



Enabling Lesotho's Enhanced Transparency Framework

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

10635

Project Type

MSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

CBIT **Yes**

NGI **No**

Project Title

Enabling Lesotho's Enhanced Transparency Framework

Countries

Lesotho

Agency(ies)

UNEP

Other Executing Partner(s)

Lesotho Meteorological Services

Executing Partner Type

Government

GEF Focal Area

Climate Change

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Climate Change, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making,

Stakeholders, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, Community Based Organization, Communications, Education, Awareness Raising, Type of Engagement, Participation, Partnership, Information Dissemination, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Beneficiaries, Gender results areas, Capacity Development, Participation and leadership, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Learning, Knowledge Generation, Knowledge Exchange, Enabling Activities

Sector

Mixed & Others

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

Climate Change Mitigation 2

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 1

Submission Date

7/12/2022

Expected Implementation Start

1/1/2023

Expected Completion Date

12/31/2025

Duration

36In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

112,338.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
CCM-3-8	CCM-3-8: Foster enabling conditions for mainstreaming mitigation concerns into sustainable development strategies through capacity building initiative for transparency	GET	1,182,500.00	200,000.00
Total Project Cost(\$)			1,182,500.00	200,000.00

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

To build and strengthen Lesotho's national capacities for planning, monitoring and evaluating its climate policies and actions as defined in the Nationally Determined Contribution in order to comply with the Paris Agreement Enhanced Transparency Framework

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
1. Strengthening Lesotho's capacity to collect and process climate change data into useful information for policy-making and reporting to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).	Technical Assistance	1. Lesotho uses climate change data and information as input to plan, monitor and report climate change strategies, policies and actions in compliance with the Enhanced Transparency Framework.	1.1. Institutional arrangements and legal framework to collect and manage GHG Inventory data and NDC tracking data drafted and submitted to the government for adoption	GET	404,500.00	60,000.00
-	Technical Assistance	-	1.2. National GHG Inventory Management System improved and relevant stakeholders trained on IPCC's latest guidelines and tools for national GHG inventories.	GET	314,000.00	60,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
-	Technical Assistance	-	1.3. National MRV system designed, tested and operationalized and Ministry staff/local authorities and other relevant stakeholders trained on tracking Nationally Determined Contributions according to the ETF, including co-benefits for SDGs achievement.	GET	311,500.00	60,200.00
2. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)	Technical Assistance	2. Project is effectively monitored and evaluated	2.1 Monitoring and evaluation products are delivered (<i>see section 9 and Annex J</i>)	GET	45,000.00	
Sub Total (\$)					1,075,000.00	180,200.00
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
			GET	107,500.00	19,800.00	
			Sub Total(\$)	107,500.00	19,800.00	
			Total Project Cost(\$)	1,182,500.00	200,000.00	

Please provide justification

N/A

C. Sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Energy and Meteorology through the Lesotho Meteorological Service (LMS)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	200,000.00
Total Co-Financing(\$)				200,000.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

N/A

D. Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNEP	GET	Lesotho	Climate Change	CBIT Set-Aside	1,182,500	112,338	1,294,838.00
Total Grant Resources(\$)					1,182,500.00	112,338.00	1,294,838.00

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required **true**

PPG Amount (\$)

50,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

4,750

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programmin g of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNEP	GET	Lesotho	Climate Change	CBIT Set-Aside	50,000	4,750	54,750.00
Total Project Costs(\$)					50,000.00	4,750.00	54,750.00

Core Indicators

Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	60	60		
Male	40	40		
Total	100	100	0	0

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided

Direct beneficiaries: An analysis of the identified stakeholders and feedback from consultations was conducted to establish the number of direct beneficiaries. The minimum direct beneficiaries of this CBIT project, 60 women and 40 men, will benefit directly from consultation and the training and capacity building activities planned under this project. The direct beneficiaries will be trained and participate in workshops, directly benefiting from the CBIT project activities. Beneficiaries are expected to be from the following institutions/organisations: ? At least 45 from Government departments. These should predominantly be selected from the Ministry of Energy and Meteorology (MEM), the Lesotho Meteorological Services (LMS) within MEM, The Lesotho Bureau of Statistics (BOS), the Ministry of Forestry and Land Reclamation, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, the Land Administration Authority, the Department of Environment, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, the Ministry of Development Planning and the Ministry of Gender and Youth, Sports and Recreation ? At least 15 from Academia. Priority participants will be staff, graduate students and researchers from the National University of Lesotho and the Lesotho Agricultural Research Department. ? At least 40 further beneficiaries from NGOs, the private sector and the media. Civil Society organizations working in the fields of climate change and in gender and climate change will participate under the coordination of the Lesotho Council of NGOs (LCN) benefiting to around 37 representatives. Finally, staff from the Lesotho News Agency (LENA, 3 people) will also attend the activities. The Government of Lesotho continues to be committed to mainstreaming gender into all policies, programmes, plans and budgets . The target gender disaggregation was determined as 60% of women, which exceeds Policy 5 of the Gender and Development Policy which sets an objective to ?To ensure equal participation of men, women, boys, girls and other marginalized groups in addressing gender and climate change as well as sustainable development issues?. The target was chosen to correct historical imbalances in the participation of women in climate

change decision making. As documented in the Gender Policy "women, girls and other vulnerable groups in Lesotho continue to experience different forms of discrimination and violation of their fundamental freedoms and human rights and there are still some continuing gender disparities between men and women and other groups as reflected in their under representation in political structures and in decision making levels".

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

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1a. Changes in project design

Describe any changes in alignment with the project design with the original child project concept note (i.e. changes in component, outcome or output wording, changes in GEF funds allocation per component/outcome, changes in co-finance commitments and allocation per component/outcome, etc.).

While the project's logical framework (i.e. the expected outcome and the 3 outputs) remains the same as the one presented in the GEF-approved PIF, additional activities, and subsequent deliverables have been added to Output 1.1. This is to cover requested activities arising from the stakeholder consultation to support the development of the Climate Change Bill and to establish a Climate Transparency Unit within LMS. Some other minor alterations have been made to the wording of deliverables and activities to more accurately reflect the scope of work to be undertaken.

1b. Project Description

1) Global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed

At the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP 21) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) the Parties formulated the Paris Agreement (PA) which established the goal of limiting global warming to below 2°C, and pursuing efforts to limit global warming to 1.5 °C. This agreement built upon the previous Cancun Agreements and the Durban decisions which had already triggered a higher level of ambition in the reporting obligations of developing countries in terms of frequency, scope and depth.

Under the PA countries agreed to an Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), described in Article 13, in order to provide a clear understanding of both the collective and individual countries' efforts on climate change action in light of the global objective of the PA. This includes a requirement for

countries to provide clarity and tracking of progress towards achieving Parties' individual NDCs, and Parties' adaptation actions, including good practices, priorities, needs, and gaps. Submissions under Article 13 will inform the global stock take under Article 14 of the Paris Agreement. Information submitted by countries will undergo a technical expert review. This process is intended to be facilitative and will include assistance to developing countries to identify capacity-building needs. The Paris Agreement also encourages other stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to participate in efforts to address and respond to climate change. The implementation of the ETF by countries will not only be crucial to monitor the collective efforts and implementation of the UNFCCC and countries' own efforts towards the common targets but will be instrumental to generate transparency and trust between countries, while encouraging that the presented NDCs are fair and ambitious. The 'transparency framework' requires countries to regularly provide:

- i. A national inventory of greenhouse gas emissions (by sources) and removals (by sinks);
- ii. Information necessary to track progress towards achieving their Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC);
- iii. Information related to climate change impacts and adaptation;
- iv. Information on financial, technology transfer and capacity building climate finance;
- v. Information on any support they provide to developing countries.

At COP 24, held in Katowice in December 2018, parties adopted modalities, procedures and guidelines (MPGs) for the Enhanced Transparency Framework for action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Agreement. The MPGs provide operational guidance on reporting the information on national GHG inventories, tracking of progress of implementation and achievement of NDCs, climate change impacts and adaptation efforts, support provided and received, as well as on timing and processes of the ETF. The reporting instrument under the MPG is the Biennial Transparency Report (BTR). As the name implies, countries are required to report biennially, although the MPGs have a special provision for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), allowing them to submit BTRs at their discretion, acknowledging their capacity constraints for reporting. The guiding principles of the MPGs include the importance of facilitating improved reporting and transparency over time; and providing flexibility on the details of the information to be reported by those developing country Parties that need it in light of their capacities. The application of such flexibility is to be self-determined, but the developing country Party concerned shall clearly indicate the provision to which flexibility is applied, concisely clarify capacity constraints, noting that some constraints may be relevant to several provisions, and provide self-determined estimated timeframes for improvements in relation to those capacity constraints. Moreover, each Party should, to the extent possible, identify, regularly update and include as part of its BTR information on areas of improvement in relation to its reporting. The MPGs will come into force with the first submission of the country's BTR, by December 31st, 2024 at the latest.

At COP26, held in Glasgow in November 2021, Parties adopted the common tables, formats and outlines required to report on their emissions and progress towards their target. Strong guidelines on reporting clarified how developing countries can be flexible in using notation keys and collapsing tables, columns and rows. The PA brought forward a change in paradigm concerning the previous clear divide between developing and developed countries, reflecting the changes in the state of development of countries as compared to almost three decades ago, when the UNFCCC was established. The PA now requires mitigation contributions from all parties, however the vast difference in countries' capacities to plan, implement and monitor climate action is recognised. Despite providing for a flexibility that takes into account Parties' different capacities, the ETF requires substantial and immediate progress in countries' domestic climate measuring, reporting and verification systems. This is especially true for developing countries with limited Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) capacities, such as Lesotho, whose transparency products like NCs and BURs often are a result of disintegrated and ad-hoc efforts, often dependent upon external support and technical assistance. The national reports of many developing countries are not consistently updated and national MRV systems often lack structured and robust approaches for data collection and management.

Lesotho, having ratified the Paris Agreement in January 2017, will need to provide the necessary information to track progress towards implementing and achieving NDCs and reducing GHG emissions as required under the ETF. In order to do so, Lesotho will need to strengthen their climate related governance structures, develop and implement country specific transparency procedures and MRV methodologies, and update, implement, and integrate new data and information flows, in order to provide BTRs and NDCs within their pre-defined periodicity. The national efforts are therefore three-layered:

1. At the overall national institutional level between the institutions relevant to climate change, who need to structure themselves with robust domestic formal processes, in order to effectively manage the issues related to climate change, and adhere to the reporting requirements set out by the UNFCCC;
2. At the institutional level within the institutions who need to collect data and provide sectoral reports to the national institution in charge of reporting to the UNFCCC, institutions need to internalize climate change and the MRV of climate related activities, and have staff available;
3. At staff level where skills and technical capacities of staff need to be enhanced to enable a robust MRV system through the thorough collection and analysis of data.

Despite facing additional requirements and challenges through the ETF, most countries are also aware of its potential national benefits, including:

- ? Generating comparable information and facilitating its exchange, analysis and research;

- ? Supporting the implementation of national mitigation and adaptation actions and generating information on their impacts;
- ? Providing information for the prioritization of actions and investment of public and private resources;
- ? Facilitating decision-making and national planning by identifying potential reductions in GHG;
- ? Helping monitor compliance with goals and policies;
- ? Generating additional information about mitigation and adaptation progress, as well as potentials and needs;
- ? Increasing the probability of obtaining international support and opening the way for participation in carbon markets;
- ? Highlighting lessons learned, thus contributing to the continuous improvement of actions and to identify and show good practices.

Given many developing countries' limited capacities and availability of funds, a condition for their successful adherence to the ETF is the provision of adequate financial and technical support, and capacity building to significantly strengthen their efforts to build robust domestic and regulatory processes. The Paris Agreement requested the GEF to support the establishment and operation of the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) to assist developing countries in meeting the enhanced transparency requirements of the agreement in both the pre- and post-2020 period. The CBIT aim is to enable countries to establish or strengthen their in-house capacity to track progress on national commitments made under the Paris Agreement, and also to produce more comprehensive and accurate reports capturing their implementation in the medium to long-term. The CBIT also supports countries to build capacity to enhance their level of ambition under the Paris Agreement, including by enhancing capacities for the generation of more accurate and updated data on emissions in all sectors, as well as in the impacts of adaptation measures in increasing resilience of communities and ecosystems.

Lesotho faces significant challenges in transitioning to the future application of the ETF which have been well documented by the Lesotho Government and external sources, both in national documentation and through stakeholder engagement during the PPG stage. The BUR1 (November 2021) identified specific areas of concern in terms of current capacities and barriers to the implementation of the ETF in the country. Low capacity was consistently acknowledged across all climate change reporting activities as a significant barrier; namely the GHG inventory compilation and the tracking and assessment of mitigation actions undertaken as part of the effort to reach its NDC targets.

The main constraints for the compilation of a quality GHG Inventory were concluded to be:

- ? the availability of activity data; for the 4th GHG Inventory data was not available for all calendar years, data from different sources were conflicting and some data sources were not well documented. There are documented issues of the acquisition of data considered to be sensitive by the private sector and is therefore currently collected on a voluntary basis;
- ? lack of country specific emission factors; research programs are required to generate country specific emission factors;
- ? lack of capacity; there is a lack of national experts to compile the inventory. The BUR highlights the need to develop training courses on the GHG Inventory process including on the IPCC guidelines, quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC), uncertainty analysis, key category analysis and general process management;
- ? limited stakeholder engagement; the limited involvement of non-governmental stakeholders in GHG inventory activities.

The BUR established a list of needs which address the constraints and barriers listed above along with a requirement to elaborate on the national MRV framework and develop it into a functional MRV system to track GHG emissions, mitigation and adaptation actions and climate finance.

The document "The Development of a Framework for Lesotho's Climate Change Measuring, Reporting and Verification System" (September 2019) developed by international consultants Promethium Carbon Ltd, states that currently in Lesotho, there are no specific surveys undertaken that expressly seek to track progress related to the climate change adaptation or mitigation actions and ambitions outlined in the country's first NDC. The main challenge identified in this regard is that there are very few dedicated climate-action indicators that may be used to track progress. This current situation is an example of existing limitations faced by the country showing an insufficient development of capacities to allow Lesotho to have an appropriate tracking system, useful to comply with the ETF requirements. Several challenges were also identified in the same document with regards to data collection and management as well as the poor quality of data and capacity constraints for the preparation and update of the National GHG Inventory of Lesotho.

The main constraints for tracking the NDC and functioning MRV system are summarised below:

- ? no institutional framework backed by legal mandates for monitoring actions;
- ? lack of appropriate tools to compile and manage the data for tracking and reporting purposes;

- ? lack of a legal framework to conduct a monitoring process;
- ? limited climate action indicators to track progress in NDC implementation.

Despite these challenges, Lesotho's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC, December 2017) has identified a 10% unconditional and 25% conditional target reduction in Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions compared to business as usual (BAU) by 2030. Lesotho's approach to climate change mitigation is enshrined in the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) 2017-2027 which envisions to build climate change resilience and low-carbon societies including a prosperous economic environment in the country.

Lesotho is amongst the least developed countries (LDCs) in the Southern African Development Community. The country's Human Development Index is presently at 0.527 positioning the country as number 165 out of 188 countries and territories. Lesotho is characterized by three undesirable elements, namely poverty, unemployment and inequality, which are largely a result of limited resources and other factors, including low productivity. Unemployment levels are between 24 and 28%, overall poverty level is at 57.3%, and inequality levels are also glaringly high. A combination of these elements constitutes a major impediment to human development in the country, which is further threatened by its vulnerability to climate change.

The country lies entirely within the Grassland Biome and is incredibly rich in natural and cultural diversity, with unique habitats and high levels of endemism. These resources play a fundamental role in sustaining Basotho population's wellbeing, particularly for the rural poor and unemployed whose livelihoods depend heavily on rangelands, indigenous plant and animal species, wetlands and ecotourism. Climate change is identified as one of the major threats undermining the resilience and sustainability of these resources with the likelihood of driving them to extinction. Lesotho is renowned for an abundant supply of pristine water resources. The country constitutes one of Southern Africa's main water catchment areas, capturing around 50% of the total catchment run-off. The water resource base plays a critical role in advancing socio-economic development and supporting ecosystems integrity. Climate change-induced effects on Lesotho are expected to have a far-reaching regional impact on both the national and regional freshwater resources as the country forms major source of fresh water and drainage areas extending into the Atlantic basin through South Africa, Namibia and Botswana. As such, the impact will be detrimental to national and regional water dependent life forms, ecosystems and socio-economic activities.

Topographically, Lesotho is characterized by rugged mountain terrain and fragile mountainous ecosystem, which makes it prone to natural disasters (such as mud or rockslides and floods). Increased

frequency of droughts and floods coupled with unsustainable human activities, mainly ploughing on steep slopes and marginal lands, overgrazing of rangelands, and increased use of biomass as the main source of energy, are the main causes of environmental degradation. Drought and desertification make the country particularly vulnerable to current climate variability and future impacts of climate change. The country has begun to suffer the effects of global warming and climate change in a more evident way over the last decade. This is even exacerbated by the fact that Lesotho citizens, particularly the rural dwellers (constituting about 75% of the population), have limited knowledge of the globally anticipated long-term climate change impacts, and are generally unaware of even short-term climate scenarios and weather warnings (such as seasonal forecasts and warnings of weather hazards such as heavy rain or hail). Hence, the majority of people remains unaware and/or incapable of implementing climate resilient strategies such as resilient livestock management strategies, improved crop varieties, etc.

Climate sensitive rain-fed agriculture is the backbone of Lesotho's economy. It is a major contributor to the national gross domestic product; and it supports the livelihoods of over 80% of Lesotho's population. As such, Lesotho as a nation is also very vulnerable to the economic impacts of climate change. The depletion of natural resources has also deepened poverty, particularly in rural areas, contributing to increased rural-urban migration - a phenomenon that has its own adverse effects on national development.

The Government of Lesotho considers that the response to climate change requires broad intervention and the active participation of all stakeholders. Therefore, there is a strong capacity building demand to enable Lesotho to respond to the requirements of the ETF whilst progressing in line with NDC targets.

2) Baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

The Government of Lesotho is actively participating in the global climate change agenda and joined other parties in pursuing efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions when Lesotho ratified the UNFCCC in 1995. Recently, in 2017, the country joined other parties to sign the PA, and communicated Lesotho's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in December 2017. The country submitted its First, Second and Third National Communications (FNC, SNC, TNC) to the UNFCCC, in the years 2000, 2013 and 2021 respectively. Lesotho also submitted its First Biennial Update Report (BUR1) in 2021.

Whilst the country's population's priority lies within the need to strengthen its resilience to climate change, Lesotho is also committed to reduce its emissions compared to its business as usual scenario (BAU). The overall target is a 10% unconditional reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 compared to the BAU, and an additional 25% conditional reduction of GHG emissions, dependent on international financial support. As such, Lesotho's NDC reflects the country's ambition to reduce emissions, taking into account its domestic circumstances and capabilities. It also reflects how Lesotho will adapt to climate change impacts, and what support is needed to adopt low-carbon pathways and to build climate resilience. Specific goals include:

- a. Adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices for greater food security;
- b. Increased GHG sequestration in forestry;
- c. Deployment of renewable energy sources in power generation;
- d. Adoption of modern, efficient and advanced technologies in industry, transport and buildings; and
- e. Sustainable waste management systems.

The successful implementation of Lesotho's NDC presents an opportunity to integrate the climate objectives of the country within a path to sustainability supported by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and expressed in the country's National Strategic Development Plan II (NSDP II)[1]. The NSDP sets out four main objectives: promoting inclusive and sustainable growth; strengthening human capital through investment in health, nutrition, skills development, social protection and migration; building enabling infrastructure; and strengthening governance and accountability. Climate change is cited as a key challenge to which the plan aims to address through sustainable economic growth.

However, whilst the opportunity for wider development is recognized through delivery of climate action, currently, there is no formal NDC implementation plan in place to guide the process of NDC implementation. In the absence of an NDC implementation plan, the adopted National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) and Implementation Strategy (NCCPIS) (2017-2027, published 2017) serves as the main instrument for planning national action to combat climate change in Lesotho. The vision of the NCCP is to build a climate change resilient and low-carbon society, and a prosperous economy and environment in Lesotho. The policy articulates the national strategic response to climate change within the context of Lesotho's broader national development plans as outlined in the National Strategic Development Plans (NSDP I and II). The NCCPIS outlines action guidelines on the delivery of the NCCP by exploring low carbon development opportunities. The strategy includes two key objectives. The first is related to adaptation and increasing awareness and adaptive capacity against the adverse effects of climate change; while the second objective is concerned with mitigation aspects, through the preservation of carbon stocks and contribution to GHG emissions reduction. This builds upon the previously published National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA)[2] and is further supported by the Lesotho Energy Policy (2015-2025[3]) which establishes policies for energy development with an emphasis on renewable energy generation and energy efficiency.

Beyond the aforementioned key policies there have been various other policies and strategies formulated in Lesotho which intersect with the climate change agenda and provide support to sector specific mitigation actions: the National Forestry Policy 2008, Agriculture Sector Strategy 2003, National Conservation Agriculture Strategy Framework 2012 ? 2017, Climate Smart Investment Plan, Lesotho Food Security Policy 2005, as well as the National Action Plan for Food Security 2007 ? 2017, Transport Policy 2006, National Range Resources Management Policy 2013 and National Range Action Plan 2015.

The legal framework for the climate change agenda in Lesotho is currently based on the Environment Act of 2008 which established the framework for the protection and management of environmental resources. Art. 3 (i) of the Climate Change act specifies that the authorities in charge should prevent any interference with the climate and take compensatory measures for such interferences. A Science and Technology Act was passed in 2021 to provide for the establishment of the Science and Technology Commission as a body responsible for the coordination of policies, strategies, programmes Science and Technology and the Lesotho Innovation Trust Fund. This fund will finance activities undertaken by the Commission for the promotion, research and development of Science and Technology. This aims to support Lesotho to foster a culture of invention and innovation and to encourage the selection of technologies relevant to national development objectives. Whilst the bill does not explicitly mention climate change, it is considered that the wider climate change agenda and action will be supported through the introduction of this bill.

In terms of institutional implementation, the Government of Lesotho also continues to play a pivotal role, particularly in the formulation of environment and climate targeted policies as well as championing the establishment of more coordinated institutional structures within the country. The bodies and structures to effectively deal with the challenges related to climate change in Lesotho include the National Climate Change Committee (NCCC), the Ministry of Energy and Meteorology (MEM), being the National Focal Point (NFP) for the UNFCCC, and the Lesotho Meteorological Services (LMS) within MEM, being the focal point to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The NCCC, MEM and LMS are thus the main institutions that undertake the coordination and mainstreaming of climate change into the respective socio-economic sectors, with MEM as the lead institution to oversee the advancement of the National Climate Change agenda. This was presented in the BUR1, illustrated in Figure 1 and Figure 2, where LMS is presented as the lead organisation on both the GHG inventory and the BUR process. However, present institutional arrangements are not sufficiently formalized for the purposes of climate change reporting, and the gaps and barriers in institutional arrangements and coordination are summarised later in this section.

The NCCC is a national multi-sectoral climate change coordinating body established in 2013, with the responsibility to coordinate development and implementation of policies, plans and measures to address climate change issues in Lesotho, and serves as a high-level advisory body on climate change to MEM. Its main function is to advise the MEM on effective implementation of the NCCP, acting as well as a link between LMS and the various social and economic sectors. Its membership covers a broad range of stakeholders including government institutions, academia, non-governmental institutions, private sector, UN agencies and media. A chair is elected annually.

