and UNEP-CCC audits. This limited the ability of the MTR to assess financial management and compliance with GEF procedures.

III. THEORY OF CHANGE

Theory of Change at Review

63. Separate Theories of Change (ToCs) diagrams and results frameworks (RFs) were elaborated for IIA and IIB. Annex XI provides a detailed assessment of the ToCs and RFs. The ToCs and RFs are aligned at the outcome and output levels for each phase, respectively, but the objective statements in the RFs are not fully aligned with the higher levels of the ToCs (impacts, intermediate states). The expected results of the project are clearly articulated, but the ToCs and results frameworks contain some inconsistencies, and several outcomes and outputs are phrased as activities rather than results. There are also some inconsistencies in relation to the impact drivers and assumptions. Due to the inconsistencies and to provide a single ToC for CBIT-GSP II (given that IIA and IIB are closely related) to guide the MTR, a "reconstructed ToC" was elaborated to ensure that there is a consistent and clear conceptual understanding of the project impact pathways that can guide the MTR; this diagram is presented in figure 3. Table 5 provides an overview of the changes made and justifications for these.

64. It should be noted that CBIT-GSP II focuses on global and regional capacity development and information sharing, short-term training and technical feedback on draft documents, it does not directly engage in projects at the country level. Hence, while CBIT-GSP II contributes with increased capacities, it has little influence on whether national stakeholders choose to access and apply the knowledge and skills imparted. Therefore, while the delivery of the intended outputs can be attributed to CBIT-GSP II, the CBIT-GSP II cannot on its own be held fully accountable for the achievement of the intended outcomes or lack thereof.

65. The risks identified in the risks matrices of IIA and IIB are generally appropriate and relevant, although the climate/extreme weather risk identified for IIB appears highly unlikely to significantly impact on the project and probably unnecessary to include.

66. Neither the ToCs nor the results frameworks reflect human rights issues, whereas gender is reflected in outcome 2 of IIA, in particular with output 2.4 having a gender focus. This is also reflected in the reconstructed ToC. However, as the project does not engage in on-the-ground climate action or in policy development but only supported capacity development vis-à-vis data collection and reporting to UNFCCC, the potential gender and human rights impact are limited, and the main entry point is, as already captured, to support the mainstreaming of gender aspects into the reporting process.

Table 5: Justification for Reformulation of Results Statements

Original ToCs/RFs	Reconstructed ToC at Review	Justification for Reformulation
	Impact	
IIA: Countries reduce GHG emissions	Reduced GHG emissions in participating countries	Appropriate impact – but should be phrased as a result rather than an action.
IIA: Countries improve their resilience to climate change	Enhanced resilience of participating countries to the impacts of climate change	Appropriate impact – but should be phrased as a result rather than an action.

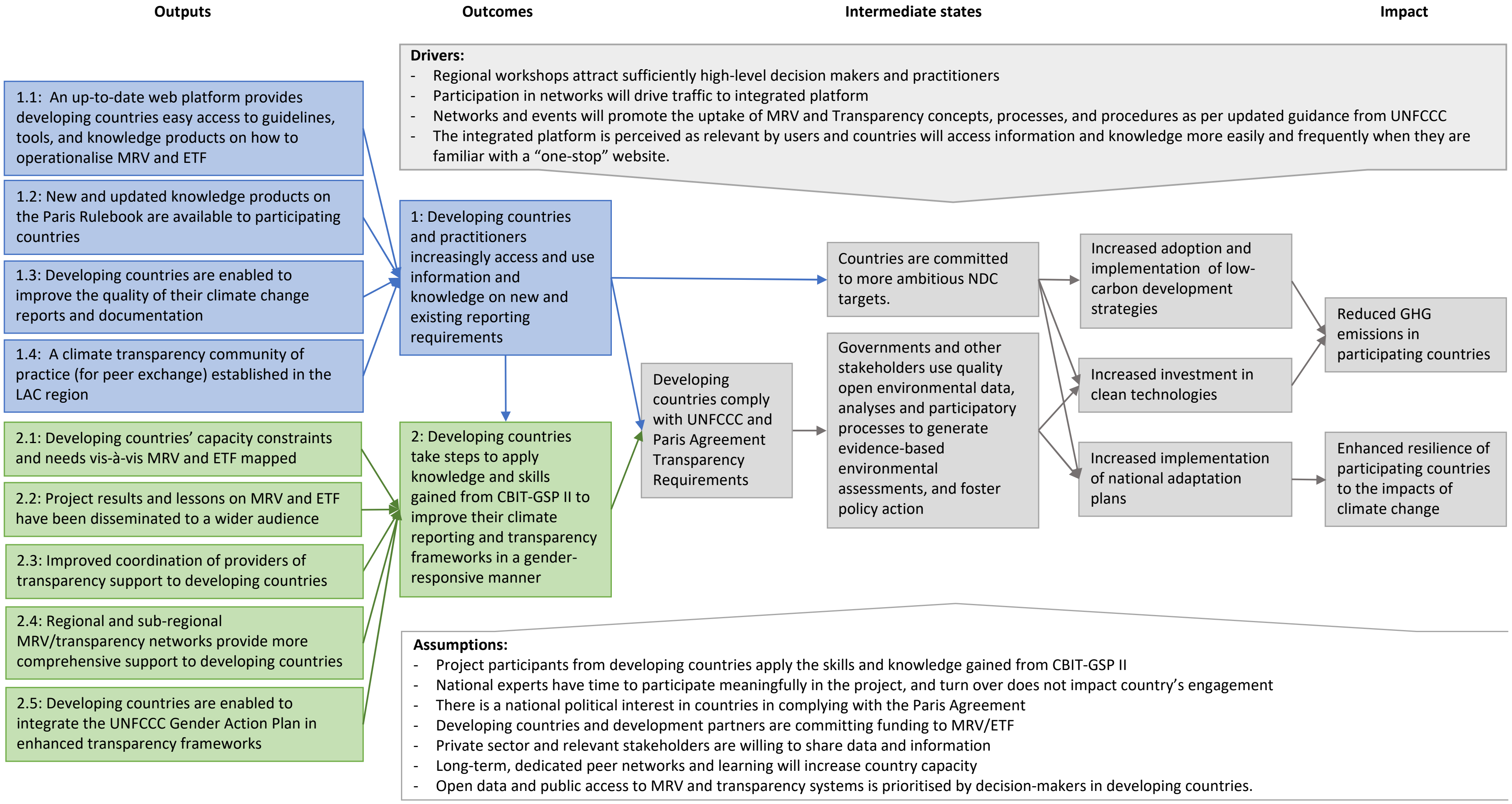
Original ToCs/RFs	Reconstructed ToC at Review	Justification for Reformulation
IIB: Climate Change actions taken by countries are measurable, properly reported and verifiable.		An intermediate state rather than a tangible impact on GHG emissions or resilience. Unprecise phrasing – does it mean that the types of actions taken measurable and verifiable, or that the countries are actually measuring, reporting and verifying the actions? *(feedback from UNEP confirms it is the latter)*
Intermediate states		
IIA: Countries increasingly adopt and implement low greenhouse gas emission development strategies and invest in clean technologies	Increased adoption and implementation of low-carbon development strategies Increased investment in clean technologies	Appropriate intermediate state, but a composite of two intermediate Should be phrased as a result rather than an action.
IIA: Countries increasingly advance their national adaptation plans	Increased implementation of national adaptation plans	Appropriate intermediate state – but should be phrased as a result rather than an action.
IIA: Developing countries are in a position to set more ambitious NDC targets	Countries are committed to more ambitious NDC targets.	"In a position to" I, insufficiently results-oriented. Should be phrased as a result.
IIA/IIB: Governments and other stakeholders use quality open environmental data, analyses and participatory processes to generate evidence-based environmental assessments, and foster policy action		N/A
IIB: Developing countries comply with UNFCCC and Paris Agreement Transparency Requirements		N/A
IIB: Developing countries improve climate data and transparency related processes		Too unspecific.
IIB: Developing countries share and scale-up experiences		Sharing of experience is an activity (or could be phrased as an output), not an intermediate state. Upscaling experiences is unspecific and may or may not be an intermediate state, depending on what "experiences" specifically refers to – but would be better encapsulated in more specific intermediate states to which the upscaling contributes.
Outcomes		
IIA outcome 1/IIB outcome 2: Developing countries and practitioners increasingly access and use information and knowledge on new and existing reporting requirements		N/A
IIA outcome 2: Developing countries can document and share progress, support needed and received, and good practice on Article 13 implementation, including gender mainstreaming	Developing countries take steps to apply knowledge and skills gained from CBIT-GSP II to improve their climate reporting and transparency frameworks in a gender-responsive manner	Appropriate outcome, if focused on tangible result rather than capacity, i.e.: "*Developing countries ~~can~~ document and share progress…*". Similar to IIB outcome 1.
IIB outcome 1: Developing countries have improved capacity to undertake measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) and enhanced transparency framework (ETF) activities		Capacity is not an outcome, but a direct output of capacity development. Improved capacity only leads to outcomes, if the capacity is put into good use.

Original ToCs/RFs	Reconstructed ToC at Review	Justification for Reformulation
IIB outcome 3: Project management and approaches to country reporting are informed by M&E		Not an outcome – related to project management.
	Outputs	
IIA output 1.1: Existing Global Support Program (GSP) and CBIT platforms merged and redesigned into an integrated web platform	1.1: An up-to-date web platform provides developing countries with easy access to guidelines, tools, and knowledge products on how to operationalise MRV and ETF	Not phrased as an output but as an activity. Does not directly lead to outcome 1 – the merger is related to project management arrangements/ structures.
IIA output 1.2/IIB output 2.1: (Integrated) platform content and features maintained and updated regularly		Not phrased as an output but as an activity.
IIA output 1.3/IIB output 2.2: Paris Rulebook knowledge products including training modules updated, developed, and customized	1.2: New and updated knowledge products on the Paris Rulebook are available to participating countries	Partly phrased as activities rather than a specific output.
IIA output 2.1: Annual stocktaking of progress, capacity needs, and support to all non-Annex I countries conducted	2.1: Developing countries' capacity constraints and needs vis-à-vis MRV and ETF mapped	Not phrased as an output but as activities.
IIA output 2.2: COP side events and outreach efforts organized to disseminate results	2.2: Project results and lessons on MRV and ETF have been disseminated to a wider audience	Not phrased as an output but as activities.
IIA output 2.3: Coordination among support providers facilitated	2.3: Improved coordination of providers of transparency support to developing countries	Not phrased as an output but as an activity.
IIA output 2.4: Assistance provided to countries with integrating the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan into enhanced transparency frameworks	2.5: Developing countries are enabled to integrate the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan in enhanced transparency frameworks	Not phrased as an output but as an activity.
IIA output 2.5: Fostering of south-south peer exchange in climate transparency actions in the LAC region piloted	1.4: A climate transparency community of practice (for peer exchange) established in the LAC region	Not phrased as an output but as an activity.
IIB output 1.1: Assistance provided to countries with development and reviews of climate change reporting and documentation upon request	1.3: Developing countries are enabled to improve the quality of their climate change reports and documentation	Not phrased as an output but as an activity.
IIB output 1.3: Training provided to address gaps and needs as they are identified		Not phrased as an output but as an activity.
IIB output 1.2: Regional and sub-regional MRV/Transparency networks maintained and strengthened	2.4: Regional and sub-regional MRV/transparency networks provide more comprehensive support to developing countries	Not phrased as an output but as an activity.
IIB output 1.4: South-South support and technical backstopping to support the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region in meeting existing MRV requirements and building capacity to meet future transparency requirements		Not phrased as an output but as an activity. While the MENA region needs special attention, the underlying activities are similar to those under the other outputs, hence a separate output is not needed.

Original ToCs/RFs	Reconstructed ToC at Review	Justification for Reformulation
IIB output 3.1: Project monitored to support results based management		Not an output – related to project management. ***Note:*** *The GEF Secretariat requests that M&E is included in the project outputs – but is not meaningful to include this in the MTR assessment of effectiveness/results. The UNEP MTR methodology has a specific section for assessment of M&E, where it will be covered*
IIB output 3.2: Knowledge and lessons learned generated		Too unspecific and generic.
Drivers		
IIB impact: Continued development and elaboration of Paris Agreement Modalities, Procedures and Guidelines (MPGs) drives more robust Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)		Does not seem to be an important precondition vis-à-vis achieving the intended results of the project, which mainly relates to already existing commitments.
IIA intermediate state: Efficient strategies are developed to comply with the Paris Agreement over time		Does not seem to be an important precondition vis-à-vis achieving the intended results of the project, which mainly relates to already existing commitments.
IIA intermediate state: There is sufficient and sustainable budget allocated for transparency		An assumption rather than a driver (the project has little influence on national and development partner budgets). Unrealistic expectation for financially constrained developing countries, where all aspects of public services are underfunded. Partly duplicates an assumption for intermediate state (B): "*sufficient and sustainable funding for climate action*"
IIB intermediate state: Regional workshops attract sufficiently high-level decision makers and practitioners		Appropriate driver.
IIB intermediate state: COVID-19 global pandemic does not reduce country's interest on Climate Change		Implications of COVID-19 are risk, and should have been pegged as such, instead of indicating than the absence of such implications as a driver or assumption (the project has little influence on national political priorities). An outdated risk/assumption at the time of the MTR given the pandemic is over.
IIB outcome 1/intermediate state: National experts have time to participate meaningfully in the project, and turn over does not impact country's engagement	*Included as an assumption.*	An assumption rather than a driver (the project has no influence on turnover, and little influence on expert availability, unless they are hired by the project for more than short-term inputs).
IIB outcome 2 : Participation in networks will drive traffic to integrated platform		Appropriate driver
Assumptions		

<table>
<tr><th>Original ToCs/RFs</th><th>Reconstructed ToC at Review</th><th>Justification for Reformulation</th></tr>
<tr><td>IIA intermediate state: There is a national political interest in countries to comply with the Paris Agreement</td><td>There is a national political interest in countries in complying with the Paris Agreement</td><td>Appropriate assumption.</td></tr>
<tr><td>IIA intermediate state: There is sufficient and sustainable funding for climate change actions</td><td>Developing countries and development partners are committing funding to MRV/ETF</td><td>Unrealistic expectation for financially constrained developing countries, where all aspects of public services are underfunded.
"Climate action" is overly broad vis-à-vis the intended project results.</td></tr>
<tr><td>IIA intermediate state: The relevant actors are committed to the project and have the necessary means to mainstream climate action into decision-making</td><td></td><td>Composite of two assumptions: 1) commitment, 2) Necessary means.
Commitment overlaps with the assumption on political interest.
"Necessary means" is too unspecific and overlaps with assumption on funding.
"Mainstream climate action" is overly broad vis-à-vis the intended project results.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">IIA intermediate state: Private sector and relevant stakeholders are willing to share data and information</td><td>Appropriate assumption.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">IIB intermediate state: Long-term, dedicated peer networks and learning will increase country capacity</td><td>Appropriate assumption.</td></tr>
<tr><td>IIB intermediate state: Open data and public access is prioritized for MRV and transparency systems.</td><td>Open data and public access to MRV and transparency systems is prioritised by decision-makers in developing countries.</td><td>Appropriate assumption, but it is unclear who it is that needs to prioritise MRV.</td></tr>
<tr><td>IIB intermediate state: Networks and events will promote the uptake of MRV and Transparency concepts, processes, and procedures as per updated guidance from UNFCCC</td><td>Included as a driver.</td><td>A driver rather than an assumption, as the project can influence this.</td></tr>
<tr><td>IIB outcome 2: The integrated platform is perceived as relevant by users and countries will access information and knowledge more easily and frequently when they are familiar with a "one-stop" website.</td><td>Included as a driver.</td><td>A driver rather than an assumption, since the project can influence this through the contents and promoting the platform.</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>Project participants from developing countries apply the skills and knowledge gained from CBIT-GSP II</td><td>CBIT-GSP II has no direct influence on whether national stakeholders choose to access and apply the knowledge and skills imparted.</td></tr>
</table>

Figure 3: Reconstructed ToC



IV. REVIEW FINDINGS

A. Strategic Relevance

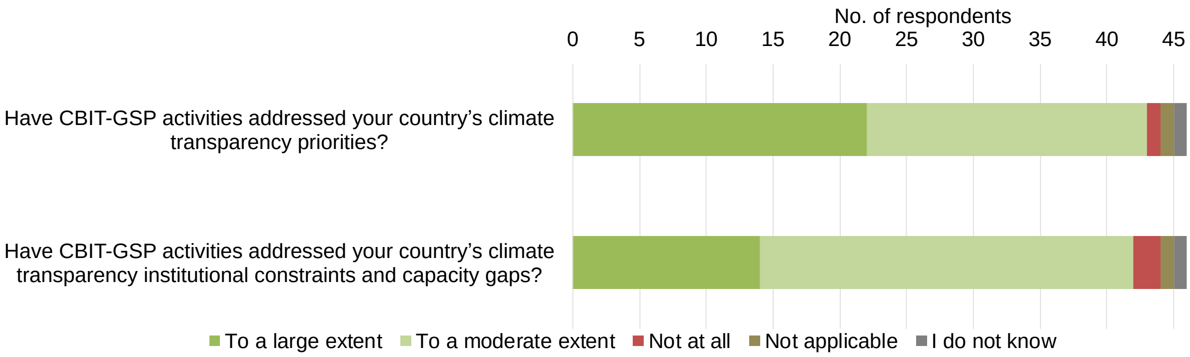
Alignment to UNEP's, Donors and Country (global, regional, sub-regional and national) Strategic Priorities

67. CBIT-GSP II falls under the 2018-2021 Medium Term Strategy, aiming to contribute to the following expected objective under Sub-programme 1 – climate change: "*Countries increasingly transition to low-emission economic development and enhance their adaptation and resilience to climate change*". The project contributes to the 2022-2023 Programme of Work's Climate Change Output: "*Transparency and accountability of government and non-government climate action, including from the private sector and the financial community, are strengthened*". Moreover, the project contributes to the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building (BSP) and South-South Cooperation (S-SC), as it provides opportunities for South-South networking, learning and experience sharing, mainly through its ten regional networks.

68. The project responds directly to decisions made by the Parties to the UNFCCC vis-à-vis the provision of technical and capacity development support for reporting to the Convention as well as for the implementing the enhanced transparency framework at the country level, mandating the GEF to finance such support.

69. Almost all National CBIT Focal Points responding to the survey reported that CBIT-GSP addressed the climate transparency priorities of their county (see figure 4). Half the respondents found that this is the case to a significant degree, whereas most of the remainder found this being the case to a moderate extent. Moreover, most survey respondents found that the project addressed the institutional constraints and gaps facing their country, albeit with the majority reporting this being the case to a moderate extent. Considering that CBIT-GSP II is open to all 170+ Non-Annex I Parties and does not include long-term engagement at the country level, the level of engagement in addressing national priorities can be considered fairly high.

Figure 4: Responsiveness to country priorities and needs



Rating for Alignment to UNEP's, Donors and Country (global, regional, sub-regional and national) Strategic Priorities: Satisfactory

Complementarity/Coherence with Existing Interventions

70. The most prominent and longer-term complementarity is with UNDP and the Government of Belgium, which manage and support two of the ten regional networks, the Lusophone Cluster and the Francophone Cluster. These two networks are fully

part of the CBIT-GSP II delivery, but their coordinators are employed by UNDP despite working full-time on the project. Moreover, the regional and country-level activities implemented by these two networks are funded by Belgium. Hence, while UNDP is no longer an implementing entity of the project, it remains a key partner for the CBIT-GSP II.

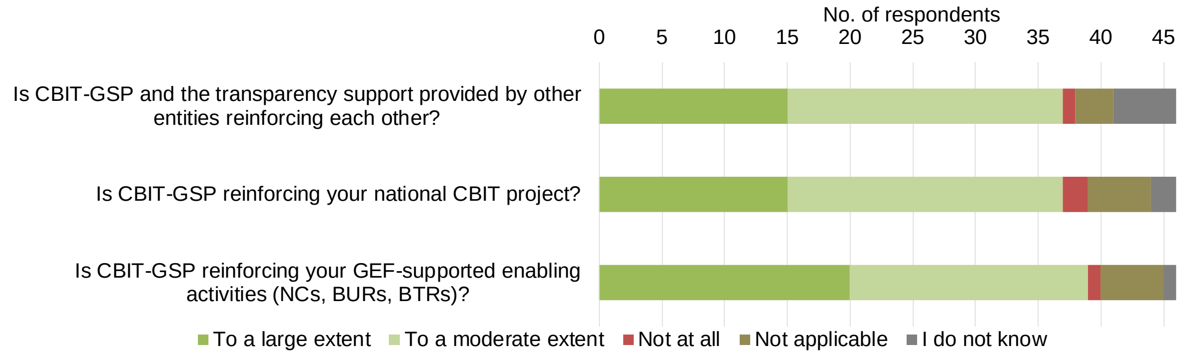
71. A central feature of the implementation strategy applied in the project is a partnership approach. The partnership approach enables CBIT-GSP II to engage in a much larger number of activities than it could using only internal resources and is also essential for the ability of the project to engage at the country level.

72. Most workshops and trainings at global and regional level are joint efforts with partners, typically other climate transparency support providers. There has also been joint implementation of e-learning courses. At the technical level, there is division of labour where each partner covers specific elements of the cooperation, based on their comparative strengths. At the financial level, the costs are shared in different ways, with a combination of cash and in-kind (staff time) contributions from each partner. The specific division of labour and costs is activity-specific and varies a lot, in some cases CBIT-GSP II provides mainly technical inputs, whereas in other cases, CBIT-GSP II has a lead role vis-à-vis the planning and logistics. CBIT-GSP has engaged in joint activities with several partners, incl.: the UNFCCC Secretariat, PATPA, IGES (Institute for Global Environmental Strategies), the Environmental Protection Agency of the United States of America, the European Environment Agency, ReCATH (Regional Climate Action Transparency Hub for Central Asia), the African Union Commission, IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), A6IP (Paris Agreement Article 6 Implementation Partnership), COMESA (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa), the Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Research Center of Korea, GHGMI (Greenhouse Gas Management Institute), and Citepa (Technical Reference Center for Air Pollution and Climate Change, France).

73. Overall, CBIT-GSP II complements the UNFCCC Secretariat's efforts to enhance countries' reporting to the Convention, by providing technical advisory, tools, and capacity development. In particular, CBIT-GSP and the UNFCCC Secretariat have jointly conducted regional trainings on the use and application of the new tools developed by the UNFCCC Secretariat for reporting under the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) of the Convention.

74. Similarly, in-country training workshops are always implemented with partners with a presence in the country, with logistics and in-country costs being handled by the national partners and CBIT-GSP II providing technical expertise and leading on the training contents. In-country trainings are typically implemented on cooperation with, and with co-financing from, national CBIT projects or national enabling activities. However, in some cases in-country activities are jointly implemented with other international support providers. The in-country engagement of CBIT-GSP II is also in collaboration with national CBIT projects and enabling activities, which are supported by other agencies than UNEP, in particular UNDP (UNEP and UNDP are the two principal providers of such support, although FAO and other agencies also support a smaller number of countries). According to most survey respondents, the country-specific trainings have reinforced their national CBIT projects and enabling activities, at least to a moderate extent, and in some cases to a large extent (see figure 5). Reportedly, CBIT-GSP has also reached several countries that do not have ongoing national (or regional) CBIT projects. The same applies to the transparency support provided by other support providers. Considering the short-term nature of CBIT-GSP II in-country support, it is understandable that the reinforcement in many cases is moderate.

Figure 5: Coherence with other climate transparency interventions at country level



75. CBIT-GSP II also contributes towards improving the information-sharing and coordination among climate transparency support providers, e.g. vis-à-vis avoiding conflicting timing of support and duplication of effort. Countries often approach different support providers with similar support requests, and coordination has proven to be a challenge. The project team participates in the UNFCCC Secretariat-led ETF Group of Friends, which is an informal forum for sharing and coordination among support providers. However, the largest contribution made by the project towards improved coordination is the establishment of the online Climate Transparency Platform (https://climate-transparency-platform.org/), which is intended to serve as a one-stop entry point for seeking information and support for climate transparency. A key feature of the platform is that it serves as a single-entry point for countries to apply for support from all support providers, who can then access all requests, see which requests are already being served, and respond to relevant requests. This function is appreciated by support providers. The platform also contains a roster of climate transparency experts, which can be easily accessed by countries and organisations. The platform also contains a calendar, where support provider can post upcoming events, but reportedly this function is not used systematically by a number of support providers. Moreover, the platform provides each support provider with a distinct web-page, where the support providers can present themselves and their work, provide contact information for countries, and upload knowledge products. However, given that the support providers have their own websites, which they tend to focus their attention on, the level of use of this function on the Climate Transparency Platform varies considerably. There is also a page for announcing upcoming opportunities. One reason for the uneven use of the platform appears to be that some perceive the platform as primarily being a website specifically for the CBIT-GSP project, rather than a fully shared platform, a perception that is linked to the fact that some sections on the platform are CBIT-GSP specific or mainly CBIT-GSP focused.

76. A new development is that Azerbaijan, the host country for UNFCCC COP29 (November 2024) launched in September 2024 the Baku Global Climate Transparency Platform, which aims to support countries in preparing BTRs and encourage participation in the ETF. The potential implications of this development for CBIT-GSP II and the scope for synergy are not yet clear.

Rating for Complementarity/Coherence with Existing Interventions: Highly Satisfactory

Rating for Strategic Relevance:	**Satisfactory**

B. Quality & Revision of Project Design

77. The overall project strategy, theories of change, results frameworks, and intended results are clear and logical, albeit with the shortcomings described Section III. No revisions have been made to the results frameworks, but some changes were made at the activity-level in the first revision of IIB. In the results frameworks, indicators and targets are defined for the project outcomes, but not for the outputs, however, several indicators are in practice output rather than outcome oriented. For the larger part, the indicators are appropriate, Annex XI provides a detailed assessment of the indicators. The risks identified in the risk matrices are generally appropriate and relevant, although the climate/extreme weather risk identified for IIB appears highly unlikely to significantly impact on the project given its global nature and thus unnecessary to include. Overall, the project is a low-risk one due to its global nature and its focus on capacity development for UNFCCC reporting.

78. The project management structure has proven well-functioning, allowing for implementation to move forward despite the challenges and delays associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the administrative and legal transition of UNEP-CCC (formerly UDP) from DTU to UNOPS, and the decision of UNDP to pull out of the project. The choice of UNEP-CCC as executing agency was fully aligned with the recommendations emanating from the evaluations of the first phase (GSP, CBIT-GCP), as is the strong reliance on regional networks for project delivery. The regional networks are a central part of the project delivery strategy, which together with the partnership strategy applied (see section IV.A) has allowed the project to engage much more deeply and comprehensively at the country level compared to the first phase.

Rating for Quality & Revision of Design: Satisfactory

C. Effectiveness

Availability of Outputs

79. In 2023-2024, there has been a high level of activity (see table 6). A total of 140 developing countries have been reached by the project through different activities. While there were major differences between the regions, the figures cannot be used directly for comparing performance between the networks due to major differences in the geographical coverage (e.g. the Lusophone network spans three continents), number of countries, age (e.g. the MENA network became operational in 2023), and level of capacity of countries (e.g. mainly LDCs in Anglophone Africa, SIDS in Pacific and Caribbean).

Table 6: Level of activity (January 2023 – October 2024)

Region	Regional/global trainings/workshops/webinars		Country-level support
	2024	2023	2023-2024
Global + joint networks	21	13	-
Anglophone Africa	9	8	32
Anglophone Caribbean	6	5	14
Asia	5	9	20
Central Asia and Caucasus	5	15	22
Eurasia	2	7	19
MENA	10	-	17
Francophone	3	25	26
Lusophone	2	1	22
Pacific	-	6	13

Region	Regional/global trainings/workshops/webinars		Country-level support
	2024	2023	2023-2024
Spanish-Speaking LAC	10	12	27
Total	**73**	**101**	**212**

Source: CBIT-GSP II monitoring sheets

80. Reported progress on outputs and activities under IIA is satisfactory with progress percentages indicating a likelihood of full delivery by project completion, albeit with delays and limited progress on one output (assistance to countries on integrating the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan into ETFs), which has been delayed due to the resignation of the first gender consultant; the draft gender toolkit has only recently been developed and has not been finalised and rolled out to the countries. Self-assessed performance for most activities is highly satisfactory or satisfactory, with exception of the delayed output.

81. Moreover, the reported progress (as of end June 2024) indicate that two output-related end targets have already been exceeded, one is likely to be achieved or even exceeded, and two may be achieved (see table 7). The number of direct beneficiaries reached is much higher than the targets, which partly may be due to an initial underestimation, but which is also a result of the enhanced outreach enabled by the partnership approach with joint activities (see section IV.A). Similarly, the number of users of the online Climate Transparency Platform significantly exceeds the end targets. The end targets vis-à-vis perceived utility of the quality have not yet been achieved, but it is feasible to achieve these, as the platform matures and is further developed. The IIA target vis-à-vis lesson sharing by countries is likely to be achieved and may even be exceeded. This also applies to the target vis-à-vis sharing of gender mainstreaming practices, where the progress reflects the delay in the activities and output related to UNFCCC gender action plan mainstreaming.