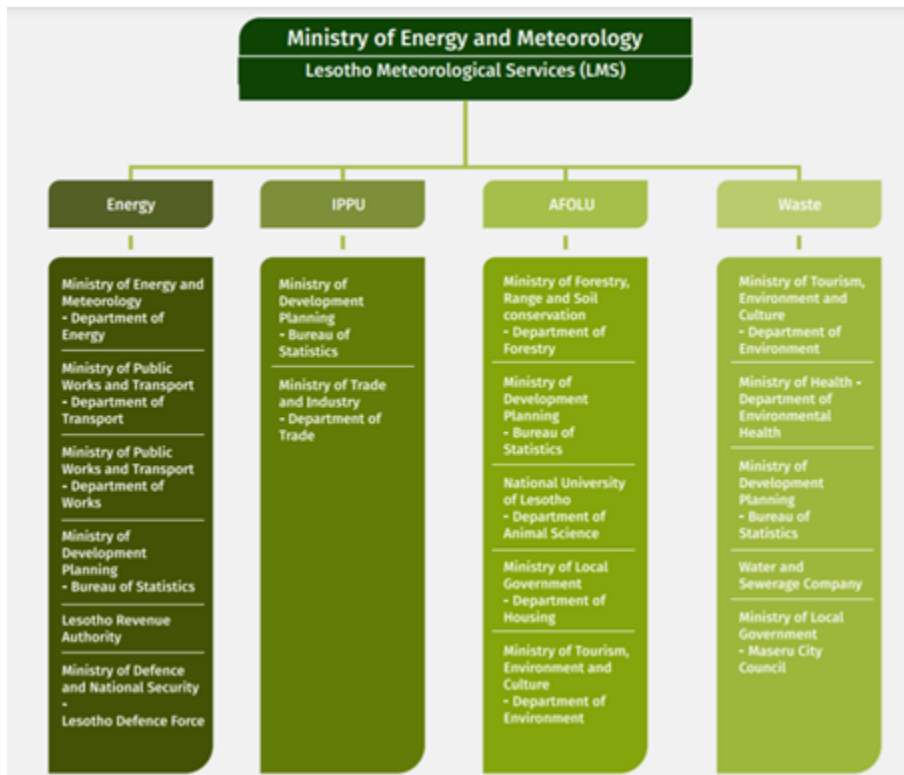
LMS is the country's scientific authority on climate and climate change issues, with the mandate and overall responsibility for the preparation of the national reports to the UNFCCC, and is the entity with the responsibility to develop and implement national multi-sectoral strategies to adapt and to mitigate emerging changes in climate. It is also the sole custodian of the weather, climate and climate change data and information, and regularly publishes this information on print and electronic media. LMS website <http://www.lesmet.org.ls> remains the most relevant national source of information on climate change and is the access point for all reports and data about GHG emissions, scenarios for climate change at the national level, vulnerability assessment reports, mitigation reports, etc. However, it is noted that this is not always up to date, and therefore public dissemination of climate information isn't extensive. This information is usually shared with main stakeholders including the Lesotho Bureau of Statistics (BOS). BOS also collects, compiles, analyses, manages and publishes major statistical information on a wide range of topics, including the environment, and maintains a centralized data bank that is easily accessible upon request by local scientists and academia that also actively participate in various climate-related activities at national and international levels.

In trying to fulfil its obligations to international treaties and national developmental goals, the country collaborates with various international organizations. Various forms of technical and financial support from these organizations have allowed Lesotho to make significant advances in climate research and systematic observation. The Government and its local and international partners continue to strive to ensure more coordinated and efficient deployment of resources and improved flow of information amongst all stakeholders (researchers, professionals, policymakers and the public). Of particular relevance to the CBIT project is the need to consider the role of external consultants in supporting climate change reporting, and therefore the role that they play in the institutional arrangements. In the past, external consultants have been engaged on an ad-hoc basis to support the delivery of specific projects such as the BUR1. Whilst this relationship between LMS and external consultants has proved successful, the aim of LMS remains to embed more knowledge and capacity within the national institutions.

Figure 1: Current institutional arrangements for the BUR



Figure 2: Current GHG inventory institutional arrangements



National GHG Inventory System for Lesotho

As a part of the preparation of the TNC and the BUR1 of Lesotho, two GHG Inventory exercises have been performed in the country lately. The first, funded by the *GEF-6 Enabling Activity project aiming to support the preparation and submission of the Third National Communication (TNC)* allowed the country to make available its 3rd National GHG Inventory of Lesotho (LMS, 2018), comprising estimations of GHG emissions and removals for the years 2005 and 2010. The second exercise, funded in turn by the *GEF-6 Enabling Activity project aiming to support the preparation and submission of the First Biennial Report (BUR1)*, allowed the preparation of the Fourth National GHG Inventory of Lesotho with annual GHG emissions and removals estimations for the period 2011-2017 (LMS, 2020). In the first case, 2 years of emissions and removals were inventoried, whereas in the Fourth National GHG Inventory of Lesotho, a time series for 7 years was prepared. In both cases the calculations were performed by external firms of consultants.

Several opportunities for improvement in the preparation and management of the National GHG inventory of the country surfaced as a part of the preparation of both recent inventories. They were mostly related with the practicalities encountered in finding appropriate data to perform the calculations associated with the estimations of GHG emissions. These were apparent in all sectors, whilst an assessment considering Key Categories of the GHG Inventory (see Table 1) points towards improving the availability and quality of data used in the sectors of Energy and AFOLU as a priority for the country. Whereas the TNC focused on sectorial recommendations for improvement, the most recent inventory also included broader recommendations, addressing elements as the organization and the use of more sophisticated tools.

Table 1: 4th GHG Inventory: Level Key Categories for year 2017

Category Code	Category	Gas	Cumulative Total (%)	Inventory Sector
1A4b	Residential	CO2	27.44%	Energy
3B1	Forest land	CO2	46.69%	AFOLU
3A1	Enteric Fermentation	CH4	58.52%	AFOLU
1A3b	Road Transport	CO2	66.57%	Energy
3C4	Direct emissions from managed soils	N2O	73.79%	AFOLU

1A4a	Commercial / Institutional	CO2	80.13%	Energy
1A4b	Residential	CH4	85.43%	Energy
4A	Solid Waste Disposal	CH4	89.61%	Waste
3C6	Indirect emissions from managed soils	N2O	92.00%	AFOLU
3A2	Manure Management	N2O	93.11%	AFOLU
1A2	Manufacturing Industries and Construction	CO2	94.18%	Energy
1A4a	Commercial / Institutional	CH4	95.10%	Energy

Source: adapted from *Table 3-1 2017 Level Key Categories from the 4th National GHG Inventory (Year 2017)*

In general, both inventory exercises highlighted the limited availability of established activity data for identifying and disaggregating uses of energy sources, both in residential and transport uses, and the importance of defining technical tools that can improve the data collection and data consistency in both cases from energy statistics available in the country, including fuel consumption and fuel importing data. In the AFOLU sector the recommendations for improvement point towards lack of consistency in livestock related data, information on management of soils, and the relevance of including forest resource assessments, and another land cover map, to identify land use changes in the country. Finally, for the waste sector, better estimates of waste generation and surveys tools as well as landfill related data is proposed to improve this key category.

In terms of accessing the data to prepare the inventories on a continuous basis, recommendations were made to strengthen the arrangements among institutions managing relevant data using memoranda of understanding (MoU) and define mechanisms to improve the overall quality of the data.

During the exercises of preparing Lesotho's Technology Needs Assessment (TNA, 2004), SNC (2013), Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC, 2015), and National Climate Change Policy and Implementation Strategy (2017), several constraints and gaps were highlighted in relation to the national GHG inventory system, and the lack of an established MRV system of climate actions. Moreover, as an effort to identify gaps and barriers in the national MRV system, Lesotho has taken advantage of the results provided by the CBIT Global Coordination Platform's online self-assessment tool, which has provided additional information on the status of the transparency related framework and MRV approaches, and has assisted in identifying and specifying specific gaps and barriers. The

collection of relevant gaps identified through the national documents and the self-assessment tool can be broadly categorized into the following overall classification of barriers:

- i. Institutional gaps and barriers in institutional arrangements and coordination of climate change-related activities;
- ii. Lack of data and access to information for a robust and detailed GHG Inventory and a national MRV system;
- iii. Lack of capacities, technical expertise and tools and methodologies to establish climate action scenarios and track their implementation and impacts;
- iv. Financial constraints and costs associated with the implementation of an Enhanced Transparency Framework.

MRV Framework in Lesotho

Under the TNC and BUR1, a Framework for Lesotho's Climate Change Measuring, Reporting and Verification System was developed by external consultants, Promethium. This MRV framework covers the tracking of the GHG inventory, adaptation and mitigation measures and climate finance to facilitate the compilation of BURs. In addition, a monitoring and evaluation system has been proposed to track progress towards climate change goals for both international reporting and domestic purposes. The framework was developed following a desktop study of the Kingdom's national climate change documentation, drawing together the latest thinking on institutional arrangements and monitoring and evaluation system design. The recommendations from this report were as follows:

- ? Formalize institutional arrangements for the monitoring, collection, management and reporting of climate information. This includes information related to the national greenhouse gas inventory, climate actions (for both adaptation and mitigation) and support (financial, technical and capacity building) received and required. Identify gaps and develop costed action plans to remediate gaps.
- ? Implement the requirement for biannual reporting of information by key sectors within the Monitoring and Evaluation System, as envisaged in Lesotho's National Climate Change Policy.
- ? Reassess and prioritise the actions and indicators for MRV with the aim of balancing the costs related to data collection against the benefits of higher accuracy. Lesotho could consider starting with simplified approaches and less accurate data, with a view to improving transparency over time.
- ? Reduce reporting effort and resources by combining reporting activities across international initiatives where there are synergies.

- ? Consider the use of an IT-based system (MRV database) for data evaluation and storage.
- ? Use the monitored data to inform future needs and the use of climate finance.

It is therefore the aim of this CBIT project to further develop the frameworks, structures and tools developed for the preparation of the BUR1 and the MRV framework. The project design outlined for the CBIT project aims to work on the weaknesses identified during the preparation of the GHG inventories and consolidate a mechanism to prepare GHG inventories on a regular basis by the Government staff in line with the MRV framework. Similarly, this CBIT project will provide additional and complementary elements to the development of an MRV system, detailed under the activities identified to contribute to the implementation of an Enhanced Transparency Framework.

The recently completed projects to develop the TNC and the BUR1 highlighted a number of constraints and gaps, which are further elaborated below in Table 2. Overall, it demonstrated that the climate transparency related efforts of the country are still the results of scattered ad-hoc approaches, without the needed institutionalization through standardized and recurrent procedures, which would greatly facilitate the preparation and quality of national reports. Lesotho has limited financial resources to implement climate change initiatives. As indicated in Lesotho's NDC and in the recently published BUR1 (November 2021), additional support is required to establish a national MRV system for tracking the performance and progress made on the implementation of the NDC. The proposed project presents an important opportunity to support the Government of Lesotho in building institutional and technical capacity, designing methodological tools and indicators, and engaging all relevant stakeholders.

The constraints and gaps that have already been identified in existing national documents are summarized below:

Table 2: Lesotho's constraints and gaps

Project	Type of constraint/gap	Specific constraints and gaps identified
TNC	Institutional gaps and barriers in institutional arrangements and coordination	Lack of legislative or regulatory frameworks for coordination of climate change nationally and a lack of data sharing protocols.

	Institutional gaps and barriers in institutional arrangements and coordination	Climate change not adequately mainstreamed in national policies, strategies and plans and there are weak enforcement mechanisms; sectorial collaboration structures are built around individual arrangements.
	Lack of data and access to information for a robust and detailed GHG Inventory and a national MRV system	Lack of appropriate local data, particularly in the areas of GHG inventories, vulnerability and climate impact assessment. A lack of data sharing protocols and sustainable system to collect and report on GHG emissions.
	Lack of capacities, technical expertise and tools and methodologies	Limited expertise at the national level to run models and carry-out assessments, such as climate models and vulnerability and adaptation assessments and mitigation modelling and assessments.
	Lack of capacities, technical expertise and tools and methodologies	Turnover of team members who have been trained and understand their roles (as new staff must be trained all over again). Experts engaged in the development of INC and SNC were not available for TNC.
	Lack of capacities, technical expertise and tools and methodologies	Weak institutional capacities, poor archiving facilities. Low resources allocated to the team of experts to undertake project assignments which are beyond their day-to-day duties.
	Financial constraints and costs associated with the implementation of an ETF	Limited financial support to implement climate change initiatives.?Climate change actions are still limited to donor funded projects.
BUR1	Institutional gaps and barriers in institutional arrangements and coordination	Weak tracking systems in operation in the country to identify appropriate data to report mitigation and finance activities.

Institutional gaps and barriers in institutional arrangements and coordination	A need to track financial resources from donors.
Institutional gaps and barriers in institutional arrangements and coordination	Lack of an operational permanent system for GHG inventories and a properly functioning MRV system for reporting climate policy and action implementation.
Lack of data and access to information for a robust and detailed GHG Inventory and a national MRV system	Lack of accurate activity data for all sectors including vehicle statistics, amount of fossil fuels consumed in the country, complete datasets of bricks, ceramics, food and beverages production, accurate inventory of new refrigerators and air-conditioning units imported, amount of lime imported in the country, wastewater flows, solid waste generation and land monitoring data.
Lack of capacities, technical expertise and tools and methodologies	Limited understanding of the IPCC first order decay model, and limited expertise on the 2006 IPCC guidelines, and a lack of country specific emission factors.
Lack of capacities, technical expertise and tools and methodologies	Lack of in-country expertise to undertake mitigation assessments and to monitor and document mitigation actions.
Lack of capacities, technical expertise and tools and methodologies	A need to research and promote renewable energy and energy efficient technologies, along with smart agriculture and afforestation programs.

These gaps will be addressed through the CBIT project and are further elaborated upon in the sections below.

- Institutional gaps and barriers in institutional arrangements and coordination

The implementation of CBIT activities is an opportunity for Lesotho to establish a strong foundation for the implementation of the MPGs. Compliance with the MPGs will require designing, among other elements, a comprehensive national MRV system in Lesotho for reporting and tracking climate actions. As previously described, Lesotho has established an institutional structure related to the management of climate change issues and the preparation of transparency related reports under the UNFCCC (see Figure 2). Albeit its significant mandate, the NCCC has not been legally instituted, and while functioning as a coordinating body between relevant national institutions, there are no fixed focal points assigned in the institutions themselves, to support LMS in the preparation of national reports, which holds the burden of putting in place limited climate related tracking efforts across the Government institutions.

LMS cannot work in isolation and is dependent upon the contribution of and collaboration with other relevant stakeholders on a regular basis. Also, while LMS is a well renowned scientific institution, and not a managerial entity, it is in need of significant capacity building and coordination with other relevant institutions, in order to better plan, design, implement and monitor climate change relevant policies and actions. In this regard, the absence of formal agreements or a legal framework for coordination, management and implementation of the ETF limits the leadership of LMS to facilitate streamlined and more effective climate work in the country. Institutional arrangements need to define the roles and responsibilities for the various stakeholders as part of an intersectoral climate transparency coordination scheme which gives all stakeholders the needed capacity, and LMS the mandate to manage transparency activities. In addition, other climate instruments can benefit from the installation of permanent arrangements for addressing these institutional gaps and reinforce coordinated action for climate.

The identification of barriers at the institutional level also included a need to strengthen the capacity of lead institutions to develop and implement NDC related policies and programmes, coordinate with sectoral line ministries, and engage stakeholders in the NDC implementation tracking process. Lesotho's National Climate Change Policy and Implementation Strategy (2017-2027) would formally serve as the main instruments for planning national action to combat climate change in Lesotho.

To ensure consistency between the NDC and the strategy and also ensure that any future update of either the strategy or the NDC are consistent, there is a need to ensure that the NDC implementation is appropriately tracked and reported in the future BTR of Lesotho. The reporting requirements include

defining indicators for tracking the overall NDC, but also reporting on advancements of NDC related mitigation policies and measures, actions and plans, including those with mitigation co-benefits resulting from adaptation actions and economic diversification plans. Reporting on the monitoring and evaluation of NDC implementation and achievement will be impossible without having a clearly defined NDC implementation tracking system, with a strong institutional and organizational framework for coordinating, mainstreaming and monitoring climate change actions and impacts in all sectors of the economy.

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- Lack of data and access to information for a robust and detailed GHG Inventory and a national MRV system

Whilst LMS is the designated entity in charge of dealing with the generation of climate and climate change data and information, including its storage and dissemination, other stakeholders also play a role in environmental data and information collection include academic institutions, and private sector organizations, including NGOs. However, access to such data and information is generally difficult and limited because they are compiled for internal use. A significant barrier in the GHG inventory process is the lack of mandates of agencies involved in the GHG inventory compilation to collect and provide data in a comparable and consistent manner.

The proper management and review of quality of this data is also an issue, since there is no strategy for data management, including regular updates, backup, and archiving routines, neither a GHG registry for collecting emissions data from regulated facilities, as identified through the CBIT Global Coordination Platform's self-assessment.

In addition, with regards to data and access to information for preparing the National GHG Inventory, through the TNC report and the self-assessment tool, additional gaps in key sectorial activity data and information were identified. In general, it was found that there is inadequate and inappropriate data availability for all sectors, in the aspects of collection, processing, and provision of data by the relevant sectors for the preparation and compilation of the GHG Inventories, determining the need of developing and implementing a national GHG data management system, including the necessary procedures and plans, for tracking and archiving inventory information of each inventory period.

Also a specific need was identified to develop the national capacity to institutionalize GHG and SDG data collection at all times by designated agencies, develop standard operating procedures for data collection, (QA/QC) and data storage since it was found that lack and poor quality of data collected in priority sectors hampered the development of reliable GHG emissions inventories, SDG indicators and

MRV of climate policies and actions. This was coupled with the need to coordinate the creation of an inventory database system covering all aspects of the inventory and other indicators such as SDG and support received.

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- Lack of capacities, technical expertise and tools and methodologies

On the availability of Government staff with technical expertise to address the challenge of implementing an agenda of climate transparency, retaining adequate skilled manpower remains a challenge in the country. In general, after acquiring special skills, the individuals become more marketable regionally and internationally especially as Lesotho is enclosed in a huge and vibrant economy of the Republic of South Africa. In fact, so far, the country lacks capacity to retain specialized and experienced staff in all sectors of the economy. Like most of other government institutions, the climate change unit within LMS is also facing high staff turnover.

On training opportunities for technical Government staff to use and apply analytical tools and models for enhancing effective and efficient climate decision making, there is currently no tertiary institution offering specialized studies on climate and climate change. The draft Science, Technology and Innovation Bill may provide some funds that allow for research on climate change. This Bill will be considered as part of this project and efforts will be made to align with the associated Innovation fund so that the project can benefit from the resulting research. In its efforts to enhance capacity in the critical area of climate change, the government continues to provide some funding towards staff development efforts. This has enabled a number of individuals from LMS and other departments to undertake various climate-related training programmes with renowned institutions regionally and globally. Notwithstanding the positive improvements in the overall education system of the country, environmental and climate change issues are not sufficiently presented in the educational curricula of Lesotho. Suffice to say, the government, the institutions of learning and training, and the whole nation are aware of the need to increase the coverage of these issues at all educational levels. This is in line with the conclusions gathered from the National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA, 2005) and CBIT Global Coordination Platform's self-assessment tool, which acknowledged that the key national institutions dealing with climate change are facing severe shortage of trained staff with knowledge on inventory tools and methodologies of calculation. Commendable but isolated efforts have been made to build capacity in different sectors with support from bi-lateral and multi-lateral institutions. One key avenue through which capacity has been built in Lesotho is through implementation of climate change programmes and projects, including the preparation of the NCs.

In this regard, the decision from Lesotho Government to start reporting its GHG Inventory in their first BUR and subsequent GHG reporting documents using the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for estimating emissions must be supported with an adequate understanding of the new conditions for methodological implementation and a substantial strengthening of professional capacities of technical Government staff

dealing with the National GHG Inventory. Such an early approach, if properly addressed, will lay a solid foundation for submitting by 2024 a first BTR and national inventory report (NIR), if submitted as a stand-alone report, in accordance with the MPGs referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement.

The TNC report further highlights the need to strengthen capacity of the ministry staff/Local authorities and other relevant stakeholders on how to elaborate and provide input to Projections/Models/Scenarios for NDCs and development strategies for enhanced transparency and enhancing effective and efficient decision making by conducting training of personnel in the collection and management of GHG and related data, including data interpretation, storage and updating of databases. In order to adequately measure Lesotho's adaptation and mitigation actions in the future, especially in the current absence of an NDC implementation tracking system, according to the TNC report, it is of great importance to strengthen human, technical and institutional capacities so as to overcome some of the main gaps the country faces. For example, there are currently a number of ongoing renewable energy projects, however information that could be used to assess their effects on emissions is lacking.

- Financial constraints and costs associated with the implementation of an ETF

Considering that the country faces general financial constraints, there is limited sustainable funding for climate change research and programmes, and the preparation of GHG inventories is only to a small extent integrated into national budgeting. Government and private sector funding towards research are negligible, funding is largely inadequate and most of it is spent on administrative and awareness activities. Lesotho is therefore still dependent on external support in order to adhere to the current and expected transparency requirements of the UNFCCC. The financial gaps and barriers relevant for this project can be divided into lack of funds for continuous training of GHG experts, and for recruiting new experts on MRV of climate actions; and lack of funds for the improvement and strengthening of a national GHG Inventory management system, and the design, testing and operation of a MRV system able to perform a proper tracking of Lesotho's NDC. COVID-19 may have also had impacts on budgets as funds may be prioritized elsewhere, reducing the amount available for these activities.

Figure 3: problem tree

Problem Tree

Country: Lesotho

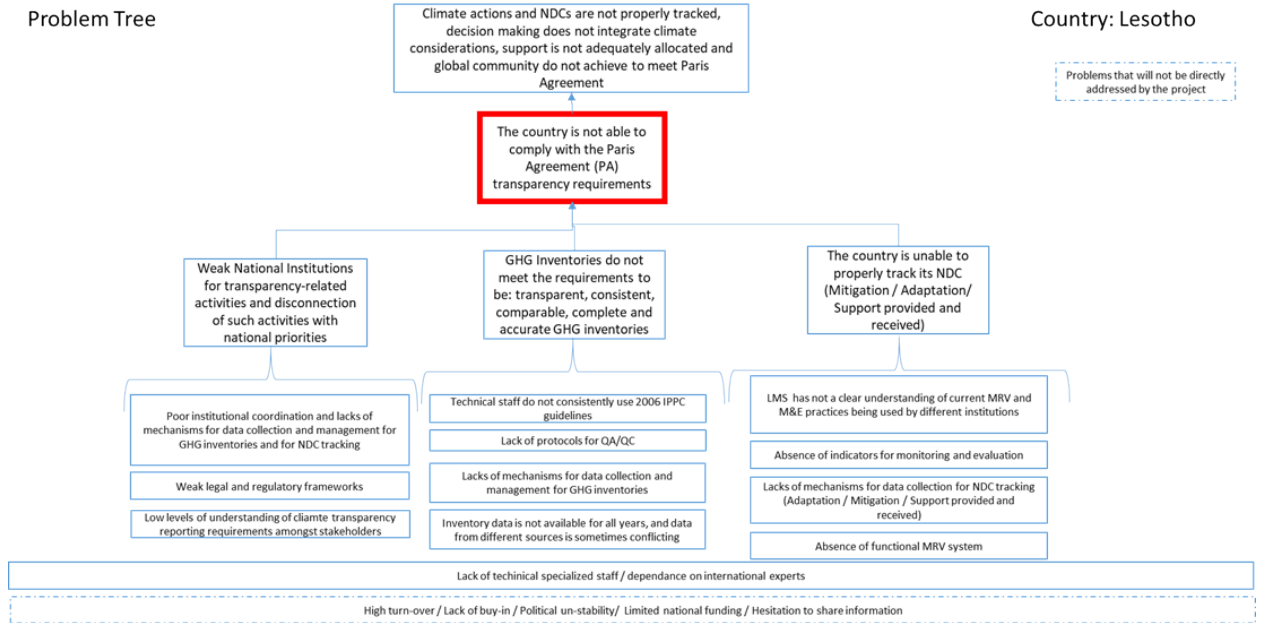


Table 3 presents a comprehensive list of the most related and relevant active initiatives (international climate cooperation projects) serving as a baseline of projects sharing commonalities with the current project.