Table 7: Progress against output-related targets

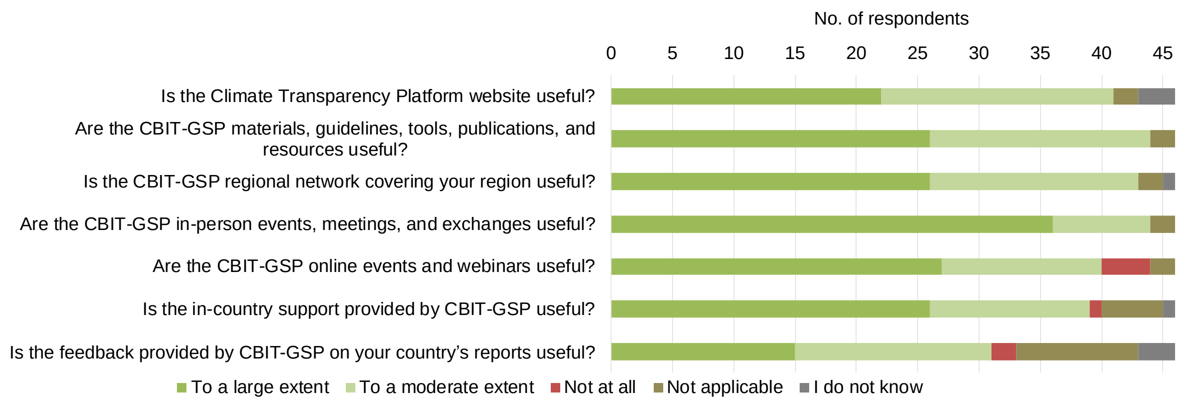
Project indicator	Mid-term target	End target	Reported status (June 2024)
GEF core indicator 11: People benefitting from GEF-financed investments *GEF 7 indicator:* # of direct beneficiaries (# of women)	IIA: N/A IIB: 500 (250 women)	IIA: 300 (150 women) IIB: 1,000 (500 women)	IIA: 3,471 (1,957 women) IIB: 5,699 (2,989 women) **End targets exceeded**
% of surveyed users who consider platform very useful or useful	N/A	IIA: 70% IIB: 70%	*No monitoring data available* MTR survey: 52% (useful to a large extent) **End targets may be achieved**
# of countries and practitioners using platform's services and knowledge products every quarter (on average)	N/A	IIA: 60/quarter IIB: 80/quarter	1,286 total users from 190 countries (322/quarter) **End targets exceeded**
# of countries with beneficiaries who have shared their lessons through project activities	N/A	IIA: 60 countries	50 countries **End target likely to be achieved or exceeded**
# of countries sharing gender mainstreaming good practice on the platform	N/A	IIA: 15 countries IIB: 25 countries	8 countries **End targets may be achieved**

Source: 2024 PIRs for IIA and IIB, MTR survey

82. Overall, the survey indicates that National CBIT Focal Points find all types of support from CBIT-GSP II useful, with at least half of the respondents reporting a large degree of utility across all support types, and most of the remaining respondents indicating a moderate degree of usefulness, only a very small number reporting lack of utility (see figure 6). In particular, most respondents found in-person events useful. The

level of satisfaction with the Climate Transparency Platform, written materials/resources, regional networks was also good, with more than half the respondents reporting a large degree of utility. This is also the case with the online events and in-country support s although a small number of respondents reported a lack of utility. For the feedback on draft reports, the pattern is similar, albeit with a somewhat smaller proportion of respondents (among those who did assess the utility) expressing a large degree of usefulness. Given the interactive, intensive and immersive nature of in-person events, it is unsurprising that this type of support achieves the highest level of satisfaction. On the other hand, feedback on written products, especially negative feedback, may not always be received well by the authors/owners, even if merited and relevant. Hence, caution should be taken when interpreting the feedback, and the data do not necessarily reflect that one type of support is more or less important than the other types of support. Nonetheless, it is clear that in-person training and networking is much appreciated and a motivating factor for project beneficiaries vis-à-vis engaging in the project as well as in climate transparency more broadly.

Figure 6: Usefulness of CBIT-GSP support types



83. National CBIT Focal Points widely report that participation in CBIT-GSP II trainings and guidance enhanced their capacities with the majority of survey respondent indicating a significant contribution and most of the remainders indicating a moderate contribution to enhancing their capacities (see figure 7). In particular, a large proportion of respondents indicate a significant increase in their understanding of, and their professional development vis-à-vis, MRV/climate transparency processes. Moreover, several respondents indicate a significant increase in their capacity to prepare NCs and BTRs. Approximately half the respondents report a significantly strengthened sharing of knowledge and experiences with peers from other countries. Moreover, half the survey respondents indicate that CBIT-GSP II trainings significantly enhanced the ETF knowledge of key stakeholders in their countries, with most of the remaining respondents reporting a moderate contribution (see figure 8). When considering that a) countries' engagement with CBIT-GSP II is of a short-term nature and not a longer-term in-country process and b) CBIT-GSP II is still under implementation, the capacity contributions of the project is considerable.

Figure 7: CBIT-GSP contribution to National CBIT Focal Point capacities

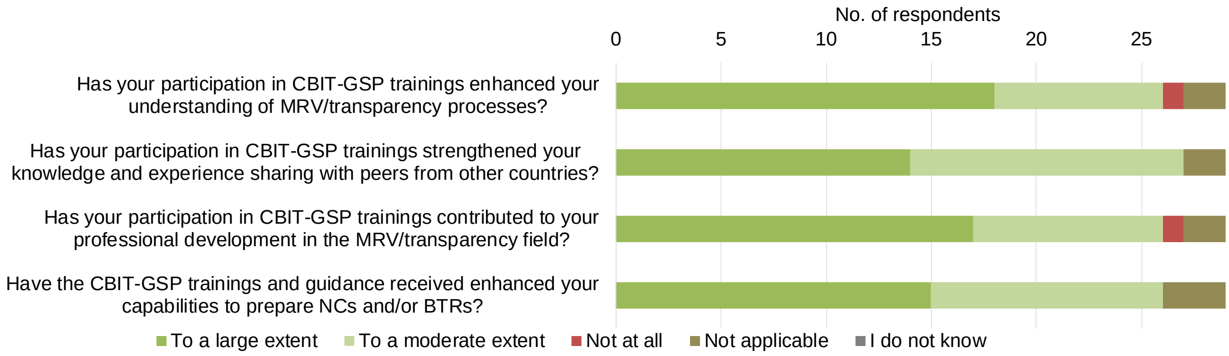
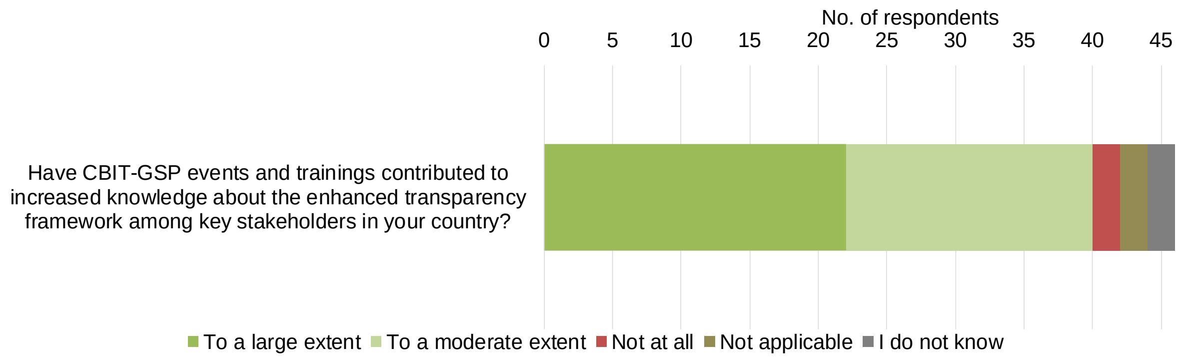


Figure 8: CBIT-GSP contribution to national capacities



Rating for Availability of Outputs: Highly Satisfactory

Progress Towards Project Outcomes

84. Available monitoring data at the outcome level is not up-do-date, but show the status in 2023 (see table 8). It is probable that the mid-term target has been achieved vis-à-vis national experts applying the skills/knowledge imparted by the project in NCs, BURs, and BTRs, and it is feasible to achieve the end target. Moreover, the mid-term and end targets vis-à-vis experts rating the utility of the tools for preparing high-quality NCs, BURs, and BTRs have already been exceeded with a very high level of satisfaction.

Table 8: Progress against outcome-related targets

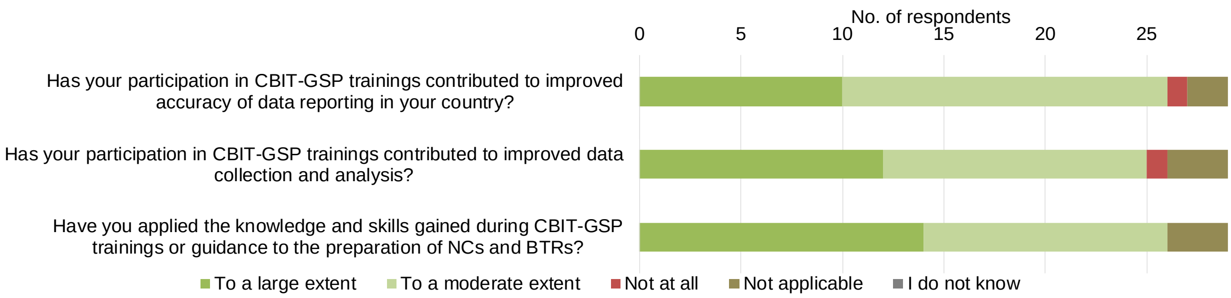
Project indicator	Mid-term target	End target	Reported status (June 2023)
Outcome 1 indicator: # of national experts who have applied project training or guidance in the preparation of NCs, BURs, and/or BTRs	250	IIB: 500	146 **Mid-term target may have been achieved and end target may be achieved**
Outcome 1 indicator: % of experts rating training, technical backstopping, reviews, supporting tools and guidance notes 'high' or 'very high' in helping them to prepare high-quality NCs, BURs, and/or BTRs	60%	IIB: 70%	93% **Mid-term and end targets exceeded**
Outcome 1 indicator: % of network members that consider CBIT IIB regional network participation contributed to improving/strengthening their MRV/transparency activities	50%	IIB: 70%	*No data available*

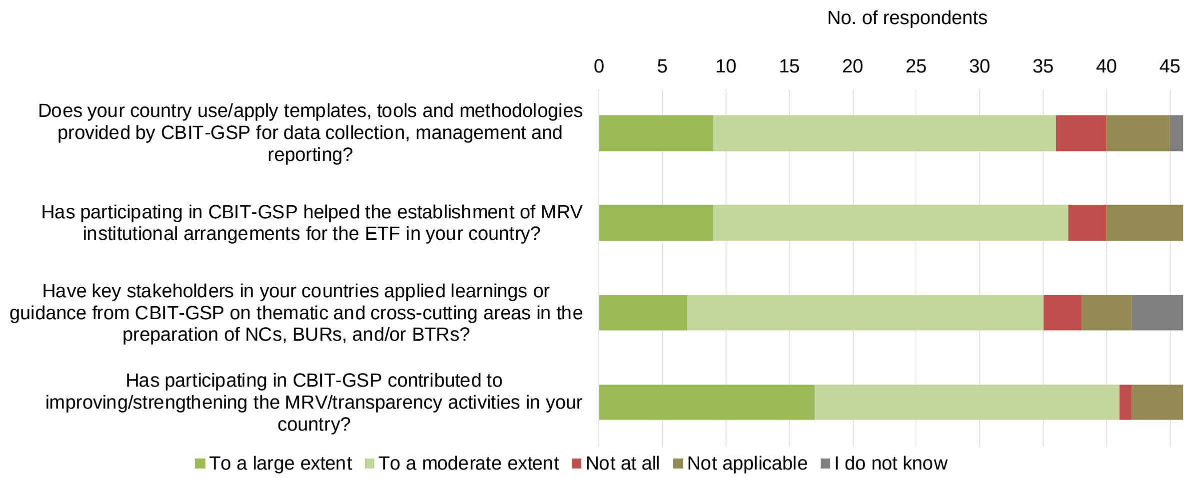
Source: 2023 PIR for IIB

85. This picture is confirmed by the MTR survey. Survey respondents consistently report that they apply the knowledge and skills obtained from CBIT-GSP II either to a significant degree or to a moderate degree (see figure 9). They also indicate that stakeholders in their countries apply learnings as well as tools and guidelines from CBIT-GSP II, albeit in most cases only to a moderate extent. Moreover, most of the National CBIT Focal Points responding to the survey report a contribution of CBIT-GSP II to improving the climate transparency frameworks in their countries, with most indicating a modest contribution, albeit with a significant minority reporting a significant contribution. In particular, contributions are made towards improved data collection and analysis and improved data reporting accuracy, and towards overall improvements to MRV/climate transparency activities at the country level. To a more moderate extent, CBIT-GSP has also contributed to the establishment of MRV/ETF institutional arrangements. Given the project is half-way through implementation, it is likely that the contribution towards outcomes will further increase.

86. The ability of CBIT-GSP II as well as other support providers to effectively support countries in relation to BTRs, which is a central area of support need, is somewhat limited by the fact that support providers do not have access to the new UNFCCC reporting tool that has been rolled out by the UNFCCC Secretariat. The reason for this is that the data is owned by the countries and access to the tool thus needs to be granted directly by the countries to the support providers. However, if the support providers had access to the tool (but not necessarily the data uploaded by the countries), they could better plan and tailor the support vis-à-vis using the tool and submitting quality BTRs.

Figure 9: CBIT-GSP contribution to improved MRV, reporting and ETFs





Rating for Progress Towards Project Outcomes: Highly Satisfactory

Likelihood of Impact

87. Considering the capacity development nature of the project, the focus on strengthening reporting to UNFCCC, and the delivery through targeted short-term activities, the project does not directly contribute to climate change adaptation or mitigation. Rather, the highest level of result to which a project contribution can be ascertained is increased compliance with UNFCCC reporting requirements. National CBIT Focal Points responding to the MTR survey consistently indicate that half-way through project implementation, a contribution towards this has already been made, with the majority indicating a moderate contribution and a significant minority indicating a significant contribution. None of the respondents indicate an absence of contribution. Moreover, most impact drivers and assumptions identified in the ToC appear valid, and the remaining appear partly valid (see table 9).

Figure 10: CBIT-GSP contribution to improved compliance with UNFCCC reporting requirements

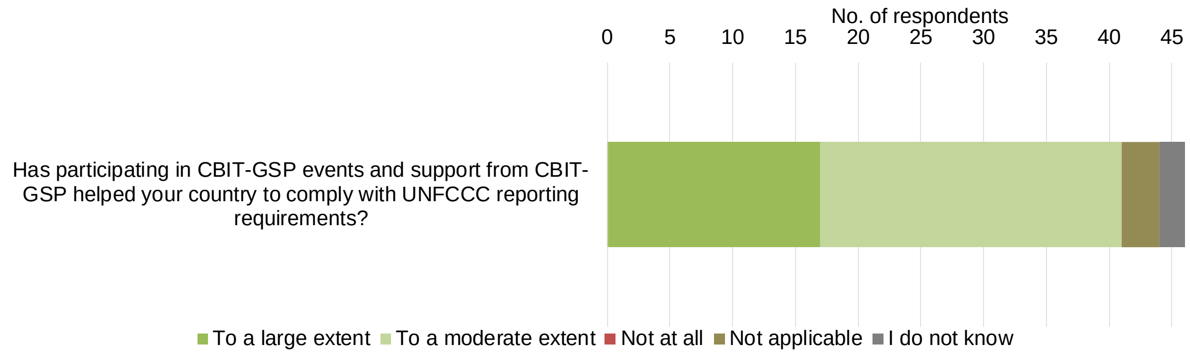


Table 9: Validity/status of ToC impact drivers and assumptions

Driver/assumption	Validity/status
Drivers	
Regional workshops attract sufficiently high-level decision makers and practitioners	**Valid**, as evidenced by the MTR survey responses on use of knowledge, skills and tools from CBIT-GSP
Participation in networks will drive traffic to integrated platform	**Valid**, as evidenced by web-traffic data presented in PIRs
Networks and events will promote the uptake of MRV and Transparency concepts, processes, and procedures as per updated guidance from UNFCCC	**Valid**, as evidenced by network activities and MTR survey responses
The integrated platform is perceived as relevant by users and countries will access information and knowledge more easily and frequently when they are familiar with a "one-stop" website.	**Valid**, as evidenced by web-traffic data presented in PIRs and MTR survey responses
Assumptions	
Project participants from developing countries apply the skills and knowledge gained from CBIT-GSP II	**Valid**, as evidenced by network activities and MTR survey responses
National experts have time to participate meaningfully in the project, and turn over does not impact country's engagement	**Valid**, as evidenced by network activities and MTR survey responses
There is a national political interest in countries in complying with the Paris Agreement	**Valid or partly valid**, as evidenced by the level of participation in CBIT-GSP events/trainings and number of requests for in-country support, and MTR survey

Driver/assumption	Validity/status
Developing countries and development partners are committing funding to MRV/ETF	**Partly valid**, as evidenced by joint/co-financed activities with other support providers, Belgian funding for two networks, countries allocating national CBIT project and enabling activity resources to CBIT-GSP II in-country events, and MTR survey
Private sector and relevant stakeholders are willing to share data and information	**Seemingly valid or partly valid**, as evidenced by level or participation in CBIT-GSP events – *but insufficient data is available on private sector willingness*
Long-term, dedicated peer networks and learning will increase country capacity	**Valid**, as evidenced by MTR survey responses
Open data and public access to MRV and transparency systems is prioritised by decision-makers in developing countries.	**Valid or partly valid**, as evidenced by number of requests for in-country support and countries allocating national CBIT project and enabling activity resources to CBIT-GSP II in-country events, and MTR survey

Rating for Likelihood of Impact: Highly Likely

Rating for Effectiveness: Highly Satisfactory

D. Financial Management

Adherence to UNEP's/Donor Financial Policies and Procedures

88. CBIT-GSP is executed internally by UNEP and, UNEP's own financial system and established processes for the partnerships with UNEP-CCC/UNOPS and UDP/DTU have been used. As such, each agency adhered to established financial policies and procedures, and no evidence has been found of non-adherence to these. Budget revisions were minor, timely, and duly approved. The two disbursements made so far from UNEP to UNEP-CCC were timely. Project expenditure reports have been duly submitted by UNEP-CCC, albeit with considerable delays.
89. Auditing of the finances of the project is done as part of the overall UNEP, UNOPS, and in 2019-2021 DTU auditing (with comfort letters issued by the external auditor for UDP), as per the rules and regulations for each institution. UN executed projects are not audited separately, and no separate auditor statements or comfort letters have been made on the project. This limits the ability of the MTR to assess financial management and compliance with GEF procedures.

Rating for Adherence to UNEP's/Donor Financial Policies and Procedures: Moderately Satisfactory

Completeness of Financial Information

90. Table 10 provides a detailed assessment of the financial management and information completeness.

Rating for Completeness of Financial Information: Moderately Satisfactory

Table 10: Financial tables

Financial management components:	Rating	Evidence/ Comments
1. Adherence to UNEP's policies and procedures:	**MS**	

Any evidence that indicates shortcomings in the project's adherence[1] to UNEP or donor policies, procedures or rules		Yes	Policies and procedures adhered to, but financial reporting delayed. Budget revisions were timely and minor. Funds available timely for UNEP-CCC/UDP. Information from UNEP-CCC for Jan-Jun 2024 not available for IIB.
2. Completeness of project financial information:			
Provision of key documents to the reviewer (based on the responses to A-H below)		**S**	
A.	Co-financing and Project Cost's tables at design (by budget lines)	Yes	Cost tables were provided in CEO endorsements of IIA and IIB. Co-financing information is provided for UNEP-CCC/UDP/ICAT and UNDP, but co-financing from other sources is not estimated.
B.	Revisions to the budget	Yes	Revised budgets were provided with the project revisions/amendments.
C.	All relevant project legal agreements (e.g. SSFA, PCA, ICA)	Yes	Provided for IIA and IIB.
D.	Proof of fund transfers	Yes	Remittance advices for disbursements were provided.
E.	Proof of co-financing (cash and in-kind)	Yes	Provided for UNEP-CCC/UDP/ICAT and UNDP, but co-financing from other sources is not quantified and reported. Co-financing is thus underestimated and underreported.
F.	A summary report on the project's expenditures during the life of the project (by budget lines, project components and/or annual level)	Yes	Provided by budget line for IIA and IIB for each project year, but not provided for each project component.
G.	Copies of any completed audits and management responses *(where applicable)*	N/A	No audit reports provided for UNEP and UNEP-CCC, as not required by GEF. Comfort letter provided for UDP.
H.	Any other financial information that was required for this project (list):	N/A	
3. Communication between finance and project management staff		**S**	
Project Manager and/or Task Manager's level of awareness of the project's financial status.		S	Up-to-date and complete financial records currently available, despite delayed financial reporting.
Fund Management Officer's knowledge of project progress/status when disbursements are done.		S	Up-to-date and complete financial records currently available, despite delayed financial reporting.
Level of addressing and resolving financial management issues among Fund Management Officer and Project Manager/Task Manager.		MS	Challenges related to harmonising reporting from UNOPS' financial management system with project/GEF requirements have partly been solved, but still create challenges.
Contact/communication between by Fund Management Officer, Project Manager/Task Manager during the preparation of financial and progress reports.		HS	Worked well, no communication issues found.
Project Manager, Task Manager and Fund Management Officer responsiveness to financial requests during the review process		S	Additional information readily provided upon request, to the extent it is available, but impossible to obtain a breakdown by project component, or complete information for Jan-Jun 2024.
Overall rating		**MS**	

Rating for Financial Management: Moderately Satisfactory

E. Efficiency

91. Various factors outside the control of the project have significantly delayed implementation in 2020-2022:

- COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-2022: during the pandemic, only online events and trainings could be held, slowing down the pace of implementation and the budget execution
- UNDP withdrawal as co-implementing agency in December 2021: due to UNDP's withdrawal, the grant agreement and institutional arrangements had to be amended, and agreement had to be made vis-à-vis the Lusophone and Francophone clusters funded by a grant from Belgium to UNDP. Moreover, the MENA network was intended to be managed by UNDP and the transfer of this responsibility to UNEP delayed the establishment of the network
- Transition from UDP administered by DTU to UNEP-CCC administered by UNOPS on 10 January 2022: the transition significantly delayed staff/consultant and network coordinator recruitment and procurement, slowing down the pace of implementation and the budget execution, and the delayed recruitment of network coordinators

92. Resignation of gender consultant: the replacement of the gender consultant has considerably delayed support for UNFCCC gender action plan mainstreaming, particularly the development of the gender toolkit, which has not yet been rolled out.

93. Overall, IIA project activities and budget execution were very limited in 2020-2021 due to the above factors but picked up during the course of 2022. The completion dates for both IIA and IIB have been extended (no-cost extensions), but due to low initial spending on the staff and consultant budget line, this has not increased the anticipated staff costs. The revisions also entailed amendments of the annual budgets to reflect actual spending in 2020-2022 and of the work plans. Project funds remaining with UDP/DTU at the transition were transferred to UNEP-CCC/UNOPS and the institutional arrangements were also amended, transferring the executing agency role to UNEP-CCC. Moreover, the technical completion dates in the initial work package agreements with UNOPS were extended by one year, but this did not affect the work package closing dates or project completion dates.

94. Nonetheless, UNEP-CCC and the PMU were able to maintain a certain level of implementation during the transition period, although the transition did cause a de-facto gap between GSP and CBIT-GCP (phase I) and CBIT-GSP II, negatively affecting the continuity of the regional networks.

95. Post-pandemic inflation increased travel and logistical costs for workshops, resulting in a reduction of the planned global meetings from three to two. Another challenge experienced was difficulties in mobilising suitable/qualified network coordinators and consultants.

96. Overall, budget execution has been low (see Annex V) as a result of the above challenges, despite a high level of activity in 2023-2024 (see table 6), after the DTU-UNOPS transition had been completed. This in particular appears a challenge for IIA with approximately one year of implementation left. IIB has almost 2.5 years left to execute its budget, and the current rate of spending indicates a likelihood of full budget execution by project completion, although the unspent budget is much bigger than for IIA.

97. The partnership approach with jointly executed and co-financed activities has proven very cost-effective, which is an undeniably positive aspect of the project execution, although it contributes to the low budget execution. This approach has also enabled a high level of activity after the initial period of delays and low activity, as evidenced by:

- End targets for direct beneficiary numbers already significantly exceeded
- Level of in-country engagement

98. Large number of activities (e.g. numbers of trainings and workshops, in-country support, assessments of countries' reports) reported in the PIRs

- Level of output and activity completion reported in the PIRs
- Available documentation, incl. written products/tools/assessments, workshop and training reports, work plans

99. Moreover, the partnership approach has enabled the project to access complementary technical expertise from partners. Moreover, the project is benefitting significantly from its access to inhouse technical capacities of UNEP-CCC, e.g. vis-à-vis providing feedback to countries on their draft reports before submission to UNFCCC, provision of technical advice, mobilisation of trainers, development of the Climate Transparency Platform, and development of tools and materials.

Rating for Efficiency: Satisfactory

F. Monitoring and Reporting

Monitoring of Project Implementation

100. The monitoring and evaluation plans in the CEO Endorsement Requests for IIA and IIB cover the various technical and financial reports as well as evaluation/review, but do not specify monitoring data collection and analysis activities. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is budgeted, but the allocation under IIA was small (USD 30,000). For IIB, M&E is a distinct component in the IIB results framework, with two outputs and a distinct budget allocation (USD 200,000), but the activities mentioned only reflect the MTR and terminal evaluation, as well as knowledge manage/learning, whereas monitoring is not reflected.

101. The objective and outcome indicators in the results frameworks are measurable and generally relevant and appropriate, but several of them capture outputs rather than outcome-level results, hence the outcomes are not fully covered, nor is the objective. None of the IIA indicators capture outcome-level results. All indicators have baselines and end targets, but some do not have mid-term targets. Indicators are gender disaggregated, where appropriate. IIB includes five indicators from the gender action plan, but these are not pegged to the outcomes.

102. The indicators in the results frameworks are generally monitored and reported on in the annual project implementation review reports (PIRs) and the half-yearly progress reports (HYPRs), although some of the indicators require a survey, which has not yet been conducted. The delivery of activities and outputs is also reported upon. Moreover, CBIT-GSP II collects feedback from participants after each training; the data is used for improving future trainings.

Rating for Monitoring of Project Implementation: Moderately Satisfactory

Project Reporting

103. The following progress reports were prepared and submitted by the PMU: quarterly financial reports, half-yearly progress reports (HYPR), and annual project

implementation review (PIR) reports. PSC and Executive Meeting Group (EMG) meetings were also used to report on progress. However, the submission of HYPRs and PIRs and in particular financial reports is generally delayed (see section IV.D). Overall, the HYPRs and PIRs provide a clear and comprehensive overview of the implementation status of activities and outputs. However, outcomes are not fully reflected, as per the above assessment of the indicators and data collection. The HYPRs and PIRs also cover risk management. Gender is covered in the PIRs, capturing gender activities, mainstreaming of gender, and the gender balance among direct beneficiaries. Communication between UNEP-CCC and UNEP is regular.

Rating for Project Reporting: Moderately Satisfactory

Rating for Monitoring and Reporting:	**Moderately Satisfactory**

G. Exit Strategy & Sustainability

Exit Strategy

104. The exit strategy of CBIT-GSP II comprises two key elements: a) a third phase of the project, to ensure continued technical, methodological, and capacity development support for countries vis-à-vis reporting to UNFCCC and ETF; and b) providing countries with knowledge and skills to establish policy and institutional frameworks and allocating resources for climate transparency and reporting. The development of the next phase is ongoing, well in advance of the completion of IIB, thus factoring in the time required for the development, approval, and initiation of a UNEP-GEF grant project. Hence, it is likely that the next phase will start immediately after the completion of IIB, thereby avoiding a gap period and reducing the risk of loss of continuity and institutional memory.

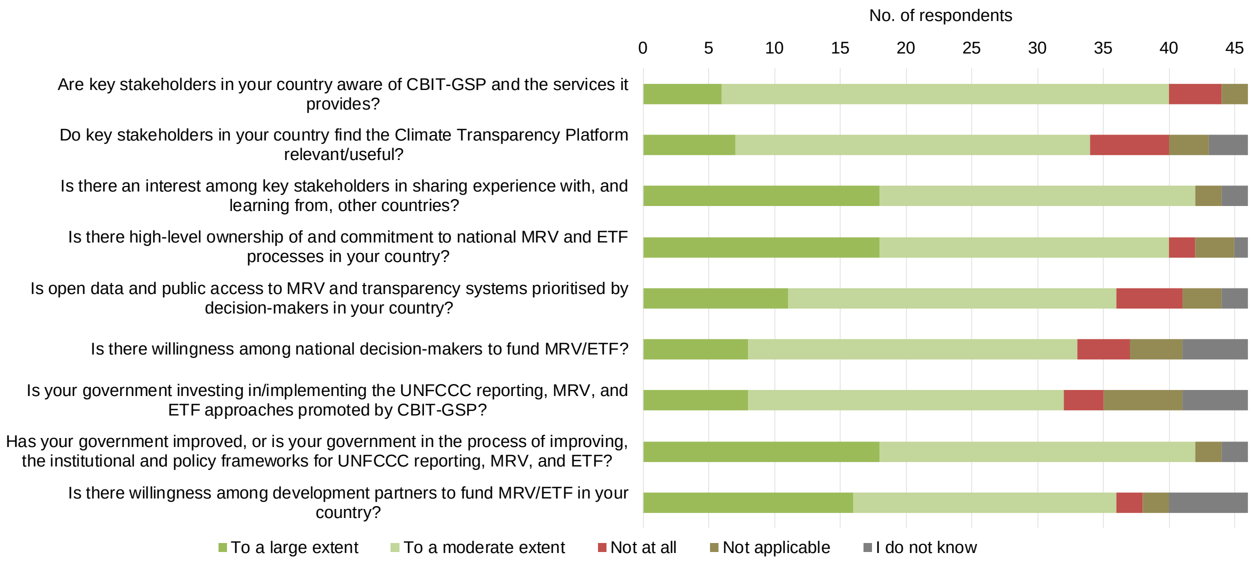
Rating for Exit Strategy: Satisfactory

Socio-political Sustainability

105. Countries are obligated to submit reports to UNFCCC, with LDCs and SIDS which have ratified the Paris Agreement being required to submit NCs and BURs, and other Non-Annex I Parties as of 2024 being required to submit BTRs (instead of BURs). While LDCs and SIDS are not required to submit BTRs, there is reportedly interest among some to submit BTRs voluntarily. Countries have a self-interest in submitting reports to UNFCCC, as these reports demonstrate commitment to the convention and provide supporting evidence for demands/requests for climate financing, thereby providing leverage in climate negotiations. As such, there is political ownership at the global level.

106. As described above (see section IV.C), CBIT-GSP II services and support is in demand, and knowledge, skills and approaches provided by CBIT-GSP II are being used by countries. Most MTR survey respondents report that there to moderate extent is high-level national commitment to MRV and ETF processes and progress on improving policy and institutional frameworks, but the responses also show that the level of commitment varies among countries (see figure 9).

Figure 9: Conduciveness of context for application of CBIT-GSP II learning and tools



Rating for Socio-political Sustainability: Moderately Likely

Financial Sustainability

107. The services provided by CBIT-GSP II respond directly to decisions made by the Parties to UNFCCC which have mandated the GEF to provide funding for reporting the Convention as well as funding for providing technical and capacity development support to Non-Annex I Parties. As such, it is likely that there will be funding available for continuation of CBIT-GSP II, as also evidenced by the ongoing formulation of a new phase of the project. Countries are encouraged by the project to allocate resources for MRV and ETF, and the MTR survey respondents indicate that most countries at least to some extent are willing to provide funding for MRV and ETF (see figure 9).

Rating for Financial Sustainability: Likely

Institutional Sustainability

108. CBIT-GSP and the provision of support for MRV and ETF is well-aligned with UNEP strategic priorities and complements UNEP's national CBIT project and enabling activities portfolio (see section IV.A), as well as the focus and technical knowhow of UNEP-CCC. Both entities demonstrate clear ownership of the project and interest in its continuation.

109. Most MTR survey respondents report that countries to a moderate extent are making progress on improving institutional frameworks for MRV and ETF and in investing in rolling out the knowledge and approaches promoted by CBIT-GSP II. However, the level of commitment varies among countries (see figure 9).

Rating for Institutional Sustainability: Moderately Likely

Rating for Sustainability:	**Likely**

H. Factors Affecting Performance and Cross-Cutting Issues

Project Inception

110. CBIT-GSP II is a second phase of earlier support provided under the GSP and CBIT-GCP projects, providing similar (but further expanded) services, and building on the approaches and lesson of these, and working through regional networks that were already established (and also rolling the network approach out in additional regions). At the same time, substantial changes were made to the project management arrangements, so in some ways, CBIT-GSP II is a new project. Several of these changes were by design, responding to the lessons of GSP and CBIT-GCP as well as recommendations made by reviews/evaluations of these projects. GSP and CBIT-GCP were merged into a single project. Whereas the previous phases had been executed by separate teams in UNDP (Istanbul) and UNEP (Nairobi), a single joint UNDP-UNEP PMU was established with UDP/UNEP-CCC (Copenhagen) as executing entity. These changes were planned and executed well in advanced, largely in time for the new structure to be in place and ready to implement, once GSP and CBIT-GCP were completed. However, the start of CBIT-GSP as well as implementation was considerably delayed, due to the earlier described unforeseen external factors outside the control of the project and UNEP (se section IV.E), i.e. the COVID-19 pandemic, the withdrawal of DTU from UDP and transfer to UNOPS, and the withdrawal of UNDP from the project. This created an extended period of hiatus of the networks and an extended period with a low level of implementation. Moreover, the PSC did not meet until November 2023, although the Executive Management group (EMG) met in February 2020, hence there was almost a four-year gap in meetings at the strategic oversight level.

Rating for Preparation and Readiness: Moderately unsatisfactory

Quality of Project Management and Supervision

111. The PSC has only met twice, in November 2023 and October 2024. The EMG, which comprises UNEP and UNEP-CCC, has met three times, in February 2020, October 2023, and October 2024. Project progress has been reported to the PSC and EMG. As such, the PSC and EMG have served as a body for providing information to key global stakeholders, which are members of the PSC, but have not met sufficiently frequent to provide regular oversight and strategic guidance.

112. The cooperation and communication between UNEP and UNEP-CCC, as is the oversight and support provided by UNEP.

113. Programme management and execution generally works well. CBIT-GSP II benefits from the overall institutional arrangements for UNEP-CCC as well as the access to the wider technical expertise of UNEP-CCC, which has been instrumental for achieving the current level of activity. The model of using regional networks to increase proximity of the support provided to the countries works well and is essential for the ability of the project to engage at the country level.

114. There has been some staff turn-over, e.g. the managers of GSP and CBIT-GCP left the project before CBIT-II commenced and an UNEP-CCC appointed a new Project Manager who in turn has recently left the project (in September 2024), and at least one Network Coordinator has also left the project. However, the staff turnover does not appear to have had significant impact on the project, although it is too early to assess whether the recent departure of the Project Manager will significantly affect project delivery or the relationships with various implementing partners.

115. Overall, project management and implementation has adapted to the significant contextual challenges faced, such COVID-19 (embracing virtual means of interaction) and the transfer from UDP/DTU to UNEP-CCC/UNOPS (finding solutions to maintain some level of implementation despite hiring and procurement restrictions, such as engaging consultants through UNEP's recruitment process

instead of UNOPS', but still employing consultants via UNOPS), although it was not possible to fully mitigate the negative effects. Through its regional networks partnership approach, CBIT-GSP II has also been able to respond to a large number of requests for support from countries.

116. The project management arrangements have proven to work very well, safe for the major impacts of the transfer from UPD/DTU to UNEP—CCC/UNOPS, and the ongoing issues with aligning UNOPS financial reporting for UNEP-CCC with UNEP-GEF requirements and the resulting delays in financial reporting.

Rating for UNEP/Implementing Agency: Satisfactory

Rating for Partners/Executing Agency: Satisfactory

Rating for Quality of Project Management and Supervision: Satisfactory

Stakeholder Participation and Cooperation

117. Key stakeholders are well represented in the PSC, with participation of the UNFCCC Secretariat, the GEF Secretariat, and representative from climate transparency support provides, Non-Annex I Parties and Annex I Parties/development partners.

118. The planning of capacity development support and tools development has been informed by assessments of country support needs and priorities with participation of National CBIT Focal Points. Other support providers and countries were consulted for the development of the Climate Transparency Platform. Annual global stocktaking events had to be cancelled in 2020-2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but one was held in early 2024. Country-level support is entirely country-driven and based on requests, and reportedly, CBIT-GSP II has been able to respond to all requests for support. Moreover, countries are directly involved in the execution of in-country trainings/workshops, arranging land co-financing logistics. The regional networks and events, and also global events, provide opportunities for experience-sharing and peer learning for countries and also for support providers. The regional networks, in particular, are focused forums for peer learning. In-depth peer-to-peer exchanges have been arranged between a small number of countries.

119. Other support providers are considerably engaged in CBIT-GSP II, in particular through the joint implementation of activities, but also through having their own pages on the Climate Transparency Platform and access to disseminate information on their own events and publication on the platform, although their actual use of the platform varies considerably. Technical experts have enhanced visibility and can be easily accessed by countries through the roster of experts on the platform, an option currently used by 27 experts.

Rating for Stakeholders Participation and Cooperation: Highly Satisfactory

Responsiveness to Human Rights and Gender Equality

120. Women are well-presented in CBIT-GSP II, with 56 pct. of the direct beneficiaries of IIA and 52 pct. of IIB being women, thus exceeding the target of 50 pct female participation (see section IV.C). However, the participation of women varies considerably among regions, with a reported low participation of women in the Francophone network's activities. Moreover, the previous and current Project Manager are women, as are four of the ten Network Coordinators and several of the involved technical experts from UNEP-CCC. Similarly, most of the core staff at UNEP engaged in the project are women. Relevant project indicators are gender disaggregated as is the data collection, e.g. on workshop participation.

121. One output under IIA is gender-specific: "*assistance provided to countries with integrating the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan into enhanced transparency frameworks*". However, due to the resignation of the first gender consultant, the progress on this output has been significantly delayed, and the main deliverable, a gender toolkit, is yet to be finalised and made available. Nonetheless, one gender-related event has been held, and UNEP-CCC has reportedly looked into the integration of gender in the reports submitted by countries and the implementation of the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan.

122. Human rights have not been explicitly addressed, due to the project's focus on supporting reporting to UNFCCC. Nonetheless, by promoting enhanced climate transparency and open access to climate data, the project contributes to the access to information, which in turn contributes to the accountability of duty bearers (governments) to rights holders (citizens).

123. The project was assigned a GEN-2 gender marker by UNDP, indicating a significant gender equality contribution while not having gender equality as a main objective.

Rating for Responsiveness to Human Rights and Gender Equality: Moderately Satisfactory

Environmental and Social Safeguards

124. Given CBIT-GSP II has a purely institutional capacity development focus and does not entail any on-the-ground investments, no environmental or social risks have been identified at design, during implementation, or by the MTR. The project has appropriately been rated as a low-risk project with *"negative impacts minimal or negligible: no further study or impact management required"*. There is thus no need for implementing any environmental or social safeguards or mitigation measures. The only direct negative environmental impact of the project is fossil energy consumption and carbon emissions related to: 1) air- and road travel of staff, technical experts and participating beneficiaries, 2) power consumption by servers and internet use (e.g. data uploads and downloads, online training and meetings), and 3) resource consumption and waste generation related to the use of computer equipment and office facilities. A number of trainings and meetings have been conducted virtually (sometimes due to COVID-19 restrictions) thus contributing to reducing the carbon footprint. Moreover, UNEP-CCC tracks its carbon footprint and pays for carbon off-setting. The PIRs include information on the status vis-à-vis environmental and social safeguards.

Rating for Environmental and Social Safeguards: Satisfactory

Country Ownership and Driven-ness

125. As described earlier, countries are obligated to report to UNFCCC, and there is also a self-interest in reporting (see section IV.G). Participation by countries in CBIT-GSP II activities is voluntary, and all national-level support has been demand-driven/based on requests submitted and in-country support has been co-financed by countries' national CBIT projects or enabling activities. MTR survey respondents indicate a degree of high-level buy-in and of countries implementing knowledge and approaches provided by CBIT-GSP II, albeit with variation among countries.

Rating for Country Ownership and Driven-ness: Satisfactory

Communication and Public Awareness

126. Outreach is an important element of CBIT-GSP II, in particular IIA, where the second component has an outreach and dissemination focus, although not all

outputs and activities under the component have a wider outreach focus. The main elements of the project's outreach efforts are:

- The regional networks engage in dialogue with countries and promote peer-to-peer dialogue among countries

127. The Climate Transparency Platform provides public/open access to information about CBIT-GSP II, written products, online events, as well as information about other support providers and technical experts

- Outreach events, i.e. four side events at UNFCCC COP28 (Dubai, 2023) and one at a subsidiary Body meeting (Bonn, 2023), jointly arranged with the UNFCCC Secretariat
- Participation in events arranged by others, such as UNFCCC COP27 and COP28 side events
- Dialogue with other support providers through participation ETF Group of Friends meetings, contributions to ETF Group of Friends newsletters, and bilateral calls with other support providers

128. Communication products, i.e. a flyer on the main project results disseminated at COP28 and good practice briefs

Rating for Communication and Public Awareness: Satisfactory

Rating for Factors Affecting Performance and Cross Cutting Issues:	**Satisfactory**

V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Conclusions

129. **Strengths:** After major initial delays, the implementation of CBIT-GSP II has caught up and the project is performing well with high level of activity, benefitting from a) the in-house technical capacities of UNEP-CCC, b) regional networks enabling (short-term) engagement at the country level, and c) a partnership approach with workshops and trainings generally being co-implemented and co-financed by partners (other climate transparency support providers) as well as national GEF-funded projects (CBIT projects and enabling activities). These factors have enabled CBIT-GSP II to engage at the country level to a surprising degree, with several in-country trainings and technical advice on how to improve draft reports (NCs, BURs, BTRs) before submission to UNFCCC. Important partnerships include UNDP and Belgium financing and administering two of the eight regional CBIT-GSP II networks while they remain fully integrated I CBIT-GSP II, and partnership with the UNFCCC Secretariat, e.g. vis-à-vis providing training on the digital reporting tools recently introduced by the UNFCCC Secretariat. Other important partnerships on specific activities (e.g. trainings and workshops) have been entered with a range of UN and bilateral support providers. In addition, these partnerships enable CBIT-GSP II and the partners, and thus the benefitting countries, to benefit from technical expertise of each other. CBIT-GSP II has achieved a high degree of cost-effectiveness through leveraging substantial amounts of co-financing from the partnerships. (See sections IV.A, IV.C, IV.E)

130. CBIT-GSP II's output-related end targets have for the larger part already been achieved or even exceed at mid-term, and with a likelihood of the remaining targets also being achieved before project completion. All types of support provided by CBIT-GSP II (e.g. training, feedback on draft reports, guidelines, online platform, peer learning) is widely appreciated by country-level beneficiaries, and a clear contribution has been made to enhancing their MRV, transparency/ETF knowledge and capacities. Moreover, the outcome targets are likely to be achieved, with country-level beneficiaries already (to a significant or moderate extent) applying the knowledge and skills obtained and using the tools/templates (to a significant or moderate extent) for data collection, analysis and reporting, and for setting up ETF institutional arrangements. As a result, country-level beneficiaries report that CBIT-GSP participation has contributed to enhanced compliance with UNFCCC reporting requirements. (See sections IV.C, IV.G)

131. CBIT-GSP II directly responds to UNFCCC COP decisions vis-à-vis provision of support for reporting to the Convention and complements the UNFCCC Secretariat's efforts to enhance reporting. Moreover, the project proactively contributes to improving the coordination among the various climate transparency support providers, for example with the online Climate Transparency Platform, which is a one-stop portal for information on ongoing transparency initiatives and upcoming events as well as for countries to submit requests for support. (See sections IV.A, IV.C, IV.H)

132. Overall, the project is well-designed and well executed, with clear and logical intended results, a well-conceived management structure with a well-functioning strategy for engaging with countries through regional networks, and an appropriate choice of executing agency, leveraging UNEP-CCC's technical capacities. Staff turnover does not appear to have affected implementation significantly. Moreover, the interaction between UNEP as GEF implementing entity and UNEP-CCC as executing agency work well, with good communication between the two, as evidenced by UNEP's support for facilitating the mobilisation of consultants during

the difficult legal and administrative transfer of the UNEP-CCC from DTU to UNOPS. (See sections IV.B, IV.C, IV.E, IV.H)

133. MRV and ETF, as well as the GEF funding for support to countries vis-à-vis meeting their reporting obligations, are anchored in UNFCCC decisions. UNEP has already embarked on the preparation of a third phase of CBIT-GSP, thus the risk of a gap in the support available to countries after the completion of CBIT-GSP II is low. Moreover, given the continued obligation to report to UNFCCC, countries are likely to continue applying the skills and tools provided by CBIT-GSP, including setting up policy and institutional frameworks for MRV and ETF. (See sections IV.A, IV.G)

134. Key stakeholders are well represented in the PSC, capacity development support and tools development are informed by participatory needs assessments, and country-level support is demand-driven. There is equal participation in CBIT-GSP II workshops and trainings of women and men, and women are well-represented in project management and oversight. (See sections IV.G, IV.H)

135. **Weaknesses:** CBIT-GSP II has been severely affected by external factors outside the control of the project, UNEP and UNEP-CCC, leading to a delayed project start and very limited implementation in 2020-2021. The COVID-19 pandemic delayed activities that required in-person participation, and the legal and administrative transition of UNEP-CCC from DTU to UNOPS caused major challenges and delays in the recruitment of consultants, including the pivotal regional network coordinators. The withdrawal of UNDP as co-implementing agency caused additional delays, e.g. of the establishment of the network in the MENA region. The resignation of the gender consultant considerably has delayed the planned gender deliverables, including the gender toolkit. While implementation has picked up, budget execution was still low at the end of 2023 (also partly a result of cost-savings due to the high degree of co-implementation and co-financing of activities), which is particular concern for IIA, with only approximately one year of implementation remaining. A human rights lens is not applied in the project, although the contribution to enhanced climate transparency contributes to the accountability of duty bearers (governments) to rights holders (citizens). (See sections IV.D, IV.E, IV.G, IV.H)

136. While CBIT-GSP II puts considerable efforts into promoting coordination among support provides, the ownership and use of the Climate Transparency Platform by support providers is uneven, as they partly perceive the platform as a CBIT-GSP II project website rather than a shared platform. (See sections IV.A, IV.C, IV.H)

137. The project design has some shortcomings, including some inconsistencies in the ToC and results framework, and indicators not fully capturing the project's outcomes, which are also not fully reported on in the technical progress reports. Technical progress reports and in particular financial statements are generally submitted late. Co-financing is significantly underestimated and underreported, as only UNEP-CCC's contribution via ICAT is reported upon. (See sections IV.A, IV.B, IV.D, IV.E, IV.F)

Overall performance rating: Satisfactory

Table 11: Project Performance Ratings

Criterion	Summary assessment	Rating
Strategic Relevance		**S**
1. Alignment to UNEP's, Donors'	Fully aligned with the climate change sub-programme of UNEP's 2018-2021 Medium Term Strategy. Directly contributing to the 2022-2023 Programme	S

Criterion	Summary assessment	Rating
and Country (global, regional, sub-regional and national) Strategic Priorities	of Work's *climate transparency and accountability*" and to South-South cooperation. Directly responding to UNFCCC decisions vis-à-vis provision of support for reporting to UNFCCC. Addresses country climate transparency priorities and constraints to a moderate or large extent.	
2. Complementarity with existing interventions/ Coherence	Two out of ten regional networks funded by UNDP/Belgium but fully integrated in CBIT-GSP II. Partnership approach with most interventions being co-implemented and co-financed with other support providers, and national CBIT projects and enabling activities – which enables increased outreach and activity, incl. targeted short-term country-level engagements. Complements UNFCCC Secretariat efforts to enhance reporting to UNFCCC. Contributes towards improving among support providers. Climate Transparency Platform established as a one-stop entry point for countries vis-à-vis requesting support and accessing resources and information. Uneven ownership and use of platform by support providers. Platform partly perceived as a CBIT-GSP II project website.	HS
Quality of Project Design	Clear and logical intended results, but with some shortcomings in the ToC and RF. Appropriate risk matrix. Well-conceived project management structure, appropriate choice of executing entity. Delivery through regional networks a good strategy for delivery and engaging with countries.	**S**
Effectiveness		**HS**
1. Theory of Change	Assessed under "*quality of project design*".[2]	N/A
2. Availability of outputs	Output-related end targets exceeded, achieved, likely to be achieved, or feasible to achieve before project completion. All types of support widely found useful by country-level beneficiaries. In-person events and trainings particularly appreciated and motivating engagement. Clear contribution to enhanced MRV/transparency/ETF knowledge and capacities of country-level beneficiaries, at mid-implementation.	HS
3. Progress towards project outcomes	Outcome targets likely to be achieved. Country-level beneficiaries apply the knowledge and skills obtained and tools/templates (to a significant or moderate extent) to data collection, analysis and reporting, NC and BTR preparation, institutional arrangements.	HS
4. Likelihood of impact	CBIT-GSP participation has contributed (to a significant or moderate extent) to enhanced compliance with UNFCCC reporting requirements, at mid-implementation.	HL
5. Adaptive management	Assessed under "*quality of project management and supervision*".[3]	N/A
Financial Management	No evidence of non-adherence to financial procedures. Timely and duly approved budget revisions. Financial reporting delayed. Timely disbursements. Co-financing underestimated and underreported. Good communication between UNEP and UNEP-CCC.	**MS**
Efficiency	Major delays and low implementation in 2020-2022 caused by external factors. Extension of project completion dates. High cost-effectiveness due to partnerships approach with joint implementation and co-financing. Low budget execution. High level of activity in 2023-2024. Technical expertise accessed from partners and in-house UNEP-CCC.	**S**
Monitoring and Reporting		**MS**
1. Monitoring of project implementation	Indicators are measurable and generally appropriate, but several of them capture outputs, and outcomes and objective are not fully covered. Indicators have baselines and end targets, but some do not have mid-term targets. Indicators are gender disaggregated, where appropriate.	MS

[2] Agreed with the UNEP Evaluation Office on 15 July 2024

[3] Agreed with the UNEP Evaluation Office on 15 October 2024

Criterion	Summary assessment	Rating
	Indicators in the results frameworks are monitored and reported on in PIRs and HYPRs.	
2. Project reporting	Submission of technical and especially financial reports is often delayed. HYPRs and PIRs provide a clear and comprehensive overview of implementation activities and outputs. Outcomes are partly reflected. HYPRs and PIRs cover risk management and gender. Communication between UNEP-CCC and UNEP is regular.	MS
Exit Strategy and Sustainability	MRV and ETF are anchored in UNFCCC decisions, as is GEF funding for supporting countries. New phase of CBIT-GSP under preparation. Countries are to varying degrees applying knowledge and approaches from CBIT-GSP in setting up policy and institutional frameworks for MRV and ETF.	**L**
Factors Affecting Performance		**S**
1. Project inception	Initial planning and arrangements for CBIT-GSP II were made in a timely manner, but due to major external obstacles outside the control of the project and UNEP (COVID-19, DTU-UNOPS transition, UNDP withdrawal), project start was significantly delayed, and implementation was limited for an extended period.	MU
2. Quality of project management and supervision		S
2.1 UNEP/ Implementing Agency:	Good communication and cooperation with UNEP-CCC. Well-functioning oversight and support. Facilitated mobilisation of consultants during DTU-UNOPS transition.	*S*
2.2 Partners/ Executing Agency:	Project management works very well. CBIT-GSP II benefits from the access to the wider technical expertise of UNEP-CCC, which has been key for the current level of activity. Regional networks and partnerships enabled the project to respond to a large number of requests for support from countries. Staff turnover does not appear to have affected implementation significantly. Project adapted to the significant contextual challenges faced, such COVID-19 and the transfer from UDP/DTU to UNEP-CCC/UNOPS and maintained some level of implementation, but impossible to fully mitigate the negative effects.	*S*
3. Stakeholders participation and cooperation	Key stakeholders well represented in the PSC. Capacity development support and tools development informed by participatory assessments of support needs. Country-level support is country-driven, based on requests and countries are directly involved in the execution. Regional networks provide opportunities for peer learning. In-depth peer-to-peer exchanges between a small number of countries are facilitated. Support providers are engaged through joint implementation of activities, and to a lesser extent the Climate Transparency Platform.	HS
4. Responsiveness to human rights and gender equality	Women are well-presented. 56 pct. of the direct beneficiaries of IIA and 52 pct. of IIB have been women. Women well-represented in project management and oversight, e.g. with female Project Manager and four female Network Coordinators. Relevant project indicators are gender disaggregated. The key gender deliverable, a gender toolkit, is delayed and yet to be finalised. Human rights have not been explicitly addressed, but the contribution to enhanced climate transparency contributes to the accountability of duty bearers (governments) to rights holders (citizens).	MS
5. Environmental and social safeguards	No direct environmental or social risks, thus no need for implementing any environmental or social safeguards or mitigation measures.	S
6. Country ownership and driven-ness	Participation by countries in CBIT-GSP II activities is voluntary. All national-level support has been demand-driven/based on requests submitted. In-country support has been co-financed by countries' national CBIT projects or enabling activities. A degree of high-level buy-in and of countries implementing knowledge and approaches provided by CBIT-GSP II, with variation among countries.	S

Criterion	Summary assessment	Rating
7. Communication and public awareness	Outreach done through different channels, incl.: regional networks engage in dialogue with countries and promote peer-to-peer dialogue; Climate Transparency Platform provides public/open access to CBIT-GSP II information and products; side events at UNFCCC COP28; active participation in ETF Group of Friends meetings; flyer and good practice briefs.	S
Overall Project Performance Rating at Mid-Point		**S**

B. Lessons learned

Lesson Learned #1:	**A concerted partnership approach can substantially enhance the breadth and depth of engagement and results delivery while increasing cost-effectiveness.**
Context/comment:	The partnership approach with joint implementation with a range of support providers and co-funding of activities with these and also with national CBIT projects and enabling activities has enabled CBIT-GSP to implement a large number of activities, while saving costs on each activity. It has also enabled CBIT-GSP II respond to all request for support and engage in several trainings at the country-level. Moreover, CBIT-GSP II and the implementing partners used their combined technical expertise, thereby being able to more effectively provide capacity development on a range of topics.

Lesson Learned #2:	**A decentralised delivery strategy can enable a global project to adapt support better to the local context, engage more deeply with countries, and enhance South-South peer learning.**
Context/comment:	A central feature of CBIT-GSP II is the delivery of support through ten regional networks. This model has proven effective for engaging with a large number of countries, facilitating the delivery of support that is tailored to the specific region and the countries in the region. This model has also enhanced the opportunities for countries to share experience with peers with (relatively) similar contexts, i.e. countries in their own region and/or countries with whom they can easily communicate in a shared language.

Lesson Learned #3:	**It can be difficult to strengthen the coordination among support providers and build effective shared platforms despite a clear and well-understood added value and genuine interest.**
Context/comment:	CBIT-GSP II has made concerted effort to contribute to improved coordination among support providers, e.g. through partnering on joint implementation of specific activities, proactive participation in the ETF Group of Friends, and the establishment of the Climate Transparency Platform. The joint implementation of activities has worked particularly well, and the platform has also yielded tangible coordination benefits, especially vis-à-vis having a one-stop location for countries to submit their requests for support. However, coordination remains challenging, and so far, the platform has not been fully embraced by the support providers, with uneven levels of use of the platform, and a perception that the platform is a CBIT-GSP website rather than a shared platform for all support providers.