Table 3: related and relevant active initiatives (international climate cooperation projects) in lesotho

Development Partner	Project	Objective/Description	Relevance and Synergies with the CBIT project	Timeline and Budget (USD)	Status
GEF and UNEP	Third National Communication (TNC)	This project was aimed at facilitating the preparation of the TNC submission by Lesotho to the UNFCCC, with UNEP as implementing agency. The project included the update of the national GHG inventory with emissions data covering years 2005 and 2010, and identification of recent adaptation and mitigation actions performed in the country. This GEF CBIT project integrated key adaptation data collected throughout the Vulnerability & Adaptation assessment exercise into a centralized database envisaging consistency and ease of access for decision-making and investment planning.	Information produced under this project has already been used to guide CBIT project design and will also provide essential input to activities 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.2.4, 1.3.1 and 1.3.2 of this CBIT project.	Start: May 2015 End: 2021 Budget: 536,000	Completed 2021

Development Partner	Project	Objective/Description	Relevance and Synergies with the CBIT project	Timeline and Budget (USD)	Status
	First Biennial Report (BUR1)	<p>This project, also implemented by UNEP, allowed Lesotho not only to fulfil its reporting obligations under the UNFCCC but also to outline a number of elements useful to define a suitable climate transparency framework. The components of the project concentrated on activities aimed at reinforcing institutional arrangements, updating the National GHG inventory of Lesotho, the identification of suitable mitigation actions and its characterization, and initial definition of a suitable MRV system for tracking GHG emissions, impacts of climate change actions and climate finance flows and support.</p> <p>In terms of the update of the National GHG Inventory, this part of the project has been concluded with an updated 2011-2017 National GHG Emissions Inventory available since May 2020, facilitating a close match between the organization of Lesotho's CBIT project PPG stage and the main outcomes and conclusions associated with the preparation of their last national inventories.</p> <p>One of the partial</p>	<p>Under Component 1, it developed work on national circumstances and institutional arrangements, upon which this CBIT project will build, in line with activities 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.3 and 1.2.4 of this CBIT project.</p> <p>Component 2 aimed to establish and strengthen the GHG inventory archiving system and improve the quality of inventories which laid the ground for improvements under this CBIT project, in particular for activities 1.1.1, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.3.1, 1.3.2 and 1.3.3.</p> <p>The CBIT Project shall also build upon Component 3 (mitigation actions), Component 4 (Climate finance) and Component 5 (Domestic MRV) of the</p>	<p>Start: December 2016</p> <p>End: March 2021</p> <p>Budget: 351,000</p>	Completed 2021

Development Partner	Project	Objective/Description	Relevance and Synergies with the CBIT project	Timeline and Budget (USD)	Status
EU	Support to Reform in the Energy Sector	This project contributes to the preparation of sectoral plans, electrification master plan, capacity development plans, and resource maps; and redefining mandates of institutions in the energy sector. This project will bring forward the design and implementation of mitigation policies and contribute to an initial building of sectorial MRV systems.	This will feed into the MRV system development activities (1.3.1, 1.3.2)	Start: 2014 End: 2020 Budget: 800,000 (EUR)	Completed 2020
GEF and UNDP	Development of Cornerstone Public Policies and Institutional Capacities to Accelerate SE4ALL Progress	This project will allow the development of policies and strategies to promote private sector investment in micro-grids. The development of the SEA4ALL country agenda and investment prospectus, and harmonization of energy data considering national energy policy and climate change strategy, is also a deliverable expected from this project.	Similarly, to the previous project, this project will bring forward the design and implementation of energy related mitigation policies and place a contribution to an initial building of the Energy MRV system for Lesotho. This will feed into the MRV system development activities (1.3.1, 1.3.2)	Start: August 2016 End: July 2021 Budget: 22,767,837	Completed 2021

Development Partner	Project	Objective/Description	Relevance and Synergies with the CBIT project	Timeline and Budget (USD)	Status
Government of Italy	Implementation of Memorandum of Understanding in the Field of Climate Change Vulnerability, Risk Assessment, Adaptation and Mitigation	An initiative including development of Renewable Energy resource maps in Lesotho, useful for the definition of mitigation and adaptation indicators and for building a climate related baseline in the country.	The resource maps can feed into the indicators for NDC tracking developed under activities 1.3.1 and 1.3.2	Start: April 2017; Expected end: March 2022 Budget: Technical support project.	Under implementation
African Development Bank (AfDB)	Urban Distribution Rehabilitation and Transmission Expansion Project	This project will contribute to the rehabilitation and expansion of electricity distribution and transmission networks, providing mitigation datasets for MRV and numerical tracking.	The data can feed into the indicators for NDC tracking developed under activities 1.3.1 and 1.3.2	Start: February 2017 Expected end: Dec 2022 Budget: 7,780,000 (UA)	Under implementation
The World Bank Group	Scaling Up Renewable Energy Program (SREP):	Aiming for the identification of potential areas of SREP intervention in Lesotho, this project includes assessment of on-grid renewable energy technologies (hydro, wind and solar), off-grid renewable energy technology (small hydro, solar photovoltaic and hybrid generation systems), capacity building in both the public and private sector and a funding facility for private sector initiatives such as energy efficient cook stoves and solar home systems.	Similarly to the previous projects presented, this project will make available mitigation datasets for MRV and NDC tracking under activities 1.3.1 and 1.3.2	Start: 2017 End: 2020 Budget: 49,000,000	Completed 2020

Development Partner	Project	Objective/Description	Relevance and Synergies with the CBIT project	Timeline and Budget (USD)	Status
<p>Funded by Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and implemented by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD),</p>	<p>Lesotho Adaptation of Small-Scale Agriculture (LASAP)</p>	<p>This project aims to increase the resilience of small-scale agriculture to climate change impacts by promoting climate-proofed investments for agriculture-based development, as well as by enhancing the resilience of agricultural productivity under increased climate variability. Among other activities, the project includes a component aimed at increasing awareness and capacity for government and local stakeholders for reducing risks of climate induced losses in the agriculture sector. This component will, inter alia, work with LMS to improve agro-meteorological capacity in the country, including through the installation of a number of automated agro-meteorological stations, preparation and validation of local level climate/production models for agriculture (through set up of test plots in different microclimates and training of LMS staff); it will also work with Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security and its extension services to increase capacity for ?translating? climate bulletins into production relevant advice at community and farm levels.</p>	<p>The awareness raising of climate risks and losses under this project will feed into activity 1.3.2 ? under the elaboration of information related to climate change adaptation.</p>	<p>Start: 2015 End: 2020 Budget: 4,330,000</p>	<p>Completed 2020</p>

Development Partner	Project	Objective/Description	Relevance and Synergies with the CBIT project	Timeline and Budget (USD)	Status
IFAD	The Smallholder Agriculture Development Program (SADP)	This programme acts as the primary baseline for the above mentioned LASAP LDCF project. It is meant to increase the resilience of small-scale agriculture to climate change impacts by promoting climate-proofed investments for agriculture-based development, as well as by enhancing the resilience of agricultural productivity under increased climate variability.	As above.	Start: 2012 End: 2020 Budget: 10,000,000	Completed 2020
Funded by LDCF-GEF with UNDP as implementing partner	Reducing Vulnerability from Climate Change in the Foothills, Lowlands and Lower Senqu River Basin	This project, executed by Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, is aimed at mainstreaming climate change into the ongoing Land Rehabilitation Programmes, through a variety of adaptation measures including establishment of a geo-based ecological and hydrological information system to increase the understanding of the relationships between climate change, ecosystems, and resilient livelihoods.	The awareness raising of adaptation and resilience under this project will feed into activity 1.3.2 ? under the elaboration of information related to climate change adaptation.	Start: 2015 End: 2021 Budget: 8,398,172	Completed 2021

Development Partner	Project	Objective/Description	Relevance and Synergies with the CBIT project	Timeline and Budget (USD)	Status
LDCF, implemented by FAO	Strengthening Capacity for Climate Change Adaptation through Support to Integrated Watershed Management	This project focuses on implementation of adaptation measures related to sustainable land management and integrated water management. This is done at the local level to reduce vulnerability of local communities and improve their livelihoods and adaptive capacity. While it primarily focuses on community level activities, it also includes a component on data, tools and methods for assessment of climate change impacts on land suitability and livelihoods.	The awareness raising of adaptation measures a under this project will feed into activity 1.3.2 ? under the elaboration of information related to climate change adaptation. The data, tools and methods for tracking climate impacts elaborated in this project will feed into developing indicators for NDC tracking under activities 1.3.1, 1.3.2 and 1.3.4	Start: 2015 End: 2019 Budget: 3,592,694	Completed 2019

Development Partner	Project	Objective/Description	Relevance and Synergies with the CBIT project	Timeline and Budget (USD)	Status
IFAD	Wool and Mohair Promotion Project (WAMPP)	The project is designed to address issues of rural poverty and food insecurity in the context of climate change and increasing vulnerability of poor livestock producers. WAMPP will finance five automatic weather stations and provide daily catch rain gauges to several grazing associations throughout the country. It will further strengthen the capacity at district level for the development of downscaled climate models and scenarios relevant for agriculture and land use.	Data collected from the weather stations will feed into the indicators development under activity 1.3.1	Start: 2015 Expected end: June 2022 Budget: 39,700,000	Under implementation

Development Partner	Project	Objective/Description	Relevance and Synergies with the CBIT project	Timeline and Budget (USD)	Status
	Green Climate Fund readiness program	The five priority aims of the project are to: 1. Strengthen institutional capacity and stakeholder engagement processes for adaptation planning in Lesotho; 2. Enhance climate change information generation, analysis and dissemination; 3. Strengthen national capacity for mainstreaming climate change adaptation into policies, plans and strategies; 4. Enhance and enabling environment for financing of the NAP process; 5. Enhance national capacity for monitoring and reporting on the NAP process.	The awareness raising of adaptation monitoring and reporting under this project will feed into activity 1.3.2 ? under the elaboration of information related to climate change adaptation.	Start: 2019 Expected end: Jan 2023 Budget: 300,000	Under implementation

Development Partner	Project	Objective/Description	Relevance and Synergies with the CBIT project	Timeline and Budget (USD)	Status
Adaptation Fund (AF)	Improving adaptive capacity of vulnerable and food-insecure populations (IACOV) project	The aim of the project is to enhance the adaptive capacity and build the resilience of vulnerable and food insecure households and communities to the impacts of climate change on food security. The three main components of the projects are as follows; 1. Institutional capacity and systems building to support national and community adaptation and management of climate change impacts. 2. Awareness raising of vulnerable communities on climate change impacts and adaptation. 3. Strengthening resilience at community level through community-based adaptation measures and improved food systems.	The awareness raising of adaptation measures under this project will feed into activity 1.3.2 ? under the elaboration of information related to climate change adaptation.	Start: 2020 Expected end: 2024 Budget: 9,999,894	Under implementation

Development Partner	Project	Objective/Description	Relevance and Synergies with the CBIT project	Timeline and Budget (USD)	Status
UNDP Climate Promise Programme	NDC update	<p>To raise Lesotho's ambitions in emission reduction /enhancement of sinks and build climate change resilience, leading to a prosperous, sustainable economy. This will be done through updating data on emission reduction potentials and targets as well as getting the most up to date information on climate change impact, risks, and vulnerability. The review of Lesotho's NDC is expected to increase the mitigation ambition and climate change adaptation and resilience.</p>	<p>Any updated NDC data flows will feed into activities 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 on the institutional arrangements for NDC tracking data. The updated targets will also be incorporated into the NDC tracking under activities 1.3.1, 1.3.2 and 1.3.3.</p>	<p>Start: January 2022</p> <p>Expected end: November 2022</p> <p>Budget: 200,000</p>	Under implementation

Development Partner	Project	Objective/Description	Relevance and Synergies with the CBIT project	Timeline and Budget (USD)	Status
	National Adaptation Plan process	<p>This project will implement activities according to five priority outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? institutional capacity and stakeholder engagement processes for adaptation planning in Lesotho strengthened; ? Climate change information generation, analysis and dissemination enhanced; ? national capacity for mainstreaming climate change adaptation into policies, plans and strategies strengthened. ? enabling environment for financing of the NAP process enhanced; ? National capacity for monitoring and reporting on the NAP process enhanced. <p>Project outcomes will collectively contribute towards reducing vulnerability of specified groups to the impacts of climate change and building adaptive capacity in Lesotho. By integrating climate change adaptation into new and existing national and sectoral policies, plans and strategies, the NAP process will also promote long-term sustainability. In addition, existing institutional structures, coordination procedures and financial mechanisms</p>	<p>The climate change information required for the NAP process will overlap with the GHG inventory data developed under output 1.2 and data required for NDC tracking. Adaptation actions and data from this project will also feed into activity 1.3.2.</p>	<p>Start: 2022 Expected end: 2024 Budget: 2,900,000</p>	Under Implementation

Development Partner	Project	Objective/Description	Relevance and Synergies with the CBIT project	Timeline and Budget (USD)	Status
Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT)	ICAT LESOTHO	<p>The ICAT project will support Lesotho's focus on the establishment of institutional arrangements for MRV at the national level piloting a sectoral guidance to improve MRV at sectoral level. The work will focus on review of existing MRV policies on national level on the establishment of institutional arrangements, including design and implementation of legal frameworks, data collection, reporting and verification methodologies and procedure within and between the relevant stakeholders that will facilitate a robust and continuous national MRV System.</p>	<p>This ICAT project will carry out some of the work under activities 1.1.1 1.1.2, 1.2.1 and 1.2.2. To avoid duplication of effort, the results of this project should directly feed into and be built upon in these activities.</p>	<p>Start: December 2021</p> <p>Expected end: December 2022</p> <p>Budget: 120,000</p>	Under Implementation

Development Partner	Project	Objective/Description	Relevance and Synergies with the CBIT project	Timeline and Budget (USD)	Status
New Zealand and FANRPAN	Support in the collection of GHG Emissions data using IPCC tier 2 method.	The project will support regional collaboration to improve estimates of national livestock GHG emissions using the IPCC Tier 2 method in Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, and Mozambique. A regional approach to Tier 2 inventory compilation can support each country to collate available national data, fill data gaps using the most applicable data from the wider region, and assess the accuracy of national inventories by comparing estimates with values from similar production systems in other countries. This project will strengthen the national capacity for GHG inventory management, improve estimates of GHG emissions from cattle production, and to contribute towards tracking progress towards NDC targets using the improved inventories.	The methods developed and training provided under this project will be built upon in activities 1.2.1 and 1.2.2.	Start: September 2021 Expected end: December 2022 Budget: Technical support	Under Implementation

3) Proposed alternative scenario with a description of project components, outcomes, outputs and activity/deliverables

The project has been designed to target the barriers to the regular fulfillment of Lesotho's reporting requirements under the ETF as outlined in the baseline situation. Overcoming these barriers will be facilitated through the CBIT project implementation through capacity building and training, design and operationalization of an MRV system, backed by strengthened and normalized institutional arrangements. CBIT is furthermore expected to increase the national capacity to implement both adaptation and mitigation initiatives through the development of a national MRV system designed and operationalized to track NDC implementation. The project will also establish a Climate Transparency Unit which will oversee and manage all the reporting requirements of the country under the UNFCCC, and in particular coordinate the NDC implementation tracking, reporting and monitoring under the Enhanced Transparency Framework. It is acknowledged that the CBIT project design must build upon the work done for recently closed and ongoing projects.

Table 4: Transformative behaviour change approaches

The current (limiting) behaviour that will be addressed to support outcome achievement	Desired/transformation behaviour
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<p>Lesotho's national climate transparency system is not in operation under a formal status, hampering an appropriate implementation of the Transparency Framework agreed by UNFCCC parties in COP24. Such an implementation of the Transparency Framework demands the design and operationalization of technical transparency tools, as well as a larger number of trained government staff able to properly implement and make good use of these transparency tools on a permanent basis.</p>	<p>(i) a Climate Transparency Unit will be assigned and thereby coordinate the national MRV system operation;</p> <p>(ii) data collection and processing at various ministries and stakeholders will be enhanced so as to support the work by the National Climate and Monitoring Centre in collecting transparent, consistent, comparable, complete and accurate information at the national level, that can feed into the indicators for monitoring and evaluation defined as a part of this project, improving the operationalization of the country NDC tracking system. Information exchange will be furthered by means of a formal agreement between the Division of Environment, Vice President's Office and all relevant ministries and stakeholders for the benefit of climate reporting under the Paris Agreement and helping to mainstream climate change transparency into sectorial policies;</p> <p>(iii) the Climate Transparency Unit will centralize climate information storage;</p> <p>(iv) the climate transparency unit will incorporate existing and future information into the national MRV system by means of a new integrated platform.</p> <p>Overall, a set of organizational and technical elements to build Lesotho's climate transparency system will be developed following a common approach with the capacity building and technical assistance elements defined in this project, so that Government and other stakeholders use high-quality open environmental data, analyses and participatory processes to generate evidence-based environmental assessments, fostering policy action.</p>
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This project is structured under two components:

- ? Component 1: Strengthening Lesotho's capacity to collect and process climate change data into useful information for policy-making and reporting to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- ? Component 2: Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

The first component is detailed further in the section below, with relevant outcomes, outputs and deliverables defined. Component 2 has one outcome, that the CBIT Project is effectively monitored and evaluated, and further details are given in Section 9 and Annex J.

The first component of the project has one expected outcome:

- Lesotho uses climate change data and information as input to plan, monitor and report climate change strategies, policies and actions in compliance with the Enhanced Transparency Framework

Under this outcome, there are 3 project outputs which are listed below and described in detail in the subsequent sections.

- Output 1.1: Institutional arrangements and legal framework to collect and manage GHG Inventory data and NDC tracking data drafted and submitted to the government for adoption.
- Output 1.2. National GHG Inventory Management System improved and relevant stakeholders trained on IPCC's latest guidelines and tools for national GHG inventories.
- Output 1.3: National MRV system designed, tested and operationalized and Ministry staff/local authorities and other relevant stakeholders trained on tracking Nationally Determined Contributions according to the ETF, including co-benefits for SDGs achievement.

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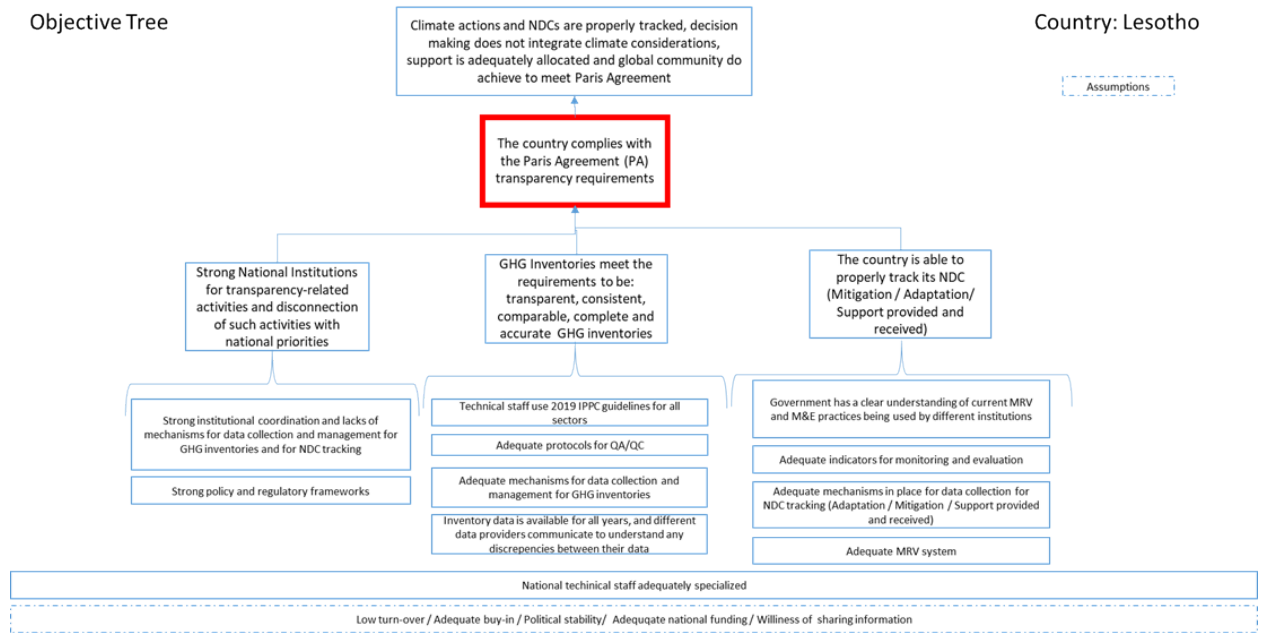
This project will assist Lesotho overcome and address the barriers that prevent the country from meeting its international commitments as set out in Articles 4 and 13 of the Paris Agreement. The CBIT work will define and strengthen national institutional arrangements and the legal framework to support reporting under an enhanced transparency framework, establish an online MRV portal, develop reporting tools for GHG inventories, mitigation, adaptation, and climate support received/given, and training and capacity development of new and existing teams in transparency related activities. Effective engagement of data users and data suppliers in the MRV portal system will result in generation of good quality and timely climate reports. Continuous preparation of these reports using established institutions and engagement of stakeholders will increase ownership and uptake of report findings at all levels. This will lead to improved capacities of national teams to better meet the Paris Agreement MRV processes, facilitate gender mainstreaming in climate change policies. Globally, this project will contribute to increased mitigation ambition and effectiveness, as well as enhanced transparency, building mutual trust and confidence amongst countries, facilitating the achievement of the Paris Agreement.

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The requested support aligns with CBIT activities outlined in paragraph 18 of the GEF CBIT programming directions document. The requested support is in alignment with the Climate Change Focal Area Objective 3: Foster enabling conditions for mainstreaming mitigation concerns into sustainable development strategies of GEF7 Replenishment Programming Directions and Paragraph 18 of the CBIT programming directions. This proposal is in line with UNEP's Climate Change sub-programme Output 6 where countries are expected to increasingly adopt and/or implement low greenhouse gas emission development strategies and invest in clean technologies; and hence achieve emissions reduction consistent with the 1.5/2 degrees Celsius stabilization pathway.

A description of the objectives of the project is presented in the objective tree (Figure 4).

Figure 4: OBJECTIVE TREE



Component 1: Strengthening Lesotho's capacity to collect and process climate change data into useful information for policy-making and reporting to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

The overall objective of the project is to strengthen Lesotho's capacity to plan, monitor and report climate change strategies, policies and actions in compliance with the Enhanced Transparency Framework, aiming for continuous improvements over time. Activities will seek to establish and support national institutions, improve the quality and access to climate relevant data and information, define and design country owned methodologies and approaches to tracking of climate action and NDC targets, and installing sectorial/local capacities for MRV of current adaptation and mitigation actions and climate finance.

Setting the foundations for a permanent implementation of the contents of the Enhanced Transparency Framework Rulebook in Lesotho requires an upgrade in the institutional capacities currently available in the country. To ensure permanent improvements in institutional capacity, an integrated effort including the institutionalization of coordination among Government offices is required. Improving the availability of modern tools suitable to be used at country level to deal with climate related

transparency data, and staff with the appropriate level of knowledge to make good use of the tools provided and ability to strengthen the networks among stakeholders of the country is also needed.

Fostering collaboration in the preparation and use of country quality open environmental data organized to plan, monitor and report climate change strategies, policies and actions under the guidelines of the Enhanced Transparency Framework Rulebook will allow the Government to improve analyses with an evidence-based environmental approach. In turn, including participatory processes to design and foster policy action will enhance the involvement and interactions among Government and other stakeholders, facilitating an integrated tracking of its subsequent implementation at country level. Activities will seek to establish and support national institutions, improving the quality and access to climate relevant data and information, facilitating the inclusion of these elements into their own sectorial policies and measures.

All of the above will further enable Lesotho to meet the objectives set out in its NDC, and consequently contributing to the country's adoption of low GHG emission development strategies and advancing its national adaptation plan. This component has one expected outcome:

Outcome 1: Lesotho uses climate change data and information as input to plan, monitor and report climate change strategies, policies and actions in compliance with the Enhanced Transparency Framework

This outcome is proposed to be delivered through 3 outputs. These are further elaborated on below, including details on activities to be undertaken for the delivery of each output, and resultant deliverables.

Output 1.1: Institutional arrangements and legal framework to collect and manage GHG Inventory data and NDC tracking data drafted and submitted to the government for adoption.

This output targets the institutional and coordination barriers to the ETF identified in the baseline scenario. The MPGs put great emphasis on improving national institutional arrangements for UNFCCC reports and communications, enabling reporting on a continuous basis. The UNFCCC reports and communications under the ETF will mainly consist of two aspects:

- forward looking plans and targets for climate action, expressed by the NDC, based to a great extent on political strategies and priorities having an impact on implementation at a practical level given the country conditions;
- backward looking reports, informing of current status and results achieved included in the BTR (including the National Inventory Report, and potentially the Adaptation Communication and NC in the years that the BTR and NC submission coincide).

These two aspects will require in turn two types of considerations to be included in an institutional framework for transparency. On one hand, an institutional mandate, which is political in nature, for the planning of climate actions and establishment of targets; and, on the other hand, an institutional framework with enough capacity to track and report on the implementation of these actions and achievement of targets. The tracking and reporting of climate actions and policies, and relevant information such as climate finance, as well as emission projections, will also inform the political arena on the effectiveness of their climate actions and policies. Well-informed policies, strategies, plans and targets, based on detailed data analysis shall increase the chances of having effective climate actions and policies as well as realistic and ambitious NDC targets.

Implementation of the MPGs and the additional reporting requirements is creating a need to review and strengthen the national institutional structure to operationalize the management of Lesotho's UNFCCC reports and communications by means of collecting and managing GHG Inventory data and NDC tracking data. By having a robust institutional framework for transparency, Lesotho will be able to properly streamline national climate change related policies, strategies and actions, thus supporting Lesotho to track NDC implementation and submit UNFCCC reports and communications on a continuous basis.

The current institutional arrangements are set out in the baseline scenario and are illustrated in Figures 1-2. Lesotho has recently undergone work to review institutional arrangements and has proposals for how institutional arrangements could be structured. Figure 5 and Figure 6 below present the proposed institutional arrangement taken from the BUR1 (2021) and the MRV framework report (2019), respectively. Comparison of the proposed arrangements across these recent reports indicate inconsistency in proposed arrangements; therefore this output will look to consolidate existing work and propose and embed new institutional arrangements. A gender expert (co-financed by the government of Lesotho) will review the representation of women in the current institutional arrangements. Any proposed institutional arrangements will be reviewed by the gender expert to check that they are gender sensitive and, where possible, will address gender related gaps and constraints in Lesotho.

The proposed lead institution in both cases, Lesotho's Meteorological Service within the Ministry of Environment (MEM), requires support to lead, plan, coordinate, implement, monitor, and evaluate policies, strategies, and programs to enhance transparency. LMS is considered to be the most appropriate institution to formally adopt this role as it is well understood that maintaining the same, or similar, institutional arrangements for climate related matters has myriad benefits, including

- ? The establishment of a single, stable coordinating team;
- ? Engagement in internal capacity-building;
- ? Enhanced institutional memory;
- ? Better archiving processes;
- ? Better identification of strengths & weaknesses of reporting systems and desire to continuously improve them;
- ? Potential cost savings through reduced reliance on external consultants and experts.

Therefore, this output will look to strengthen the position of LMS as the national focal point for the national greenhouse gas inventory, adaptation actions and mitigation actions. Under this output LMS will be technically in charge of managing all the reporting requirements of the country under the UNFCCC. The development of institutional arrangements will also designate a new entity ? the Climate Transparency Unit (CTU), which will sit within LMS and will be responsible for MRV of climate change policy, GHGs, mitigation, adaptation and climate finance in collaboration with other teams within LMS.

The output will also seek to strengthen the mandate of the NCCC. The NCCC functions as a coordinating body between relevant national institutions and does not operate under a legal mandate. The NCCC has not been designated a role in the proposed institutional arrangements taken from the BUR1 (Figure 5). Therefore, this output is also required to strengthen the coordinating powers of the NCCC and ensure that cross ministerial data flows are established and maintained. This will be achieved through assigning fixed focal points in the institutions themselves to support LMS in the preparation of national reports. In previous projects implemented in Lesotho a Thematic Expert Group (TEG) has been formed of members of relevant institutions across government to support the NCCC with thematic knowledge required to perform its oversight function. It is proposed that a TEG is formed for CBIT implementation to support the NCCC.

Lesotho's Bureau of Statistics is, and will likely continue to be, a vital source of climate change data. It is recommended that different ministries be appointed as sector leads, under the guidance of LMS

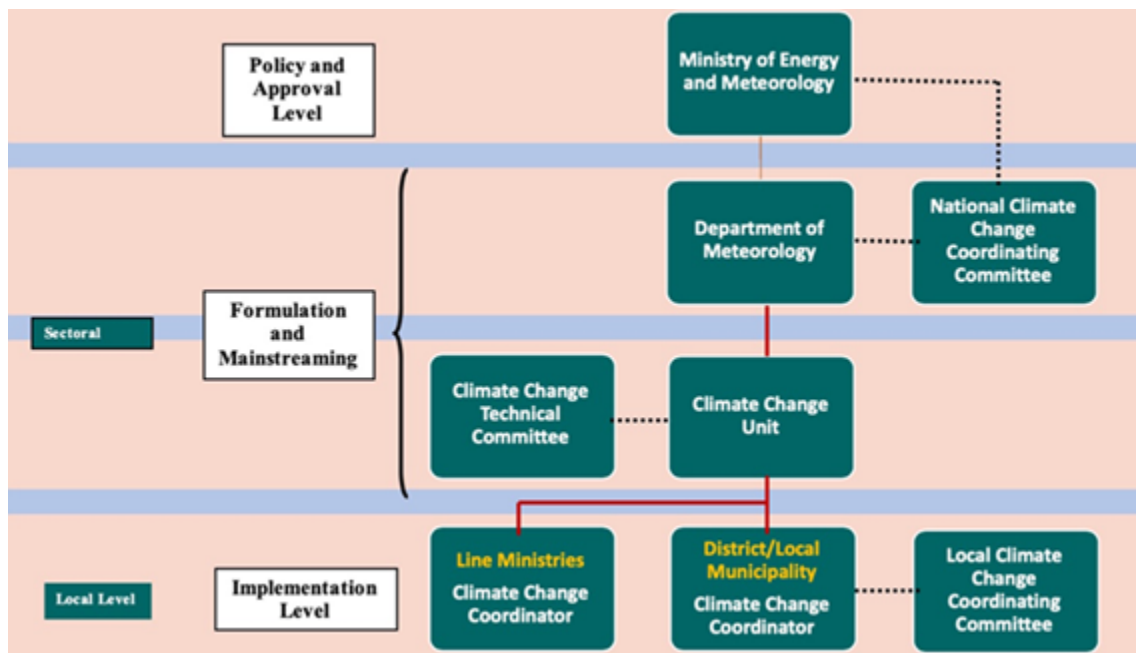
Climate Change Unit and that these sector leads monitor and gather data in conjunction with Lesotho's Bureau of Statistics, which is, and will likely continue to be, an integral component of the institutional arrangements for monitoring climate change data in the Kingdom. The involvement of Lesotho's academic and research institutions in data collection and monitoring will also be formalised.

The project will also look to examine the existing links between climate related capacity building and technical assistance skills in academic centres. It is considered that this is a useful resource to draw on to reduce over reliance on international and national external consultants. The fact that the academic sector (professors and researchers) of the country is significantly more stable than that of the public sector makes this approach fundamental for the Lesotho's circumstances. Finally, the role of external consultants, either international or national, must be considered within this activity.

Figure 5: proposed institutional arrangements from the BUR1



Figure 6: Proposed institutional arrangements from the MRV framework



Given the work recently undertaken in Lesotho to produce climate change reports, namely the BUR1 and the TNC, the first activity under Output 1.1 (**Activity 1.1.1**) consists of performing an in-depth analysis of the current situation and identifying the concrete gaps and barriers to be addressed through enhanced institutional arrangements, technical tools and knowledge, in order to enable Lesotho to comply with the ETF under the Paris Agreement. Activities under this output will necessarily build upon and coordinate with recent developments in institutional arrangements through the delivery of the BUR1 project, specifically Component 1 of the BUR1 project on national circumstances and institutional arrangements, that 'review(ed) existing national structures for the GHG Inventory process and made recommendations for development of a sustainable future GHG Inventory Management System?', 'updated the list of stakeholders relevant for the inventory development process?', and 'developed partnerships including signing of agreements with relevant institutions in order to enhance coordination and ownership of the process. These include liaising with the GHG Inventory team for the Third National Communication of the Country, Committee on Environmental Data Management (CEDAMA), Bureau of Statistics (BOS) and others?'. Moreover, activities on institutional arrangements under Component 3 on mitigation from the BUR1 project should be considered: 'Review and update the composition of the existing national mitigation team under the NCs?'; '3.2 Identify additional stakeholders, if any to support the work of the mitigation team?'; '3.3 Mobilize and establish collaboration mechanism with relevant stakeholders to support and participate in the national mitigation team?'. Additionally, work done in developing the MRV framework report will be reviewed to establish one definitive proposal for institutional arrangements.

The assessment delivered in the report on institutional arrangements will be based on the MPGs for the transparency framework for action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, and will assess the current gaps and barriers in order to apply the referred MPGs. The review will build upon and further previous stakeholder mapping exercises by considering stakeholder groups not previously considered such as traditional leadership (chiefs), media, CSOs, NGOs, industry, local government and gender (and other social groups) experts. The activity will necessarily include engagement across stakeholders, proposed in the format of a workshop, consolidated with a number of 1-2-1 meetings. Based on the experience of stakeholder consultation held during the PPG stage, this engagement should also focus on increasing the level of understanding amongst stakeholders on climate change transparency related issues.

This activity will also include an analysis of the applicability of flexibility provisions contained in the MPGs in view of Lesotho's national circumstances with the aim of identifying mechanisms by which Lesotho can gradually increase the adoption of stricter reporting requirements. The UNFCCC's FAQ on the operationalization of the Enhanced Transparency Framework report^[4] includes a table summarizing the flexibility provisions in MPGs to those developing country parties that need it in light of their capacities. For example the use of notation 'FX' to indicate the use of flexibility provisions in common reporting tables or common tabular formats. The activity will also entail consultations with relevant institutions and stakeholders, and the potential engagement of additional institutions and stakeholders not yet actively involved in climate transparency in the country. This includes the facilitation of communication between the GHG inventory team and data owners that do not necessarily collect data in a format that best informs the inventory, for example the owners of the Livestock Registration, Marking and Information System. It will then deliver an assessment of specific gaps and barriers to be addressed, as well as potential ways to bridge and overcome them in the institutional set-up of the future climate change transparency system which will enable Lesotho to meet future, more stringent, reporting requirements.

Activity 1.1.2 will make operational the Climate Change Bill, in order to strengthen national institutional arrangements and data flows for transparency reporting. The process of creating the Climate Change Bill has been initiated in Lesotho, however, technical assistance is required to improve and develop its instruction further to ensure it includes the necessary structures to enhance climate transparency. This project will undertake legal and institutional gap analyses and provide recommendations for the implementation of the Climate Change Bill as an instrument to provide mandates to establish and strengthen institutional arrangements for climate reporting under the Paris Agreement. This will establish the framework for further development under Activity 1.1.3. This activity will also provide technical support for the legal and regulatory framework to underpin proposed institutional arrangements as well as prepare relevant legal texts (draft legal texts for acts/regulations) based on legal and institutional gap analyses and recommendations, and submit to the Government for adoption in consultation with wide ranging stakeholders. Importantly it will make budgetary provision for institutional arrangements as outlined in Activity 1.1.5.

Activity 1.1.3 outlines how institutional arrangements, defined in activity 1.1.1, may be translated to a formal proposal for a robust institutional structure supported by legal mandates. The proposal will be integral to Lesotho's ability to:

- Regularly submit BTR and National Communications, including GHG inventories and associated NIRs as defined by the ETF established by Article 13 of the Paris Agreement and its MPGs.
- Track NDC implementation, targets and indicators in a systematic manner and in coordination with the various other climate change and development policies
- Undertake continuous transparency improvements.

The National Climate Change Policy and Implementation Strategy (2017-2027) would serve as the main instrument for planning national action to combat climate change in Lesotho if properly aligned with the NDC and whether its objectives are consistent with Lesotho's international commitments. Work under this activity will be required to review the existing laws and ensure that they provide a sufficient framework for the legal mandates for institutional arrangements.

Activity 1.1.3 will therefore first identify opportunities for aligning and coordinating ongoing and future work on the NDC and the climate change strategy based on the analysis under activity 1.1.1. As the ETF is not supposed to imply an undue burden to countries, the activity will take into consideration the existing structures with LMS as the focal point and the NCCC as a coordinating body and propose how roles can be strengthened in a revised structure with fixed focal points in the relevant institutions, for future NDCs/strategies development. This will ensure consistency, due process and the involvement of all relevant stakeholders, including the non-state actors.

Institutional coordination under a legal framework between the NDC and the climate change strategy will ensure consistency and avoid duplication of work in terms of tracking as well as quantity of data and information needed; it will also facilitate access to data not easily shared in the absence of formal arrangements that clearly provide those mandates. In addition, it is important to keep in mind that the NDC update will have to be submitted every 5 years, hence it is necessary to internalise the process in the national institutions so that it is not done on an ad-hoc basis. Inter-ministerial transparency coordination will also ensure that project results and NDC tracking information is higher up on the agenda of other ministries and help raise awareness on potential adaptation and GHG mitigation options in those ministries and ensure coordination with the other development strategies of Lesotho.

Secondly, this activity will propose a legal and administrative framework and appropriate institutional arrangements to back the institutional structure cited above, including the preparation and submission of detailed proposals containing formal institutional arrangements established through instruments such as MOUs between ministries, or as appropriate, a revised legal framework to allow the system to have a strong anchoring in government institutions and practices, entailing extensive coordination. Therefore, this activity will ensure that the proposals are prepared and submitted to the Government so as to empower relevant institutions and provide them with the needed data in a timely and smooth manner. The project will also prepare and submit data sharing agreements and MoUs for efficient cooperation and coordinated institutional arrangements for signature by the national government and relevant municipal/provincial authorities, data providers and other key stakeholders on the implementation of Lesotho's ETF. This is likely to include the strengthening of agreements made with different institutions as part of the BUR1 project.

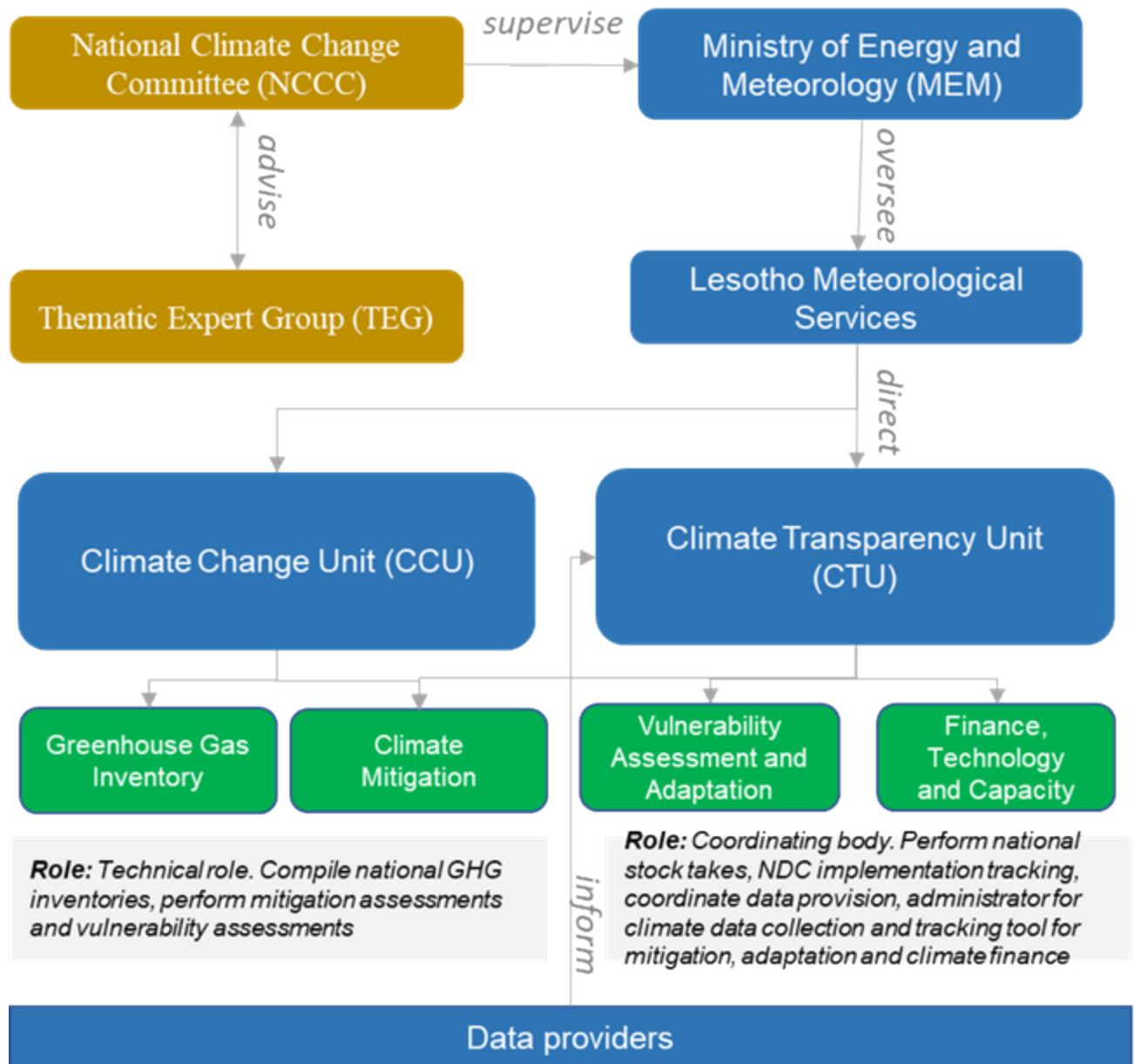
Activity 1.1.4 will establish a new entity – the Climate Transparency Unit (CTU), which will sit within LMS and will be responsible for MRV of climate change policy, GHGs, mitigation, adaptation and climate finance in collaboration with other teams within LMS. The CTU will have a coordinating role and be technically in charge of managing all the reporting requirements of the country under the UNFCCC, and in particular coordinate the NDC implementation tracking, reporting and monitoring under the Enhanced Transparency Framework. This will take the form of national stock takes of progress in achieving the NDC, including the impact analysis of mitigation actions, adaptation actions and identification of opportunities for implementing additional actions. These tracking activities will also provide policy impact forecasts and recommendations on climate change policies to accelerate climate action and responses in the country. The establishment of this unit will ensure continuity, and sustainability in as far as tracking of NDCs and UNFCCC reporting is concerned. It will further ensure that capacities built on MRV are retained as staff will be employed on a permanent basis as opposed to a project-based approach.

The pilot of the CTU will be established in the early part of project implementation with two external consultants. The CTU will be staffed for the duration of the project with the view to hand over responsibility of the roles to permanent government experts as the project progresses. The CTU will initially be a pilot unit before it is formally defined in the legal framework. This strategy has been chosen as LMS does not currently hold the expertise that is specified for the two roles defined under the CTU. Limited staff resources within LMS also mean that it would be difficult to find staff with time to commit to working on the pilot CTU on top of their existing duties. The handover from the external consultants will happen during the final 6 to 12 months of the project, which gives LMS time to identify permanent experts and resource them effectively. The permanent experts will benefit from mentoring from the external consultants as they handover the CTU roles, building capacity within LMS. The proposed pilot team of external consultants will preferably have previous experience or hold expertise in technical aspects of MRV and transparency as well as the required IT skills to manage the

online tools established under Output 1.2 and Output 1.3. However, it is noted that the terms of reference for these roles should accept applications from national experts who do not possess the preferred skills and have the required skill set to develop expertise in the area. The success of a long-term Transparency system hinges on government support for a well-trained CTU following the end of the project and therefore will require funding from the national budget.

It is envisaged that the proposed handover from consultants to government employees will take place during the final year of the project. However, this is dependent on the support from the government and the progress of the legal framework. This will be facilitated with the provision of comprehensive guidance material outlining the transition of responsibilities which will be developed during the project inception phase. Figure 7 provides an outline of the proposed institutional arrangements and the CTU's role within the climate change coordination framework. The CTU will sit alongside the existing Climate Change Unit (CCU), under LMS. The CCU will retain technical expertise on greenhouse gas inventories, mitigation and adaptation, while the CTU will have a coordinating role managing data flows and tracking climate-related indicators. Coordination between the two units will be necessary and will be facilitated through regular meetings and exchanges of information. Additionally, both units will report to the same director and therefore will have consistency in strategic direction. Further details of the institutional arrangements and roles in project implementation are given in Section 6. The CBIT project should establish a clear roadmap for the transition period when the two consultants will handover tasks to the permanent staff of the CTU and to LMS. The roadmap should define, clearly, the steps, milestones and roles and responsibilities of the key institutions involved in the climate actions during the transition process, leading into permanent institutional arrangements. The roadmap should be accompanied by a clear framework of implementation and the associated budget for the staff needs to function in the future.

Figure 7: Proposed institutional arrangements with climate transparency unit



Finally, **Activity 1.1.5** will establish mechanisms to ensure the sustainability of appropriate institutional arrangements defined in the earlier activities. This is necessary to enable continuous reporting and transparency improvements as envisioned by the MPG. The activity will require additional stakeholder engagement at a consolidation workshop to identify the staffing requirement of each institution to implement the proposal. This will need to consider that in most cases the personnel

responsible for monitoring and evaluation in the ministries have other responsibilities and cannot adequately support the burden of work needed to respond to the requirements of the ETF. It is therefore likely that capacity gaps will be identified by this activity. The gender expert will input into the workplan to ensure gender equity in the decision-making processes.

An associated budget will be estimated, taking into account at least current and required staff costs for the different institutions and ministries. Estimates will need to consider costs associated with the gathering of data as well as the purchase, maintenance and operation of technical tools needed to managing data and training on their use. This may include the introduction of statistical units within institutions and ministries. A plan for budgetary implementation will therefore be proposed, to be considered in future government budgeting exercises.

This activity will also cover the handover of the CTU responsibilities from external consultants to permanent government staff in line with the roadmap as defined in Activity 1.1.4. This will be completed using a compilation of handover materials and guidance on the responsibilities of members of the unit. This material will ensure there is permanent documentation available to CTU staff beyond the lifespan of the project. Further to this, a hands on training workshop will be conducted between the consultants and permanent staff.

In summary, output 1.1 of the project will be achieved through the following proposed activities:

- Activity 1.1.1: Analyse the current transparency framework in Lesotho, various institutions, mandates, roles and responsibilities and identification of gaps, barriers and needs related to the collection and management of GHG Inventory data and NDC tracking data in view of the ETF and its various reporting requirements
- Activity 1.1.2: Draft and propose for Government adoption formal institutional arrangements and the associated legal framework needed to collect and manage GHG Inventory data and NDC tracking data at the national level
- Activity 1.1.3: Support the development of the Climate Change Bill with technical and legal support for its design and operationalization.
- Activity 1.1.4: Establish the pilot Climate Transparency Unit and operationalize the unit in line with the mandate created by the Climate Change Bill.
- Activity 1.1.5: Identify national budget and staff needs to establish the institutional arrangements proposed and the implementation of the associated legal framework. Prepare handover materials and guidance on the transition of responsibilities and conduct training to ensure that the consultant roles will be replaced by government staff

The activities will result in the following deliverables:

- Deliverable 1.1.1: Scoping report on the current institutional arrangements in Lesotho, including the desk review of recent work undertaken in Lesotho and the results of stakeholder engagements
- Deliverable 1.1.2: Stakeholder consultation report on institutional arrangements and legal framework, including gender sensitive considerations
- Deliverable 1.1.3: Gender sensitive National Climate Change Institutional Arrangements and Legal framework report including reporting guidelines and draft text for legal acts/regulations as required.
- Deliverable 1.1.4: Draft Climate Change Bill and implementation strategy document
- Deliverable 1.1.5: Climate Data Sharing Agreements and Memorandums-of-Understanding (MoUs)
- Deliverable 1.1.6: Pilot Climate Transparency Unit
- Deliverable 1.1.7: Quarterly reports on the operation of the pilot Climate Transparency Unit
- Deliverable 1.1.8: A budget and associated staff work plan to establish the institutional arrangements and implement the legal framework.
- Deliverable 1.1.9: Training workshop report(including information on gender of participants) and training materials on handover training for newly appointed Climate Transparency Unit staff

Output 1.1 is directly aligned to CBIT Programming Priorities for the National Level (GEF/C50/06), especially with activities to strengthen national institutions for transparency-related activities in line with national priorities, such as (a) support to national institutions (b) support to integrate knowledge from transparency initiatives into national policy and decision making.

Output 1.2: National GHG Inventory Management System improved and relevant stakeholders trained on IPCC's latest guidelines and tools for national GHG inventories

This output responds directly to the barriers identified as a part of the preparation of the National GHG Inventories for the TNC and BUR1. These barriers are largely related to lack of data and continuous access to climate information and insufficient technical expertise from the staff officials at Government level. The formation of GHG inventories is crucial for the proper functioning of the future transparency system reporting under the ETF of the Paris Agreement and therefore this output and associated activities are aimed solely at the improvement of the current system.

Roles and responsibilities of the various ministries and stakeholders in providing data useful to prepare the National GHG Inventory are covered by the previous output, while this output will provide the modalities and procedures on how the data and information is to be gathered, structured, stored and accessed. Based on the initial proposals for institutional arrangements for the GHG inventory, it is proposed that this output be led by LMS in partnership with external consultants.

Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) procedures have been identified in the baseline analysis as requiring specific support and therefore QA/QC processes will be reviewed in detail under this output. QA and QC are essential procedures for ensuring the quality of data in the process of GHG inventory compilation. It is expected that robust and transparent National GHG Inventories follow TACCC rules, i.e., are transparent, accurate, complete, comparable and consistent, but this will only happen when minimum standards of data management are followed. This will also contribute to avoiding duplication of efforts, confusion and use of outdated and bad quality data, especially from line and auxiliary agencies. Time for accessing information and obtaining data will also be optimised to ensure that staff within the Climate Transparency Unit (established under Output 1.1) will have more time to ensure that Lesotho submits good quality reports to the UNFCCC rather than time spent predominantly on data collection.