C. Recommendations

Recommendation #1:	**Further increase the capacity of CBIT-GSP to respond to an anticipated increased demand and need for support for BTR preparation.** Possible actions include: a) Increasing the number of staff/consultants engaged in assessing draft reports (NCs, BURs, BTRs) for countries b) Increasing budget and time allocation for assessment of draft BTRs c) Transferring expenses/budget items planned for 2025 from the IIB budget to the IIA budget d) Developing criteria for prioritisation of support requests, if the demand exceeds CBIT-GSP II's capacity to provide support – e.g. prioritising BTR review requests and training on BTR e) Tailoring support (e.g. trainings) to supporting countries in the use of the UNFCCC reporting tools f) Engaging, jointly with other support providers, with the UNFCCC Secretariat, relevant UNFCCC working groups, and countries to get access to UNFCCC reporting tools (without country data) g) Engaging in joint BTR support efforts with the UNFCCC Secretariat (e.g. collaboration with UNFCCC Secretariat clinics for support on the tools) h) Exploring opportunities for synergy and collaboration with the Baku Global Climate Transparency Platform
Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation:	There has been considerable demand for country-specific support, such as in-country trainings and assessment of draft reports prior to submission to UNFCCC. So far, CBIT-GSP II has been able to respond to all requests for support, but as countries embark on preparing BTRs, which are considerably more complex than BURs, there is a likelihood of the demand for support would increase significantly after COP29. Hence, the future demand may exceed the capacity of CBIT-GSP II to respond, thus requiring that the project prioritises what and whom to support. At the same time, due to the low budget execution, there could be scope for ramping up the support and accelerate project spending, especially for IIA
Priority Level:	Opportunity for improvement
Type of Recommendation	Project/Partner
Responsibility:	UNEP and UNEP-CCC in dialogue with GEF Secretariat, UNFCCC Secretariat, and support providers
Proposed implementation time-frame:	1-6 months (during and after COP29)

138. Cross-reference(s) to rationale and supporting discussions:

- Sections IV.A, VI.C, IV.G, V.A

Recommendation #2:	**Further ramp up efforts to promote strengthened coordination of climate transparency support providers.** Possible actions include: a) Adding a team member/consultant (full- or part-time) who is dedicated to promoting coordination of support providers b) Exploring options for supporting the UNFCCC Secretariat in support provider coordination, e.g. ETF Group of Friends activities c) Seeking formal UNFCCC endorsement of the Climate Transparency Platform d) Considering reducing the prominence of CBIT-GSP on the Climate Transparency Platform to a level that is more equal to that of other

	support providers, and establishing a separate webpage for CBIT-GSP (e.g. on the UNEP-CCC website) e) Advocating for a strategy for division of labour vis-à-vis support provision, to the extent possible
Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation:	CBIT-GSP II has made concerted effort to contribute to improved coordination among support providers. However, coordination remains challenging, despite support providers acknowledging the importance. So far, the Climate Transparency Platform has not been fully embraced by the support providers, with uneven levels of use of the platform, and a perception that the platform is a CBIT-GSP website rather than a shared platform for all support providers.
Priority Level:	Opportunity for improvement
Type of Recommendation	Project/Partner
Responsibility:	UNEP and UNEP-CCC in dialogue with GEF Secretariat, UNFCCC Secretariat, and PSC
Proposed implementation time-frame:	3-6 months

139. Cross-reference(s) to rationale and supporting discussions:

- Sections IV.A, V.A

Recommendation #3:	**Review indicators and end targets.** Possible actions include: a) Increasing end targets that have already been achieved or exceeded b) Replacing outcome indicators that are at the output level with outcome-oriented indicators c) Adding higher-level indicators to the objective level in addition to the mandatory GEF indicator
Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation:	Some of the current outcome indicators as well as the objective indicators are at the output level and some of the intended higher-level results are not reflected or captured in the PIRs and HYPRs. Some end targets have already been achieved or even exceeded and have thus become redundant.
Priority Level:	Opportunity for improvement
Type of Recommendation	Project
Responsibility:	UNEP-CCC, UNEP, PSC
Proposed implementation time-frame:	1-3 months

140. Cross-reference(s) to rationale and supporting discussions:

- Sections IV.B, IV. F, V.A, Annex XI

Recommendation #4:	**Explore opportunities for enhancing the profile of human rights and gender in CBIT-GSP II.** Possible actions include: a) Exploring, with humans rights expert input, the human rights dimension of climate transparency b) Assessing, with humans rights expert input, the scope for integrating human rights more explicitly in CBIT-GSP III c) Ensuring that gender elements of IIA are continued under IIB d) Implementing dedicated gender activities with the Francophone network

	e) Introducing incentive mechanisms for women's participation in the Francophone network
Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation:	Participation of women is generally good, with the exception of the Francophone network, where female participation is low. Gender features more prominently in the outputs and activities of IIA than those of IIB, while IIA's completion data is more than a full years before that of IIB. A human rights lens is not applied in the project, although the contribution to enhanced climate transparency contributes to the accountability of duty bearers (governments) to rights holders (citizens).
Priority Level:	Opportunity for improvement
Type of Recommendation	Project
Responsibility:	UNEP-CCC, UNEP
Proposed implementation time-frame:	3-12 months

141. Cross-reference(s) to rationale and supporting discussions:

- Sections III, IV.C, IV.E, VI.H, V.A

ANNEX I. RESPONSE TO STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS

Response to stakeholder comments received but not (fully) accepted by the reviewers, where appropriate

Page Ref	Stakeholder comment	Reviewer Response
Section I., para 11, p.13	Not exact. Annex-I countries were committed to submit Biennial Reports (BRs), while non-Annex I countries were committed to submit Biennial Update Reports (BURs). The link to BTRs should be established in that they are replacing BURs and BRs for the countries that are Parties to the Paris Agreement.	Amended - no need to mention what Annex I Parties are required to do - focus is on the Non-Annex I Parties
Section I., para 13, p.13	This section could be the used to provide the overview of A & B - and justifying the merge and linking to reconstructed ToC. Some suggestions made, in attachment, for your review/consideration.	A para has been added to explain the history of having two grants and the reality of being one projects technically and two projects administratively. It is premature to link to the ToC here. Text has also been added in the MTR methodology and ToC sections.
Section IV.C., table 7, p.32	I like the comment about revising/updating the targets, especially for those that have been achieved. I hope this will come out clearly so, that we can address it before its TE. UNEP-CCC will lead this process.	It is already captured in recommendation 3.
Section IV.D., table 10, p.39	Reports for II A & B as at June 2024 have now been submitted.	2024 financial info for UNEP-CCC only received for IIA, not for IIB. IIA info updated in spending tables.
Section V.C., rec 2, p.53	Would suggest some discussion here if it is to be "coordination" rather than "communication among" support providers or an acknowledgment that full coordination is beyond the scope of this initiative (and not realistic given bilateral support provider priorities).	It is more than just communication. The recommendation has been adjusted/softened.
Section V.C., rec 2, p.53	Ideally, a division of labour would be desirable to avoid duplication of efforts and inefficiency. However, colleagues have reported that, in the past, during meetings with the various support providers, these indicated that they could not commit to a full division of labour, since each initiative/agency has its own agenda/priorities. Thus, the adoption of this recommendation seems unlikely to be achieved, which could lead to the project being poorly rated against such criteria due to external factors ir cannot control.	Recommended action adjusted to make it more feasible.
Section V.C., rec 3, p.54	The original indicators reflected agency and GEF guidance and practice at the time of the project design, and it might be good to note that revisions will also have to be consistent with GEF and agency practice.	This point is already acknowledged in findings. This is not a recommendation to replace the mandatory GEF indicators, but to also add proper higher-level indicators. Recommended action adjusted.
Section V.C., rec 4, p.54	I found the recommendation on human rights as a very interesting point, the recommendation is basically having someone to assess how to include it but, do you think it is possible to have more feedback from the evaluator on how to apply this "human rights lens"? I was wondering if it is through broad participation that could be the integration of new stakeholders.	A more in-depth assessment and identification of possible entry points with the help of a human rights expert would be needed for the development of a targeted human rights lens (the MTR consultant is not a humans rights expert).

Page Ref	Stakeholder comment	Reviewer Response
Section I., table 3, p.17	Table 3: Stakeholders table, GEF Implementing Agencies working on transparency, kindly indicate if it is foreseen to include other GEF Agencies working on transparency currently not cited, i.e.: IADB, FECO and WWF-US.	Reference to IADB, FECO and WWF-US has been added to the table.
Section I., table 4, p.20	Table 4 of the MTR identifies the expenditure and co-financing ratio of CBIT IIA and IIB. Considering there are significant resources to be committed (58% and 68%, respectively) and that "CBIT-GSP II's output-related end targets have for the larger part already been achieved or even exceed at mid-term", we would be interested in understanding how both projects plan to commit the remaining resources and if an extension will be required.	UNEP had already started to reflect on this element before the MTR and some outputs related to end targets were already increased; e.g. the number of country report reviews was increased from 15 to 65. Planning is underway with UNEP and UNEP-CCC to allocate the remaining resources.
Section V.C., p.32	Table 6: this section of the report will benefit from highlighting that 140 countries have engaged with the CBIT-GSP through the 10 networks. These countries include many that don't have an active national or regional CBIT project, which expands the impact of the global project.	The number of countries has been added. The point re. participation of countries that do not have national/regional CBIT project has been added to section V.A. under coherence.
General	In September, the evaluator, Kris Prasada, inquired whether the CBIT-GSP IIA and IIB projects could be combined into a single technical and financial report. In our response, we clarified that each GEF project must fulfill its distinct monitoring and reporting requirements, and therefore, projects with different GEF IDs cannot be merged for reporting purposes. Could you please clarify the rationale behind combining the assessment of CBIT-GSP IIA and IIB in the MTR?	An inquiry was made regarding whether the two projects could be merged into a single project with a view toward a possible recommendation. No MTR was required for IIA. However, as per the ToR for the MTR, it was deemed appropriate to take IIA into consideration in the MTR for IIB, considering the close relationship between the two and that the next phase will be a single project building on both IIA and IIB. This is now clarified in the executive summary and the description of the MTR approach.

ANNEX II. PEOPLE CONSULTED DURING THE REVIEW

Organisation	Name	Position	Gender
GEF Climate Change Mitigation Unit, Climate Change Division, UNEP	Ruth Zugman Do Coutto	Head Mitigation, PSC member, EG/PSC member	Female
	Asher Lessels	Head GEF Climate Mitigation, Task Manager (CBIT national projects), EG member	Male
	Suzanne Lekoyiet	Task Manager (Enabling Activities), EG member	Female
	Elca Wabusya	Programme Management Assistant	Female
	Susan Legro	Project Consultant	Female
	Moema Corrêa	Project Consultant	Female
	Marcellus Buyela	Programme Management Assistant	Male
	Alphonse Mutabazi	Project Consultant	Male
	Priscillah Kaara	Funds Management Officer	Female
	Clare Yego Robby	Finance and Budget Assistant	Female
	Miriam Hinostroza	Head Climate Action/Project Liaison Officer, EG member	Female
UNEP-CCC	John Christensen	Director, PSC member, EG member	Male
	Fatima Zahra	Senior Advisor	Female
	Khetsiwe Khumalo	Advisor – Climate Transparency	Female
	Alejandro Regatero Labadia	Project Officer	Male
	Juliette Lunel	Project Officer	Female
	Fernando Farias	Senior Advisor - Climate Transparency	Male
	Aiymgul Kerimray	Scientist - Energy	Female
	Sladjana Bundalo	Network Coordinator, Eurasia	Female
	Sheila Kiconco	Network Coordinator, Anglophone Africa	Female
UNDP	Moussa Diop		Male
	Claudia Ortiz	PSC member	Female
	Richemond Assie	Network Coordinator, Francophone Africa	Male
ICAT (UNOPS)	Karen van der Westhuizen		Female
	Hannah Swee		Female
	Celeste Gonzalez		Female
FAO	Mirella Salvatore	PSC member	Female
	Rocio Condor		Female
GEF Secretariat	Esteban Bermudez		Male
	William Holness Carrasco		Male
PATPA (GIZ)	Rebecca Ackermann		Female
UNFCCC Secretariat	Vlad Trusca		Male
IGES	Chisa UMEMIYA		Female
US EPA	Keyle Horton		Female

ANNEX III. KEY DOCUMENTS CONSULTED

IIA:

Project planning and reporting documents

- UNEP & DTU: Project Cooperation Agreement. May 2020
- CEO Endorsement:
  - UNEP: GEF-7 Request for Project Endorsement/Approval. June 2021
  - GEF: Letter: CEO endorsement of medium-sized Project. July 2021
  - UNEP: Project Document. 2020
- UNEP: PRC check List. July 2019
- PIF:
  - UNEP, UNDP: PIF. October 2018
  - GEF: Letter: PIF approval. October 2018
- UNDP: Gender analysis and Action Plan
- GEF: Letter: Fund commitment. March 2022
- Project Revision 1:
  - UNEP: Revision Sheet. April 2022
  - UNEP: Project Information Sheet. April 2022
  - UNEP: Grantor Program Information. April 2022
  - UNEP: Budget revision. March 2022
- Project Revision 2:
  - UNEP: Revision Sheet. May 2023
- Project Revision 3:
  - UNEP: Revision Sheet. December 2023
  - UNEP: Project Information Sheet. December 2023
  - UNEP: Project Revision Sheet. November 2023
  - UNEP CCC: Project Extension Request. December 2023
  - UNEP: Revised budget and work plan
  - UNEP: Project Information Sheet. December 2023
- UNEP: PIRs:
  - 13/5/2020 – 30/6/2022 (Fiscal Year 2022)
  - 1/7/2022 – 30/6/2023 (Fiscal Year 2023)
  - 1/7/2023 – 30/6/2024 (Fiscal Year 2024)
- UNEP-CCC: HYPRs:
  - 1/7/2021 – 28/2/2022
  - 1/7/2023 – 31/12/2023
- UNEP: Cash Advance Statement, 2024.
- GEF Sec.: Confirmation Letter – disbursement. January 2022
- UNEP: Annual Co-finance Report, 2022-2023. August 2023
- UNEP-CCC: Annual Co-finance Report, 2022-2023. August 2023
- UDP: Co-financing Letter: June 2019
- UNEP: ROLAC, Half-Year Expenditures and Unliquidated Obligations Reports:
  - 1/7/2022 – 31/12/2022
  - 1/7/2023 – 31/12/2023
  - 1/1/2023 – 30/6/2023
- UNEP: Umoja – Quarterly Expenditure Reports, GEF Funds:
  - 13/5/2020 – 30/6/2020
  - 1/7/2020 – 30/9/2020
  - 31/10/2020 – 31/12/2020
  - 1/1/2021 – 31/3/2021
  - 1/4/2021 – 30/6/2021

- 1/7/2021 – 30/9/2021
- 1/10/2021 – 31/12/2021
- 1/1/2022 – 28/2/2022
  - UNEP-CCC: Umoja – Quarterly Expenditure Reports, GEF Funds:
- 1/3/2022 – 31/12/2022
- 1/1/2023 – 30/9/2023
  - UNEP: Umoja – overview of spending January 2022 – June 2024
  - UN: Funds Transfer Remittance Advice:
- November 2021
- August 2022
  - Ernst and Young: Comfort Letters for UDP spending of UNEP funds:
- 2019 accounts July 2020
- 2020 accounts. October 2021
- 2021 accounts. November 2022

IIB:

Project planning and reporting documents

- CEO Endorsement:
- UNEP: GEF-7 Request for Project Endorsement/Approval. December 2021
- GEF: Letter: CEO endorsement of full-sized Project. December 2021
- GEF: Letter: Approval of Project Concept (PIF) and Project Preparation Grant. November 2019.
- ToC and Problem Tree. August 2021
- UNEP, UNDP: PIF. October 2018
- UNEP: Gender analysis and Action Plan. August 2021
- UNEP: Project Application Form. June 2022
- UNEP: Project Decision Sheet. June 2022
- UNEP: Project Budget. May 2022
- UNEP: Grantor Program Information. May 2022
- UNEP: Project Information Sheet
- UNDP: Check list for all projects pending GEF approval
- Project Revision 1:
- UNEP: Revision Sheet. December 2023
- UNEP: Project Information Sheet. December 2023
- UNEP CCC: Project Extension Request. November 2023
- UNEP: Revised budget and work plan
- UNEP: PIRs:
- 1/7/2022 – 30/6/2023 (Fiscal Year 2023)
- 1/7/2023 – 30/6/2024 (Fiscal Year 2024)
- UNEP-CCC: HYPRs:
- 1/7/2022 – 31/12/2023
- 1/7/2023 – 31/12/2023
- GEF Sec.: Confirmation Letter – first disbursement. September 2022
- UNEP CCC: Cash Advance Statement. May 2024
- UNEP-CCC: Annual Co-finance Report, 2022-2023. August 2023
- UDP: Co-financing Confirmation Letter. March 2021
- UNEP: Co-financing Confirmation Letter. November 2021
- UNEP: Umoja – Quarterly Expenditure Reports, GEF Funds:
- 1/4/2022 – 31/12/2022
- 1/1/2023 – 30/9/2023
- 1/10/2023 – 31/12/2023
- UNEP: Umoja – overview of spending January 2022 – June 2024

- UN: Funds Transfer Remittance Advice:
- September 2022
- June 2024

IIA+IIB:
Project planning and reporting documents

- Inception and Platform Launch Workshop. June 2023:
- Agenda
- Presentations
- Participant feedback data
- Needs Assessment
- Overview of summary reviews 2022-2023
- Participant registration list
- Capacity Needs Assessments for all Regional Networks, February 2023
- PSC meeting minutes: 1st PSC meeting, 14 November 2023
- EMG meeting report:
- 1st EMG meeting, 3-5 February 2020
- 2nd EMG meeting, 31 October 2023
- UNEP CCC: List of Participating countries and supporting organisations
- 2023 Annual Work Plans for Networks

Project outputs overall:

- UNEP-CCC: Contact list – countries (focal points and experts) and agencies.
- UNEP-CCC: Contact list – CBIT-GSP Transparency Network Coordinators.
- UNEP-CCC: Project work plan, 2022-2026.
- Work plans for regional networks, 2023.
- UNEP-CCC: Knowledge Management Plan 2023.
- UNEP-CCC: Annual Report on Collaboration Activities, 2022-2023.

Project outputs work package 1: Tools, guidelines, publications

- RedINGEI: Template for the National Inventory Document of the countries of the Latin American and Caribbean Climate Transparency Network of Spanish-speaking CBIT-GSP. January 2024
- RedINGEI: Plantilla para el Documento del Inventario Nacional de los países de la Red de Transparencia Climática de América Latina y el Caribe Hispanohablante de CBIT-GSP. January 2024
- UNEP-CCC: Good Practice Series on Transparency: The Development of the National Inventory Report in Montenegro.
- UNEP-CCC: Brief: All You Need to Know About Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency – Global Support Programme (CBIT-GSP)
- UNEP-CCC: Brief: Initial Assessment of Transparency Capacities in Anglophone Africa
- UNEP-CCC: Assessment of Transparency Capacities in the Countries of the Anglophone Caribbean. February 2023
- UNEP-CCC & PATPA: Nota conceptual: Actividad de apoyo para el desarrollo de una hoja de ruta para el primer informe bienal de transparencia.
- UNEP-CCC: Recommendations for Knowledge Products.

Project outputs work package 2: Events

- UNEP-CCC: Meeting Minutes: Three coordination meetings with support providers, September-November 2023. November 2023
- UNEP-CCC: Meeting summaries for side events at COP-28. Dec 2023
- UNEP-CCC: List of outreach (advocacy) events, 2022-2023.
- UNEP-CCC: List of side events at COPS, SB meeting, regional climate weeks, 2023.
- UNEP-CCC: List of webinars, 2023.
- UNEP-CCC: Compilation of minutes and materials for network meetings, 2022-2023.
- UNEP-CCC: Compilation of minutes and materials for CBIT-GSP trainings, workshops, webinars.
- UNEP-CCC: Overview of outreach events, 2022-2023.
- UNEP-CCC: Webinar report: GEF Support For BTR Financing And Access Modalities. May 2023
- UNEP-CCC: overview of Formal Exchanges for Learning Relationships, 2023-2024.

Project outputs work package 3: Climate Transparency Platform

- UNEP-CCC: Report on: Stakeholder Consultation on Climate Transparency Platform. 2023
- UNEP-CCC: Overview of progress on platform content maintenance and update.
- UNEP-CCC: Knowledge Management Plan
- UNEP-CCC: One Stop Shop for Support Requests – status of requests and support. 2023
- UNEP-CCC: Online Space for Transparency Networks on the Platform – overview. 2023
- UNEP-CCC: Communication plan and Branding Strategy for the launch of the Climate Transparency Platform
- UNEP-CCC: Platform Maintenance
- UNEP-CCC: Presentation: Integrating platforms of CBIT Global Coordination Platform and the Global Support Programme – Identifying necessary and desirable functions.
- UNEP-CCC: link to expert roster
- UNEP CCC: CBIT-GSP Platform Analytics Report, 30 June 2024

Project outputs work package 4: Technical assistance

- UNEP-CCC: Strategy to support reviews and peer review for country transparency reports
- UNEP-CCC: Overview: Quality Reviews of Developing Countries' Transparency Reports (NCs, BURs, NIRs), 2022-2023
- UNEP-CCC: Template for requests for support
- UNEP-CCC: Peer Reviews of BURs of Peru and Guatemala. 2023

Previous reviews/evaluations

- UNEP & UNDP: Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP/UNDP/GEF Project Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) Global Coordination Platform (GCP). February 2021
- UNEP & UNDP: Terminal Review of the UNDP-UNEP-GEF Project Global Support Programme for Preparation of National Communications and Biennial Update Re-ports of Non-Annex I Parties under the UNFCCC (GSP). June 2022

Reference documents

- UNEP & UNOPS: UN to UN Transfer Agreement. January 2022

ANNEX IV. REVIEW ITINERARY

Activities and milestones	Timing
Virtual interviews	6/9-9/10 2024
Online survey	10/9-1/10 2024
In-person interviews @ UNEP-CCC	10/9 2024 24/9 2024
Draft MTR report	15/9-24/10 2024
Revised draft MTR report	11/11-13/11 2024
Review by stakeholders	13/11-28/11 2024
Final MTR report	28/11-2/12 2024

ANNEX V. PROJECT BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES

IIA	Budget		Spending							
Cost category	**Original**	**Amended**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**Total**	**Unspent**	**Execution**
Staff & personnel (incl. consultants)	955,000.00	1,198,841.00	24,999.00	15,798.00	183,142.00	228,780.88	66,593.44	519,313.32	679,527.68	43.3%
- UNEP ROLAC	*100,000.00*	*95,000.00*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*50,507.88*	*5,068.25*	*55,576.13*	*39,423.87*	*58.5%*
- UDP	*825,000.00*	*51,341.00*	*24,999.00*	*15,798.00*	*10,544.00*	*-*	*-*	*51,341.00*	*-*	*100.0%*
- UNEP-CCC	*-*	*1,022,500.00*	*-*	*-*	*172,598.00*	*178,273.00*	*61,525.19*	*412,396.19*	*610,103.81*	*40.3%*
- UNEP	*30,000.00*	*30,000.00*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*30,000.00*	*0.0%*
Contract services	24,000.00	538,091.00	397.00	-	-	290.00	289,221.03	289,908.03	248,182.97	53.9%
- UDP	*24,000.00*	*397.00*	*397.00*	*-*	*-*	*-*		*397.00*	*-*	*100.0%*
- UNEP-CCC	*-*	*537,694.00*	*-*	*-*		*290.00*	*289,221.03*	*289,511.03*	*248,182.97*	*53.8%*
Operating & other costs	6,000.00	18,500.00	17.00	-	-	-	-	17.00	18,483.00	0.1%
- UNEP ROLAC	*-*	*5,000.00*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*5,000.00*	*0.0%*
- UDP	*6,000.00*	*17.00*	*17.00*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*17.00*	*-*	*100.0%*
- UNEP-CCC	*-*	*13,483.00*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*13,483.00*	*0.0%*
Travel	30,000.00	77,000.00	-	-	-	2,745.00	6,559.20	9,304.20	67,695.80	12.1%
- UDP	*30,000.00*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*-*	-	*-*	*-*
- UNEP-CCC	*-*	*77,000.00*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*2,745.00*	*6,559.20*	*9,304.20*	*67,695.80*	*12.1%*
Project management	-	167,567.00	-	-	-	-	15,457.85	15,457.85	152,109.15	9.2%
- UNEP-CCC	-	*167,567.00*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*15,457.85*	*15,457.85*	*152,109.15*	*9.2%*
Total budget	**1,015,000.00**	**1,994,999.00**	**25,413.00**	**15,798.00**	**183,142.00**	**231,815.88**	**377,831.52**	**834,000.40**	**1,160,998.60**	**41.8%**
- UNEP ROLAC	*100,000.00*	*95,000.00*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*50,507.88*	*5,068.25*	*55,576.13*	*39,423.87*	*58.5%*
- UDP	*885,000.00*	*51,755.00*	*25,413.00*	*15,798.00*	*10,544.00*	*-*	*-*	*51,755.00*	*-*	*100.0%*
- UNEP-CCC	*-*	*1,818,244.00*	*-*	*-*	*172,598.00*	*181,308.00*	*372,763.27*	*726,669.27*	*1,091,574.73*	*40.0%*
- UNEP	*30,000.00*	*30,000.00*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*30,000.00*	*0.0%*

IIB	Budget		Spending					
Cost category	**Original**	**Amended**	**2021**	**2022-2023**	**2024**	**Total**	**Unspent**	**Execution**
Staff & personnel (incl. consultants)	4,048,091.00	4,088,092.00	-	963,769.00	362,291.96	1,326,060.96	2,762,031.04	32.4%
- UNEP-CCC	*3,998,091.00*	*4,038,092.00*	*-*	*963,769.00*	*351,686.96*	*1,315,455.96*	*2,722,636.04*	*32.6%*
- UNEP	*50,000.00*	*50,000.00*	*-*		*10,605.00*	*10,605.00*	*39,395.00*	*21.2%*
Contract services	*849,664.97*	*849,665,00*	-	*306,028.00*	222,562.72	528,590.72	321,074.28	62.2%
- UNEP-CCC	*849,664.97*	*849,665.00*	*-*	*306,028.00*	*222,562.72*	*528,590.72*	*321,074.28*	*62.2%*
Operating & other costs	*2,134.00*	*438,662.00*	-	-	-	-	438,662.00	0.0%
- UNEP-CCC	*2,134.00*	*438,662.00*	*-*	*-*	-	*-*	*438,662.00*	*0.0%*
Transfer & grants to IP	*952,381,00*	*952,381.00*	-	-	74,333.77	74,333.77	878,047.23	7.8%
- UNEP-CCC	*952,381.00*	*952,381.00*	*-*	*-*	*74,333.77*	*74,333.77*	*878,047.23*	*7.8%*
Travel	*238,747.00*	*238,747.00*	-	*95,947.00*	41,333.00	137,280.00	101,467.00	57.5%
- UNEP-CCC	*238,747.00*	*238,747.00*	*-*	*95,947.00*	*41,333.00*	*137,280.00*	*101,467.00*	*57.5%*
Project management	*476,529.03*	-	-	-	47,074.74	47,074.74	-	N/A
- UNEP-CCC	*476,529.03*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*47,074.74*	*47,074.74*	*-*	*N/A*
Total budget	**6,567,547.00**	**6,567,547.00**	**-**	**1,365,744.00**	**747,596.19**	**2,113,340.19**	**4,454,206.81**	**32.2%**
- UNEP-CCC	*6,517,547.00*	*6517547.00*	*-*	*1,365,744.00*	*736,991.19*	*2,102,735.19*	*4,414,811.81*	*32.3%*
- UNEP	*50,000.00*	*50,000.00*	*-*	*-*	*10,605.00*	*10,605.00*	*39,395.00*	*21.2%*

CBIT-GSP II Mid-term Review

Draft findings, conclusions, lessons, recommendations

29 October 2024

Kris B. Prasada Rao

1

Relevance

- Aligned with UNEP's 2018-2021 Medium Term Strategy climate change sub-programme
- Contributing to UNEP's 2022-2023 Programme of Work's climate transparency and accountability" and South-South cooperation
- Responding to UNFCCC decisions vis-à-vis provision of support for reporting to UNFCCC and climate transparency.
- Addresses country climate transparency priorities and constraints to a moderate or large extent

Rating: Satisfactory

Coherence

- 2 of 10 regional networks funded by UNDP/Belgium but fully integrated in CBIT-GSP II
- Partnership approach – activities co-implemented and co-financed with other support providers + national CBIT projects and enabling activities – enables increased outreach and activity, incl. targeted short-term country-level engagement
- Complements UNFCCC Secretariat efforts to enhance reporting to UNFCCC
- Contributes towards improved coordination of support providers
- Climate Transparency Platform – one-stop entry point for countries vis-à-vis requesting support and accessing resources + information
- Uneven ownership and use of platform by support providers
- Platform partly perceived as a CBIT-GSP II project website

Rating: Highly Satisfactory

Project design quality

- Clear and logical intended results
- Some shortcomings in the ToC and RF
- Appropriate risk matrix
- Well-conceived project management structure
- Appropriate choice of executing entity.
- Regional networks a good strategy for delivery and engaging with countries

Rating: Satisfactory

Financial management

- No evidence of non-adherence to financial procedures
- Timely and duly approved budget revisions
- Financial reporting delayed due to difficulties with aligning UNOPS reporting with GEF requirements
- Timely disbursements
- Co-financing significantly underestimated and underreported
- Good communication between UNEP and UNEP-CCC

Rating: Moderately Satisfactory

Efficiency

- Major delays and low implementation in 2020-2022 due to external factors
- Extension of project completion dates
- High cost-effectiveness – partnerships approach: joint implementation and co-financing
- Low budget execution (especially for IIA)
- High level of activity in 2023-2024
- Technical expertise accessed from partners and in-house UNEP-CCC

Rating: Satisfactory

Monitoring and reporting

- Measurable indicators – generally appropriate
- Several indicators capture outputs – outcomes and objective not fully covered
- Indicators have baselines and end targets, but not always mid-term targets
- Indicators are gender disaggregated, where appropriate
- Indicators are monitored and reported on in PIRs and HYPRs
- Delayed submission of technical and financial reports
- HYPRs and PIRs provide clear and comprehensive overview of implementation of activities and outputs
- Outcomes partly reflected in HYPRs and PIRs
- HYPRs and PIRs cover risk management and gender
- Communication between UNEP-CCC and UNEP is regular

Rating: Moderately Satisfactory

Exit strategy and sustainability

- MRV and ETF anchored in UNFCCC decisions
- GEF funding for supporting countries anchored in UNFCCC decisions
- New phase of CBIT-GSP under preparation
- Countries to varying degrees apply knowledge + approaches from CBIT-GSP in setting up policy and institutional frameworks for MRV + ETF

Rating: Likely

Project management and supervision

- Initial planning and arrangements for CBIT-GSP II timely made
- External obstacles: significantly delayed project + limited implementation in 2020-2022

Rating: Moderately Unsatisfactory

- Good UNEP – UNEP-CCC communication and cooperation
- Well-functioning oversight and support form UNEP
- UNEP facilitated mobilisation of consultants during DTU-UNOPS transition
- Project management works very well
- CBIT-GSP II benefits from access to the wider technical expertise of UNEP-CCC –key for the current level of activity
- Regional networks and partnerships enabled response to several requests for support
- Staff turnover has not affected implementation significantly
- Adapted to significant contextual challenges – maintained some level of implementation
- Impossible to fully mitigate the negative effects of external factors

Rating: Satisfactory

Stakeholder participation and cooperation

- Key stakeholders well represented in PSC
- Capacity development + tool development informed by participatory assessments of needs
- Country-level support is country-driven – based on requests
- Countries are directly involved in the execution
- Regional networks provide opportunities for peer learning
- In-depth peer-to-peer exchanges facilitated between a small number of countries
- Support providers engaged through joint implementation of activities + to a lesser extent Climate Transparency Platform

Rating: Highly Satisfactory

Human rights, gender, and safeguards

- Female direct beneficiaries: 56% for IIA + 52% for IIB
- Women well-represented in project management and oversight
- Relevant project indicators are gender disaggregated
- Main gender deliverable (gender toolkit) delayed and yet to be finalised.
- No gender marker assigned
- Human rights not explicitly addressed
- Contribution to enhanced climate transparency contributes to the accountability of duty bearers (governments) to rights holders (citizens)

Rating: Moderately Satisfactory

- No direct environmental or social risks – no need safeguards or mitigation measures

Rating: Satisfactory

Country ownership and driven-ness

- Voluntary participation in CBIT-GSP II
- All national-level support demand-driven/based on requests
- In-country support co-financed by national CBIT projects + enabling activities.
- A degree of high-level buy-in and countries implementing CBIT-GSP II knowledge and approaches – but variation among countries

Rating: Satisfactory

Communication and public awareness

- Outreach through different channels:
  - Regional networks engage in dialogue with countries + promote peer-to-peer dialogue
  - Climate Transparency Platform provides public/open access to CBIT-GSP II information and products
  - Side events at UNFCCC COP28
  - Active participation in ETF Group of Friends meetings
  - Flyer + good practice briefs

Rating: Satisfactory

Overall performance

Overall rating: Satisfactory

Lessons

- A concerted partnership approach can substantially enhance breadth and depth of engagement and results delivery while increasing cost-effectiveness
- A decentralised delivery strategy can enable a global project to adapt support better to the local context, engage more deeply with countries, and enhance South-South peer learning
- It can be difficult to strengthen the coordination among support providers and built effective shared platforms despite a clear and well-understood added value and genuine interest

Recommendation 1

Further increase the capacity of CBIT-GSP to respond to an anticipated increased demand and need for support to countries for BTR preparation:

a) Increase no. of staff/consultants engaged in assessing draft reports
b) Increase budget and time allocation for assessment of draft BTRs
c) Transfer expenses/budget items planned for 2025 from IIB to IIA budget
d) Develop criteria for prioritisation of support requests, if the demand exceeds CBIT-GPS's capacity to provide support – e.g. prioritising BTR review requests and training
e) Tailor support to supporting countries in the use of UNFCCC reporting tools
f) Engage (with other support providers) with UNFCCC Secretariat, UNFCCC working groups, and Parties to get access to UNFCCC reporting tools
g) Engage in joint BTR support efforts with the UNFCCC Secretariat (e.g. clinics)
h) Explore opportunities for synergy and collaboration with Baku Platform

Recommendation 2

Further ramp up efforts to strengthen coordination of climate transparency support providers:

a) Add a team member/consultant dedicated to promoting support provider coordination
b) Explore options for supporting UNFCCC Secretariat in support provider coordination, e.g. ETF Group of Friends activities
c) Seek formal UNFCCC endorsement of Climate Transparency Platform
d) Consider reducing the prominence of CBIT-GSP on Climate Transparency Platform to level more equal to that of other support providers + establishing a separate webpage for CBIT-GSP
e) Develop with other support providers a strategy for division of labour

Recommendation 3

Review indicators and end targets:

a) Increase end targets that have already been achieved or exceeded
b) Replace outcome indicators that are on the output level with outcome-oriented indicators
c) Add higher-level indicators to the objective level

Recommendation 4

Explore opportunities for enhancing the profile of human rights and gender in CBIT-GSP II:

a) Explore, with human rights expert input, the human rights dimension of climate transparency
b) Assess, with human rights expert input, the scope for integrating human rights more explicitly in CBIT-GSP III
c) Ensure that gender elements of IIA are continued under IIB
d) Implement dedicated gender activities with Francophone network
e) Introduce incentive mechanisms for women's participation in Francophone network

ANNEX VII. BRIEF CV OF THE REVIEWER

Name	Kris Borring Prasada Rao
Profession	Partner and Board Member, PEMconsult
Nationality	Danish
Country experience	• Africa: Botswana, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe • Americas: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Peru, USA • Asia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, the Philippines • Europe: Denmark, Italy, Lithuania, Poland
Education	• MSc Human Geography, University of Copenhagen, 1999 • BSc Geography, University of Copenhagen, 1997

Short biography

Mr Kris B. Prasada Rao is an independent evaluator. He holds an MSc in Human Geography and has more than 20 years of professional experience in climate change, natural resource management, environment, rural development, agriculture, and livelihoods. He has expertise in different aspects of climate change, including governance under the UNFCCC framework, adaptation and resilience, mitigation, and mainstreaming across sectors. He has worked in 46 countries, for a broad range of multilateral institutions including UNEP, UNDP, FAO, IFAD and the European Union, bilateral donors, and NGOs. Kris B. Prasada Rao is a specialist in evaluation and has carried out numerous evaluations and reviews including complex strategic evaluations, global and regional multi-country programme evaluations, and in-country project evaluations. Moreover, he has hands-on programme and project implementation, management and oversight experience from positions with the Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR), Oxfam America, and IFAD. He has since 2011 been a partner and board member at PEMconsult (www.pem.dk).

Key specialties and capabilities cover:

- Natural resource management, ecosystems/biodiversity, environment, climate change, agriculture, water, rural development, livelihoods, poverty reduction
- Evaluation and review
- Programme and project planning, implementation, monitoring, supervision
- Programme Manager, Team Leader: management and supervision of international and local programme staff and consultants

Selected assignments and experiences (independent reviews/evaluations):

- Mid-term Review of the SADC Transfrontier Conservation Area Financing Facility. Client: IUCN, 2024
- Review of the DOF BirdLife Denmark programme Integrating Livelihoods and Conservation – People Partner with Nature for Sustainable Living, phase III (PPN III), Nepal, Kenya, Uganda. *Team Leader*. Client: DOF BirdLife Denmark, 2024
- Terminal review of the project: "Technology Needs Assessments – Phase III (TNA Phase III)", funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). *Team Leader*. Client: UNEP, 2023-2024
- Final evaluation of the project: "Next generation low carbon, climate resilient Eco-Village Development in South Asia" (EVD IV), Sri Lanka, Nepal, India. Client: DIB, 2023
- Final Evaluation (FE) of the UNDP-GCF project "Supporting vulnerable communities in Maldives to manage climate change-induced water shortages". *Team Leader*. Client: UNDP, 2023

- Independent final evaluation of the Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme (ITHCP) Phase I, Bangladesh, India, Nepal. *Team Leader*. Client: IUCN, 2022-2023
- Global evaluation of the EU's cooperation with the World Bank, Mozambique. Client: EC, 2022-2023
- Terminal evaluation of four UNEP-GEF Projects and terminal review of one project on capacity development for the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). *Team Leader*. Client: UNEP, 2022-2023
- Terminal Review of the UNDP-UNEP-GEF project "Global Support Programme for Preparation of National Communications and Biennial Update Reports of non-Annex I Parties under the UNFCCC". Client: UNEP/UNOPS, 2022
- Evaluation of the EU cooperation with the United Nations. Client: EC, 2021-2022
- Final evaluation of FAO-GEF project Participatory assessment of land degradation and sustainable land management in grassland and pastoral areas systems. *Team Leader*. Client: FAO, 2021
- Review of the Climate Grant from the Danish Climate Envelope for civil society climate action. Client: CISU, 2021
- Review of the DOF BirdLife Denmark programme Integrating Livelihoods and Conservation – People Partner with Nature for Sustainable Living phase II, Nepal, Kenya, Uganda. *Team Leader*. Client: CISU, 2021
- Terminal Evaluation: Development of Sustainable Renewable Energy Power Generation (SREPGen), Bangladesh, UNDP-GEF project. *Team Leader*. Client: UNDP, 2020-2021
- Terminal evaluation of UNEP-UNDP GEF CBIT GCP (Capacity Building in Transparency Global Coordination Platform) phase 1. Client: UNEP+UNDP, 2020-2021
- Evaluation of the Danish Support for Climate Change Adaptation in Developing Countries. Client: Danida, 2019-2020
- Project evaluations and results-based framework development for future monitoring and evaluation - the Low Emission Capacity Building (LECB) Programme, the EU-INDC (Intended Nationally Determined Contribution for the UNFCCC) Project, NDC (Nationally Determined Contribution for the UNFCCC) Support Programme. *Team Leader*. Client: UNDP, 2019-2020
- Evaluation of the European Union's co-operation with Myanmar, 2012-2017. *Team Leader*. Client: EC, 2018-2020
- Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP-EC DG Environment Strategic Cooperation Agreement (SCA). *Team Leader*. Client: UNEP, 2019-2020
- End reviews of EAMCEF II (Conservation and Restoration of the Eastern Arc Mountains) and ECOPRC (Empowering Communities Through Training on Participatory Forest Management, REDD and Climate Changes), Tanzania. Te*am Leader*. Client Embassy of Norway, 2019
- Joint Nordic Evaluation of the Nordic Development Fund (NDF). Client: Particip for NDF, 2019
- Mid-Term Review of the Indicative Cooperation Programme (ICP IV) 2016-2020 between the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and Lao PDR. Client: Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, 2018-2019
- Midterm Review of the UNDP-UNEP-GEF project "Global Support Programme for Preparation of National Communications and Biennial Update Reports of non-Annex I Parties under the UNFCCC". Client: UNDP, 2018
- Evaluation of the European Union's co-operation with Afghanistan, 2007-2016. *Team Leader*. Client: EC, 2016-2018
- Evaluation of the European Union's sustainable energy cooperation (2011-2016). Client: EC, 2017

- Mid-Term Review of the UNDP-GEF project: Establishing integrated models for protected areas and their co-management in Afghanistan. *Team Leader*. Client: UNDP, 2017
- Evaluation of the European Union's co-operation with the Region of Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean, 2008-2015. Client: EC, 2016-2017
- Mid-Term Evaluation of the UNEP project "Building Adaptive Capacity and Resilience to Climate Change in Afghanistan 2014-2018", funded by the GEF (Global Environment Facility). *Team Leader*. Client: UNEP, 2016
- Global evaluation of EU's Water Facility. Client: EC, 2016
- Evaluation of the European Union's co-operation with Central Asia. *Team Leader*. Client: EC, 2015-2016
- Mid Term Review of the EU funded Project: "Sustaining biodiversity, environmental and social benefits in the Protected Areas of the Eastern Plains Landscape of Cambodia". Client: WWF, 2016
- Global Mid-Term Evaluation of the EU funded Low Emission Capacity Building (LECB) Programme. *Team Leader*. UNDP, 2015
- Evaluation of Swedish (SMHI) International Training Programs (ITP); Climate Change - Mitigation and Adaptation 2007-2011. Sida, 2015
- Evaluation of the development cooperation of Denmark, Sweden and the European Union with Bangladesh. Client: EC, 2015
- Evaluation of the European Union's support to environment and climate change in third countries (2007-2013). Client: EC, 2014-2015
- Mid-term Evaluation of the UNEP-DHI – Centre for Water and Environment. Client: UNEP, 2014
- Global joint donor review of UNDP Cap-Net. *Team Leader*. Client: UNOPS, 2014
- Global evaluation of the "Gender-responsive Climate Change Initiatives and Decision-making" programme phase 2 and 3 (implemented by UNDP-UNEP, IUCN, WEDO) under the Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA). *Team Leader*. Client: UNDP, 2013
- Evaluation of Output 2, Rural Growth Programme (RGP), Tajikistan. *Team Leader*. Client: UNDP, 2013

ANNEX VIII. REVIEW TOR (WITHOUT ANNEXES)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Mid-Term Review of the UNEP project

"Global Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) Platform Phase IIA and Phase IIB: Unified Support Platform and Program for Article 13 of the Paris Agreement" (Phase IIA GEF ID 10128 & Phase IIB GEF ID 10088)

Section 1: PROJECT BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

(This section describes what is to be reviewed. Key parameters are: project timeframe, funding envelope, results framework and geographic scope)

1. Project General Information

Table 1. Project Summary

(This is a generic table to summarise a project. Integrate the information below with the standard 'project summary' table of the relevant donor e.g. Adaptation Fund, GCF, GEF).

1(a). CBIT Phase IIA GEF ID 10128 Project Summary

UNEP PIMS/SMA[4] ID:	SMA IPMR ID 92633		
Donor ID:	GEF ID 10128		
Implementing Partners:	UNDP & UNEP		
SDG(s) and indicator(s):	SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. Indicator: Indicator 13.3.2 'Number of countries that have communicated the strengthening of institutional, systemic and individual capacity-building to implement adaptation, mitigation and technology transfer, and development actions'. SDG 17: Partnership Indicators: Indicator 17.9.1 'Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation) committed to developing countries.		
Sub-Programme:	Climate action	**Expected Accomplishment(s):**	
UNEP approval date:	13 May 2020	**Programme of Work Output(s):**	ii. Number of national, subnational and private sector actors reporting under the enhanced transparency arrangements of the Paris

[4] Acronym for ID assigned by the Integrated Planning, Monitoring and Reporting (IPMR) system.

			Agreement with UNEP support
Expected start date:	February 2021	**Actual start date:**	February 2021
Planned operational completion date:	31 October 2024	**Actual operational completion date:**	31 October 2025
Planned total project budget at approval (show breakdown of individual sources/grants):	US$ 2,000,000	**Actual total expenditures reported as of [date]:**	US$ 456,238.89
Expected co-financing:	US$ 400,000	**Secured co-financing[5]:**	US$ 30,000 – In kind through ICAT
First disbursement:	US$ 250,000	**Planned date of financial closure:**	31 October 2025
No. of project revisions:	4	**Date of last approved project revision:**	11 December 2023
No. of Steering Committee meetings:	1	**Date of last/next Steering Committee meeting:**	Last: 14 November 2023 Next:
Mid-term Review *(planned date)*[6]*:*	None planned	**Mid-term Review (actual date):**	May 2024
Terminal Evaluation/Review *(planned date):*	TBD	**Terminal Evaluation/Review (actual date):**	TBD
Coverage - Country(ies):	Global	**Coverage - Region(s):**	Global
Dates of previous project phases:	CBIT Global Coordination Platform project (Phase I) (February 2020	**Status of future project phases:**	CBIT II B - ongoing

[5] State whether co-financing amounts are cash or in-kind.

[6] UNEP policies require projects with planned implementation periods of 4 or more years to have a mid-point assessment of performance. For projects under 4 years, this should be marked as N/A.

1(b). CBIT Phase IIB GEF ID 10088 Project Summary

UNEP PIMS/SMA[7] ID:	SMA ID 114538		
Donor ID:	GEFID 10088		
Implementing Partners:	UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre		
SDG(s) and indicator(s):	SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. Indicator: Indicator 13.3.2 'Number of countries that have communicated the strengthening of institutional, systemic and individual capacity-building to implement adaptation, mitigation and technology transfer, and development actions'. SDG 17: Partnership Indicators: Indicator 17.9.1 'Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation) committed to developing countries.		
Sub-Programme:	Climate action	**Expected Accomplishment(s):**	
UNEP approval date:	01 June 2022	**Programme of Work Output(s):**	ii. Number of national, subnational and private sector actors reporting under the enhanced transparency arrangements of the Paris Agreement with UNEP support
Expected start date:	01 March 2022	**Actual start date:**	01 June 2022
Planned operational completion date:	31 December 2024	**Actual operational completion date:**	31 December 2024
Planned total project budget at approval (show breakdown of individual sources/grants):	GEF CBIT-Set Aside – US$ 567,547 GEF CC Set Aside – US$ 6,000,000 **Total budget US$ 6,567,547**	**Actual total expenditures reported as of 31 December 2023**	US$ 1,365,744.00
Expected co-financing:	US$ 500,000	**Secured co-financing[8]:**	In kind financing
First disbursement:	US$ 1,468,015.00	**Planned date of financial closure:**	31 October 2025
No. of project revisions:	Three (3)	**Date of last approved project revision:**	11 December 2023

[7] Acronym for ID assigned by the Integrated Planning, Monitoring and Reporting (IPMR) system.
[8] State whether co-financing amounts are cash or in-kind.

No. of Steering Committee meetings:	One (1)	**Date of last/next Steering Committee meeting:**	Last: 14 November 2023	Next:
Mid-term Review *(planned date)*[9]*:*		**Mid-term Review (actual date):**	May 2024	
Terminal Evaluation/Review *(planned date):*	30 April 2025	**Terminal Evaluation/Review (actual date):**	TBD	
Coverage - Country(ies):	Global	**Coverage - Region(s):**	Global	
Dates of previous project phases:	February 2020	**Status of future project phases:**	Project Phase III under development	

2. Project Rationale

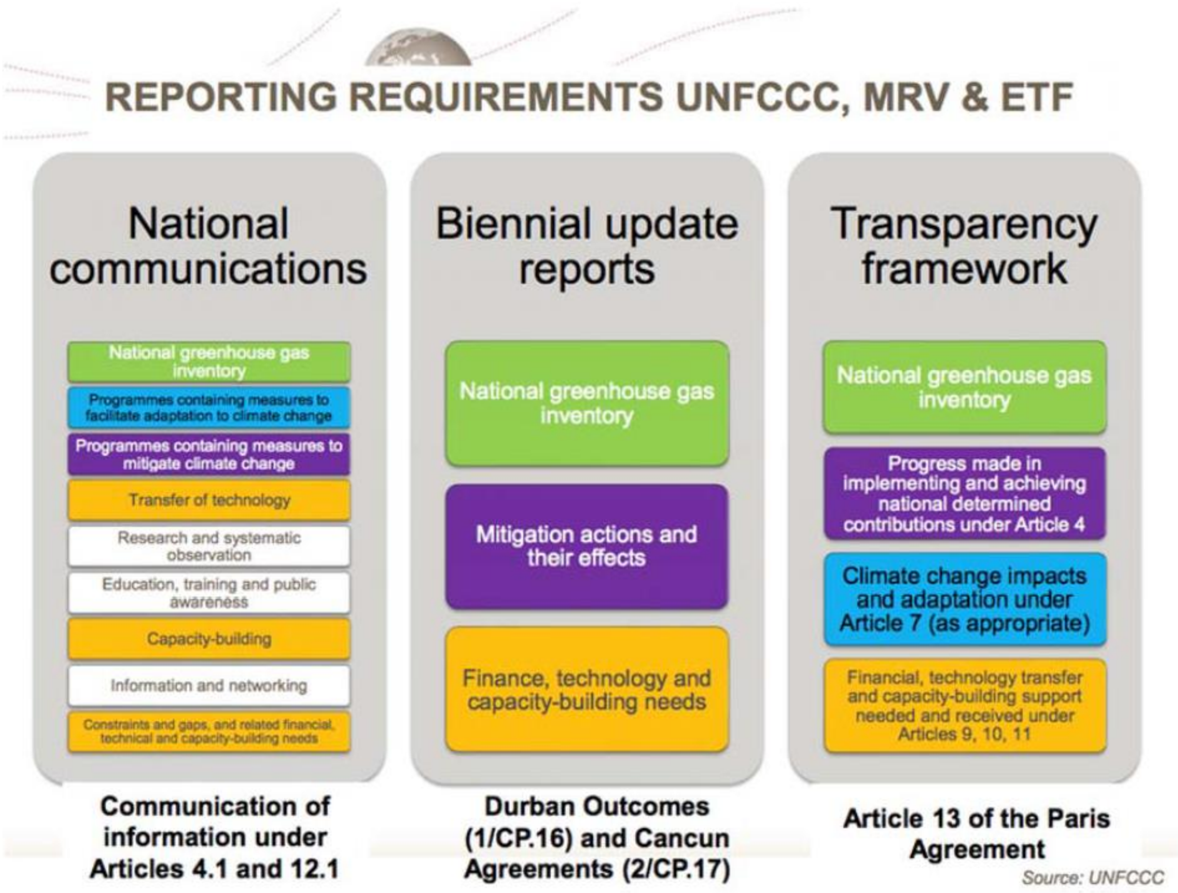
[Describe project context and justification]

The Paris Agreement signified an important turning point in climate change negotiations as the global community recognized the urgency in facing climate change and agreed on a goal of "holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and pursuing significant efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks of impacts" (Article 2). Article 13 of the Paris Agreement is critical to implementation, as it provides the outline for an enhanced transparency framework (ETF) for countries related to the actions they take related to climate change and transparency related to the support that they provide and receive. Since 2020, all countries, both developed and developing, are now expected to begin to comply with Article 13.

The advent of enhanced transparency frameworks presents an opportunity to streamline measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) activities related to climate change by approaching the common elements of transparency activities in a holistic way. This approach can reduce the time burden and financial burden on developing countries. Figure 1 below provides an overview of current reporting requirements for Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement. The figure highlights two elements: 1) The multiple sets of requirements; and 2) The common elements across these requirements.

[9] UNEP policies require projects with planned implementation periods of 4 or more years to have a mid-point assessment of performance. For projects under 4 years, this should be marked as N/A.

Figure 1: Overview of Climate Change Reporting Requirements



In addition to these reporting commitments, the majority of countries have submitted updated or new Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) before COP 26 held in November 2021. The Glasgow Climate Pact agreed on in COP 26 further requests Parties to revisit and strengthen the 2030 targets in their nationally determined contributions as necessary to align with the Paris Agreement temperature goal by the end of 2022, taking into account different national circumstances, NDCs are then to be submitted every five years thereafter (2025, 2030 and so on). It should be noted that progress in reporting under the UNFCCC and the Durban Outcomes and Cancun Agreements varies widely among developing countries. There are countries that have produced several national communications (NCs) and several biennial update reports (BURs), while other countries have not even produced their first BURs.

The Conference of Parties (COP) 24 held in December 2018 in Katowice, Poland reached a series of important decisions regarding transparency under Article 13, known collectively as the Paris Rulebook. The decisions outlined key commitments for all parties to the agreement and their timing during the 2020-2024 "Preparatory Phase" for reporting. It was expected that key elements of the rulebook would be clarified in the subsequent COP (COP25), but the COP did not reach agreement in these areas.

In November 2020, the UNFCCC conducted a series of climate dialogues, and the UNFCCC Executive Secretary announced the establishment of the Universal Participation in the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) Initiative.10 This initiative will provide a platform to mobilize support for developing countries and seeks to bring together countries, support organizations, the business community, NGOs, and other stakeholders. It also aims to increase political support and buy-in at the country level for evidence-based national decision-making processes with a broad base of stakeholder engagement.

One important aspect of Article 13 reporting that resulted from COP24 was the agreement that Parties are to submit a Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) by December 31, 2024, which should include, among other items:

- National Inventory Reports (NIRs)
    - Use of IPCC 2006 Good Practice Guidance
    - Reporting at least three gases (CO_2, CH_4, N_2O) as well as any gases previously reported, covered in the NDC, or covered by an activity under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement
    - Reporting on consistent annual time series from 1990
    - Latest reporting year no more than two years prior to submission of the report
    - Institutional arrangements for the estimation, compilation, and timely reporting of NIRs
- Reporting on support needed and received
- An Adaptation Communication (information on impacts and adaptation)
- Tracking Progress on National Determined Contributions (NDCs)
    - Structured summary of progress towards NDCs
    - Reporting on indicators
    - Reporting on accounting and methodologies (yet to be defined by the COP)
    - Information on mitigation policies and measures, actions and plans
    - Projections of greenhouse gas emissions and removals that extend at least 15 years beyond the next year ending in a zero or five
    - Projections of greenhouse gas emissions that include a "with measures" scenario and may also include "with additional measures" and "without measures" scenarios

It should be noted that Article 13.2 of the Paris Agreement states that there is to be "flexibility in implementation of [Article 13] to those developing country Parties that need it in light of their capacities." The MPGs on reporting are to reflect this flexibility. Generally, all MPGs, including those related to the BTRs, must take the national capacities and circumstances of developing country Parties into account. As the UNFCCC states, least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS) "can choose to submit the information in their BTR at their discretion (i.e. it may be less frequently than biennial) (1/CP.21, para. 90 and 18/CMA.1 para. 4). No specific justification in the BTR for the Party's use of this discretion is required." (Source: UN Climate Change Secretariat, FAQs on the operationalization of the Enhanced Transparency Framework; p. 15)."

The development of the Paris Rulebook also signifies a change in biennial reporting for Non Annex I countries, which will submit their final Biennial Update Report (BUR) by 2024, to be followed by the submission of a BTR by the end of 2024 as presented in Figure 2:

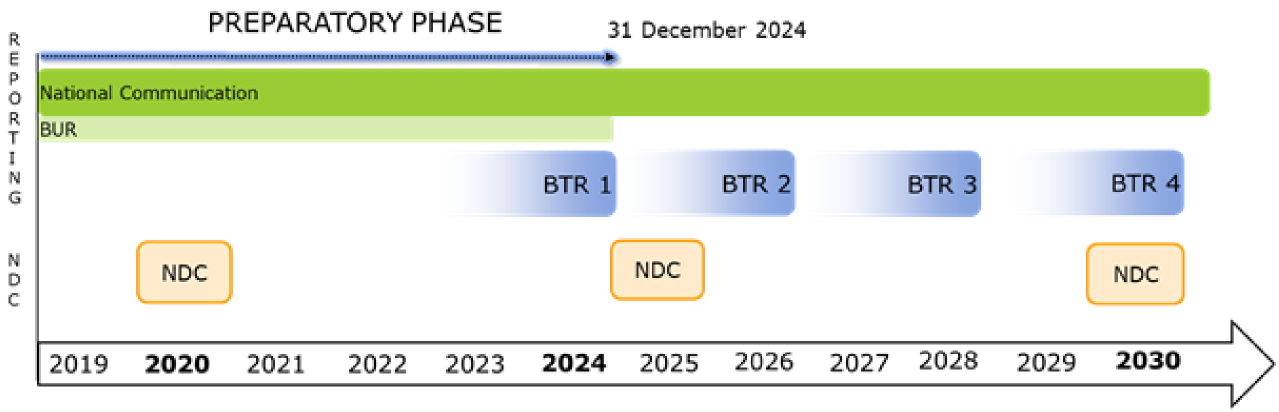


Figure 2: Timeline for the introduction of the BTR, with the deadlines for BTR and NDC submissions[11]

[11] Source: DTU/UDP, 2019. Unfolding the reporting requirements for Developing Countries under the Paris Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework

While the BTR will supersede the BUR, at present the reporting requirement under the UNFCCC to submit National Communications (NCs) is still in place. Figure 3 below describes the flow of information in the Transparency Framework and links with other articles of the Paris Agreement.