Capacity-related barriers will be targeted through the development of guidelines, templates and display tools developed in collaboration with international and national experts within each subsector. These tools will reflect the unique needs and characteristics of Lesotho whilst building on international best practice methods. This will provide benefits for the Lesotho inventory compilation team beyond improvements in the accuracy of the inventory. Such as greater efficiency of compilation and an opportunity for training and further capacity building.

It is proposed that this output produces a web-based climate data collection and tracking tool, which will be further developed in output 1.3 to form part of the overall national MRV system of Lesotho. This will address the barriers of access to climate data and improve data flows between stakeholders.

Activity 1.2.1 entails the development and application of tools supporting the collection of activity data useful to develop the calculations associated with the preparation of the National GHG Inventory of Lesotho. These tools will be adapted to the Lesotho national context to ensure the sustainable elaboration of transparent, consistent, comparable, complete and accurate GHG inventories. This may include harmonization with the draft Science, Technology and Innovation Bill and the associated Innovation fund so that the project may benefit from any resulting research into GHG emission factors in Lesotho. These tools, templates and guidelines should be tailored to ensure compliance with the Paris Agreement MPGs, and Common Reporting Formats (CRFs) and Common Reporting Tables (CRTs) and to support Lesotho in updating methodologies to the IPCC 2019 Refinement guidelines where possible. Gaps in the GHG inventory system will be identified at this stage in order to compile an improvement plan for full compliance with the ETF with regard to the inventory. The design of the templates and tools should be in line with the methodological issues under the Paris Agreement including the preparation of (1) common reporting tables for national greenhouse gas inventories; (2) common tabular format tables for tracking progress towards nationally determined contributions; (3) common tabular format tables for information on financial, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building support provided and mobilized, and needed and received; (4) outlines of the BTR, national inventory document.

The Key Categories? analysis will be used to prioritise categories within the GHG inventory to be improved under this activity. The development of such protocol, methodologies and template will build on those developed through various projects in the country, including the projects for the development of the TNC and BUR1, and also considering existing ones already developed for other countries under CBIT, and general best practices. Particularly, this activity will build upon the following activities of the BUR1 project: ?2.3 Establish data sharing protocols and measures?, ?2.5 Establish measures to collect and update activity data on a regular basis? and ?2.6 Design and develop a web-based inventory management system for data collection and data archiving for both BURs and national communications (NCs)?

For example, as seen in **Table 1**, enteric fermentation is an important Key Category in Lesotho and high-quality data is required on livestock in order to calculate this category. The existing Livestock Registration, Marking and Information System (mandated by law) collects data on livestock; this project will explore how the format and detail of this data can be updated to feed into the GHG Inventory system more effectively. The methodology will also consider how data that is normally collected in person can be estimated or collected through alternative means. For this activity it will be important to consider ongoing technical projects to develop Lesotho?s inventory. For example, the residential sector emission factors being developed by the Department of Energy, and the AFOLU capacity building project, which is helping to develop data collection methods, create a database and move from tier 1 to tier 2 for livestock emissions. This will ensure that tools developed are suitable for the national context.

Activity 1.2.2 will focus on Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC) tools which will include the development of a national GHG QA/QC Plan and a manual for development of QA/QC activities and procedures for all sectors. This will allow Lesotho to correct any uncertainties and mistakes at the national level before inventories are formally submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat and will be synchronized with analogous QA/QC activities developed under Output 1.3 to further support the development of QA/QC protocols for climate data in the country. A well-defined and institutionalized QA/QC system will be prepared, following 2006 IPCC's General Guidance and Reporting procedures (vol.1, Ch. 6.) as well as sector-specific IPCC guidance (vol. 2 & vol. 4) including methodologies and guidelines for the different agencies, with a view to strengthen the integrity, correctness and completeness of Lesotho's GHG inventories and enhance technical capacities in the long-term. Activities will focus on the development of a robust QA/QC plan and category-specific QC procedures and methods, following IPCC guidance; defining QA review procedures to assess the quality of data collected; outlining a schedule for sector-specific QA/QC activities, from initiation of the inventory process through to the reporting of the final GHG results; assigning personnel to coordinate and undertake those QA/QC activities; and defining documentation, reporting and archiving procedures of inventory material and QC activities. To facilitate the deployment and increase the effectiveness of the QA/QC provisions, specific guidance will be developed, incorporating existing practices from different agencies and reinforcing the practice so that it is applicable to all relevant agencies. Particularly, this activity will build upon the following activity of the BUR1 project: ?2.10 Develop QA/QC plan?.

This output will establish a QA/QC system, including the elaboration of a QA/QC plan and related procedures to facilitate regular GHG inventory compilation, which involves large amounts of data and information provided by different agencies and institutions. This represents an added value in relation to the other MRV initiatives implemented in the country. Development and implementation of a QA/QC system as well as an enhanced process for verification and uncertainty analysis can also improve greatly the weaknesses detected for preparing the last two GHG Inventories of Lesotho. Guidelines for quality control for the data collection process by line ministries are needed as well as for guidelines for lead agencies of the different sectors on how to assess the quality of data collected by their line ministries, As pointed out in the MPG's Decision 18/CMA.1 (Chapter II. National inventory report of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases, Section B. National circumstances and institutional arrangements), each party shall report on a variety of functions related to inventory planning, preparation and management on documentation about generating and aggregating data, including QA/QC. Following MPG's advice, this can be performed following the guidelines presented by the IPCC in its 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories in its Volume 1 (General Guidance and Reporting) complemented with previous guidance provided by the IPCC on QA/QC procedures and uncertainty analysis. In the case of Lesotho, this needs to be especially strengthened for the Energy, Agriculture and LULUCF sectors, adapting the guidelines presented in Volume 2 (Energy) and Volume 4 (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines whereby sectorial advice targeted to these sectors of the Inventory is presented.

Activity 1.2.3 will design and operationalize a climate data collection and tracking tool, which will form one component of the IT tool to be developed under Output 1.3. It is intended that this IT system will serve as a central storage facility to support the wider MRV system of Lesotho in improving data collection and management for the GHG inventory, with the double objective of supporting NDC implementation tracking which will be developed under Output 1.3.

The IT tool to be operationalized under this activity will be focused on collecting and managing data for internal use of the technical staff in relevant institutions for the GHG inventory only, while the web-based climate data MRV tool developed under Activity 1.3.3 will be oriented towards MRV of climate action and displaying data and information to external users from the national and international community. Results of this activity will allow Lesotho to enhance the preparation of the National GHG inventory and to produce high quality transparency reports, in order to allow the Party to report under the ETF set by the PA. It will also enable Lesotho to provide useful and accurate inputs to the global stocktaking, as well as to assist the country in providing information to feed the web-based climate data MRV tool described in Activity 1.3.3. Particularly, this activity will build upon the following activities of the BUR1 project: ?2.5 Establish measures to collect and update activity data on a regular basis?, and ?2.6 Design and develop a web-based inventory management system for data collection and data archiving for both BURs and national communications (NCs)?. It should be noted that Lesotho had an online data collection tool developed as part of the BUR1 project; however as it was not compatible with the IPCC software that is used for compilation, it was not efficient for the inventory compilation team and therefore not well received. It is hence recommended that consultation guides the development of the tool and lessons are learnt from the previous tool provided to ensure that the developed tool is specific for the needs of the Lesotho national experts.

The proposed functionality of the tool is summarised below:

- aggregation and storage of activity data, emission factors, calculated annual total emissions
- data analysis and emission calculation upload
- documentation of procedural information and published national inventory methodologies;
- facilitating quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC)
- reporting to the UNFCCC or relevant domestic entity
- data sharing among the national inventory team, government agencies, and relevant stakeholders
- archiving of datasets, calculations, relevant studies, communications among inventory team members, and final submitted reports.

There are a number of options for establishing the online system:

- Option 1: A cloud based off-the-shelf system, hosted on the external cloud-based servers of the creators of the tool. This is a low cost option, using an industry standard product that can be rapidly deployed and benefits from free regular updates and improvements. This system could be accessed 24/7 and would be continuously backed up. The administrator rights, however, would remain with the creators of the tool and user license charges may apply after the end of the project.
- Option 2: The same cloud based off-the shelf system, which is hosted on LMS's cloud-based servers. This option has the same benefits and drawbacks as option 1, with the addition that LMS would have administrator rights, which may make changes to the system more resource intensive.
- Option 3: A server-based off-the shelf option; data would be stored securely on LMS's physical servers. This would be significantly more time consuming and expensive to set-up than cloud-based systems. Costs would depend on local server installation and subsequent management of system and data access by local IT administrators; this type of system is not as flexible as a cloud-based system and requires additional system administrator input.
- Option 4: A bespoke system built by IT developers, with data held on LMS's servers. This type of system requires significant time to design, test and implement and would be the costliest option. The system would be reliant on the IT developers for any updates.

Activity 1.2.4 will deliver training in the use of relevant tools identified and prepared under activity 1.2.1 and 1.2.2. Importantly, these training sessions will target staff from all the sectors included in the GHG inventory on the use of the IPCC 2006 and 2019 Refinement guidelines. Under this activity 1.2.4, over the thirty-six (36) months of project implementation, the project team will conduct three (3) training of trainer's workshops to ensure that selected representatives can replicate training sessions on matters related with the technical elements and results produced under this Output to improve the preparation of Lesotho's GHG Inventory in their respective institutions. It is envisaged at this stage that this will include the training of 40 number of technical staff (GHG inventory coordinators, compilers and data providers) from LMS and other relevant organizations as identified under Output 1.1. In line with the project's gender disaggregation target, the aim will be for 60% of these technical staff to be women. Lesotho routinely participates in training provided by the UNFCCC on inventory compilation, and therefore it is noted that training should be planned with a view to not duplicating effort from other training providers. The gender expert will work with the trainers to ensure that training materials avoid gender stereotypes, employ inclusive language and use appropriate illustrations. The gender expert will also encourage the significant representation of women among the trainers and the collection of sex-disaggregated data sets.

The training of trainers' format will also contribute to increase the number of staff with relevant skills and reduce the impact of a continuous loss of personnel and capacities in the institutions, thus improving the sustainable availability of skills and technical expertise over time. The trainers will also be committed to support staff to understand the application of data collection, management, and reporting guidelines in their respective institutions so as to sustain transparency efforts over time.

Training will also be provided on the use of the system developed under Activity 1.2.3. This system is designed to be administrated by LMS staff, the entity responsible for preparing and submitting the national GHG inventory. Complementarily, training activities mostly of LMS staff and other stakeholders in line ministries and agencies will focus on the preparation of the GHG Inventory on a permanent basis, to build the necessary technical in-house capacity instead of outsourcing this task to external consultants. An annual repetition of the training will build the technical capacity of new staff in the different agencies, addressing the issue of high staff turnover and will help ensure continuity of data collection processes in the different sectors.

This output will be achieved through the following proposed activities:

- Activity 1.2.1: Develop and apply protocols and methodologies to collect and manage GHG Inventory data, identifying gaps to inform an improvement plan
- Activity 1.2.2: Develop methodologies to apply protocols for QA/QC of the GHG Inventory data
- Activity 1.2.3: Test and operationalize a climate data collection and tracking tool.
- Activity 1.2.4: Train staff from government institutions and relevant stakeholders to use the climate data collection and tracking tool and manage relevant data associated with the preparation of the National GHG Inventory.

The activities will result in the following deliverables:

- Deliverable 1.2.1: Report on protocols and methodologies to collect and manage GHG Inventory data
- Deliverable 1.2.2: Improvement plan with roadmap for full compliance with the ETF for the GHG inventory
- Deliverable 1.2.3: A QA/QC plan, including procedures and defined roles for those undertaking QA/QC activities
- Deliverable 1.2.4: An operational climate data collection and tracking tool to support GHG Inventory compilation
- Deliverable 1.2.5: 3 Train the Trainer workshops, followed by training workshop reports (including information on gender of participants) and training materials

Output 1.2 is directly related to CBIT Programming Priorities for the National Level (GEF/C50/06), especially with activities to strengthen national institutions, such as (c) assistance with deployment and enhancement of information and knowledge management structure to meet Article 13 needs, as well as with activities to provide relevant tools, such as (d) access to tools and templates.

Output 1.3: National MRV system designed, tested and operationalized and Ministry staff/local authorities and other relevant stakeholders trained on tracking Nationally Determined Contributions according to the ETF, including co-benefits for SDGs achievement

Roles and responsibilities of the various ministries and stakeholders in providing data useful for the GHG inventory are covered by the previous output, while this output will clearly define how to standardize the relevant information needed for the evaluation of climate indicators for mitigation, adaptation and climate finance, to track progress and achievement of Lesotho's NDC and its policies and measures, actions and plans. This output will aim to address the gaps in Lesotho's capacity to track NDC implementation.

A national MRV system based on new formalized protocols and methodologies for data collection and reporting with standardized sectoral guidelines, templates and tools will ensure that climate data and information flow properly, especially from line and auxiliary agencies. This integrated system will contribute to improve UNFCCC reporting and ensure that all ministries implementing policies and actions defined in the NDC are benefiting from the enhanced data and information collected. The implementation of this output will also increase the availability of climate transparency related data to other institutions and stakeholders for the use of their own sectoral policies and tools, contributing to mainstream climate change data and information into other Government policies. These processes will be facilitated through the further development of the tool previously developed under output 1.2, the climate data collection and tracking tool into a web based MRV tool. In this respect, the future wider availability of data to non-Governmental stakeholders through a web-based climate data MRV tool as a part of the national MRV system of Lesotho, to be developed under this output, will improve their access to climate data and information for a variety of purposes.

Activities to be undertaken under this output will necessarily build upon and coordinate with Component 3 of the BUR1 project, on "Mitigation Actions and their effects", especially regarding the results of activities "3.4 Conduct trainings for the mitigation team on latest tools and software packages such as LEAP, COPATH for mitigation assessments?", "3.5 Collect data and identify mitigation actions for sectors to be analysed?", "3.6 Provide a detailed description of the mitigation

actions including the name, sector, coverage, goals, objectives, methodologies, assumptions, inputs and outputs?, ?3.7 Identify the effects of the mitigation actions?, and ?3.8 Carry out a Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) of the mitigations actions until 2040?. Moreover, on results of Component 4, on ?Financial , technical and capacity needs including climate finance?, and its activities ?4.1. Review and assess all information on financial resources, technology transfer, capacity building and technical assistance for mitigation actions in Lesotho?; ?4.2. Identify constraints, gaps and related financial, technical and capacity needs?; ?4.3. Prepare a report on the level of support received to enable the preparation and submission of biennial update reports?. The same applies to Component 5, still under the BUR1 project, on ?Domestic measurement, reporting and verification?, which has been carried out by the following activities: ?5.1 Set up an MRV system for the GHG Inventory process?, ?5.2 Develop and document protocols and operation procedures for the MRV System?; ?5.3 Operationalize MRV System?; and ?5.4 Prepare a report on Domestic MRV of Lesotho?. However, it should be noted that during the consultation phase of preparing the CEO endorsement document LMS indicated that under the BUR1 project information on mitigation was difficult to collect and cost benefit analysis was not carried out due to constraints in time and expertise.

This output also responds directly to the barriers related to lack of capacities and technical expertise to properly conduct MRV of impacts of climate policies and actions associated with the tracking of NDC implementation in Lesotho. The training of staff, together with the provision of appropriate tools and methodologies and the institutional support as per Output 1.1, will create an enabling environment for the success of the whole national MRV system. Similarly, to Output 1.2, staff will also be trained and empowered to carry all transparency related work independently, in a systematic manner and without or with minimal external expertise intervention.

The improved national MRV system will be operationalized through the work of staff with the adequate skills, technical capacity and tools to compile, monitor, report and validate data, and monitor and evaluate climate policies and their effects.

Training of staff under this output in the relevant institutions will include the following aspects:

- i. information needed to track NDC implementation, as per the MPGs.
- ii. emissions projections and policy scenario building;
- iii. analysis and assessment of climate policies and actions including gender considerations; and
- iv. operationalization and use of the climate data collection and tracking tool for NDC tracking purposes;

- v. operationalization and use of the web-based climate data MRV tool;

Training packages will be developed and used to train participants from relevant government institutions, academia, the media, civil society, private sector and interest groups to effectively understand and know how to use the established climate data collection and tracking tool, including links with the SDGs. Participants in these trainings will be selected to include, inter alia: staff from the BOS, the Ministry of Forestry and Land Reclamation, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, the Land Administration Authority, the Department of Environment, MEM, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, the Ministry of Development Planning, and Lesotho News Agency (LENA). In this regard, a relevant element of the project will be the approach to bring in the training to a number of staff from the National University of Lesotho, since in the context of Lesotho, academic centres have lower staff turnover rates compared with the high staff/personnel turn-over in the public sector of the country. Additionally, developing climate related capacity building and technical assistance skills in academic centres may prove useful to reduce over reliance on international and national external consultants. The fact that the academic sector (professors and researchers) of the country is significantly more stable than that of the public sector makes this approach fundamental for the Lesotho's circumstances.

Activity 1.3.1 will develop and adopt an NDC implementation tracking framework, which will form as a structure of responsibilities and defined data flows, rather than a physical tool. The system will define the relevant information and indicators to be monitored and reported, enabling the reporting of the requested information by the MPGs. The MPGs require defining indicators for tracking the overall NDC and reporting on advancements of NDC related mitigation and adaptation policies and measures, actions and plans. Reporting on the NDC implementation and achievement will therefore be impossible without having a clearly defined NDC implementation tracking system, comprising specific measures and related indicators to be tracked. In addition to a robust inventory system, this is one of the most important elements that enable the transparency system. The NDC implementation tracking system will be aligned with the climate change strategy so as to ensure efficiency and coordination of efforts to honour Lesotho's international commitments. Where appropriate, the tracking framework will also include the collection of gender-disaggregated data.

Acknowledging work that has been done in this area prior to the CBIT project design will be important to benefit from the latest thinking in Lesotho. Therefore, this first activity under Output 1.3 will also analyse current MRV practices in Lesotho and by comparison with successful examples from neighboring and African countries, identify gaps in the system to be addressed by the CBIT project. Specifically, CBIT will build on the work done through the BUR1 project which resulted in the drafting of a document entitled "The Development of a Framework for Lesotho's Climate Change Measuring, Reporting and Verification System".

The NDC implementation tracking framework will be comprised of the following: indicators for the overall NDC target that are measurable and can be monitored, based on the MPG requested information, including information on indicator(s) to track NDC progress, and the methodology and/or accounting approach used for target(s), the construction of baselines and each indicator identified. For each policy and measure, actions and plans related to the NDC implementation, the information requested in the MPGs will be taken into consideration and provided, including as much as possible the information requested where flexibility is provided.

Non-GHG indicators and links with the SDGs will also be explored. Those indicators will provide the basis for monitoring and evaluation of mitigation and adaptation actions, as well as the climate finance. A number of workshops will be organized for the development of climate-specific indicators for the overall NDC target and its specific policies and measures, actions and plans. Consultative meetings will be held for planning and coordination as well as a final validation workshop for policy-makers and stakeholders.

For the elaboration of the NDC implementation tracking framework, all relevant stakeholders ? especially those from the sectors cited in the NDC notwithstanding adaptation and resilience ? will be involved through consultative meetings and systematic requests for inputs.

Activity 1.3.2 consists of developing a unified set of operating guidelines and protocols for data management, building upon the indicators defined in the previous activity. The indicators for tracking progress in NDC implementation will require new tools and procedures to collect and compile the data. The proposed guidelines and reporting templates will be based on the international reporting elements defined under the Katowice package:

- information necessary to track progress made in implementing and achieving NDCs (for climate change adaptation and mitigation)
- financial, technology development and transfer and capacity-building support and climate finance.

The guidelines will also take into consideration guidelines and reporting templates developed for other countries under CBIT, but will account for the specific circumstances of Lesotho, especially in terms of data availability and resource intensity. The guidelines will be developed to be gender-sensitive, and

will aim to include three gender specific considerations under the supervision of the gender expert. Tools available to establish processes and procedures for MRV of mitigation actions and policies, and identify relevant GHG and non-GHG impact indicators, such as GACMO, ICAT sectoral guidance, and ICAT sustainable development guidance will be used. A number of workshops will be organized for consultations on the development of tools and guidance as well as for validation of the final outcomes. Any remaining gaps will be documented within an improvement plan designed to support Lesotho in defining a roadmap for full compliance with the ETF.

A centralized, user-friendly online tool with climate data managed by LMS CTU and supported by BOS, in accordance with international guidelines, will be built as a part of **activity 1.3.3** to support the display of the information collected by the national MRV system of Lesotho, including the National GHG Inventory and the tracking of Lesotho's NDC. This will be further developed from the tool operationalized under activity 1.2.3. Currently there is no similar tool, as information on projects and its results are displayed on an ad-hoc basis according to the objectives of different climate-related projects. The data included in the online system will be easily accessible by all stakeholders to the NDC implementation tracking system (activity 1.3.1) and cover all aspects of the inventory and other indicators used for tracking NDC implementation (adaptation and mitigation actions), climate finance and SDGs, including gender. Vulnerability and adaptation are of high priority for Lesotho and are included in Lesotho's NDC. Adaptation will therefore be considered as part of the scope of the NDC tracking system developed under this output.

This will provide direct access to national information and data on climate change, including the impacts of climate policies and actions, to all relevant institutions and the general public. It will also stimulate a higher degree of analysis and inputs to the national decision-making processes. This will facilitate the analysis and implementation of specific policies and strategies to address mitigation and adaptation in key sectors. It will also allow for the identification of those policies and activities that can be pursued with existing national resources, and those that are conditional to international support. During the preparation of this CEO Endorsement Request document (at PPG stage), an initial specification for tool was discussed and agreed that it would likely encompass the following aspects of climate reporting:

- ? National GHG Inventory ? data collection, analysis and reporting, results and communication (covered under Output 1.2);

- ? NDC Implementation:

- o Mitigation Actions ? tracking mitigation actions, monitoring and reporting, results and communication;

- o Adaptation and Vulnerability assessments ? tracking implementation of action, monitoring and communication

? Climate Finance Flow ? climate finance for NDC implementation actions, finance and resources deployment schedule, monitoring and reporting, results and communication;

? Sustainable Development Goals ? SDGs mapping for mitigation actions, data for SDGs impact monitoring, review and analysis and results and communication.

As was relevant for Activity 1.2.3, there are options for the set-up of the tool and it is recommended that the development of this tool is iterative and starts early in the project so that a functional version can be used as part of Activity 1.3.1 without delay. The type of system that the tool is based on will depend on the solution that best suits Lesotho's national circumstances at the time of implementation.

Activity 1.3.4 will be aimed at supporting Lesotho in its transition towards the use of the appropriate skills and tools to implement its national MRV system and track progress in NDC implementation. It will focus on training staff in national entities, including academia, with the objective of significantly reducing the hiring of external consultants for the elaboration of future climate reports. Training under this activity will cover tools, templates, guidelines, procedures and indicators for tracking NDC implementation (mitigation, adaptation and climate finance), evaluating wider impacts and compliance with reporting under the MPGs. Trainings will follow international best practices to the extent possible, they will however be adapted to the special circumstances of Lesotho when required and needed. Similarly to training activities under output 1.2, over the thirty-six (36) months of project implementation, the project team will conduct three (3) training of trainer's workshops to ensure that selected representatives can replicate trainings on matters related with the national MRV system and the NDC implementation tracking in their respective institutions. This training will also include how to promote the best use of the web-based climate data MRV tool as a part of the national MRV system of Lesotho. This training will increase the quality and quantity of data collected for reporting and monitoring of progress towards achievement of NDCs. Based on feedback from stakeholder consultations, training will also be provided to data providers such as industry representatives, NGOs, marginalized groups such as women in rural areas, people with special needs, youth and grassroots communities on data collection and involvement in national tracking of climate action.

Activity 1.3.5 will facilitate knowledge exchange and sharing of lessons learnt with other countries, by actively engaging with the CBIT Global Coordination Platform and by providing feedback on, inter alia, project implementation, barriers and lessons learnt. Sharing lessons learnt and experiences under the platform will ensure alignment of Lesotho's CBIT project with other national, regional and global transparency initiatives. An initial step already taken is Lesotho's utilization of the CBIT Global Coordination Platform's self-assessment tool, in order to identify and share information about the state, gaps and barriers of the national transparency efforts. This output will support knowledge exchange through a peer exchange workshop to share lessons learned and best practices regionally and globally. The project will also enable the participation of at least 3 experts from Lesotho at a COP sessions to

provide an opportunity to participate in the discussions around transparency requirements under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement and related issues under the Convention.

This output will be achieved through the following proposed activities:

- Activity 1.3.1: Develop and adopt an NDC implementation tracking framework, including indicators for monitoring and evaluation based on a scoping exercise and review of previous capacity building initiatives.
- Activity 1.3.2: Elaborate tools, templates, protocols and guidelines for tracking of NDC implementation, including climate finance as well as information related to climate change impacts and adaptation
- Activity 1.3.3 Develop and operationalize a web-based climate data MRV tool as a part of the national MRV system of Lesotho. This includes a database of mitigation and adaptation actions with linked information on climate finance, support tracking and wider impacts.
- Activity 1.3.4: Enhance skills and provide tools to implement the national MRV system of Lesotho including tracking progress of NDC implementation.
- Activity 1.3.5: Exchange information on results and lessons learned through the CBIT Global Coordination Platform

The activities will result in the following deliverables:

- Deliverable 1.3.1: Scoping report reviewing findings from previous capacity building initiatives,, identification of gaps and constraints for expertise, data, indicators, systems and tools for tracking NDC implementation (mitigation, adaptation and associated support)
- Deliverable 1.3.2: Report on indicators for the NDC target and methodology to use the indicators to track NDC progress developed through participatory process.
- Deliverable 1.3.3: Tools, templates, guidelines, indicators and procedures for tracking NDC implementation (mitigation, adaptation and associated support) including data collection templates, methodologies for mitigation and adaptation action assessment and identification of wider impacts of climate action
- Deliverable 1.3.4: Improvement plan for Lesotho to achieve full compliance with the ETF on NDC tracking

- Deliverable 1.3.5: An operational web-based climate data MRV tool with a public facing system for display of national information and data on climate change, including the impacts of climate policies and actions.
- Deliverable 1.3.6: Three train the trainer workshops accompanied by workshop reports (including information on gender of participants) and training materials on tools, templates, guidelines, procedures and indicators for tracking NDC implementation (mitigation, adaptation and climate finance), evaluating wider impacts and compliance with reporting under the MPGs
- Deliverable 1.3.7: Report on engagement with the CBIT Global Platform and other workshops and international conferences on climate and transparency.

Output 1.3 is directly related to CBIT Programming Priorities for the National Level (GEF/C50/06), especially with activities to provide relevant tools, such as (d) access to tools, database systems for implementation of enhanced transparency-related activities, and (e) country-specific training on transparency activities.

Component 2. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

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Outcome 2: Project is effectively monitored and evaluated

This outcome is proposed to be delivered through the single output below.

Output 2.1 Monitoring and evaluation products are delivered

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Monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken as per section 9 and Annex J.

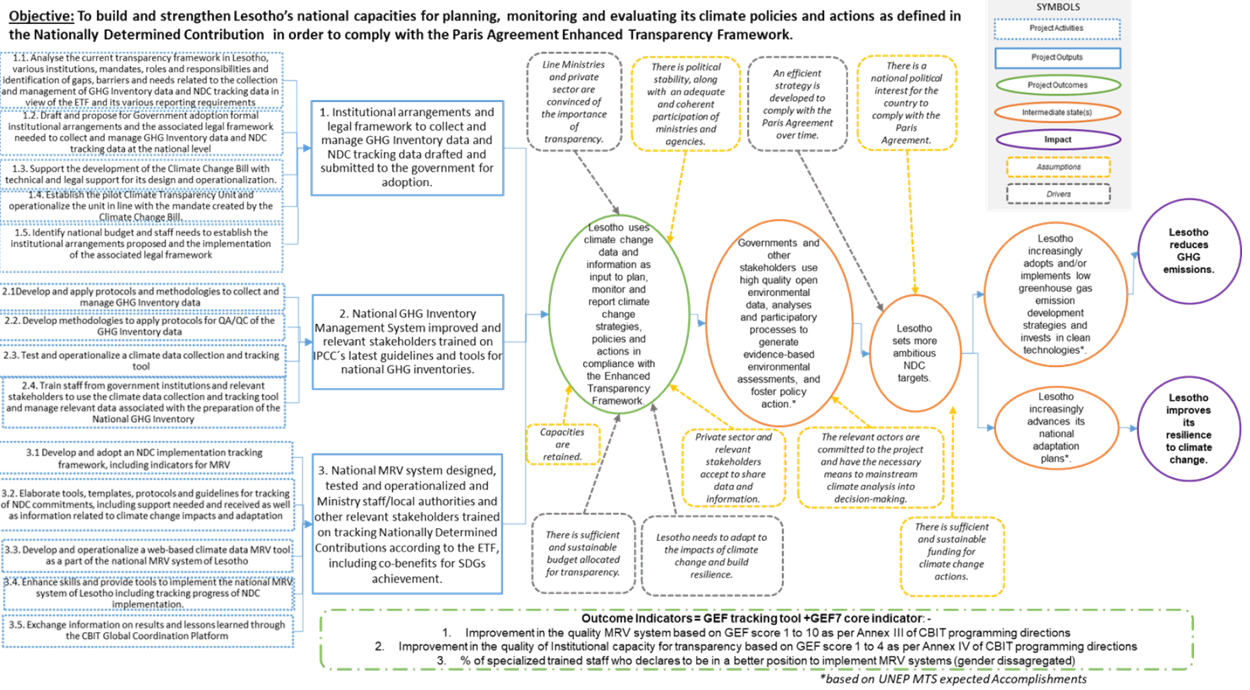
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Theory of Change:

A visual representation of the project design and the logic of the project intervention is given on the next page in the Theory of Change (ToC) diagram (Figure 8). The overall objective, to strengthen Lesotho's national capacities for planning, monitoring and evaluating its climate policies and actions, is supported by three Outputs with a number of underlying activities aimed at strengthening national institutions regarding climate transparency activities (output 1.1), technical support, training and tools provided to the country on GHG Inventories (output 1.2) and tracking of NDC and climate finance

(output 1.3). This will be driven by governmental belief in the importance of transparency and sufficient and sustainable budget allocations for transparency. Whilst a number of assumptions have been made, including political stability, active stakeholder participation and retained capacity, the project will result in Lesotho effectively using climate change data to foster further policy action, and therefore accelerate climate action and set more ambitious NDC targets. Ultimately, this enhanced environmental analysis and access to good quality data will enable Lesotho to reduce GHG emissions and improve resilience to climate change.

Figure 8: THEORY OF CHANGE OF THE CBIT PROJECT



4) Alignment with GEF Focal Area and/or Impact Program strategies

The project proposed by Lesotho is addressing GEF Focal Area Climate Mitigation 3-8 "Foster enabling conditions for mainstreaming mitigation concerns into sustainable development strategies through capacity building initiative for transparency". The GEF-7 Climate Change Focal Area Strategy aims to support developing countries to make transformational shifts towards low emission and climate-resilient development pathways. The CBIT, as per paragraph 85 of the COP decision adopting the Paris Agreement, complies with this Focal Area Strategy by:

- ? Strengthening national institutions for transparency-related activities in line with national priorities;
- ? Providing relevant tools, training and assistance for meeting the provisions stipulated in Article 13 of the Agreement; and
- ? Assisting in the improvement of transparency over time.

The project is also closely aligned with the following programming directions and programming priorities at national level for CBIT.

Output 1.1 is closely aligned with the programming priority at national level related to Activities to strengthen national institutions for transparency-related activities in line with national priorities:

- ? Support to national institutions to lead, plan, coordinate, implement, monitor, and evaluate policies, strategies, and programs to enhance transparency, including identification and dissemination of best/good practices for institutional strengthening and national network of practitioners;
- ? Support on how to integrate knowledge from transparency initiatives into national policy and decision-making; and
- ? Assistance with deployment and enhancement of information and knowledge management structure to meet Article 13 needs.

Specifically, Output 1.1 will strengthen national institutional arrangements and data flows for enhanced climate transparency and reporting through support to the establishment of a legal framework under the Climate Change Bill (as per activity 1.1.2). Formalisation through legal mandates will empower organisations to report under the ETF. Furthermore, the establishment of a Climate Transparency Unit will increase the capacity of LMS and enable the Lesotho focal point to enhance climate reporting and disseminate information from transparency initiatives into decision making.

Outputs 1.2 and 1.3 are closely aligned with the programming priority at national level related to Activities to provide relevant tools, training, and assistance for meeting the provisions stipulated in Article 13:

- ? Access to tools, templates, and applications to facilitate the use of improved methodologies, guidelines, datasets, and database system tools and economic models needed for implementation of enhanced transparency-related activities;
- ? Country-specific training and peer exchange programs on transparency activities, such as establishing domestic MRV systems, tracking nationally determined contributions (NDCs), enhancement of greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories and economic and emissions projections, including methodological approaches, data collection, and data management, and adaptation monitoring, evaluation, and communication measures;
- ? Assistance in quantifying and reporting impact of policy measures;
- ? Clarifying key NDC information, e.g. baseline projections including for business-as-usual targets, and reporting progress towards achieving their NDCs; and
- ? Assistance in quantifying and reporting on support provided and received.

The proposed project design would deliver the following tools as part of its implementation: tools and protocols for the GHG inventory and for QA/QC, tools for carrying out mitigation assessments, tools for NDC tracking and tools for tracking climate finance. CBIT will assess needs and gaps concerning tools, templates, processes, methodologies and protocols for data collection and processing for the duration of the project and beyond. Training will be provided on the use of all developed tools to relevant stakeholders as outlined in the workplan.

Finally, all three outputs are closely aligned with the programming priority at national level related to Activities to assist with improvement of transparency over time:

? Capacity needs assessment for transparency, in particular to assess institutional arrangements for data collection, analysis, and reporting: the assessment supports mapping of current baseline and planned reporting and related activities, including associated institutions, tools, methodologies, MRV systems, associated data systems; and

? Support to introduce and maintain progress tracking tools for transparency related actions and progress towards targets/goals.

Tools developed under the project, specifically the web-based climate data MRV tool, will include functionality for storage and archiving of information to support institutional memory and the continued improvement in environmental data analysis.

5) Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing

Currently, Lesotho does not have a formal national climate transparency system, which hampers the implementation of the Enhanced Transparency Framework. The main constraints are a lack of institutional framework backed by legal mandates for monitoring action; lack of appropriate tools to compile and manage climate data; lack of a legal framework to conduct GHG inventory data collection and calculations; and limited climate action indicators to track NDC progress.

The proposal focuses on addressing existing gaps in meeting the PA enhanced transparency requirements and tracking progress towards the achievement of Lesotho's NDC. The CBIT request has been designed to address both the immediate and long-term capacity needs of the country. The project's contributions to the baseline will be:

? the design and operationalization of the legal framework;

? support that enables the finalization and implementation of the Climate Change Bill that will formalize the institutional framework for climate reporting under an ETF;

? the establishment and institutionalization of a Climate Transparency Unit to coordinate transparency reporting

- ? development of the GHG inventory on a sustainable basis along with QA/QC protocols;
- ? the development and operationalization of a national climate data collection and tracking tool for GHG inventory compilation;
- ? an NDC tracking system and indicators;
- ? the development and operationalization of a web-based climate data display tool for NDC tracking.

Lesotho has prioritized emissions reductions and adaptation actions as part of its NDC. These actions will need to be monitored and reported under the Paris ETF. Without the CBIT project, the necessary conditions for meeting the PA ETF will not be met by Lesotho, due to the serious capacity and institutional gaps identified, which will continue to result in incomplete and inconsistent reporting of GHG inventories and possible emissions reductions from the most important economic sectors in Lesotho. In addition, adaptation actions will continue to be reported in a sporadic fashion, based upon individual projects with little or no aggregation to inform national adaptation priorities or NDC reporting requirements. The existing approach to comply with UNFCCC reporting requirements in the country will not be fully operational due to little or no available capacity.

Lesotho prepared its first BUR and TNC submission with the assistance of the UNEP supported GEF Enabling Activity. Under both these projects, national GHG emissions were compiled and reported to the UNFCCC Secretariat. The work also included drafting chapters on both adaptation, mitigation and climate finance flows. However, even though these projects produced GHG inventories there is no operational permanent system for GHG inventories available in the country. In the absence of the CBIT support, it can be expected that Lesotho would always prepare its transparency reports in an ad-hoc fashion with dependence on external funding and international consultants.

The CBIT project will support Lesotho in putting in place systems and mechanisms that will allow production of climate transparency reports in a more independent and systematic manner, rather than the current ad-hoc approach, recurrently relying on international expertise. As a continuation of the work already developed for preparation of these two reports, this CBIT initiative aims to work on the weaknesses identified during the preparation of the GHG inventories and consolidate a mechanism for their elaboration on a regular basis by the Government staff. Similarly, as the proposal for the MRV framework developed under the BUR1 needs further elements to kick-start its application, this CBIT project will provide additional and complementary elements, as detailed under the proposed project activities, in order to contribute to the implementation of the Enhanced Transparency Framework in the country.

With the CBIT project, Lesotho's national capacity to track progress of priority actions on climate mitigation and adaptation as identified in the NDC will be strengthened, and the information on climate adaptation will be collected in a systematic manner to fulfil the Paris ETF requirements. In addition, with the support of this project, Lesotho will improve the quality and coverage of data collected and reported on GHG emissions from all sectors by transitioning from the IPCC 2006 Guidelines to the 2019 refinement to the IPCC guidelines where viable, including the most recent IPCC updates and guidance for national GHG inventories. Moreover, an increased national capacity to MRV the priority actions identified in the NDC will put Lesotho in a better position to increase its level of ambition.

With respect to adaptation, this CBIT project will provide incremental support for necessary hardware and systems in order to: coordinate adaptation reporting; aggregate sector-specific monitoring and evaluation processes in all sectors; and provide coherent national reporting on adaptation activities and progress toward NDC adaptation targets. Lastly, the project intervention will enhance Lesotho's long-term vision for climate change reporting and transparency improvement over time, through enhanced institutional capacity and arrangements for the implementation of the national MRV system that covers tracking NDC implementation (mitigation, adaptation and support) and production of the various transparency reports required by the new MPGs.

This project will strengthen the capacity of LMS to coordinate, lead, plan, implement, monitor, and evaluate programs, strategies and policies to enhance transparency in line with national priorities, including identification and dissemination of best/good practices for institutional strengthening amongst a national network of practitioners. The project will also promote a diversity of approaches and initiatives with the purpose of increasing transparency and broadening stakeholder participation and confidence by providing free and open methods, data, and tools that are complementary to mandated reporting by national governments as stipulated in Article 13 of the Agreement. The project will also assist in the improvement of transparency over time. In addition, it will enable Lesotho to provide a national inventory of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases, prepared using good practice methodologies accepted by the IPCC (2006 IPCC Guidelines, 2019 where viable) and agreed upon by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement; as well as information necessary to track progress made in implementing and achieving Lesotho's Nationally Determined Contribution under Article 4 of the agreement.

The project activities will be complementary and build on the ongoing projects: Implementation of Memorandum of Understanding in the Field of Climate Change Vulnerability, Risk Assessment, Adaptation and Mitigation; Urban Distribution Rehabilitation and Transmission Expansion Project; Wool and Mohair Promotion Project (WAMPP); Green Climate Fund readiness program; Improving adaptive capacity of vulnerable and food-insecure populations (IACOV) project; NDC update, National

Adaptation Plan process; ICAT Lesotho and Support in the collection of GHG Emissions data using IPCC tier 2 method.

Output 1.1 will build upon the development of national circumstances and institutional arrangements which took place under the BUR1 project, as well as the updated NDC data flows under development as part of the ongoing NDC update. The ongoing ICAT project, due to finish December 2022, directly overlaps with activities under this output. The results of the institutional arrangements and legal frameworks established by the ICAT project will feed directly into output 1.1.

Output 1.2 will undertake work on country-specific methodologies and emission factors along with the establishment of a national climate data collection and tracking tool for GHG inventory compilation, building on work done under the BUR1 project. It will also build upon ongoing work to improve livestock emissions using the IPCC Tier 2 method under the Support in the collection of GHG Emissions data using IPCC tier 2 method project.

Output 1.3 will establish an MRV system for the tracking of NDC progress. The indicator data required for this system will be taken from various recently completed and ongoing projects and will include information on mitigation and adaptation actions and policies along with meteorological, ecological and hydrological data. The most complete recent work undertaken in this area is the report entitled 'The Development of a Framework for Lesotho's Climate Change Measuring, Reporting and Verification System' delivered as part of the BUR1 project. An activity has been defined as part of Output 1.3 to consider this work in the context current MRV practices in Lesotho compared to successful examples from neighboring and African countries.

The GEF CBIT program is designed to improve mandatory reporting of signatories to the UNFCCC. As such, this project is financed on fully agreed cost basis. In the case of this program, eligible activities have been described in the GEF document *Programming directions for the CBIT* (GEF/C.50/06). The activities of this project are consistent with the scope of the programming directions. Co-financing is not a necessary requirement for this project; however, the Government of Lesotho has anticipated contributing to the project with an in-kind co-financing of 200,000 USD in support to project operations in the form of office facilities, transport and human hours for the duration of the project, as illustrated in table C. Cost-effectiveness will be ensured as the project will coordinate with other related initiatives as mentioned above, rely on national resources and structures already in place and execute an appropriate budget considering the relative size and costs of similar projects in the region.

6) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)

The global environmental impacts generated by this project are directly related to the implementation of the commitments made by Lesotho's NDC, and have important benefits in the areas of mitigation, adaptation and capacity building. The project supports enhanced reporting and assessments in the areas of national GHG inventories, mitigation, and vulnerability and adaptation to climate change impacts. It will lead to the development of relevant policy instruments which will inform and guide the formulation of cost-effective project proposals in the areas of climate change mitigation and adaptation. These initiatives will be in line with the convention's obligations, national development needs and priorities, as well as the SDGs.

This proposal aims to design country-owned methodologies for climate transparency, including the national GHG inventory system and the NDC tracking system, providing an operational and functional national MRV system that will also act as repository of knowledge and information which will inform future decision-making. Therefore, the project will also contribute to enhance Lesotho's capacity to effectively implement the PA, and potentially contribute to increased NDC ambition. This is linked to the GEF-6 climate change mitigation focal area Indicator 3 on the quality of MRV systems for emissions reductions and reporting of verified data. The access to more reliable data and improved reporting will also improve the information provided to the Global Stocktake, enhancing the overall capacity to track the actual progress towards the long-term temperature goals of the Paris Agreement.

The project will monitor an additional indicator for qualitative assessment of institutional capacity for transparency-related activities under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement. The baseline and target will be set during the project development phase following the scale of 1-4 as per the guidance on Annex IV of the GEF programming directions for the CBIT.

At the institutional level, the project will strengthen national coordination frameworks and involve the main stakeholders in the implementation of the NDC. In the absence of this project, there will be an uncoordinated approach in data collection and analysis. The project implementation will directly strengthen the institutional and technical capacity of LMS, through the formation of a new Climate Transparency Unit (CTU), and multiple training initiatives. Support to the formation of the climate change bill will also embed institutional arrangements and subsequently the responsibilities of institutions as participants in MRV of climate action into the mandates of their operation.

At the environmental level, the project will enable Lesotho to have a clearer idea of the impact of climate change in its territory and its adaptation needs. It will also show activities where intervention

may result in further co-benefits and support wider national objectives on development and poverty reduction. The project will additionally enhance Lesotho's capacity to report to other non-UNFCCC multilateral environmental agreements, such as the SDGs and the Montreal Protocol allowing for a streamlined approach across international reporting commitments of the country. At the technical and operational level, the project will strengthen Lesotho's capacity to implement the NDCs and the PA through an operational and functional national MRV system that will ensure high quality GHG data and related information for accurate adaptation and mitigation planning, monitoring and evaluation. Such a strong system will also contribute to improving the design and prioritization of cost-effective project proposals to reduce GHG emissions. The project will also strengthen the capacity of national experts on data collection and analysis, QA/QC, GHG inventory methodologies, co-benefits analysis and mitigation action monitoring tools.

7) Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up

Innovativeness:

The project adopts an innovative approach that integrates extensive stakeholder consultations and assessments of capacity needs and baseline activities for monitoring progress. The project will also generate benefits in relation to SDG 13 on taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts by improving climate transparency and will be used as a benchmark for future initiatives in the country and region. An innovative online platform will be developed that includes provision for compiling GHG inventory data and NDC tracking web-based climate MRV tool. This online system will be tailored to the domestic needs and priorities whilst ensuring best practice approaches to national MRV with effective stakeholder engagement and management. The project will also design and propose the Climate Change Bill, which will support formalization of the institutional arrangements for reporting under the Paris Agreement ETF.

The proposed CBIT project will facilitate scientific innovation through investment in tools, training and systems to update and modernize the measurement and monitoring capacities of Lesotho's institutions including research institutes and academia. The project activities will improve the quality of the GHG inventory and will establish different indicators, in an accurate way, for the monitoring of adaptation and mitigation actions in different sectors of the economy. The implementation of this project will deliver a national and central system for transparent monitoring and accounting of GHG emissions, adaptation and mitigation actions which in turn will be reported with respect to different sectors.

Through this project, Lesotho will implement and integrate a transparent monitoring and reporting system. Rather than reporting on each sector separately for the GHG inventory, one will have the ability to integrate datasets from various sources including external ones. Transparency in data sources, definitions, methodologies and assumptions will build trust among countries and stakeholders. Data sources, definitions, methodologies and assumptions will be clearly documented to facilitate replication and assessment. The climate data and tracking elements of the MRV tool will help to access previous records, easily reproduce estimates and ensure credibility. The project activities will improve the quality and transparency of the national GHG inventory and will establish different indicators, in an accurate way, for the monitoring of mitigation actions in main sectors of the economy.

The project will showcase Lesotho's approach to tackling UNFCCC commitments under the PA, serving as a model of how an LDC can support international efforts, following a country-based perspective and building synergies with other relevant public policies at the national level.

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Sustainability:

The underlying objective of this project is to implement a sustainable and transparent MRV system enabling Lesotho to continually monitor, report and verify their mitigation and adaptation climate actions. This will be achieved by implementing efficient and transparent systems that can easily be maintained by a small team. The CBIT project will identify capacity needs at the beginning of the project, and these will be met by a team of international experts who will train in-country experts and support them in undertaking required tasks themselves. The role of the Climate Transparency Unit (CTU) will be to coordinate climate change activities throughout the duration of the project but also to continue coordinating climate activities and MRV indefinitely. To that end, the project consultants that form the pilot CTU will train and be replaced by government staff which will require an allocation of government funding. This strategy has been chosen as LMS does not currently hold the expertise that is specified for the two roles defined under the CTU. The handover from the external consultants will happen during the final 6 to 12 months of the project, which will give LMS enough time to identify permanent experts and resource them effectively. The permanent experts will benefit from mentoring from the external consultants as they handover the CTU roles, building capacity within LMS and ensuring sustainability of the project beyond its lifespan.

Lesotho has recently formulated a theoretical framework for a national MRV system and has developed the climate change policy and implementation strategy. The project will build upon this to design and operationalise the legal framework, including the Climate Change Bill, that will ultimately formalise the role of the Climate Transparency Unit and climate MRV system on a permanent basis. The Climate Transparency Unit will also help identify future opportunities for sustained funding and build a tangible action plan of how transparency activities will be sustained in the long-term. The establishment of the Climate Transparency Unit under this project will ensure continuity and sustainability of the online

tools developed beyond the duration of this project. The Climate Transparency Unit will integrate transparency activities into national planning and budgeting processes. This will be enabled through better access to information for decision making and better monitoring of the cost-effectiveness of the various actions implemented to combat climate change.

Clear data collection templates, timelines and supply arrangements will be developed and agreed alongside the data suppliers to maximize the possibility of creating a sustainable data collection process. All potential tools to be implemented during the project will be assessed for their longevity taking into account future reporting priorities to minimize the need to implement new tools in the future.

Fostering an inclusive and participatory approach to promote ownership and raise awareness at all levels will contribute to streamlining the enhanced transparency efforts internally in the related institutions. The increased participation and accountability of multiple stakeholders in decision-making and monitoring, coupled with the formalization of the institutional framework and procedures for data collection and reporting, and identification of potential funds from the national budget for continued support will ensure long-term sustainability. The CBIT project will justify the added value through enhanced institutional linkages, improved and consistent flow of high-quality data as well as feedback, use and data reporting. Furthermore, training materials and documents generated by the project will remain available online to be consulted at any time.

A number of staff from the National University of Lesotho will be trained under this project. In Lesotho, academic centres have lower staff turnover rates compared with the high staff/personnel turnover in the public administration of the country, therefore institutional memory is more likely to be retained at the university. Additionally, developing climate related capacity building and technical assistance skills at the university may reduce reliance on international and national external consultants. In the absence of this support, the country will continue to heavily rely on consultants to meet national and international reporting obligations for transparency action and support, and provide isolated trainings sessions. At present there is limited technical expertise identified at the university for engagement with climate transparency related activities and therefore this project, through the provision of training and consultation opportunities, will look to identify key departments and academics for future collaboration with the Climate Transparency Unit.