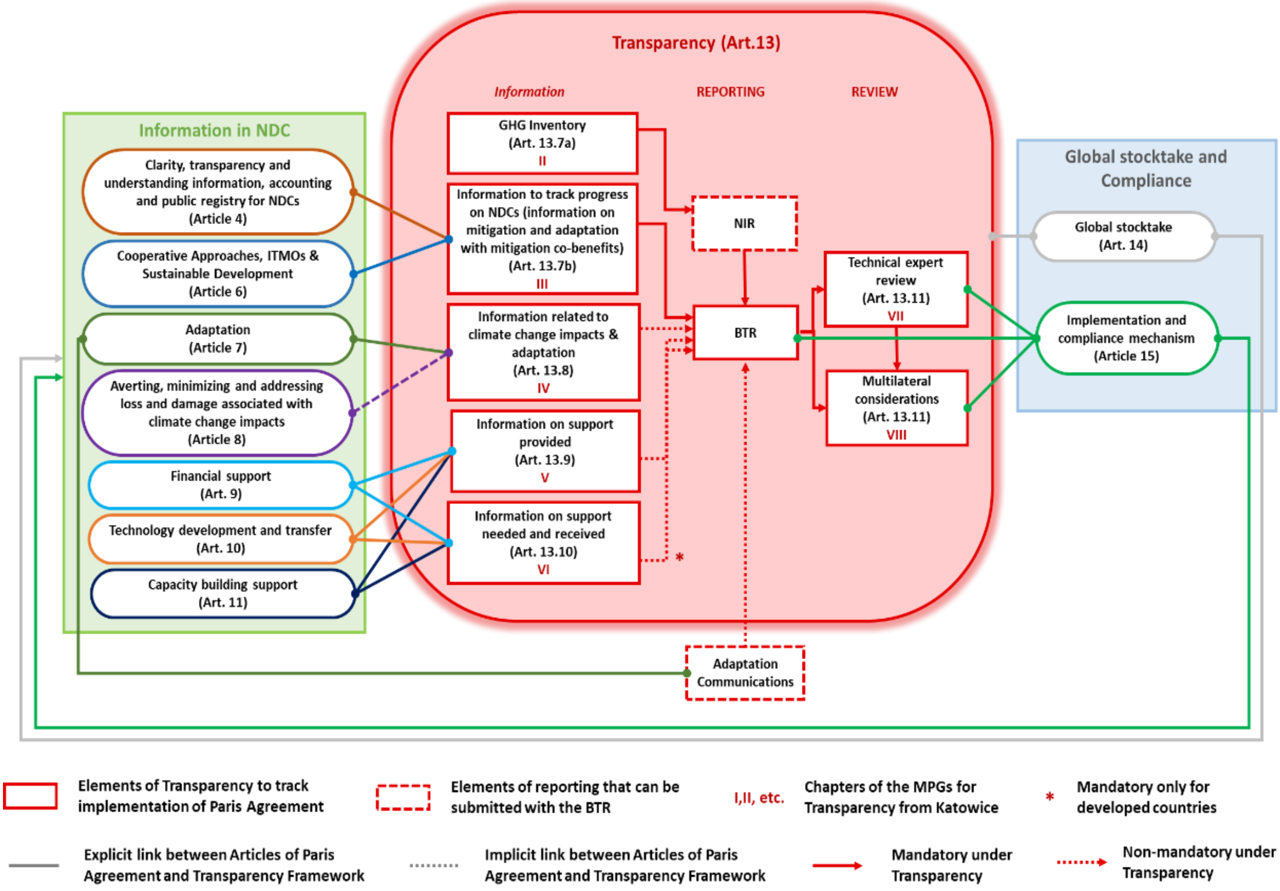


Figure 3: Overview of the flow of information in the Transparency Framework

and links with other articles of the Paris Agreement[12]

The central report is the BTR, which acts as a reporting vehicle for the elements listed under the column "Information", as depicted in the Figure 3. Other key reports are the National Inventory Report (NIR)[13] of GHGs, and the Adaptation Communication (AC). The NIR is a mandatory deliverable under Article 13 and a component of the BTR, although it can be submitted as a stand-alone document. The AC, on the other hand, is not a mandatory submission and may be submitted with the BTR or through other reporting vehicles, such as the NDC, NC or National Adaptation Plan (NAP). In the figure, the NIR and AC are represented with a dashed frame since submitting with the BTR is optional.

In addition to this reporting, at COP 25, the UNFCCC agreed on a 5-year strengthened Gender Action Plan (GAP). The GAP includes 20 activities grouped under the priority areas: a) capacity-building, knowledge management and communication; b) gender balance, participation and women's

[12] Source: DTU/UDP, 2019. *Unfolding the reporting requirements for Developing Countries under the Paris Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework.*

[13] The national inventory report (NIR) consists of a national inventory document (NID) and the common reporting tables.

leadership; c) coherence; d) gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation; e) monitoring and reporting. Government and other relevant organizations at all levels are called upon to enhance the availability of sex-disaggregated data, organize expert group meetings on gender budgeting, deploy gender-responsive technological solutions to address climate change, and foster women's and girls' full participation and leadership in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, as well as research and development.[14]

At present, these multiple commitments represent a serious challenge to developing country Parties. In a December 2020 UNDP-UNEP report based on a survey of project coordinators of climate change enabling activity projects, countries expressed a need for support in the following areas following the conclusion of the Global Support Programme (GSP); i.e., in 2021 and beyond:

- Support for GHG inventory systems and training (44 countries)
- Training on MRV and institutional arrangements (41 countries)
- Vulnerability and adaptation assessments (28 countries)
- Support for mitigation analysis and reporting (27 countries)
- BTR requirements (16 countries)
- Tracking of support received (9 countries)
- Other support areas (42 countries)[15]

Challenges also go beyond specific reports. While these countries have an increasing number of methodological and informational resources at their disposal, many of them face persistent challenges in their capacity to monitor and report on climate change: a lack of data, staff shortages and turnover, and a lack of individual capacity to conduct certain transparency-related activities (see Table 1).

Table 1: Barriers to the Development of Enhanced Transparency Frameworks

Barrier	Type of Barrier	Description
Country-level institutional framework for reporting on mitigation, adaptation, and financial resources needed and received	Institutional	Many developing countries have some information systems that contribute to reporting in their NCs and BURs; however, these systems are often incomplete and unconnected. Countries often lack the legislative and regulatory mandates to obtain data from sectoral ministries on an ongoing basis. Even when such mandates exist, there may be problems with enforcement, which relate to underlying issues of political support. In cases where data are received, they may not be properly formatted or vetted for quality.
Technical and management capacities to prepare solid quality reports	Organizational / individual	Government agencies that are currently responsible for reporting and transparency are understaffed, and frequent turnover and administrative reorganization can cause disruptions in the continuity of employees working on the reports. When staff are available, they may lack particular methodologies that would allow them to undertake impact assessments of mitigation and adaptation measures and vulnerability to climate

[14] Decision 3/CP.25 (2019). Enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan.

[15] UNDP-UNEP (2020): 11-12. Other areas for support included modelling tools, NDC tracking, adaptation reporting, and gender mainstreaming.

		change. In other cases, staff are fully occupied with current reporting projects and lack the time and resources to interpret new developments related to Article 13. When consultants are used, agencies may lack the capacity to identify the proper expertise and procure experts that correspond well to needs and can also provide opportunities for learning by doing to project staff. In other cases, training materials may not be available in a format or language that is accessible to staff.
Availability of data	Organizational	While data gaps and uncertainties have improved in the past few years in many countries, they continue to be a very important barrier to the quality and comprehensiveness of the NC reports, and the sustainability of the NC and BUR processes. These gaps will also hinder the robustness of country Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). This barrier is closely related to the lack of harmonized institutional frameworks, as in some cases data are available at the country or regional level but are not consistently shared.
Stakeholder consultation processes	Institutional / Organizational/ Cultural	Many countries lack the tools for broad consultative processes that include a wide variety of sectoral agencies and civil society, including the private sector and disadvantaged groups. A consultative approach is seldom part of the organizational culture of institutions leading those processes.
Integration of gender considerations	Institutional / Organizational/ Cultural	Although gender is mentioned in a number of NDCs, evidence suggest that developing countries' capacity to support gender mainstreaming (or other mainstreaming of socially excluded groups), to integrate gender-related climate change findings into sectoral policies, and to participate meaningfully in the strengthened 5-year Gender Action Plan (Decision 3/CP.25) needs to be strengthened.

Experience from previous and ongoing GEF-funded initiatives, including the Global Support Programme, the CBIT Global Coordination Platform, and country-level climate change enabling activities, has been collected from ongoing feedback and from project evaluations.[16] Experience from the GSP and CBIT projects also indicates that although countries vary in their capacity for climate change reporting, they face a number of common needs and gaps:

- A need to strengthen and formalize institutional arrangements for data collection, analysis, and reporting;

[16] GEF-UNEP-UNDP-DTU/UDP-Global Coordination Platform. "Existing capacities and barriers faced by Parties and key

stakeholders a like in the implementation of the enhanced transparency framework." Output 3.1.3 of the CBIT Global Coordination Platform (Phase I).

- A gap between country reporting and climate policies and programs; i.e., reporting institutions may not be the same as focal point institutions for climate change, and the resulting information may not be reflected in country policies and programs;
- A need for effective inter-agency decision-making bodies on climate change that can enhance country ownerships of reporting processes and their results;
- A need to focus on the transition to ongoing, country-owned, self-funded arrangements for reporting;
- A need to strengthen technical capacities in various aspects of reporting, including scenarios; inventories; impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation; and mitigation;
- A need to improve GHG inventories and to move towards universal use of the 2006 IPCC good practice guidelines;
- A need to collect gender-disaggregated data, understand the gender implications of mitigation and adaptation measures, and mainstream gender issues and active women's participation into country-level climate policies and institutions
- A need to complement stand-alone workshops with sustained bilateral or multilateral twinning or mentoring relationships.

However, the introduction of enhanced transparency frameworks presents an opportunity to streamline MRV activities by approaching the common elements of transparency activities in a holistic way. Specifically, requirements under the Paris Agreement that necessitate the establishment of institutional arrangements for the estimation, compilation, and timely reporting of national inventory reports can form the core of an MRV system that can collect and report on other data and information needed for National Communications under the UNFCCC and BTRs under the Paris Agreement. This approach could reduce the time burden and financial burden on developing country Parties. Furthermore, there is an opportunity to share experiences and good practice across Parties, avoiding the need to devote valuable time and scarce expertise and funding to elaborate unique structures and approaches for each developing country Party.

3. Project Results Framework

[Present the project objective(s), components, outputs, outcomes and long-lasting impacts as per the Project Document (i.e. the results framework). Include the Theory of Change diagram, where available. Use tables as appropriate.]

3(a) Projects Results Framework for CBIT Platform Phase IIA (GEF ID 10128)

The main project objective is to provide streamlined support and capacity building at the country, regional, and global level to improve reporting capacity of countries and enhanced transparency frameworks to allow developing countries to meet commitments under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement.

The project was designed with three components, two outcomes and several outputs as described below:

Project Components/ Programs	Financing Type[17]	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	(in $) GEF Project Financing	Confirmed Co-financing
1. Streamlined knowledge development and delivery in support of Article 13	Technical Assistance	Developing countries and practitioners increasingly access and use information and knowledge on new and existing reporting requirements	1.1 Existing Global Support Program (GSP) and CBIT platforms merged and redesigned into an integrated web platform 1.2 Platform content and features maintained and updated regularly 1.3 Knowledge products on the Paris Rulebook and other reporting under the UNFCCC, including associated training modules, updated, developed, and customized	CBIT	794,091	350,000
2. Global stakeholder	Technical Assistance	Developing countries can	2.1 Annual stocktaking	CBIT	994,091	0

[17] Financing type can be either investment or technical assistance.

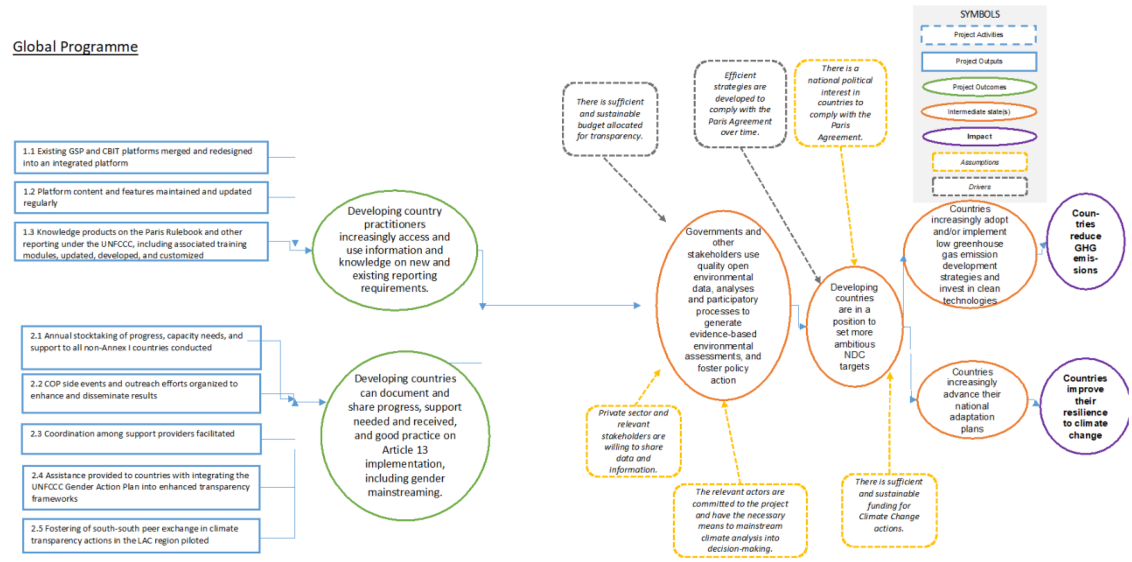
outreach and dissemination of best practices		document and share progress, support needed and received, and good practice on Article 13 implementation, including gender mainstreaming.	of progress, capacity needs, and support to all non-Annex I countries conducted 2.2 COP side events and outreach efforts organized to disseminate results 2.3 Coordination among support providers facilitated 2.4 Assistance provided to countries with integrating the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan into enhanced transparency frameworks 2.5 Fostering of south-south peer exchange in climate transparency actions in the LAC region piloted			

3. Knowledge Management and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)	Technical Assistance				30,000	
Subtotal					1,818,182	350,000
Project Management Cost (PMC)[18]				CBIT	181,818	50,000
Total project costs					2,000,000	400,000
The budget in the Table B includes funds for UNDP and UNEP as follows: Component 1: UNDP 0; UNEP 794,091 USD Component 2: UNDP 894,091 USD; UNEP 100,000 PMC: UNDP 90,909 USD; UNEP 90,909 USD M&E: UNDP 30,000 USD; UNEP 0 UNDP total: 1,015,000 USD; UNEP total: 985,000 USD						

[18] For GEF Project Financing up to $2 million, PMC could be up to10% of the subtotal; above $2 million, PMC could be up to 5% of the subtotal. PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project financing amount in Table D below.

Theory of Change (ToC) for CBIT Platform Phase IIB (GEF ID 10128)

Annex 11: Theory of Change



3(b) Projects Results Framework for CBIT Platform Phase IIB (GEF ID 10088)

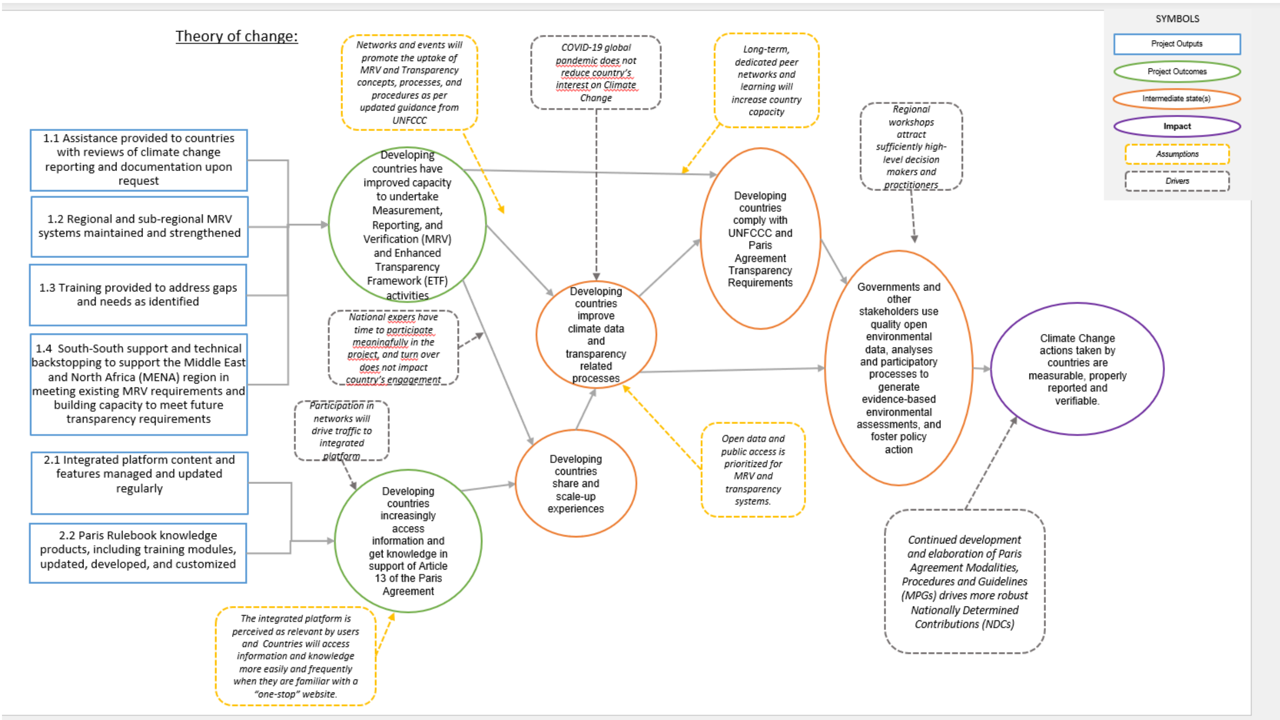
The main project objective is to provide streamlined support and capacity building at the country, regional, and global level to enable Non-Annex I countries under the UNFCCC and developing countries under the Paris Agreement to better respond to reporting requirements and to catalyze increased ambition within country NDCs to contribute to the stated temperature goal of well below 2 degrees and if possible 1.5 degrees.

The project was designed with three components, three outcomes and several outputs as described below:

Project Components/ Programs	**Component Type**	**Project Outcomes**	**Project Outputs**	**Trust Fund**	**(in $)**	
					GEF Project Financing	**Confirmed Co-financing**
1. Capacity strengthening for developing countries through customized support and South-South sub-regional peer networks and learning to	Technical Assistance	Developing countries have improved capacity to undertake measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) and enhanced transparency	1.1 Assistance provided to countries with development and reviews of climate change reporting and documentation upon request 1.2 Regional and sub-regional	GEF TF	5,567,324	0

support current and future reporting requirements		framework (ETF) activities	MRV/Transparency networks maintained and strengthened 1.3 Training provided to address gaps and needs as they are identified 1.4 South-South support and technical backstopping to support the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region in meeting existing MRV requirements and building capacity to meet future transparency requirements			
2. Ongoing development and delivery of knowledge in support of Article 13	Technical Assistance	Developing countries increasingly access information and get knowledge in support of Article 13 of the Paris Agreement	2.1 Integrated Platform content and features managed and updated regularly 2.2 Paris Rulebook knowledge products including training modules updated, developed, and customized	GEF TF	487,483	400,000
3. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)	Technical Assistance	Project management and approaches to country reporting are informed by M&E	3.1 Project monitored to support results-based management 3.2 Knowledge and lessons learned generated	GEF TF	200,000	
			Subtotal		6,254,807	400,000
			Project Management Cost (PMC)	GEF TF	312,740	100,000
			Total project costs		6,567,547	500,000

Theory of Change (ToC) for CBIT Platform Phase IIB (GEF ID 10088)



4. Executing Arrangements

[Specify UNEP Branch and Unit responsible for project implementation and project execution partners. Briefly describe role and composition of management and supervision structures of the project, including formal revisions since approval. Use table or diagram as appropriate. NOTE: For GEF-funded projects highlight internally executed projects, providing details on reporting lines for implementation and execution.]

<u>Execution Arrangement for CBIT Platform Phase IIA (GEF ID 10128)</u>

The description below provides the original execution arrangement at the CEO Endorsement stage of the two projects.

Implementing Arrangements: UNDP and UNEP were to be the GEF Implementing Agencies (IAs) for this initiative and were to be responsible to the GEF for the use of project resources as written in the project document, or any amendments agreed. UNEP was to be the implementing agency for Component 1 and Output 2.5, and these portions of the project were to be implemented by the UNEP Climate Change Mitigation (CCM) Team appointed Task Manager (TM). UNDP was to be responsible for Component 2 (2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4) and Component 3 (which included the terminal evaluation), and those portions of the project were to be implemented by the Nature, Capital, and Energy–Vertical Funds (NCE-VF) unit in the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS) at UNDP using Direct Implementation Modality (DIM).

Executing Arrangements: For the UNEP portion, Component 1 was to be executed by UNEP DTU Partnership (UDP), and Activity 2.5 was to be executed by UNEP's regional office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC), in Panama. Most project funds were to be executed by the UDP, with an exception of $100,000 going to the UNEP regional office under the management of the Project Management Unit (PMU) for this activity. The UNDP portion was to be executed by the Istanbul Regional Hub (IRH) using a DIM modality where some of the funds were to be managed by UDP[19] as responsible party for selected outputs. For the project as a whole, the Project Management Unit (PMU) was to decide when a cash advance request is needed and will prepare and submit it to both implementing agencies. The PMU will also prepare a complete project-level workplan and budget revisions to be approved by the Executive Management Group (EMG) and any other document to fulfil the legal requirements of both agencies. A detailed description of the implementing and executing arrangements were included in Annex J of the CEO endorsement document.

Project Management: The Project Coordinator was to function within an executive management group (EMG), which was to be composed of representatives from UNEP (the Project Director, the Task Manager, and the Head of Energy and Climate Branch), UNDP (the Head of Climate Strategies and Policy and a representative of IRH), and UDP (the Head of Transparency and Accountability). The EMG was to oversee the implementation of the project through half-yearly meetings. Its main functions were to take management decisions (including approving budget and workplan revisions). It was also to provide high level guidance on and ensure full coordination between UNEP, UNDP and UNEP DTU Partnership of the project and other relevant initiatives.

In addition, the Project Management Unit (PMU) was to be responsible for day-to-day management of the project and ensure timely delivery of quality outputs, prepare budgets and workplans revisions for review and track project progress and prepare reports. It was to be composed by one representative from each institution: UNDP, UNEP and UDP, as follows:

- UNDP was to appoint the Project Coordinator (PC), co-located in Copenhagen with UDP, to be partially funded from project resources. The PC was coordinate a team of technical experts and administrative staff from UDP, UNDP and UNEP ROLAC, including activities to be carried out by UDP's personnel.

- UNEP was to appoint the Project Director (PD), co-located in Copenhagen with UDP, funded from UNEP's resources other than the project funds. The PD's tasks were among others to a) provide operational and political guidance b) to work with the PC to achieve project outcomes c) to support linkages with other Transparency initiatives d) to review budget and workplan revisions as required as per CEO Endorsement request and annexes and e) to co-sign Project Half Yearly Progress reports, Project Implementation Reports and procurement plans.

- UDP was to appoint a Focal Point, whose working time dedicated to the project was to be partially covered by the management budget (up to $30k/year). The UDP Focal Point was to ensure execution of the UNEP and UNDP contracts signed by UDP, jointly with the Project Coordinator and facilitate coordination with UDP technical team and UDP finance-administrative team. The UDP Focal point was to provide support to the PC for the secretariat role during the meetings.

[19] From a legal point of view, the risk assessment (HACT) has been realized for UDP, to whom resources will be transferred.

Project Oversight: The project was to utilize a project steering committee (PSC), which was to be composed of representatives from the following organizations: UNEP (the Project Director and the Task Manager), UNDP (the Head of Climate Strategies and Policy and the IRH Manager), UDP (Head of Transparency and Accountability), the UNFCCC, the GEF Secretariat, one developed country (on a rotating basis); and two developing countries. The committee was to be responsible for reviewing project progress, annual work plans and budget and providing strategic guidance for successful project implementation. The PSC was to meet annually, unless one of the committee members called for ad hoc interim meeting. Developing country representation on the PSC was to provide a voice for project beneficiaries. The PSC meetings were to be scheduled concurrently with other workshops or side events organized by the project to minimize travel costs and were to follow all agency guidance from UNDP and UNEP relating to staff travel during the COVID-19 global pandemic, which may entail necessitate meetings.

Execution Arrangement for CBIT Platform Phase IIB (GEF ID 10088)

UNEP was to be the GEF Implementing Agency (IAs) for the entire CBIT Phase II initiative, consisting of CBIT IIA (2021-2023, GEF ID 10128) and Phase IIB (2022-2027, GEF ID 10088), and was to be responsible to the GEF for the use of project resources as it was written in the CEO Endorsement Request document, or any amendments agreed.

Implementing Arrangements: UNEP was to be the GEF Implementing Agency (IA) for this project and was to be responsible to the GEF for the use of project resources as written in the CEO Endorsement Request document, or any amendments agreed. UNEP was to act as the implementing agency through the UNEP Climate Change Mitigation (CCM) unit that was to appoint a Task Manager (TM).

Executing Arrangements: For the whole project, UNEP DTU Partnership (DTU/UDP) was to be the executing agency. In agreement with the GEF, UNEP DTU Partnership (DTU/UDP) was expected to sub-contract UNDP in order for UNDP to carry out the MENA activities. If circumstances were to change, the executing agency was to consider other alternative options.

A detailed description of the implementing and executing arrangements was included in Annex J of CEO endorsement document.

Project Management: In order to support implementation of CBIT IIA and CBIT IIB as a unified initiative, the Project Management Unit (PMU) and Executive Management Group (EMG) was to be the same for both projects. DTU/UDP was to recruit the Project Coordinator (PC), located in Copenhagen, to be funded from project resources. The PC was supposed to coordinate a team of technical experts and administrative staff from DTU/UDP. Accordingly, the PC was to be responsible for the provision of support to project stakeholders to achieve the outcomes of the project. The PC was to report to DTU/UDP, while also continuously updating and coordinating with the Project Liaison appointed by UNEP to achieve project outcomes.

UNEP was to appoint the Project Liaison (PL), co-located in Copenhagen with DTU/UDP, funded from UNEP's resources other than the project funds. The PL's tasks was among others, to provide political guidance and support linkages with other transparency initiatives.

The Project Coordinator was to support an executive management group (EMG), which was composed of representatives from UNEP (the Project Liaison and the Task Manager) and DTU/UDP (the Head of Transparency and Accountability). The EMG was to operate through half-yearly meetings. Its main functions were to take management decisions (including approving budget and workplan revisions). It was also to provide high-level guidance on and ensured full coordination between UNEP and DTU/UDP of the project and other relevant initiatives.

In addition, the Project Management Unit (PMU) was to be responsible for day-to-day management of the project and ensure timely delivery of quality outputs, prepare budgets and workplans revisions for review and will track project progress and prepare reports.

Project Oversight: The project was to utilize a project steering committee (PSC), which was to compose of representatives from the following organizations: UNEP (the Project Liaison and the Task Manager), DTU/UDP (Head of Transparency and Accountability), the UNFCCC and the GEF Secretariat. In addition, on a rotating basis, one developed country, two developing countries and one representative from GEF Implementing Agencies working on transparency were to be invited. The committee was to be responsible for reviewing project progress, annual work plans and budget and providing strategic guidance for successful project implementation.

The PSC was to be planned to meet annually, unless one of the committee members called for ad hoc interim meeting. Developing country representation on the PSC was to provide a voice for project beneficiaries. The PSC meetings were to be scheduled concurrently with other workshops or side events organized by the project to minimize travel costs and was to follow all UNEP guidance relating to staff travel during the COVID-19 global pandemic, which may have necessitated remote meetings.

REVISED EXECUTING ARRANGEMENTS

The UNDP and the UNEP agreed that the CBIT IIA global project, originally planned as a joint initiative, was to be transferred after the GEF CEO approval to UNEP as a lead and only GEF Implementing Agency for implementation of the project. The shift in responsibility was agreed upon due to announced changes in the UNEP-DTU Partnership. The UNEP-DTU hosted by Danish Technical University (DTU) was no longer hosted under DTU as of early 2022. The UNEP DTU Partnership (UDP) transitioned into UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre on 1 March 2022, becoming part of the UN family. This made the earlier arrangement which assumed that DTU would function as Executing Entity for UNDP to no longer feasible. Arrangements for the executing entity have changed with UNEP-CCC being the sole executing agency of the project. The Centre is supported operationally by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

5. Project Cost and Financing

[Present total project budget at design, broken down per component and per funding source. Use tables as appropriate. Present most recent figures on disbursement.]

5 (a) Project Costs and Financing CBIT Platform Phase IIA (GEF ID 10128)

Project Components/ Programs	Project Outcomes	(in $)	
		GEF Project Financing	Confirmed Co-financing
1. Streamlined knowledge development and delivery in support of Article 13	Developing countries and practitioners increasingly access and use information and knowledge on new and existing reporting requirements	794,091	350,000
2. Global stakeholder outreach and dissemination of best practices	Developing countries can document and share progress, support needed and received, and good practice on Article 13 implementation, including gender mainstreaming.	994,091	0

3. Knowledge Management and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)		30,000	
Subtotal		1,818,182	350,000
Project Management Cost (PMC)[20]		181,818	50,000
Total project costs		2,000,000	400,000
The budget in the Table B includes funds for UNDP and UNEP as follows: Component 1: UNDP 0; UNEP 794,091 USD Component 2: UNDP 894,091 USD; UNEP 100,000 PMC: UNDP 90,909 USD; UNEP 90,909 USD M&E: UNDP 30,000 USD; UNEP 0 UNDP total: 1,015,000 USD; UNEP total: 985,000 USD			

Disbursements under CBIT Platform Phase IIA (GEF ID 10128)

Disbursement Date	Cash Advances
26 Nov 2021	$250,000.00
2 Aug 2022	$473,634.00
31 Dec 2022	($198,245.00)
Total	**$525,389.00**

5 (b) Project Costs and Financing for CBIT Platform Phase IIB (GEF ID 10088)

Project Components/ Programs	Project Outcomes	(in $) GEF Project Financing	GEF Project Financing
1. Capacity strengthening for developing countries through customized support and South-South sub-regional peer networks and learning to support current and future reporting requirements	Developing countries have improved capacity to undertake measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) and enhanced transparency framework (ETF) activities	5,567,324	0
2. Ongoing development and delivery of knowledge in support of Article 13	Developing countries increasingly access information and get knowledge in support of Article 13 of the Paris Agreement	487,483	400,000
3. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)	Project management and approaches to country reporting are informed by M&E	200,000	

[20] For GEF Project Financing up to $2 million, PMC could be up to10% of the subtotal; above $2 million, PMC could be up to 5% of the subtotal. PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project financing amount in Table D below.