Potential for scaling-up:

The CBIT project outputs can be built upon for use in other sectors within Lesotho. In practice this means that the deliverables and products generated by this project will contribute to actions undertaken in various sectors at both national and subnational level. The implementation of the NDC will imply

the development of various projects, especially for adaptation, which will benefit from the results of the CBIT initiative. This project will offer an opportunity to improve existing data protocols and the Government of Lesotho's MRV approaches, tools and capacity, and to support adoption of green economy interventions for sustainable development. The underlying principles related to data collection, stakeholder consultation, data management and documentation could be applied to several other areas surrounding the SDGs such as reducing inequalities, circular economy, clean water and sanitation.

The lessons learnt from the CBIT project will be shared on the CBIT Global Coordination Platform for the benefit of other similar African countries. The project outputs and the capacity built will be used to support other countries in the region and thereby offer opportunity for scaling up and replicating activities in African countries, which undergo similar processes of enhancing their transparency systems and capacities.

The CBIT project will aid in the scaling up of climate finance received in Lesotho, and therefore also the mitigation and adaptation projects than can be implemented. The existence of specific monitoring metrics and MRV systems has become increasingly required by funding organizations at the time of providing grants and loans. The availability of the hereby developed monitoring tools and capacities will generate an additional advantage to the country while making it possible to access climate finance sources which require capacities to clearly estimate and track GHG and other non-GHG indicators such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Moreover, through the outcomes of this project, Lesotho will obtain the necessary tools to propose real, feasible, and more ambitious adaptation and mitigation targets in the medium and long-term.

[1] <https://www.ls.undp.org/content/dam/lesotho/docs/Reports/NSDP%20II%202019-2023.pdf>

[2] https://www.adaptation-undp.org/sites/default/files/downloads/lso_napa.pdf,

[3] <https://www.climate-laws.org/geographies/lesotho/policies/lesotho-energy-policy-2015-2025>

[4] https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/ETF%20FAQs_10-12-21%20%282%29.pdf

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.



Geo-coordinates of Maseru: 29.31°S, 27.48°E

1c. Child Project?

If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

N/A

2. Stakeholders

Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

During the preparation of this CEO Endorsement document (at PPG stage), stakeholders were given several opportunities to review and comment on the project design. An inception workshop was held in December 2021 where the project outputs and activities in the PIF were presented to a diverse audience with representatives from national and local government, industry, NGOs, CSOs and academia. Views, comments and suggestions on the project design were noted and incorporated into the project activities where relevant. Following the inception workshop further consultation was held with key stakeholders to further discuss the outputs and activities of the CBIT project with a view to provide inputs relating to their respective organizations? roles in achieving the outputs. This was in the form of a meeting held remotely on the 14th January. Finally, a stakeholder validation workshop was held in Maseru on the 22nd March 2022 during which stakeholders from national and local government were asked to provide comments and views on the refined project design. Suggestions on the project activities and overall design of the project have been included in the final version of this CEO Endorsement document.

Inception Workshop - 09.12.2021

The outcomes of the 1st stakeholder consultation workshop were:

- ? developed stakeholders? common understanding of the CBIT Project for Lesotho;
- ? identified stakeholders to be engaged further in the development of the GEF CEO endorsement Request document;
- ? ensured that participants agreed on the objectives, outcome, outputs and project design of the endorsement document and identified areas for further discussion and potential modification of the project design;
- ? fostered engagement of key national communications and/or GHG inventory data providers for project involvement.

The workshop was held for multi-stakeholder groups that were identified as key to the project and those included key government departments, civil society organizations, community-based organizations, the private sector as well as independent scientists with/students with interest in climate change mitigation issues. A total of 38 participants of which 20 Males (53%) and 18 Females (47%) attended the workshop. The participating organizations are presented in the table 5 below.

Table 5: participants at cbit inception workshop

Stakeholder main group	Stakeholder designation / name
Government Institutions	Lesotho Meteorological Services
	Department of Livestock Services
	Department of Agricultural Research
	Bureau of Statistics
	Disaster Management Authority
	Department of Environment
	Local Government
	Ministry of Development Planning
	Ministry of Transport
	Ministry of Home Affairs-National Livestock Registration
	Department of Water Affairs
	Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation
	Ministry of Mining
Department of Science and Technology	
Non-Governmental Organizations/Civil Society Organizations	Technologies For Economic Development
	Grazing Association
Private Sector	Loti Brick

Validation Workshop ? 22.03.2022

The validation workshop had the following objectives:

- ? Stakeholders to validate the activities and deliverables supporting the three Lesotho CBIT project outputs

- ? To identify stakeholder's unique capacity building needs for meeting the ETF requirements.
- ? Clarify the different stakeholders' roles in climate action in Lesotho, including reporting under the Paris Agreement ETF.
- ? Collect information on stakeholders' views and key issues with regards to the setting of national ETF institutional framework for climate change in Lesotho

The validation workshop was attended by stakeholders representing government departments (24 participants); civil society organizations (2 participants) and the private sector (2 participants) with the National Consultant and the International Consultant facilitating the workshop while UNEP observed the process. The total number of participants in the workshop was 31 (17 women (54%) and 14 men (46%)). The participating organizations are presented in Table 6 below.

Table 6: PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS AT CBIT validation WORKSHOP

Stakeholder main group	Stakeholder designation / name
Government Institutions	Lesotho Meteorological Services
	Department of Environment
	Department of Water Affairs
	Department of Science and Technology
	GEM/GEF CSO NET
	Ministry of Energy and Meteorology
	Department of Agricultural Research
	Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation
	Department of Crops
	Department of Livestock Services
	Ministry of Development Planning
	Department of Mining
	Local Government

Non-Governmental Organizations/Civil Society Organizations	Conservation Music Lesotho
Private Sector	Nebulart Recycling Group

The workshop had a number of key outcomes which resulted in modifications to the project design/implementation plan. These are given below:

- ? Farmer associations and local communities (chiefs) to be engaged in project implementation, specifically with regard to adaptation tracking
- ? Training delivered under Output 1.2 to be coordinated alongside GHG institute training which runs annually
- ? Addition of improvement plans to deliverables under output 1.2 and 1.3
- ? Ministry of Law to be engaged with Output 1.1 to assist with the legal improvements
- ? Private sector to be engaged through the Private Sector Foundation of Lesotho.

The stakeholders consulted during the preparation of this CEO Endorsement document will also be involved in the project implementation stage. The key stakeholders whose involvement is critical to successful implementation of the project are given in Table 7. The table summarises the role that the stakeholder will play in project implementation and references the output in which engagement is expected from each stakeholder.

Table 7: Stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder main group	Stakeholder name	Existing activities with potential to be leveraged	Content engagement, contributions to the project (identified by Component or Output)
Government	Lesotho Meteorological Services	Overall responsibility for coordination of climate action and reporting under the ETF.	All outputs. Lead and coordinate the execution of this project

Stakeholder main group	Stakeholder name	Existing activities with potential to be leveraged	Content engagement, contributions to the project (identified by Component or Output)
	Department of Energy	Lead institution for policy implementation and provision of climate data from Energy. Data supplier to the GHG inventory and currently developing emission factors for residential energy.	Output 1.2 Output 1.3 Receive training under Output 1.2 on use of the GHG inventory climate data collection component of the MRV tool and participate in the design and implementation of the MRV system.
	Department of Livestock Services	Lead institution for policy implementation and provision of climate data from Livestock. Actively engaged in data provision and methodological improvements in livestock emission estimates.	Output 1.2 Output 1.3 Receive training under Output 1.2 on use of the GHG inventory climate data collection component of the MRV tool and participate in the design and implementation of the MRV system.

Stakeholder main group	Stakeholder name	Existing activities with potential to be leveraged	Content engagement, contributions to the project (identified by Component or Output)
	Department of Crops	Lead institution for policy implementation and provision of climate data from Crops	Output 1.2 Output 1.3 Receive training under Output 1.2 on use of the GHG inventory climate data collection component of the MRV tool and participate in the design and implementation of the MRV system.
	Department of Agricultural Research	Lead institution for Agricultural research and contribute to policy formation	Output 1.2 Output 1.3 Receive training under Output 1.2 and participate in the design and implementation of the MRV system
	Department of Transport	Lead institution for policy implementation and provision of climate data from Transport	Output 1.2 Output 1.3 Receive training under Output 1.2 and participate in the design and implementation of the MRV system

Stakeholder main group	Stakeholder name	Existing activities with potential to be leveraged	Content engagement, contributions to the project (identified by Component or Output)
	Department of Forestry	Lead institution for policy implementation and provision of climate data from Forestry	Output 1.2 Output 1.3 Receive training under Output 1.2 and participate in the design and implementation of the MRV system
	Department of Range Resources Management	Lead institution for sustainable development and management of rangeland resources	Output 1.2 Output 1.3 Receive training under Output 1.2 and participate in the design and implementation of the MRV system
	Department of Soil and Water Conservation	Lead agency for conservation of water and land	Output 1.2 Output 1.3 Receive training under Output 1.2 and participate in the design and implementation of the MRV system

Stakeholder main group	Stakeholder name	Existing activities with potential to be leveraged	Content engagement, contributions to the project (identified by Component or Output)
	Department of Science and Technology	Provide affordable, sustainable, accessible and reliable communications services and technological knowhow through research and development	Output 1.2 Output 1.3 Receive training under Output 1.2 and participate in the design and implementation of the MRV system. Provide advice on how the Science and Technology bill may support CBIT project implementation.
	Department of Environment	Provides data on burnt areas for GHG inventory.	Output 1.2 Output 1.3 Receive training under Output 1.2 and participate in the design and implementation of the MRV system
	Department of Water Affairs	Lead institution for research and development of technology	Output 1.2 Output 1.3 Receive training under Output 1.2 and participate in the design and implementation of the MRV system

Stakeholder main group	Stakeholder name	Existing activities with potential to be leveraged	Content engagement, contributions to the project (identified by Component or Output)
	Bureau of Statistics	Lead agency for environmental management and promotes socio-economic and environmentally sustainable development.	All outputs. Contribute to the establishment of institutional arrangements as key data provider (Output 1.1). Key consultee on the design and implementation of tools under Output 1.2 and Output 1.3.
	Department of Gender	Responsible for upholding and delivering on the objectives of the Gender and Development Policy 2018 ? 2030.	All outputs Ensure that gender is mainstreamed in project through consultation with the project management unit and through consultation on the project outputs (particularly the development of institutional arrangements, systems for tracking NDC implementation and briefing of policy makers on integrating climate change data into decision making processes).

Stakeholder main group	Stakeholder name	Existing activities with potential to be leveraged	Content engagement, contributions to the project (identified by Component or Output)
	Department of Development Planning	Current data providers on waste for the GHG inventory	Output 1.2 Output 1.3 Receive training under Output 1.2 and participate in the design and implementation of the MRV system
	Ministry of Trade and Industry	Link to the private sector organisations that should be engaged in MRV activities	Output 1.2 Output 1.3 Receive training under Output 1.2 and participate in the design and implementation of the MRV system
	Disaster Management Authority	Engaged in adaptation and vulnerability	Output 1.2 Output 1.3 Participate in the design and implementation of the MRV system. Key consultees for adaptation elements of NDC tracking.

Stakeholder main group	Stakeholder name	Existing activities with potential to be leveraged	Content engagement, contributions to the project (identified by Component or Output)
	Ministry of Law and Justice	Provide prompt and efficient legal services to Government with the aim of upholding the constitution, rule of law and promoting good governance.	Support development of the legal framework under Output 1.1
Municipality	Maseru City Council	Data provider: provides information on solid waste per capita for Maseru and Lesotho, information on sludge for Ts'oengeng and information on open burning of waste	All outputs. Key representative of local government for consultations around institutional arrangements and should be recipient of training under Output 1.2 and participate in the design and implementation of the MRV system under Output 1.3.
	Land Administration Authority	Administers surveying and mapping and all national spatial data (records of plots and land boundaries, large- and small-scale topographic maps, and geographic information)	Output 1.2 Output 1.3 Receive training under Output 1.2 and participate in the design and implementation of the MRV system

Stakeholder main group	Stakeholder name	Existing activities with potential to be leveraged	Content engagement, contributions to the project (identified by Component or Output)
	Urban Councils	Responsible for Physical planning, roads and public transport amongst other duties.	All outputs. Key representative of local government for consultations around institutional arrangements and should be recipient of training under Output 1.2 and participate in the design and implementation of the MRV system under Output 1.3.
Academia	National University of Lesotho	Research in climate change, including development of emissions factors	Output 1.2 Output 1.3 Contribute to the design of the MRV system for Lesotho (Output 1.3) while at the same time being involved in the trainings to enhance the capacity of the researchers in GHG inventories system and NDC tracking.

Stakeholder main group	Stakeholder name	Existing activities with potential to be leveraged	Content engagement, contributions to the project (identified by Component or Output)
NGO	Lesotho Council of Non-Government Organizations (LCN)	Information dissemination and coordination of civil society climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives	All outputs
Utility	Water and Sewerage Company	Provides information on Waste Water Treatment ? Domestic Waste for the GHG inventory	Output 1.2 Output 1.3 Receive training under Output 1.2 and participate in the design and implementation of the MRV system
Media	Lesotho News Agency (LENA)	A key stakeholder in dissemination of climate information and critical project information to be known by the general public	Output 1.3 Consultee on public facing elements of tools to be developed under output 1.3
Private Sector	Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Local organization of businesses and companies in Maseru with the intention to develop and further the interests of local companies and businesses in Lesotho.	Participate in the provision of data under Output 1.2

Stakeholder main group	Stakeholder name	Existing activities with potential to be leveraged	Content engagement, contributions to the project (identified by Component or Output)
	Private Sector Foundation	Facilitate sustained dialogue between Government of Lesotho and organized business	Participate in the provision of data under Output 1.2
Community	Community Councils (Chief network)	Mechanism by which to communicate to local communities on government initiatives	Participate in Output 1.3 for adaptation data collection and action monitoring
	Farmer Association	Stakeholders in issues of climate change	Participate in Output 1.3 for adaptation data collection and action monitoring

In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement

Due to the multidisciplinary nature of climate change, a variety of stakeholders are required to engage and respond to the complexity of climate change related activities. Stakeholder consultation and buy-in is of utmost importance for the sustainability of the project. Engagement will be done both formally and informally at all levels of project implementation and decision-making to ensure an inclusive approach to project implementation. The stakeholder consultation process in the Lesotho CBIT project is premised on the following key objectives:

•**Information sharing:** provide information to stakeholders to enhance full participation.

Means of engagement: one-on-one meetings, webinars, fact sheets, website.

Timing of engagement: ongoing as necessary

•**Consultation:** obtain feedback from stakeholders on the project implementation process to guide analyses, reviews and decisions.

Means of engagement: workshops, virtual platforms for consultation follow up ? surveys/questionnaires

Timing of engagement: ongoing as necessary

•**Involvement:** build the capacity of key stakeholders

Means of engagement: training workshops, virtual meetings

Timing of engagement: quarterly

Stakeholder engagement will be facilitated primarily through the Project Steering Committee (PSC), which will have representation from all relevant sectors. The PSC will meet quarterly to discuss project progress and plan for wider stakeholder engagement. A wider stakeholder group will be engaged through defined project activities (see Work Plan for more details on timing of these engagements). In addition, once the climate data MRV tool has been developed, it will be used as an engagement platform to connect with national stakeholders and share the project's knowledge products more widely.

The successful delivery of Output 1.1 will require stakeholder participation when designing the legal and institutional coordination framework and establishing the Climate Transparency Unit. This will be required so that involved parties assigned roles and responsibilities under the framework feel ownership and understand the need to designate resource and staff capacity to the agreed arrangements. Specific stakeholders required for this output are outlined in Table 5, however in summary it should include line ministries, local authorities, the Bureau of Statistics, the existing Climate Change Unit at LMS and the newly formed Climate Transparency Unit. Consultation on institutional arrangements is proposed in the format of one workshop and a number of one-to-one meetings with key stakeholders. Additionally falling under Output 1.1 is the training workshop required to hand over responsibilities from external consultants in the Climate Transparency Unit to permanent members of government staff.

Under Output 1.2, stakeholder engagement will be broader than the preceding activities under Output 1.2 as it includes consultation on the design of the climate data collection and tracking element of the MRV tool and training on its use for government institutions and other relevant stakeholders. This will be done in parallel to consultation on the tool's development under Output 1.3 for use as a tool for NDC tracking. Three workshops will be conducted to ensure that the tools are designed in a way that will best address the challenges in responding to the ETF and shortcomings in previous tools used by data providers. It will also be considered how the tool may allow other public entities to benefit from

the platform without compromising the original objective of establishing the tool. Training will subsequently be provided to all stakeholders expected to interact with the tools for GHG inventory compilation and NDC tracking respectively. This training will be in the format of three train-the-trainer workshops.

Finally, Output 1.3 will require further stakeholder engagement, which in addition to the activities described above, includes developing indicators for the NDC implementation tracking system and enhancing skills to implement the MRV system. Indicators will be developed through a participatory process that will inform the baseline scenario and the alternative NDC scenario. In addition, stakeholder engagement workshops will provide opportunities for targeted input from the private sector, NGOs and municipalities and regions. This will lead to evidence-based development of indicators. Following the development of the climate data MRV tool, three train-the-trainer workshops will be delivered to all stakeholders who have responsibility to engage with the tool.

One of the key outcomes of the validation workshop conducted during the project design phase was to ensure that local communities and civil society actors are engaged during the process, and specifically during the delivery of Output 1.3 when key consultations will be happening regarding adaptation. The project will engage with local communities through local authorities (Chiefs and Community Councils) and other relevant community embedded structures such as the farmer associations. During project implementation, these key stakeholder groups will be engaged through meetings and workshops at district council level, where there is representation of the community leadership structures. The meetings and workshops will aim to solicit views and experiences from communities through their representatives, with a view to address challenges while at the same time identifying opportunities at grassroots level. Engaging at this key point of the process will ensure that adaptation tracking is embedded into the MRV system in a way that addresses the needs and priorities of the community.

In summary, all outputs have activities that are dedicated to build capacity of all involved stakeholders. Targeted trainings will be organized to enable the development of skills necessary to implement relevant activities.

Other additional stakeholders to be engaged on a continuous basis in national reporting and monitoring will include government institutions, ministries and agencies, industries, universities/ academia/ research institutions, NGOs, CSOs, Chiefs, Provincial leaders and the private sector.

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;

Co-financier;

Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body; Yes

Executor or co-executor;

Other (Please explain)

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

Gender analysis:

According to the Global Gender Gap Report 2021 published by the World Economic Forum, Lesotho ranked 92 out of 156 countries in the Global Index, with excellent scores regarding access to health, educational attainment, and room to improve in political empowerment and economic participation and opportunity. In turn, according to the most recent UNDP report *2020 Human Development Indicators and Indices*, Lesotho appeared with a Gender Inequality Index of 0.527, ranking 165 out of 189 countries. This project will leverage the advancement that Lesotho has made in gender equality and empowerment of women in education, politics, economy and social spheres.

Regarding the link to climate change, some initiatives have already been taken, such as Policy Statement 16 of the National Climate Change Policy, which specifically states "promoting participation of gender, youth, and vulnerable groups?". The CBIT project will seek to build on past efforts of linking gender issues to climate change. Reference shall be made to the GEF Policy on Gender Equality published in November 2017 and the UNFCCC Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan to ensure that gender perspectives are introduced into MRV as well as facilitate the involvement of gender actors. In this regard, the gender-disaggregation principle will be adhered to during data collection, analysis and reporting.

In Lesotho, the impacts of climate change are felt through droughts and extreme temperatures, which lead to crop failure, food shortages and insecurity, displacements and increased disease. Women are impacted disproportionately as they bear a larger burden of family responsibilities such as fetching

firewood and water, caring for the sick and aged, cooking and cleaning. Through these responsibilities, women have knowledge that allows them to contribute to the identification of appropriate adaptation and mitigation techniques and play an important role in supporting households and communities to mitigate and adapt to climate change. This CBIT project will take care to include women in the implementation of the project, from the PSC to consultants, and from training to active participation in consultation workshops. In this sense, project management and monitoring will be gender-sensitive, including gender-disaggregated indicators showing who is involved and whose views are represented targeting equal participation.

In short, gender considerations will be cross-cutting in this project, both in terms of its products and its processes. Indeed, with its focus on transparency, shedding light on how women and men participate in climate change-related decision-making, the project will contribute to women's equal engagement in and benefit from climate action. The gender responsive results-based framework (also referred to as the Gender Action Plan) has been designed in line with CBIT Programming Directions and the latest GEF Policy on Gender Equality, based on this substantive initial mainstreaming effort.

In addition, the country will benefit from the Global Coordination Platform activities on gender. Mainly, under Output 2.4 "Assistance provided to countries with integrating the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan into Enhanced Transparency Frameworks" of the PIF approved GEF project "Global Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) Platform Phase II A: Unified Support Platform and Program for Article 13 of the Paris Agreement.

The gender-sensitive project results framework defined by this project will be implemented by a gender expert, mobilized by the Department of Gender under the Ministry of Gender and Youth, Sports and Recreation (in the form of co-finance). The gender expert will organize gender-related activities such as leading sessions on gender-responsiveness in NDC implementation as part of the three train-the-trainer workshops that make up Deliverable 1.3.5. The framework has been designed under the following guidelines; under each guideline are examples of where gender has been mainstreamed in the project design:

- ? Women participation in trainings/workshops will be encouraged and recorded (through attendance sheets);
- ? Gender disaggregated attendance sheets and feedback questionnaires on the equality of opportunity will be collected at workshops and trainings. (Activities 1.1.1, 1.1.5, 1.2.4, 1.3.4 and 1.3.5).
- ? Whenever it is possible and/or relevant, the project will aim to include gender-disaggregated data;

- o There is an aim for training material to cover the collection of three gender-disaggregated data sets as part of the GHG inventory training. (Activity 1.2.4)
- o The NDC implementation tracking framework will include gender-disaggregated data where appropriate. (Activity 1.3.1)
- ? Documents and communication campaigns will be designed and targeted considering gender sensitiveness to assess and evaluate potential impact and related policy integration of specific gender considerations;
- ? The gender expert will be involved in all trainings and workshops and will contribute to materials presented and ensure they are gender sensitive. (Activities 1.1.1, 1.1.5, 1.2.4, 1.3.4 and 1.3.5)
- ? The gender expert will lead on mainstreaming gender considerations into institutional arrangements (Activity 1.1.1 and 1.1.3), with the target of addressing three gender related gaps and constraints addressed in the institutional arrangements and associated legal framework.
- ? The gender expert will contribute to the budget and associated staff work plan to establish the institutional arrangements and implement the legal framework to ensure that the process is gender sensitive. (Activity 1.1.5)
- ? All training material must avoid gender stereotypes, employ inclusive language and use appropriate illustrations;
- ? Significant women representation will be encouraged during capacity building workshops (both, among trainers and training participants) to promote gender parity;
- o There is an overall target for 60% of the beneficiaries of the project to be women.
- o It will be encouraged that there will be female representation among the trainers of the compilation of the GHG inventory. This will be overseen by the gender expert. (Activity 1.2.4)
- ? Gender will be addressed in the project team and stakeholder meetings, to help identify other areas where gender goals could be established.
- o The gender expert will attend meetings with the project management unit to provide updates on the implementation of the Gender Action Plan and will be able to support and empower the project management unit in identifying other areas where gender goals could be established.
- o The gender expert will attend and contribute to stakeholder meetings. (Activities 1.1.1, 1.1.5 and 1.3.5)

Institutions to be consulted on gender engagement and the implementation and maintenance of a gender-balanced project considering the barriers that need to be overcome to accomplish this will

include, but not be limited to: Ministry of Gender, Youth and Sports Recreation, civil society organizations as well as research institutions and development partners working in the fields of gender and climate change. The results of these initial consultations will be made available and will be incorporated into the project communications and documentation.

Also, as a part of the implementation of this CBIT project, a workshop on institutional arrangements with national experts and stakeholders will be performed under Activity 1.1.2. The gender expert will input into this workshop, planned to take place during the first four months of the project, to ensure that gender considerations are incorporated into institutional arrangements and the legal framework. This will ensure that structures are in place to allow for gender equality and gender sensitivity in the remaining part of the project. The results of these workshops will be made available and will be incorporated into the project communications and documentation. Throughout the project, the team will endeavour to ensure an equal gender balance and will, where possible, communicate the importance of maintaining gender equality.

With regards to the topics of the activities aimed at enhancing the mainstreaming of gender, the project final workshop will include evidence on how the government has supported building women's and men's resilience, or how women and men have been engaged to adopt climate-smart agriculture practices, in line with contents and activities developed under outputs 1.2 and 1.3 of the project. Where appropriate, international guidance and tools supporting gender inclusion will be used to support these activities.