Subtotal	6,254,807	6,254,807
Project Management Cost (PMC)	312,740	312,740
Total project costs	6,567,547	6,567,547

Disbursements under CBIT Platform Phase IIB (GEF ID 10088)

Disbursement Date	Cash Advances
2 Sep 2022	$1,468,015.00
Total	**$1,468,015.00**

6. Implementation Issues

[Record any issues that have arisen in the initial implementation period including: significant delays, changes in partners, implementing countries and/or results statements. Note the dates when such changes have been approved.]

The CBIT IIB project implementation was initially hampered due to two major institutional arrangements changes. The first change relates to the transitioning of the Executing Partner – formerly the UNEP DTU Partnership, now the UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre – from its hosting arrangements with the Danish Technical University (DTU) to new hosting arrangements with UNEP and UNOPS. This transition had major impacts on the start of the implementation of activities of the project, primarily the signing of contracts and the procurement of resources, notably the Network Coordinators.

The second change relates to the responsibility for output 1.4 for regional support activities in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) project, which was originally with UNDP and was handed over for implementation to UNEP and for execution to UNEP-CCC at a later stage.

Additionally, the project faced the following challenges:

- ✓ Increased cost of travel and logistics after Covid-19 and due to inflation
- ✓ Difficulty in finding suitable Network Coordinators and Consultants

Section 2. OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE OF THE MID-TERM REVIEW

(This section is standard and does not need to be revised for each TOR)

7. Objective of the Review

In line with the UNEP Evaluation Policy[21] and the UNEP Programme Manual[22], the Mid-Term Review (MTR) is undertaken approximately half-way through project implementation to analyze whether the project is on-track, what problems or challenges the project is encountering, and what corrective actions are required.

8. Key Review Principles

Mid-Term review findings and judgements will be based on sound evidence and analysis, clearly documented in the Review Report. Information will be triangulated (i.e. verified from different sources) as far as possible, and when verification is not possible, the single source will be mentioned (whilst anonymity is still protected). Analysis leading to evaluative judgements should always be clearly spelled out.

Possible questions to be considered include, *(MTR Review Framework Questions available from UNEP Task Manager):*

- Does the TOC properly reflect the project's intended change process?
- Is the stakeholder analysis still appropriate and adequate to support the project's ambitions?
- Are results statements in keeping with UNEP definitions (e.g. outcomes are expressed as the uptake or use of outputs)
- Are roles and responsibilities commonly understood and playing out effectively?
- Is there an effective monitoring mechanism for the project's implementation (this is separate from, and supports, reporting)?
- Is the rate of expenditure appropriate for the mid-point?
- Have plans for inclusivity , equality and/or equity been implemented as planned, or does more need to be done?
- Are safeguard identification and mitigation plans being monitored and steps taken to minimize negative effects?
- Is there an exit strategy in place and are the elements needed for the project's benefits to be sustained after the project end, being incorporated in the project implementation?
- (Where relevant) Have recommendations from previous learning exercises/performance assessments been appropriately addressed
- (Where relevant) What changes were made to adapt to the effects of COVID-19 and how might any changes affect the project's performance?

A Mid-Term Review is a *formative assessment*, which requires that the consultant(s) go beyond the assessment of "*what*" the project performance is and make a serious effort to provide a deeper understanding of "*why*" the performance is as it is.

Attribution, Contribution and Credible Association: In order to *attribute* any outcomes and impacts to a project intervention, one needs to consider the difference between what has happened with, and

[21] https://www.unenvironment.org/about-un-environment/evaluation-office/policies-and-strategies
[22] https://wecollaborate.unep.org

what would have happened without, the project (i.e. take account of changes over time and between contexts in order to isolate the effects of an intervention). This requires appropriate baseline data and the identification of a relevant counterfactual, both of which are frequently not available for reviews. Establishing the *contribution* made by a project in a complex change process relies heavily on prior intentionality (e.g. approved project design documentation, logical framework) and the articulation of causality (e.g. narrative and/or illustration of the Theory of Change). Robust evidence that a project was delivered as designed and that the expected causal pathways developed supports claims of contribution and this is strengthened where an alternative theory of change can be excluded. A *credible association* between the implementation of a project and observed positive effects can be made where a strong causal narrative, although not explicitly articulated, can be inferred by the chronological sequence of events, active involvement of key actors and engagement in critical processes.

Partners and Key Project Stakeholders. A key aim of the Mid-Term Review is to encourage reflection and learning by UNEP staff, the implementing partners and key project stakeholders The Review Consultant should consider how reflection and learning can be promoted, both through the review process and in the communication of review findings and key lessons.

9. Review Criteria

All review criteria will be rated on a six-point scale as follows: Highly Satisfactory[23] (HS = 6); Satisfactory (S = 5); Moderately Satisfactory (MS = 4); Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU =3); Unsatisfactory (U = 2); Highly Unsatisfactory (HU =1). A Criteria Ratings Matrix is available, within the suite of tools, to support a common interpretation of points on the scale for each review criterion. The Overall Performance Rating is calculated as a simple average of the ratings for each criterion (A-H). **Any criterion assessed as being in the 'Unsatisfactory' range should trigger corrective action in the Management Response.**

Where UNEP funding partners have areas of specific interest, these are noted, below.

A. Strategic Relevance

The Mid Term Review (MTR) will assess the extent to which the activity is suited to the priorities and policies of UNEP, the donors, implementing regions/countries and target beneficiaries and is operating in a way that is complementary to other ongoing interventions.

The MTR will assess whether there have been any changes in priorities since the project was designed and whether the project has/should adapt to address the changing policy/strategy context.

This criterion comprises two elements:

i. Alignment to UNEP's, Donors and Country (global, regional, sub-regional and national) strategic priorities

The Review should assess the project's alignment with the UNEP Medium Term Strategy (MTS) and Programme Of Work (POW) under which the project was approved and include, in its narrative, reflections on the scale and scope of any contributions made to the planned results reflected in the relevant MTS and POW. UNEP strategic priorities include the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building[24] (BSP) and South-South Cooperation (S-SC). The MTR will assess the extent to which the project is suited to, or responding to, donor priorities as well as alignment of the project with global priorities such as the SDGs and Agenda 2030. The extent to which the project is

[23] *Sustainability* is similarly rated on a six-point scale but labelled from Highly **Likely** (HL) down to Highly **Unlikely** (HU).

[24] http://www.unep.fr/ozonaction/about/bsp.htm

suited, or responding to, the stated environmental concerns and needs of the countries, sub-regions or regions where it is being implemented will also be considered. Examples may include: UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (Cooperation Framework) or, national or sub-national development plans, poverty reduction strategies or Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) plans or regional agreements etc. Within this section consideration will be given to whether the needs of all beneficiary groups are being met and reflects the current policy priority to leave no-one behind.

ii. Complementarity/Coherence[25] with Relevant Existing Interventions

An assessment will be made of how well the project is taking account of ongoing and planned initiatives (under the same sub-programme, other UNEP sub-programmes, or being implemented by other agencies within the same country, sector or institution) that address similar needs of the same target groups.

The MTR will consider if the project team, in collaboration with all partners, is fulfilling any commitments to collaborate made at project design and is working to ensure their own intervention is complementary to other interventions. Examples may include work within Cooperation Frameworks or One UN programming. Linkages with other interventions should be described and instances where UNEP's comparative advantage has been particularly well applied should be highlighted.

Adaptation Fund	To encourage utilization, each evaluation should optimize relevance by ensuring (i) that the primary intended users of the evaluation and their intended uses are clearly identified and engaged at the beginning of the evaluation process; (ii) that "intended users" include funding, implementing, and beneficiary stakeholders; and (iii) that evaluators ensure these intended users contribute to decisions about the evaluation process.
Green Climate Fund	Coherence in climate finance delivery with other multilateral entities.

B. Quality & Revision of Project Design

The MTR should provide a brief overview of the strengths and weaknesses of the project design and assess whether all elements of the project design have been initiated and/or are still planned for. Based on a review of the project design document, regular reports and meeting minutes, the Review Consultant will confirm whether any amendments[26] have been made to the activities and/or results of the project. This includes changes to the formulation of results statements as well as changes in results indicators and/or project targets and the associated budget. Where revisions have been made the Consultant should confirm that formal documentation for these amendments is available and that UNEP/donor policies for revisions have been followed. In the absence of such formalisation the Review Consultant will make appropriate recommendations.

[25] This sub-category is consistent with the new criterion of 'Coherence' introduced by the OECD-DAC in 2019.
[26] The conditions and processes for amendments should abide by the terms of the funding agreement. For example, the GEF has specific requirements for the approval/reporting of 'minor' and 'major' amendments. This includes the provision that any minor and major (approved) amendments should be reflected in the PIR report of the same year.

C. Effectiveness

The Review will assess effectiveness across three dimensions: availability of outputs, progress towards project outcomes and adaptive management. The Review Consultant will confirm that all results statements conform to UNEP's definitions[27] and make recommendations for adjustments where necessary. At the project's mid-point emphasis is placed on the timeliness, quality and ownership of outputs and whether the project is adopting approaches or delivering activities to support the uptake of outputs (i.e. outcome level results).

i. Theory of Change

The Review will assess whether the Theory of Change/Results Framework represents a coherent and realistic change process from a cause-and-effect perspective. Considerations will be given to whether the causal pathways are effectively shown/articulated and supported by a full set of contributing conditions ((‘drivers’ are external factors largely under the influence of the project; ‘assumptions’ are external factors largely outside the influence of the project). The TOC should also reflect[28] UNEP's commitment to increasing equality in line with the UN's commitment to human rights. If adjustments are needed, they should be clearly presented and justified during the MTR process and a recommendation made on how any revisions could be formally approved.

ii. Availability of Outputs[29]

The Review will assess the project's success in producing the planned outputs and making them available to the intended beneficiaries as well as its success in achieving milestones as per the project design document or any formal revisions. The availability of outputs will be assessed in terms of both quantity and quality, and the assessment will consider their ownership by, and usefulness to, intended beneficiaries and the timeliness of their provision. It is noted that emphasis is placed on the performance of those outputs that are most important to achieve outcomes. The Review will briefly explain the reasons behind the success or shortcomings of the project in delivering its planned outputs and recommend corrective action as appropriate.

iii. Progress towards Project Outcomes[30]

At the project mid-point, the Review Consultant will focus on the links between the provision of outputs and their adoption at the outcome level. The MTR will explore whether the assumptions and drivers that need to be in place to support the uptake of outputs are evident/emerging and consider whether sufficient effort and attention is being directed towards reaching outcome levels.

The Review Consultant will review the project Theory of Change (TOC) and confirm that is properly reflects all levels (outputs, outcomes, intermediate states and long-lasting impact) of results included in the project design. Where necessary, the TOC should be reconstructed, in discussion with the project team, to better guide and strengthen project implementation.

[27] UNEP, 2019, Glossary of Results Definitions

[28] This can be as a driver or assumption if there is no specific equality results statement.

[29] Outputs are the availability (for intended beneficiaries/users) of new products and services and/or gains in knowledge, abilities and awareness of individuals or within institutions (UNEP, 2019)

[30] Outcomes are the use (i.e. uptake, adoption, application) of an output by intended beneficiaries, observed as changes in institutions or behaviour, attitude or condition (UNEP, 2019)

iv. Likelihood of Impact

Based on the articulation of long-lasting effects in the reconstructed TOC (i.e. from project outcomes, via intermediate states, to impact), the Review will assess the likelihood of the intended, positive impacts becoming a reality.

The Review will consider the extent to which the project has played a catalytic role31 or has promoted scaling up and/or replication as part of its Theory of Change (either explicitly as in a project with a demonstration component or implicitly as expressed in the drivers required to move to outcome levels) and as factors that are likely to contribute to greater or long-lasting impact.

v. Adaptive Management

The Review will assess whether any adaptive management[32] is evident, possibly reflected in annual reports or reports from field missions etc. The Review Consultant will consider the project's performance to-date from a risk perspective considering: a) the likelihood of any non/late delivery of the project's workplan; b) likelihood of any negative effects, including reputational risks and safeguard issues and c) factors undermining the endurance of project achievements.

During the MTR, forward plans should be reviewed and adaptive management strategies discussed such that the project's effectiveness and efficiency are maximized. Actions for adaptive management should be reflected in the MTR recommendations, which may include recommendations on governance structures, implementation arrangements, project design elements, monitoring and/or exit strategies etc.

Adaptation Fund	The Review should consider, under Effectiveness, the extent to which the evaluand is reaching Strategic Results Framework indicator targets.
Adaptation Fund	The Review should consider, under Effectiveness, the extent to which the intervention demonstrates that Climate Change Adaptation can be increased or replicated at a broader scale, as well as in other contexts.
Green Climate Fund	The Review should consider, under Effectiveness, the project's Innovativeness in result areas – the extent to which interventions may lead to paradigm shift towards low-emission and climate-resilient development pathways.
Global Environment Facility	The Review should consider, under Effectiveness, the extent to which the evaluand is reaching Core Indicator targets (from GEF-6 onwards).
Global Environment Facility	The Review will determine, under Effectiveness, the project's additionality by comparing the benefits of GEF support to a scenario without GEF support. It will identify specific areas where GEF support has contributed additional results and what these additional results were. It will provide quantitative and qualitative evidence to support the findings.

[31] The terms catalytic effect, scaling up and replication are inter-related and generally refer to extending the coverage or magnitude of the effects of a project. Catalytic effect is associated with triggering additional actions that are not directly funded by the project – these effects can be both concrete or less tangible, can be intentionally caused by the project or implied in the design and reflected in the TOC drivers, or can be unintentional and can rely on funding from another source or have no financial requirements. Scaling up and Replication require more intentionality for projects, or individual components and approaches, to be reproduced in other similar contexts. Scaling up suggests a substantive increase in the number of new beneficiaries reached/involved and may require adapted delivery mechanisms while Replication suggests the repetition of an approach or component at a similar scale but among different beneficiaries. Even with highly technical work, where scaling up or replication involves working with a new community, some consideration of the new context should take place and adjustments made as necessary.

[32] Adaptive management is an **iterative process** in which practitioners test hypotheses and adjust behavior, decisions, and actions based on experience and actual changes (Stankey et al., 2005).

D. Financial Management

Under financial management the Mid-Term Review will assess: a) whether the rate of spend is consistent with the project's length of implementation to-date, the agreed workplan and the delivery of outputs and b) whether financial reporting and/or auditing requirements are being met consistently and to adequate standards by all parties. Any financial management issues that are affecting the timely delivery of the project or the quality of its performance will be highlighted. Expenditure should be reported, where possible, at output/component level and will be compared with the approved budget.

Ratings should be provided for two sub-categories (*adherence to policies and completeness of financial information*), as assessed at the mid-point: i) the Review will verify the application of proper financial management standards and adherence to UNEP's financial management policies; ii) the Review will record where standard financial documentation is missing, inaccurate, incomplete or unavailable in a timely manner. The Review may comment on the level of communication between the UNEP Task Manager[33] and the Fund Management Officer as it relates to the effective delivery of the planned project and the needs of a responsive, adaptive management approach.

Global Environment Facility	The Review will determine, under Financial Management, i) time from CEO endorsement (FSP) / CEO approval (MSP) to first disbursement; ii) disbursement balance; iii) whether the project has secured co-financing higher than 35% and iv) time between CEO Endorsement and (likely) end of MTR.

E. Efficiency

Under the efficiency criterion, the Review will assess the extent to which the project delivered maximum results from the given resources. The Review will assess the *cost-effectiveness and timeliness* of project execution.

Focusing on the translation of inputs into outputs, *cost-effectiveness* is the extent to which an intervention has achieved, or is expected to achieve, its results at the lowest possible cost. *Timeliness* refers to whether planned activities have been/are being delivered according to expected timeframes as well as whether events are being sequenced efficiently. The Review will give special attention to efforts being made by the project teams during project implementation to make use of/build upon pre-existing institutions, agreements and partnerships, data sources, synergies and complementarities[34] with other initiatives, programmes and projects etc. to increase project efficiency.

The Review will also assess ways in which potential project extensions can be avoided through stronger project management.

F. Monitoring and Reporting

The Review will assess monitoring and reporting across two sub-categories: monitoring of project implementation and project reporting.

[33] For GEF funded projects the UNEP Project Manager refers to the Task Manager.

[34] Complementarity with other interventions during project design, inception or mobilization is considered under Strategic Relevance above.

i. Monitoring of Project Implementation

Each project should be supported by a sound monitoring plan that is designed to track progress against SMART[35] results towards the achievement of the project's outputs and outcomes, including at a level disaggregated by gender, marginalisation or vulnerability, including those living with disabilities. In particular, the Review will assess the relevance and appropriateness of the project indicators as well as the methods used for tracking progress against them as part of conscious results-based management.

The Review will assess whether the monitoring system is operational and facilitates the timely tracking of results and progress towards project milestones and targets throughout the project implementation period. This assessment will include consideration of whether the project gathered relevant and good quality baseline data that is accurately and appropriately documented. This should include monitoring the representation and participation of disaggregated groups, including gendered, marginalised or vulnerable groups, such as those living with disabilities, in project activities. It will also consider how quality monitoring data are being used to adapt and improve project execution, achievement of outcomes and ensure sustainability. The Review should confirm that funds allocated for monitoring are being used to support this activity.

ii. Project Reporting

UNEP has a centralised information management system[36] in which Task Managers upload six-monthly progress reports against agreed project milestones. This information will be provided to the Review Consultant by the UNEP Task Manager. Donors may have specific reporting requirements and copies of reports will be made available by the UNEP Task Manager. The Review will assess the extent to which both UNEP and Donor reporting commitments have been fulfilled. This should include confirmation that meeting and field mission reports are being written and centrally stored.

Where the need for any corrective action has been indicated in any project reports (e.g. as an identified risk), the Review Consultant will record whether this action has been taken. This may include responses made during the COVID-19 pandemic or other unpredictable external events of a disruptive or crisis nature. The Review Consultant will also confirm whether formal reports have been appropriately authorised by both the author and the relevant supervisor.

Global Environment Facility	For internally executed projects the Review Consultant should review the quality of regular reports and confirm they have been submitted on a timely basis.

G. Exit Strategy & Sustainability (for Adaptation Fund, read Human and Ecological Sustainability and Security)

Sustainability[37] is understood as the probability of the benefits derived from the achievement of the project outcomes being maintained and developed after the close of the intervention. It may be considered from the perspectives of socio-political, institutional and/or financial sustainability. The Review will identify and assess the key conditions or factors that *are likely* to undermine or contribute to the endurance of benefits at the outcome level. Some factors of sustainability may be embedded in the project design and implementation approaches while others may be contextual circumstances

[35] SMART refers to results that are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time oriented. Indicators help to make results measurable.
[36] Project Information Management System (PIMS) or, from 2022, Integrated Planning Monitoring and Reporting (IPMR)
[37] As used here, 'sustainability' means the long-term maintenance of outcomes and consequent impacts, whether environmental or not. This is distinct from the concept of sustainability in the terms 'environmental sustainability' or 'sustainable development', which imply 'not living beyond our means' or 'not diminishing global environmental benefits' (GEF STAP Paper, 2019, Achieving More Enduring Outcomes from GEF Investment)

or conditions that evolve over the life of the intervention. It is assumed that environmental sustainability is central to any UNEP project design but where applicable an assessment of bio-physical factors that may affect the sustainability of project outcomes may also be included.

The Review will ascertain that the project has put in place *an appropriate exit strategy* and measures to mitigate risks to sustainability. The Review Consultant will consider: a) the level of ownership, interest and commitment among government and other stakeholders to take the project achievements forwards; b) the extent to which the sustainability of project outcomes is dependent on issues relating to institutional frameworks and governance and c) the extent to which project outcomes are dependent on future funding for the benefits they bring to be sustained. It will consider whether institutional achievements such as governance structures and processes, policies, sub-regional agreements, legal and accountability frameworks etc. are robust enough to continue delivering the benefits associated with the project outcomes after project closure.

Adaptation Fund	The Review should consider, under <u>Human and ecological sustainability and security –</u> the extent to which the intervention is likely to generate continued positive or negative, intended and unintended impacts beyond its lifetime, taking into consideration, social, institutional, economic, and environmental systems. Is the intervention sensitive to conflict and fragility, i.e., to what extent does it consider the political context and the sharing of natural resources? Is it contributing towards targeted communities' livelihoods and to the health or well-being of the ecosystems on which they depend?

H. Factors and Processes Affecting Project Performance and Cross-Cutting Issues

i. Project Inception

This criterion focuses on the inception or mobilisation stage of the project. The Review will assess whether appropriate measures were taken to either address weaknesses in the project design, fill information gaps or respond to changes that took place between project approval, the securing of funds and project mobilisation. In particular, the Review will consider the nature and quality of engagement with stakeholder groups by the project team, the confirmation of partner capacity[38] and development of partnership agreements as well as initial staffing and financing arrangements. The Review Consultant will confirm whether appropriate inception meetings were held and whether an inception report is available on file.

ii. Quality of Project Management and Supervision

During the MTR the consultant will review the planned implementation structure and the roles and responsibilities assigned to each partner or party. Where roles are not being played as planned, an appropriate recommendation to formalise correction action and/or a change in the implementation structure, should be made.

In some cases 'project management and supervision' may refer to the supervision and guidance provided by UNEP to partners and national governments while in others it may refer to the project management performance of an implementing partner and the technical backstopping and supervision provided by UNEP. The performance of parties playing different roles should be discussed

[38] During 2023 UNEP is reviewing its Partnership Policy and Procedures and a future version is expected to include a requirement for risk mitigation against weak performance among partners.

and a rating provided for both types of supervision (UNEP/Implementing Agency; Partner/Executing Agency) and the overall rating for this sub-category is established as a simple average of the two.

The Review will assess the effectiveness of project management to-date with regard to: providing leadership towards achieving the planned outcomes; managing team structures; maintaining productive partner relationships (including Steering Groups etc.); maintaining project relevance within changing external and strategic contexts; communication and collaboration with UNEP colleagues; risk management; use of problem-solving; project adaptation and overall project execution. Evidence of adaptive project management should be highlighted.

Adaptation Fund	The Review should consider the extent to which the evaluand is being adapted in response to lessons and reflections during implementation; and the extent to which the intervention supports the use, development, or diffusion of innovative practices, tools, or technologies to improve or accelerate Climate Change Adaptation.
Global Environment Facility	For internally executed projects the Review Consultant should review whether the segregation of responsibilities meets the GEF requirements[39] (the GEF Agency must separate its project implementation and execution duties and establish each of the following: (a) A satisfactory institutional arrangement for the separation of implementation and executing functions in different departments of the GEF Agency; and (b) Clear lines of responsibility, reporting and accountability within the GEF Agency between the project implementation and execution functions.

iii. Stakeholder Participation and Cooperation

Here the term 'stakeholder' should be considered in a broad sense, encompassing all project partners; duty bearers with a role in delivering project outputs; target users of project outputs and any other collaborating agents external to UNEP and the implementing partner(s). The assessment will consider the quality and effectiveness of all forms of communication and consultation with stakeholders throughout the project life to-date and the support given to maximise collaboration and coherence between various stakeholders, including sharing plans, pooling resources and exchanging learning and expertise. The inclusion and participation of all differentiated groups, including gender groups, should be considered.

iv. Responsiveness to Human Rights and Gender Equality (for Adaptation Fund, read 'Equity'; for GCF, read 'Gender Equity')

The Review will ascertain to what extent the project has applied the UN Common Understanding on the human rights-based approach (HRBA) and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. Within this human rights context the Review will assess to what extent the intervention adheres to UNEP's Policy and Strategy for Gender Equality and the Environment[40].

The report should present the extent to which the intervention, following an adequate gender analysis at design stage, has implemented the identified actions and/or applied adaptive management to ensure that Gender Equality and Human Rights are adequately taken into account. In particular, the

[39] GEF Minimum Fiduciary Standards: Separation of Implementation and Execution Functions in GEF Partner Agencies (2019).

[40]The Evaluation Office notes that Gender Equality was first introduced in the UNEP Project Review Committee Checklist in 2010 and, therefore, provides a criterion rating on gender for projects approved from 2010 onwards. Equally, it is noted that policy documents, operational guidelines and other capacity building efforts have only been developed since then and have evolved over time. https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/7655/-Gender_equality_and_the_environment_Policy_and_strategy-2015Gender_equality_and_the_environment_policy_and_strategy.pdf.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y

Review will consider the extent to which project implementation has taken into consideration: (i) possible gender inequalities in access to, and the control over, natural resources; (ii) specific vulnerabilities of disadvantaged groups (especially women, youth and children and those living with disabilities) to environmental degradation or disasters; (iii) the role of women in mitigating or adapting to environmental changes and engaging in environmental protection and rehabilitation.

Adaptation Fund	The Review should consider the extent to which the project's design and implementation includes input of the designated authority (DA) and vulnerable groups such as women, youth, persons with disability, Indigenous Peoples, minorities, and other potentially marginalized groups or locations. It also encompasses the degree to which the intervention reduced or perpetuated inequalities, and how equitably benefits were accrued to vulnerable groups.

v. Environmental and Social Safeguards (for Adaptation Fund, read Human and ecological sustainability and security')

UNEP projects address environmental and social safeguards primarily through the process of environmental and social screening, risk assessment and management (avoidance or mitigation) of potential environmental and social risks and impacts associated with project and programme activities. The Review will confirm whether UNEP requirements[41] were met to: screen proposed projects for any safeguarding issues; conduct sound environmental and social risk assessments; identify and avoid, or where avoidance is not possible, mitigate, environmental, social and economic risks; apply appropriate environmental and social measures to minimize any potential risks and harm to intended beneficiaries and report on the implementation of safeguard management measures taken.

The Review will also consider the extent to which the management of the project is minimising UNEP's environmental footprint.

vi. Country Ownership and Driven-ness

The Review will assess the quality and degree of engagement of government / public sector agencies in the project to-date. While there is some overlap between Country Ownership and Institutional Sustainability, this criterion focuses primarily on the forward momentum of the intended projects results, i.e. either: a) moving forwards from outputs to project outcomes or b) moving forward from project outcomes towards intermediate states. The Review will consider the involvement not only of those directly involved in project execution and those participating in technical or leadership groups, but also those official representatives whose cooperation is needed for change to be embedded in their respective institutions and offices (e.g. representatives from multiple sectors or relevant ministries beyond Ministry of Environment). This factor is concerned with the level of ownership generated by the project over outputs and outcomes and that is necessary for long term impact to be realised. This ownership should adequately represent the needs and interests of all gender and marginalised groups.

vii. Communication and Public Awareness

The Review will assess the effectiveness of: a) communication of learning and experience sharing between project partners and interested groups arising from the project during its life and b) public awareness activities that were undertaken during the implementation of the project to influence

[41] For the review of project concepts and proposals, the Safeguard Risk Identification Form (SRIF) was introduced in 2019 and replaced the Environmental, Social and Economic Review note (ESERN), which had been in place since 2016. In GEF projects safeguards have been considered in project designs since 2011.

attitudes or shape behaviour among wider communities and civil society at large. The Review should consider whether existing communication channels and networks were used effectively, including meeting the differentiated needs of gender or marginalised groups, and whether any feedback channels were established. Where knowledge sharing platforms have been established under a project the Review will comment on the plans to sustain, handover or decommission the communication channel at the end of the project.

Section 3. REVIEW APPROACH, METHODS AND DELIVERABLES

(This section has both standard text and parts that are specific to the project, to be filled in)

The Mid-Term Review will use a participatory approach whereby key stakeholders are kept informed and consulted throughout the review process. Both quantitative and qualitative review methods will be used as appropriate to determine project achievements against the expected outputs, outcomes and impacts. It is highly recommended that the Review Consultant maintains close communication with the project team and promotes information exchange throughout the review implementation phase in order to increase their (and other stakeholder) ownership of the review findings.

The findings of the Review will be based on the following: [This section should be edited for each review]

(a) A **desk review** of:
Relevant background documentation
Project Document and Appendices
Project design documents (including minutes of the project design review meeting at approval); Annual Work Plans and Budgets or equivalent, revisions to the project (Project Document Supplement), the logical framework and its budget;
Project reports such as six-monthly progress and financial reports, progress reports from collaborating partners, meeting minutes, relevant correspondence and including the Project Implementation Reviews and Tracking Tool etc.;
Project deliverables (e.g. publications, assessments etc);
Steering Committee Reports

(b) **Interviews** (individual or in group) with:
- UNEP Task Manager[42] and team members; *[add people as appropriate]*
- Representatives of Implementing Agencies and National Governments etc; *[add people as appropriate]*
- UNEP Fund Management Officer (FMO);
- Representatives from civil society and specialist groups (such as women's, farmers and trade associations etc).

(c) **Surveys:** An on-line survey or surveys to be circulated to project stakeholders for feedback on project activities
(d) **Other data collection tools**: (If needed, to be decided by the Review Consultant at the inception phase

[42] For GEF funded projects, UNEP Project Manager refers to the Task Manager.

10. Review Deliverables and Review Procedures

See Annex 1 of these TOR for a list of tools and guidance available, see Annex 2 for a list of review criteria and sub-categories to be assessed. The Review Consultant will prepare:

Inception Report: (see Annex 3 of these TOR for guidance on structure and content) containing confirmation of the results framework and Theory of Change of the project, project stakeholder analysis, review framework and a tentative review schedule.

Preliminary Findings Note: typically, in the form of a PowerPoint presentation, the sharing of preliminary findings is intended to support the participation of the project team, act as a means to ensure all information sources have been accessed and provide an opportunity to verify emerging findings.

Draft and Final Review Reports: (see Annex 4 for guidance on structure and content) containing an Executive Summary that can act as a stand-alone document; detailed analysis of the review findings organised by review criteria and supported with evidence; lessons learned and recommendations and an annotated ratings table.

Review of the draft Review Report. The Review Consultant will submit a draft report to the UNEP Task Manager and revise the draft in response to their comments and suggestions. Once a draft of adequate quality has been peer-reviewed and accepted, the Task Manager will share the cleared draft report with key project stakeholders for their review and comments. Stakeholders may provide feedback on any errors of fact and may highlight the significance of such errors in any conclusions as well as providing feedback on the proposed recommendations and lessons. Any comments or responses to draft reports will be sent to the Task Manager for consolidation. The Task Manager will provide all comments to the Review Consultant for consideration in preparing the final report, along with guidance on areas of contradiction or issues requiring an institutional response.

At the end of the review process and based on the findings in the Review Report, the UNEP Task Manager will prepare a **Recommendations Implementation Plan** in the format of a table, to be completed and updated at regular intervals, and circulate **Lessons Learned**.

11. The Review Consultant

The Review Consultant who will work under the overall responsibility of the UNEP Project Task Manager, Ms. Suzanne Lekoyiet supported by the Programme Management Assistant, Ms. Elca Wabusya in consultation with the Head of Branch/Unit, Mr. Asher Lessels, and Fund Management Officer, Ms. Priscillah Kaara. The consultant will liaise with the Task Manager on any procedural and methodological matters related to the Review. It is, however, the consultant's individual responsibility (where applicable) to arrange for their travel, visa, obtain documentary evidence, plan meetings with stakeholders (with assistance from the Partners), organize online surveys, and any other logistical matters related to the assignment. The Task Manager and project team will, where possible, provide logistical support (introductions, meetings etc.) allowing the Review Consultants to conduct the review as efficiently and independently as possible.

The Review Consultant will be hired over a period of six (6) months from May 2024 – October 2024 and should have the following: a university degree in environmental sciences, international development or other relevant political or social sciences area is required and an advanced degree in the same areas is desirable; a minimum of 5 years' experience in environmental field, climate change, sustainability, policy, science, research, project management or any other related field, and experience in conducting project evaluations or project reviews is preferably including evaluating large, regional or global programmes and using a Theory of Change approach is desired. English and French are the working languages of the United Nations Secretariat. For this consultancy, fluency in oral and written English is a requirement. Working knowledge of the UN system and specifically the work of UNEP is an added advantage. The work will be home-based.

The Review Consultant will be responsible, in close consultation with the UNEP Task Manager, for overall management of the Review and timely delivery of its outputs, described above in Section 10 Review Deliverables, above. The Review Consultant will ensure that all review criteria and questions are adequately covered.

12. Schedule of the Review

The table below presents the tentative schedule for the Review.

Table 3. Tentative schedule for the Review

Milestone	Tentative Dates
MTR Inception Phase	**1 Month**
Inception meeting	**13 May 2024**
Desk top review	**14 – 31 May 2024**
Draft Inception Report	**03 June 2024**
Final Inception Report	**10 June 2024**
Data collection and Analysis Phase	**3 Months**
Online Stakeholder Surveys	**11 Jun – 02 Jul 2024**
Telephone Interviews	**03 – 31 July 2024**
PowerPoint/presentation on preliminary findings and recommendations	**05 September 2024**
Evaluation Reporting Phase	**2 Months**
Draft Report to UNEP Task Manager & UNEP - CCC	**16 September 2024**
Improved Draft Report shared with the wider group of stakeholders.	**30 September 2024**
Final Review Report incorporating all comments	**14 October 2024**
Final Main Review Report with a view to making specific recommendations for Phase 3 of the GSP-CBIT, including a proposed Theory of Change (ToC)/ structure shared with all respondents	**05 November 2024**

13. Contractual Arrangements

The Review Consultant will be selected and recruited by the UNEP Task Manager under an individual Special Service Agreement (SSA) on a “fees only” basis (see below). By signing the service contract with UNEP/UNON, the consultant certifies that they have not been associated with the design and implementation of the project in any way which may jeopardize their independence and impartiality towards project achievements and project partner performance. Consultants who carry out a Mid-Term Review may not be contracted for a Terminal Review of the same evaluand. All consultants are required to sigh the Code of Conduct Agreement Form.

Fees will be paid on an instalment basis, paid on acceptance by the UNEP Task Manager of expected key deliverables. The schedule of payment is as follows:

Schedule of Payment for the Consultant:

Deliverable	Percentage Payment
Approved Inception Report ***(as per Guidance Note)***	30%

Approved Draft Main Review Report ***(as per Guidance Note)***	30%
Approved Final Main Review Report ***(as per Report Template)***	40%

Fees only contracts: Where applicable, air tickets will be purchased by UNEP and 75% of the Daily Subsistence Allowance for each authorised travel mission will be paid up front. Local in-country travel will only be reimbursed where agreed in advance with the UNEP Task Manager and on the production of acceptable receipts. Terminal expenses and residual DSA entitlements (25%) will be paid after mission completion.

The consultants may be provided with access to UNEP's information management systems (e.g. PIMS, IPMR, Anubis, SharePoint etc) and if such access is granted, the consultants agree not to disclose information from that system to third parties beyond information required for, and included in, the Review Report.

In case the consultant is not able to provide the deliverables in accordance with these guidelines, and in line with the expected quality standards by the UNEP Task Manager, payment may be withheld at the discretion of the Head of Branch/Unit until the consultants have improved the deliverables to meet UNEP's quality standards.

If the consultant fails to submit a satisfactory final product to the UNEP Task Manager in a timely manner, i.e. before the end date of their contract, UNEP reserves the right to employ additional human resources to finalize the report, and to reduce the consultants' fees by an amount equal to the additional costs borne by the project team to bring the report up to standard or completion.

ANNEX IX. GEF Portal inputs *(FOR GEF FUNDED PROJECTS)*

GEF portal inputs

Question: What is the performance at the project's mid-point against Core Indicator Targets? *(For projects approved prior to GEF-7, these indicators will be identified retrospectively and comments on performance provided[43])*
Response: the project responds to the following GEF core indicator "*People benefitting from GEF-financed investments/# of direct beneficiaries (# of women)*". The end targets have been significantly exceeded at project mid-term (Section IV.C): • IIA: end target: 300 (150 women), status: 3,471 (1,957 women). • IIB: end target: 1,000 (500 women), status: IIB: 5,699 (2,989 women)
Question: What has been the progress, challenges and outcomes regarding engagement of stakeholders in the project/programme? *(This should be based on the description included in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent documentation submitted at CEO Endorsement/Approval)*
Response: Key stakeholders are well represented in the PSC, with participation of the UNFCCC Secretariat, the GEF Secretariat, and representative from climate transparency support providers, Non-Annex I Parties and Annex I Parties/development partners. Project activities have been informed by participatory assessments of country support needs and priorities. Annual global stocktaking events had to be cancelled during the COVID-19 pandemic, but one was held in early 2024. Country-level support is entirely country-driven and based on requests, and countries are directly involved in the execution of in-country training. Other support providers are considerably engaged in CBIT-GSP II, in particular through the joint implementation of activities, but also through having their own pages on the Climate Transparency Platform. (Section IV.H)
Question: What has been the progress, challenges and outcomes regarding gender-responsive measures and any intermediate gender result areas?
Response: Women are well-presented in CBIT-GSP II, with female participation being slightly above 50 pct female participation. However, the participation of women varies considerably among regions, with a low participation of women in the Francophone network. Women are strongly represented in project management. Relevant project indicators are gender disaggregated as is the data collection, e.g. on workshop participation. The main gender-specific deliverable, a gender toolkit, is yet to be finalised. One gender-related event has been held, and UNEP-CCC has reportedly looked into the integration of gender in the reports submitted by countries and the implementation of the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan. (Section IV.H)
Question: What has been the experience at the project's mid-point against the Safeguards Plan submitted at CEO Approval? The risk classifications reported in the latest PIR report should be verified and any measures taken to address identified risks assessed.
Response: CBIT-GSP II has an institutional focus and does not entail any on-the-ground investments, and no environmental or social risks were identified at design, during implementation, or by the TR. The project was thus rated as "'*Negative impacts minimal or negligible: no further study or impact management required*". (Section IV.H)
Question: What has been the progress, challenges and outcomes regarding the implementation of the project's Knowledge Management Approach, including: Knowledge and Learning Deliverables (e.g. website/platform development); Knowledge Products/Events; Communication Strategy; Lessons Learned and Good Practice; Adaptive Management Actions.
Response: There was no communication plan in the CEO endorsement request. Nonetheless, outreach is an important element of CBIT-GSP II, in particular IIA, where the second component has an outreach and dissemination focus, although not all outputs and activities under the component have a wider outreach focus. The main elements of the project's knowledge management and outreach efforts are: a) regional networks engage in dialogue with countries and promote peer-to-

[43] This does not apply to Enabling Activities

peer dialogue among countries; b) the Climate Transparency Platform provides public/open access to information about CBIT-GSP II, written products, online events, as well as information about other support providers and technical experts; c) outreach events, i.e. four side events at UNFCCC COP28 (Dubai, 2023) and one at a subsidiary Body meeting (Bonn, 2023),: d) participation in events arranged by others, such as UNFCCC COP27 and COP28 side events: e) dialogue with other support providers through the ETF Group of Friends ; and f) a flyer on the main project results disseminated at COP28 and good practice briefs. (Section IV.H)
Question: What are the main findings of the review?
Response: <ins>Strengths</ins>: The project is performing well with high level of activity, benefitting from the in-house technical capacities of UNEP-CCC, regional networks enabling engagement at the country level, and a partnership approach with workshops with co-implementation and co-financing by partners and national GEF projects. This has enabled CBIT-GSP II to engage at the country level to a surprising degree, with several in-country trainings and technical advice on how to improve draft reports (NCs, BURs, BTRs). Important partnerships include UNDP and Belgium financing and administering two of the eight regional CBIT-GSP II networks and partnership with the UNFCCC Secretariat. CBIT-GSP II has achieved a high degree of cost-effectiveness through leveraging substantial amounts of co-financing from the partnerships. CBIT-GSP II's output-related end targets have for the larger part already been achieved or even exceed at mid-term, and with a likelihood of the remaining targets also being achieved before project completion. The support provided by CBIT-GSP II is widely appreciated by country-level beneficiaries, and a clear contribution has been made to enhancing their MRV, transparency/ETF knowledge and capacities. The outcome targets are likely to be achieved, with country-level beneficiaries already (to a significant or moderate extent) applying the knowledge obtained and using the tools for data collection, analysis and reporting, and for setting up ETF institutional arrangements, thus contributing to enhanced compliance with UNFCCC reporting requirements. CBIT-GSP II directly responds to UNFCCC COP decisions vis-á-vis reporting and climate transparency. The project proactively contributes to improving the coordination among climate transparency support providers. UNEP is preparing a third phase of CBIT-GSP, so the risk of a support gap after the completion of CBIT-GSP II is low. Given the continued obligation to report to UNFCCC, countries are likely to continue applying the skills and tools provided by CBIT-GSP. Key stakeholders are well represented in the PSC, the support is informed by participatory needs assessments, and country-level support is demand-driven. There is equal participation of women and men, and women are well-represented in project management and oversight. <ins>Weaknesses</ins>: CBIT-GSP II has been severely affected by external factors outside the control of the project leading to a delayed project start and very limited implementation in 2020-2021, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the legal and administrative transition of UNEP-CCC from DTU to UNOPS, the withdrawal of UNDP as co-implementing agency, and the resignation of the gender consultant. While implementation picked up, budget execution was still low at the end of 2023 (partly a result of cost-savings due to the high degree of co-implementation and co-financing), which is particular concern for IIA, with only approximately one year of implementation remaining. A human rights lens is not applied in the project, although the contribution to enhanced climate transparency contributes to accountability. CBIT-GSP II puts considerable efforts into promoting coordination among support provides, but the ownership and use of the Climate Transparency Platform by support providers is uneven, as they partly perceive the platform as a CBIT-GSP II project website rather than a shared platform. The project design has some shortcomings, including inconsistencies in the ToC and results framework, and indicators not fully capturing the outcomes, which are also not fully reported on. Technical progress reports and financial statements are generally submitted late. Co-financing is underestimated and underreported. Performance rating: Overall, the project is rated as 'Satisfactory'. (Section V.A.)

ANNEX X. GEF RISKS TO ACHIEVING PROJECT OUTCOMES (*FOR GEF FUNDED PROJECTS*)

RISK CATEGORIES	RATINGS	ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION MEASURES
CONTEXT		
Climate	Low	No investments on the ground, global project, only short-term engagement at country level, no mitigation required.
Environment and Social	Low	No investments on the ground, global project, only short-term engagement at country level, no mitigation required.
Political and Governance	Low	No investments on the ground, global project, only short-term engagement at country level, no mitigation required.
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	Low	Short-term capacity building and technical advice vis-à-vis UNFCCC reporting, no engagement on the ground, global project, only short-term trainings at country level, no mitigation required.
Technological	Low	Reliance on well-tested and widespread technology, no mitigation required.
Financial and Business Model	Low	No investments on the ground, global project, only short-term engagement at country level, no mitigation required.
EXECUTION		
Capacity for Implementation	Low	Strong technical capacity of executing agency and its partners, no mitigation required.
Fiduciary	Low	Executing agency a UN entity following UN procedures, no mitigation required.
Stakeholder	Low	Participation is voluntary and activities are demand-driven, no mitigation required.
Other	Low	No risk identified
Overall Risk Rating	Low	Short-term capacity building and technical advice vis-à-vis UNFCCC reporting, no engagement on the ground, no mitigation required.

ANNEX XI. DETAILED ANALYSIS OF PROJECT THEORIES OF CHANGE AND RESULTS FRAMEWORKS

Assessment of impact, objectives, outcomes, and outputs in ToCs and results frameworks

Item	ToC/RF	contents	Findings
IIA			
Impact (1)	ToC	Countries reduce GHG emissions	Appropriate impact – but should be phrased as a result rather than an action, e.g.: "*Reduce**d** GHG emissions*".
Impact (2)	ToC	Countries improve their resilience to climate change	Appropriate impact – but should be phrased as a result rather than an action. e.g.: "*Enhance**d** resilience to the impacts of climate change*".

Intermediate state (A1)	ToC	Countries increasingly adopt and implement low greenhouse gas emission development strategies and invest in clean technologies	Appropriate intermediate state – but:
			- a composite of two intermediate states, which should be separated:
			  - Adoption of low emissions strategies
			  - Investment in clean tech
			- should be phrased as a result rather than an action, e.g.: "*Increased adoption and implementation of low-carbon development strategies*", and "*Increased investment in clean technologies*"

Intermediate state (A2)	ToC	Countries increasingly advance their national adaptation plans	Appropriate intermediate state – but should be phrased as a result rather than an action, e.g.: "*Increased implementation of national adaptation plans*"
Intermediate state (B)	ToC	Developing countries are in a position to set more ambitious NDC targets	"In a position to" I, insufficiently results-oriented. should be phrased as a result, e.g.: "*Countries are committed to more ambitious NDC targets*".
Intermediate state (C)	ToC	Governments and other stakeholders use quality open environmental data, analyses and participatory processes to generate evidence-based environmental assessments, and foster policy action	Appropriate intermediate state, but partly overlaps with Outcome 1 and 2. *Corresponds to intermediate state (B) of IIB*

Item	ToC/RF	contents	Findings
Objective	ToC+RF	To provide global streamlined support, capacity building and coordination to help developing countries meet enhanced transparency requirements under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement	Not aligned with the intermediate states/impacts of the ToC. A composite statement with different 2 elements at different levels: - Support. capacity building, coordination – activities, not results - Countries meet Paris Agreements transparency requirements – outcome or intermediate state – *Corresponds to intermediate state (B) of IIB*
Outcome 1	ToC+RF	Developing countries and practitioners increasingly access and use information and knowledge on new and existing reporting requirements	Lower level outcome that feeds into the intended outcomes of improved MRV and transparency. *Corresponds to outcome 2 of IIB.*
Outcome 2	ToC+RF	Developing countries can document and share progress, support needed and received, and good practice on Article 13 implementation, including gender mainstreaming	Appropriate outcome, if focused on tangible result rather than capacity, i.e.: "*Developing countries ~~can~~ document and share progress…*". *Similar to outcome 1 of IIB.*
Output 1.1	ToC+RF	Existing Global Support Program (GSP) and CBIT platforms merged and redesigned into an integrated web platform	Not phased as an output but as an activity. Does not directly lead to outcome 1 – the merger is related to project management arrangements/ structures. Should not have been included in ToC and RF.
Output 1.2	ToC+RF	Platform content and features maintained and updated regularly	Not phased as an output but as an activity.
Output 1.3	ToC+RF	Knowledge products on the Paris Rulebook and other reporting under the UNFCCC, including associated training modules, updated, developed, and customized	Partly phrased as activities rather than a specific output.
Output 2.1	ToC+RF	Annual stocktaking of progress, capacity needs, and support to all non-Annex I countries conducted	Not phased as an output but as activities.
Output 2.2	ToC+RF	COP side events and outreach efforts organized to disseminate results	Not phased as an output but as activities.
Output 2.3	ToC+RF	Coordination among support providers facilitated	Not phased as an output but as an activity.
Output 2.4	ToC+RF	Assistance provided to countries with integrating the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan into enhanced transparency frameworks	Not phased as an output but as an activity.
Output 2.5	ToC+RF	Fostering of south-south peer exchange in climate transparency actions in the LAC region piloted	Not phased as an output but as an activity.
Driver: Intermediate state (B)	ToC	Efficient strategies are developed to comply with the Paris Agreement over time	Does not seem to be an important precondition vis-à-vis achieving the intended results of the project, which mainly relates to already existing commitments.

Item	ToC/RF	contents	Findings
Driver: Intermediate state (C)	ToC	There is sufficient and sustainable budget allocated for transparency	An assumption rather than a driver (the project has little influence on national and development partner budgets). Unrealistic expectation for financially constrained developing countries, where all aspects of public services are underfunded. Partly duplicates an assumption for intermediate state (B): "*sufficient and sustainable funding for climate action*"
Assumption: Intermediate state (B)	ToC	There is a national political interest in countries to comply with the Paris Agreement	Appropriate assumption.
Assumption: Intermediate state (B)	ToC	There is sufficient and sustainable funding for climate change actions	Unrealistic expectation for financially constrained developing countries, where all aspects of public services are underfunded. "*Climate action*" is overly broad vis-à-vis the intended project results.
Assumption: Intermediate state (C)	ToC	The relevant actors are committed to the project and have the necessary means to mainstream climate action into decision-making	Composite of two assumptions: 1) commitment, 2) Necessary means. Commitment overlaps with the assumption on political interest. "*Necessary means*" is too unspecific and overlaps with assumption on funding. "*Mainstream climate action*" is overly broad vis-à-vis the intended project results.
Assumption: Intermediate state (C)	ToC	Private sector and relevant stakeholders are willing to share data and information	Appropriate assumption.
IIB			
Impact	ToC	Climate Change actions taken by countries are measurable, properly reported and verifiable.	An intermediate state rather than a tangible impact on GHG emissions or resilience. Unprecise phrasing – does it mean that the types of actions taken measurable and verifiable, or that the countries are actually measuring, reporting and verifying the actions? The latter seems more appropriate.
Intermediate state (A)	ToC	Governments and other stakeholders use quality open environmental data, analyses and participatory processes to generate evidence-based environmental assessments, and foster policy action	Appropriate intermediate state. Partly overlaps with outcome 2. *Corresponds to intermediate state (C) of IIA*
Intermediate state (B)	ToC	Developing countries comply with UNFCCC and Paris Agreement Transparency Requirements	Appropriate intermediate state.
Intermediate state (C)	ToC	Developing countries improve climate data and transparency related processes	Too unspecific.

Item	ToC/RF	contents	Findings
Intermediate state (D)	ToC	Developing countries share and scale-up experiences	Sharing of experience is an activity (or could be phrased as an output), not an intermediate state. Upscaling experiences is unspecific and may or may not be an intermediate state, depending on what “experiences” specifically refers to – but would be better encapsulated in more specific intermediate states to which the upscaling contributes.
Objective	RF	To provide streamlined support and capacity building at the country, regional, and global level to enable Non Annex I countries under the UNFCCC and developing countries under the Paris Agreement to better respond to reporting requirements and to catalyse increased ambition within country NDCs to contribute to the stated temperature goal of well below 2 degrees and if possible 1.5 degrees	Not a result – provision of support and capacity building are activities. Not aligned with the intermediate states/impacts of the ToC. A composite statement with different elements at different levels: - Support and capacity building – activities, not results - Better response to Paris Agreement reporting requirements – output, outcome, or intermediate state – corresponds to intermediate state (B) – *partly corresponds to the 2nd half of the objective of IIA* - Increased ambition in NDCs – outcome or intermediate state – *corresponds to intermediate state (B) of IIA*
Outcome 1	ToC+RF	Developing countries have improved capacity to undertake measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) and enhanced transparency framework (ETF) activities	Capacity is not an outcome, but a direct output of capacity development. Improved capacity only leads to outcomes, if the capacity is put into good use.
Outcome 2	ToC+RF	Developing countries increasingly access information and get knowledge in support of Article 13 of the Paris Agreement	Lower-level outcome that feeds into the intended outcomes of improved MRV and transparency. *Corresponds to outcome 1 of IIA.*
Outcome 3	RF	Project management and approaches to country reporting are informed by M&E	Not an outcome – related to project management. Should not have been included in RF.
Output 1.1	ToC+RF	Assistance provided to countries with development and reviews of climate change reporting and documentation upon request	Not phased as an output but as an activity.
Output 1.2	ToC+RF	Regional and sub-regional MRV/Transparency networks maintained and strengthened	Not phased as an output but as an activity.
Output 1.3	ToC+RF	Training provided to address gaps and needs as they are identified	Not phased as an output but as an activity.
Output 1.4	ToC+RF	South-South support and technical backstopping to support the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region in meeting existing MRV requirements and building capacity to meet future transparency requirements	Not phased as an output but as an activity. While the MENA region needs special attention, the underlying activities are similar to those under the other outputs (TA, training, sub-regional network, training materials).

Item	ToC/RF	contents	Findings
Output 2.1	ToC+RF	Integrated Platform content and features managed and updated regularly	Not phased as an output but as an activity. *Corresponds to output 1.2 of IIA.*
Output 2.2	ToC+RF	Paris Rulebook knowledge products including training modules updated, developed, and customized	Partly phrased as activities rather than a specific outcome, could have been phrased more like an output, e.g.: "*Knowledge products on the Paris Rulebook are available to countries*". *Corresponds to output 1.3 of IIA.*
Output 3.1	RF	Project monitored to support results based management	Not an output – related to project management. Should not have been included in ToC and RF.
Output 3.2	RF	Knowledge and lessons learned generated	Too unspecific.

Assessment of ToC drivers and assumptions

Item	contents	Findings
Driver: impact	Continued development and elaboration of Paris Agreement Modalities, Procedures and Guidelines (MPGs) drives more robust Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)	Seems an assumption rather than a driver, as the project has little influence on this. Does not seem to be an important precondition vis-à-vis achieving the intended results of the project.
Driver: intermediate state (A)	Regional workshops attract sufficiently high-level decision makers and practitioners	Appropriate driver.
Driver: intermediate state (C)	COVID-19 global pandemic does not reduce country's interest on Climate Change	Implications of COVID-19 are risk, and should have been pegged as such, instead of indicating than the absence of such implications as a driver or assumption (the project has little influence on national political priorities). An outdated assumption at the time of the MTR given the pandemic is over.
Driver: outcome 1/ intermediate state (D)	National experts have time to participate meaningfully in the project, and turn over does not impact country's engagement	An assumption rather than a driver (the project has no influence on turnover, and little influence on expert availability, unless they are hired by the project for more than short-term inputs).
Driver: outcome 2	Participation in networks will drive traffic to integrated platform	Appropriate driver.
Assumption: outcome 1/ intermediate state (B)	Long-term, dedicated peer networks and learning will increase country capacity	Appropriate assumption.
Assumption: intermediate state (C)	Open data and public access is prioritized for MRV and transparency systems.	Appropriate assumption, but it is unclear who it is that needs to prioritise MRV.

Item	contents	Findings
Assumption: outcome 1/ intermediate state (C)	Networks and events will promote the uptake of MRV and Transparency concepts, processes, and procedures as per updated guidance from UNFCCC	A driver rather than an assumption, as the project can influence this.
Assumption: outcome 2	The integrated platform is perceived as relevant by users and Countries will access information and knowledge more easily and frequently when they are familiar with a "one-stop" website.	A driver rather than an assumption, since the project can influence this through the contents and promoting the platform.

Assessment of results framework indicators

Objective/outcomes	Indicators	Assessment
	Objective	
IIA/IIB: To provide global streamlined support, capacity building and coordination to help developing countries meet enhanced transparency requirements under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement/the UNFCCC and developing countries under the Paris Agreement to better respond to reporting requirements and to catalyze increased ambition within country NDCs to contribute to the stated temperature goal of well below 2 degrees and if possible 1.5 degrees	IIA: Number of direct project beneficiaries (*and, of that group, number of women*) IIB: Number of project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (individual people)	Appropriate to include – but for the output level. Mandatory GEF-7 indicator. The activity-orientation/lack of results-orientation of the objective makes it difficult to define specific results-oriented indicators.
	IIA/IIB: % of the users surveyed who consider the platform (website, its features, and knowledge products) very useful or useful for their purposes (*Pegged as outcome indicator under IIB*)	Appropriate output/outcome indicator, but not as objective indicator.
	Outcomes	
IIA outcome 1/IIB outcome 2: Developing countries and practitioners increasingly access and use information and knowledge on new and existing reporting requirements	IIA/IIB: Knowledge demand / uptake: i.e., number of countries and practitioners using the platform's services and knowledge products every quarter (on average)	Appropriate indicator – but for the output level. Does not directly measure the actual application of the information/knowledge.
	IIA/IIB: % of the users surveyed who consider the platform (website, its features, and knowledge products) very useful or useful for their purposes (p*egged as objective indicator under IIA)*	Appropriate indicator – but for the output level. Does not directly measure the actual application of the information/knowledge.
	IIB: Number of developing countries sharing good practice in gender mainstreaming on the streamlined web platform	Appropriate indicator – but for the output level. Does not capture whether the project has influenced gender mainstreaming sat country level.

Objective/outcomes	Indicators	Assessment
IIA outcome 2: Developing countries can document and share progress, support needed and received, and good practice on Article 13 implementation, including gender mainstreaming	IIA: Number of developing countries with beneficiaries who have shared their lessons (progress, support needed and received, and/or good practice) through project activities.	Appropriate indicator – but for the output level.
IIB outcome 1: Developing countries have improved capacity to undertake measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) and enhanced transparency framework (ETF) activities	IIB: Number of national experts who have applied project training and/or other guidance in the thematic & cross cutting areas defined by the UNFCCC and COP reporting guidelines to the preparation of NCs, BURs, and/or BTRs.	Appropriate indicator.
	IIB: Percentage of participating experts rating training, technical backstopping, reviews, supporting tools and guidance notes 'high' or 'very high' (4 or 5 on a 5-point scale) in helping them to prepare high-quality NCs, BURs, and/or BTRs.	Appropriate indicator
	IIB: Percentage of network members that consider that their participation in the MRV/Transparency Network under CBIT II B contributed to improve/strengthen their MRV/transparency activities	Appropriate indicator, but at partly overlapping with the 1st indicator for the outcome.
IIB outcome 3: Project management and approaches to country reporting are informed by M&E	IIB: Number of key recommendations from the MTR that are incorporated into project management and activities.	Irrelevant indicator for measuring outcomes, reflects that the outcome is not an appropriate outcome (project management, not a result)
IIB project gender action plan	*Number of countries integrating gender considerations into climate reports and transparency frameworks*	Could instead have been integrated in the outcome indicators: - Indicator 1 could have been put under IIB outcome 1 (Developing countries have improved capacity to undertake MRV and activities) - Indicator 5 could have been put under IIB outcome 2 (Developing countries and practitioners increasingly access and use information and knowledge on new and existing reporting requirements) - Indicators 2-4 are activity/output-oriented and thus not necessary to include in RF. No targets provided for the gender action plan indicators.
	Number and description of capacity building events (seminars, workshops, webinars, consultations) aimed at mainstreaming gender into climate reports and transparency frameworks	
	Share of women, men and youth beneficiaries of activities/events	
	Share of women, men and youth speakers at the events (webinars, podcasts, etc.)	
	Number of newly established connections and partnerships among women and youth organizations at regional, sub-regional and global levels	