Gender Action Plan:

The gender action plan for the CBIT project has incorporated the objectives of Lesotho's Gender and Development Policy 2018-2030, which guides national action on gender, into the CBIT project activities. As outlined below, project activities have been tailored with consideration of national gender objectives. Of particular focus is national objective 5: 'To ensure equal participation of men, women, boys, girls and other marginalized groups in addressing gender and climate change as well as sustainable development issues?.'

An individual from the Department of Gender is expected to fulfil the role of the gender expert and will hold responsibility for implementing and monitoring this action plan. The representative from the Gender Department that sits on the NCCC was invited to the stakeholder workshops under the PPG stage but was not able to attend. At project inception the Director of LMS will make a request to the Department of Gender, who will nominate an individual to act as the gender expert. This is the standard

mode of operation for Lesotho and no issues with securing the role are envisaged as the Department of Gender are actively engaged within the NCCC. The role of the gender expert is a key contribution to the project implementation from the Government of Lesotho co-finance budget. LMS will have an important role to play feeding into the implementation of these activities through consultation with the gender expert. Moreover, the implementation of the Gender Action Plan below will be tracked under project Component 2, on Monitoring and Evaluation.

Table 8: Gender action plan

Project Components / Outputs	Gender mainstreaming Objectives	Gender mainstreaming Activities / Indicators	Targets / Means of Verification (MoV)	Responsibility
Overall Project Management	To enhance women's participation in steering committees and decision-making bodies.	Activity: Inclusion of women in the Project Steering Committee Indicator: Number of women in the Project Steering Committee	Target: At least 50% of the Project Steering Committee to be women[1]. MoV: Documentation on the team members of the Project Steering Committee	LMS

<p>Component 1 Output 1.1</p>	<p>To identify constraints and gaps for gender mainstreaming in climate action in key government institutions, and address them through the proposed institutional arrangements.</p>	<p>Activity: Include the analysis of constraints and gaps for gender mainstreaming as part of the analysis of the current transparency framework. Include mandates that address these constraints and gaps when drafting the institutional arrangements and associated legal framework.</p> <p>Indicator: Number of gender related constraints and gaps identified and number of mandates that address them.</p>	<p>Target: Three gender related gaps and constraints addressed in the institutional arrangements and associated legal framework.</p> <p>MoV: Content in Deliverable 1.1.3 (National Climate Change Institutional Arrangements and Legal framework report including reporting guidelines and draft text for legal acts/regulations as required.)</p>	<p>PMU</p> <p>Gender expert (Department of Gender)</p> <p>Legal expert</p> <p>Organisations involved in climate action: LMS</p> <p>NCCC</p> <p>BOS</p>
<p>Component 1 Output 1.2</p>	<p>To strengthen the evidence base and understanding of the differentiated impacts of climate change on men and women and the role of women as agents of change and on opportunities for women.</p>	<p>Activity: Provide training on how to collect, analyse and apply gender-disaggregated data as part of climate data collection and analysis training.</p> <p>Indicator: Inclusion of training material on gender-disaggregated datasets.</p>	<p>Target: Gender-sensitive training material covering the collection of three gender-disaggregated data sets as part of the GHG inventory training.</p> <p>MoV: Gender-sensitive training material in Deliverable 1.2.5 (training workshop reports and training materials)</p>	<p>PMU</p> <p>Gender expert (Department of Gender)</p>

<p>Component 1</p> <p>Output 1.3</p>	<p>To promote the deployment of gender-responsive technological solutions to address climate change.</p>	<p>Activity: Include gender considerations when developing tools, templates, guidelines, indicators and procedures for tracking NDC implementation.</p> <p>Indicator: Number of gender considerations included in NDC tracking guidance.</p>	<p>Target: Three gender specific considerations included in the gender sensitive NDC tracking guidance.</p> <p>MoV: Guidelines in Deliverable 1.3.3 (Tools, templates, guidelines, indicators and procedures for tracking NDC implementation)</p>	<p>PMU</p> <p>Gender expert (Department of Gender)</p>
<p>Across all Components</p>	<p>Promote women participation in project consultation meetings, workshops and trainings.</p>	<p>Activity: The participation of female representatives will be encouraged in all project consultation meetings, workshops and trainings outlined in the Workplan (refer Annex L for more details) through gender sensitive outreach to project stakeholders.</p> <p>Indicator: % of female participants attending the project consultation meetings, workshops and trainings.</p>	<p>Target: At least 60% of participants attending the project consultation meetings, workshops and trainings are women</p> <p>MoV: Gender disaggregated attendance sheets</p>	<p>PMU</p> <p>Gender expert (Department of Gender)</p>

		<p>Activity: Meetings, workshops and trainings appropriately consider the differentiated needs of women and men. This includes the consideration of the ability of women to attend events considering their gendered responsibilities.</p> <p>Indicator: Feedback from women on the equality of opportunity provided.</p>	<p>Target: Women provide positive feedback on the equality of opportunity given through the meetings, workshops and trainings.</p> <p>MoV: Feedback questionnaires</p>	<p>PMU</p> <p>Gender expert (Department of Gender)</p>
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[1] The target for the percentage of women in the PSC (50%) has been set at a slightly lower level than the 60% target of female direct beneficiaries for the project.

Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment?

Yes

Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources;

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women

Does the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Elaborate on the private sector's engagement in the project, if any.

Participation of the private sector was cited in the BUR as a limiting factor to effective implementation of mitigation measures in Lesotho. As the translation of climate policies into activities on the ground ultimately depends on activities implemented by non-state actors, especially the private sector, the engagement of private sector entities will be crucial. This includes energy service providers, waste collection and treatment companies and transport companies, and the local population acting as private entities in the local economy in e.g. agricultural and forestry-related activities.

Therefore, it is very important that these actors will be consulted during CBIT implementation and their role integrated into the national MRV system to ensure that detailed activity data from these sources is reported. The link with the private sector will be facilitated via the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

The engagement of these organisations will be centered around GHG activity data provision, climate information dissemination, NDC and climate change adaptation tracking. Further, representatives of these organisations will be included in the capacity building training for climate information dissemination from the climate data MRV tool. Individual members of these organisations, for example companies that generate significant GHG emissions or are involved in climate change mitigation and adaptation will be engaged to sign MoUs for climate data provision. These institutions will also be engaged in the validation of climate information generated under the ETF. It is proposed that engagement with the private sector is facilitated through the Private Sector Foundation and the Chamber of Commerce. These are active organisations within Lesotho who act as a focal point for business within Lesotho.

In addition, businesses will be informed about potential climate risks relevant for their activities (e.g. in livestock and agriculture). The engagement of the private sector is further expected to lead to the mobilization of financial resources and technical capabilities in the development of innovative climate services and adaptation technologies.

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):

Risk description	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Mitigation Strategy and Safeguards	By Whom / When?
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Risks to the achievement of the project objective				
Delays in implementing the project due to changes in governance, key personnel within government agencies, security, and/or government decisions.	Medium	Low	The project will build-in transparent, fair and equitable management structures to dilute political interference by politicians that could result in favouritism. Project management systems will be simple and streamlined to avoid unnecessary bureaucracy. Decisions and progress will be documented at quarterly meetings.	LMS ? throughout project
Failure to disburse funds on time. This will create delays in implementation and prolong vulnerabilities to climate impacts which are already pronounced.	Low	Medium	The PMU will have a Project Administrative and Financial Assistant dedicated to the project and will be supported by the project finance team through oversight. The project's financial management system and the project selection process will be designed to maximize transparency and accountability. Financial management competencies will be built into the project management team either through recruitment or capacity development throughout the project. An external audit will also be carried out each year.	LMS ? throughout project
Consultants do not provide a high-quality service and/or are delayed in delivering	Low	High	UNEP's sustainable procurement procedures will be strictly followed to ensure high-quality goods and services are procured. The PMU will require regular updates and hold progress meetings with consultants.	UNEP ? procurement windows LMS ? throughout project

<p>Low levels of stakeholder participation in terms of attendance and cooperation.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Participating institutions will be actively involved from the beginning in design, implementation and management decisions. Roles and responsibilities will be explicit and participants prompted to share regular updates on progress. There will be continuous engagement of institutions, regular reporting,</p> <p>monitoring of progress, and acknowledgement of efforts and achievements by each institution. Communication plans, stakeholder consultations and expected outputs will be fully developed. Regular progress and monitoring meetings will be held.</p> <p>International consultants supported by national facilitators will be used to ensure quality of consultations for local people.</p>	<p>LMS - throughout project</p> <p>Contracted consultants</p>
<p>High staff turnover in stakeholder organisations or government partners which cause delay and challenges to institutional memory</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Documentation of all key meetings, consultations and decisions will be held by the PMU and shared with all members of the steering committee. Fair salaries and ample training opportunities will be provided for all employed during the project implementation to ensure job satisfaction and incentive to stay on.</p>	<p>LMS ? throughout project</p>

COVID-19 Pandemic slows down project implementation	Low	Medium	The likelihood of the COVID-19 to severely impact the project implementation activities due to restriction of travels, physical meetings and field data collections by PMU and national stakeholders is low. Risk is related to international travel, so project activities will need to allow for hybrid engagement with remote participants.	LMS ? throughout project
Physical risk from climate change impact that could affect implementation of project activities (e.g. floods, droughts, landslide, etc.),	Low	Medium	The infrastructure created (the web-based MRV tool) will be hosted on resilient platforms e.g. cloud based.	LMS ? throughout project Contracted consultants ? at design stage
Risk that the 60% gender disaggregation target for the direct beneficiaries will not be achieved.	Medium	Low	There may not be enough women available and in appropriate positions to receive training under this project. This will be monitored by the gender expert and all reasonable effort made (i.e. active outreach to project partners asking them to nominate women for trainings and workshops) to ensure targets are met.	LMS and gender expert - throughout project
Risks to the achievement of Output 1.1				
Unclear roles and responsibilities drawn for the new Climate Transparency Unit (CTU) and existing Climate Change Unit (CCU)	Low	Medium	Consultation to be held with LMS on roles of the two units. TORs to be used to write specific job descriptions for staff employed by the CTU.	LMS ? Output 1.1, Year 1
Poor handover of responsibility and tasks from consultants to national experts for the CTU	Low	Medium	Handover is to be clearly outlined as deliverable under TOR of consultants. Time allowed for handover as part of project delivery	International Consultants PMU ? Output 1.1, Year 3
Risks to the achievement of Output 1.2				

Data availability ? poor outputs or unable to support some GHG inventory developments due to lack of data within project timeframe	High	Low	Enhanced institutional arrangements engaging data providers in the development of the GHG inventory will increase their commitment to produce information. Note that only one activity is dependent on specific data availability however widespread data issues would have significant impact. Inclusion of academic institutions should support the use of expert judgement in scenarios of data supply issues. Improved data flows through the climate data collection tool should support data providers to more readily engage and training should remove barriers of understanding.	LMS ? Output 1.2
Climate data collection tool is not fit for purpose or does not meet the specific needs of the Lesotho team	Low	High	Consultation with LMS and wider stakeholders of detailed tool specifications will be required. This may include a beta version of tools to be tested for user feedback to ensure that developed tools are fit for purpose and deliver on the requirements.	Consultant team ? Output 1.2 and 1.3
Low stakeholder buy in to the deployed tool	Medium	Medium	Training sessions should be targeted at demonstrating how use of the established tool can support efficiencies in the day-to-day work of organisations. Tools should be intuitive and stakeholders should feel ownership through early consultation.	LMS ? throughout
Risks to the achievement of Output 1.3				
Developed MRV tool does not meet the expectations and needs of Lesotho	Low	High	Consultation with LMS and wider stakeholders of detailed tool specifications will be required. This may include a beta version of tools to be tested for user feedback to ensure that developed tools are fit for purpose and deliver on the requirements.	Consultant team ? Output 1.2 and 1.3

Uptake of use of the tool is low due to change in known systems and low capacity across organisations	Medium	Medium	Training sessions should be targeted at demonstrating how use of the established tool can support efficiencies in the day-to-day work of organisations. Tools should be intuitive and stakeholders should feel ownership through early consultation.	LMS ? throughout
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Climate Risks Screening:

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(i) *How will the project's objectives or outputs be affected by climate risks over the period 2020 to 2050, and have the impact of these risks been addressed adequately?*

Lesotho is one of the countries that are very susceptible to the negative impacts of climate change, and has already, in recent years, been affected by climate change impacts include storms, droughts and floods and an increase in the incidences of natural disasters. The outputs and outcomes of the CBIT project in Lesotho are related to establishing institutional arrangements, strengthening GHG inventory compilation activities and developing a framework for tracking the NDC. The project will be delivered with capacity building objectives at its core and will therefore include significant levels of consultation and training. Therefore, it is important to consider what potential impacts of climate change could adversely affect this project's objective and output. These are summarised below:

- 1) **Alter the focus and priority action of project's stakeholders.** As Lesotho is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, political priorities and investor's interests and co-financing availability might shift with emerging priorities. This might adversely affect the outputs of the CBIT project as successful implementation requires stakeholders to be actively engaged. The project also requires political attention.
- 2) **Alter capacity and resources available for engagement and project implementation.** Should a natural disaster occur (storms/droughts/floods) resources would be shifted to meet demand in disaster relief.
- 3) **Disrupt data collection and data storage systems and infrastructure** A natural disaster across the timeframe may have implications for data collection and data storage systems and infrastructure. Extreme weather could impact the infrastructures hosting the data collection, management and storage system built by the project and causing a system disruption and loss of data.

4) **Adversely affect capacity building activities.** Training activities, workshops and meeting could be adversely impacted by climate events which could disrupt the equipment and hinder participants and stakeholders? mobility.

(i) *Has the sensitivity to climate change, and its impacts, been assessed?*

Hazards may include short-term/acute shocks (e.g. extreme events of storm, fire or flood), or slow onset/chronic events that occur over a long period of time (e.g. drought). The future impacts of climate change in Lesotho were assessed through analysis of past changes of surface air temperature (SAT), precipitation and natural disaster events from the World Bank's climate change knowledge portal[1].

Temperature

An overall trend of temperature increase has been observed in Lesotho since the 1960s (Figure 9) and projections show further increased temperatures are expected for the region (Figure 10). Temperature increase is predicted to be more than 2.0°C for the 2050s and by 4.4°C by end of the century, under a high-emission scenario (compared with a 1986-2005 baseline). It is therefore considered likely that as the country becomes generally hotter and drier across projected future climates, an increased incidence of heat waves and higher rates of evapotranspiration are expected.

Figure 9: Observed annual mean temperature of Lesotho 1901-2020

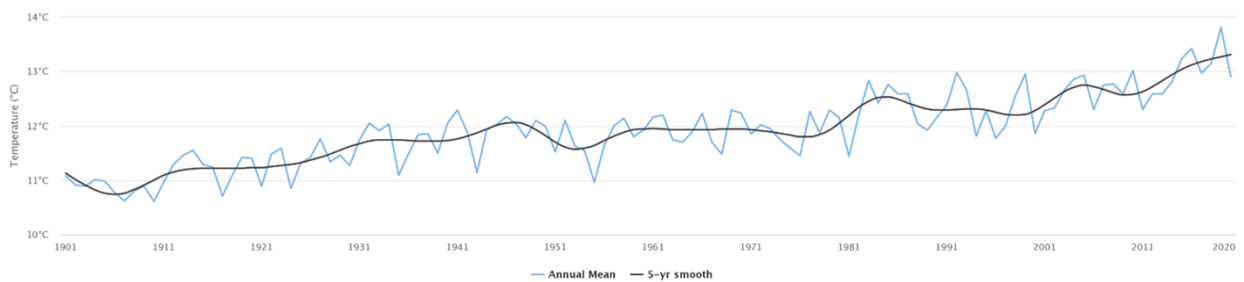
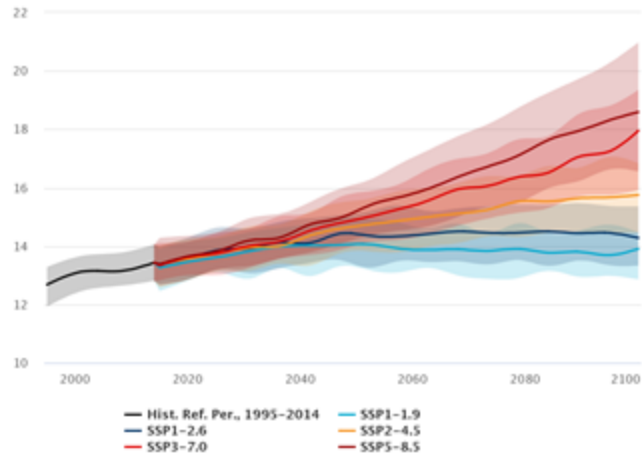


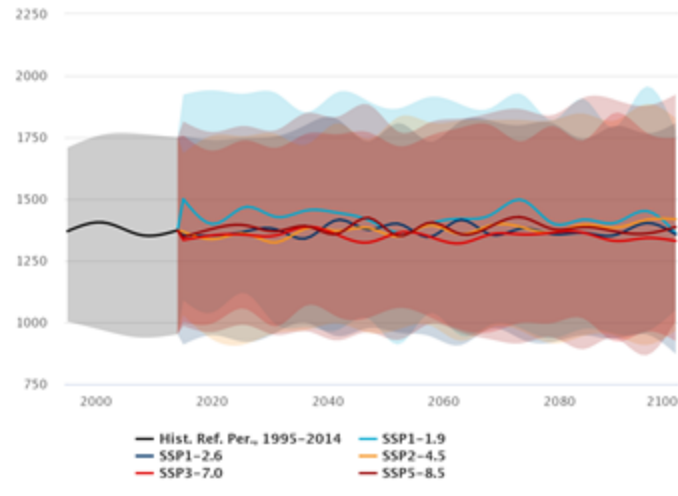
Figure 10: Projected mean temperature (1995-2100)



Precipitation

While annual rainfall does not show any strong predicted trends (Figure 11), observations indicate a decrease in annual precipitation for Lesotho. Changes in seasonal rainfall patterns have revealed progressive increases in winter season precipitation (June to August) accompanied by an opposite trend in the summer season, in some regions[2]. This has led to drying out of traditionally perennial springs; and reduced flows on major rivers. Furthermore, many dams currently are dry for most of the year. Changes in precipitation patterns for Lesotho are projected to experience an increase in extreme precipitation events, indicating potential for prolonged dry periods in between event and a potentially simultaneous increase in flooding events.

Figure 11: Projected Precipitation 1995-2100



The temperature and precipitation trends suggest that Lesotho will also continue to experience extreme events like droughts and floods and other climate-related hazards. A record of natural disasters in Lesotho 1990-2020 are given in Table 9. This will likely result in slow onset adverse environmental impacts such as soil erosion, deforestation, recurrent droughts, desertification, land degradation, and the loss of biodiversity including wildlife.

Table 9: Natural disasters in lesotho 1900-2020[3]

Natural Hazard	Subtype	Events Count	Total Deaths	Total Affected	Total damage (?000 USD)
Drought	Drought	8	0	4,148,015	1,000
Epidemic	Bacterial Disease	2	28	2,334	0
Flood	Riverine Flood	4	48	85,000	0
Storm	Convective Storm	2	0	7,100	0

The climate trends observed and predicted in Lesotho have the potential to impact on the most vulnerable sectors: water, agriculture, forestry, human health, and livestock. The water sector has already been significantly impacted from reduced precipitation and altered rainfall patterns. Subsistence farming, which is a major source of living in rural areas, is in steady decline due to recurring droughts, which has led to a steep decline in production of key staples such as maize and livestock farming.

(ii) Have resilience practices and measures to address projected climate risks and impacts been considered? How will these be dealt with?

To address the climate risks described above, the project has considered the following mitigation actions:

? For the data systems generated by the project, and the storage of this data, the project will design resilient systems able to withstand the threats posed by climate change, including extreme rainfall, storm surges, and damaging winds. This includes storing data on a cloud outside of Lesotho and storing project documents during the course of the project in shared cloud folders, etc.

? For capacity building activities, online options will be preferred when possible to save resources for travel as a default position in the project. This approach helps limit possible adverse effects of extreme climate events. For those capacity building activities which need to take place in person, they will be planned outside the storm season.

? The project will ensure the safety of the personnel. When activities need to be postponed due to warnings, the safety and integrity of the people will always be a priority, and the project will only return in its course when safety can be mentally and physically assured.

? To attract and maintain political and stakeholder's attention, the project activities will build awareness on the importance of NDC targets and of having a GHG inventory and NDC tracking system and ensure the engagement of relevant institutions by establishing regular communication among sectoral institutions through working groups, while the PSC will serve to increase the buy-in by high-level officials.

(iii) What technical and institutional capacity, and information, will be needed to address climate risks and resilience enhancement measures?

Technical capacity to address climate risk needs to include the knowledge about past and future likelihood of extreme climate events impact on the project activities and outputs. Technical capacity also needs to include the ability to correctly judge the resilience of infrastructure for hosting the data management and

storage system. Institutional capacity includes the ability to receive detailed information about reliability of such infrastructure and maintain political attention on the project.

Covid-19 Risk and Opportunity Analysis:

The COVID19 pandemic has affected every economic sector in Lesotho and all segments of society. The severity of impact, however, has varied across different sections of society depending on age group, gender, disabilities, socioeconomic status and geographical locations. Lesotho is particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 due to its proximity to South Africa and the socio-economic linkages between the two countries. UNEP has published an "Assessment of the Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 on the Kingdom of Lesotho"[4] which concludes that the COVID-19 crisis is expected to increase the poverty rate by between 0.2 to 0.9 percentage points in 2020. The impacts listed in the report include:

- ? Reduction in economic growth, with average growth lower than the rate required to sustain poverty reduction;
- ? Agriculture sector downturn, The Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Committee (LVAC) in March/April 2020 projected that 43% of people would be part of food insecure households;
- ? Closure of the border with South Africa led to a 38% drop in volumes of remittances between the two countries and significant returnee migrants from South Africa who further strain resources;
- ? Significant decline in tourism and therefore income for tourist industries which make up 12.6% of total employment;
- ? Job losses, especially in the informal and SME sector including the significant textile and apparel factories
- ? Fragile healthcare systems that will be stretched further in the short run but could emerge stronger in the medium- to long- term.

Currently Lesotho is not in a lockdown associated with COVID-19 however there are restrictions in place for international travelers under its "Blue Stage" COVID-19 restrictions which require PCR tests to be presented on arrival. The COVID19 pandemic is therefore expected to impact the implementation of the

CBIT project as it is expected to rely heavily on international consultants for delivery of key deliverables. The most significant COVID-19 related risks to the implementation of the project include the following;

? Engagement at workshops and trainings may be limited by travel restrictions. Whilst in-person workshops may be possible for national participants, international consultants may not be able to join in person;

? Hybrid engagement events may be less effective due to technology and internet barriers and may widen communication barriers between stakeholders and external consultants;

? Risk that COVID19 rates may increase in Lesotho and result in further lockdown and may result in implementing partners/national partners might be working at lower capacities.

The following are the appropriate response measures to reduce the impacts of COVID19 on project delivery;

- If travel restrictions (at international, regional and/or national level) are introduced due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, remote support will be provided by:
- Making training modules available via on-line training options, which will facilitate attendance as trainings will not be place- or time-bound;
- Facilitating on-line exchanges (using Zoom, Teams, Skype, WhatsApp, email, phone, etc.) between international, regional and national experts and project stakeholders when face-to-face exchanges, meetings, workshops, etc. are not feasible;
- Conducting assessments in partnership with local stakeholders via video (e.g. Zoom, Teams, Skype, WhatsApp, email, phone, etc.).
- If face-to-face project activities (e.g. trainings, meetings, field visits, etc.) will be able/allowed to take place, they will take into account international and national COVID-19 guidelines (including but not limited to: social distancing measures, wearing masks, hand sanitation stations, open-air venues, pre-and post- deep cleaning, etc.);
- Make provision for effective hybrid events which allow for participation both in person and remotely. This would mean provision of video and microphone technology to ensure all participants can be seen and heard by all other participants.

? It should also be noted that there are opportunities throughout the project implementation to improve perceptions towards remote working and hybrid engagement events. This may allow for wider stakeholder engagement with participants who would otherwise not be able to attend. It may also reduce any potential for timeline delays as engagement can be planned regardless of travel and logistical barriers such as venue availability. Finally, there are budgetary and environmental benefits to reducing international travel from consultants.

[1] <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/lesotho/climate-data-historical>

[2] https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/2021-08/15930-WB_Lesotho%20Country%20Profile-WEB.pdf

[3] EM-DAT: The Emergency Events Database ? Universite catholique de Louvain (UCL) - CRED, D. Guha-Sapir, Brussels, Belgium. URL: http://emdat.be/emdat_db/

[4] <https://www.greengrowthknowledge.org/sites/default/files/downloads/resource//UNDP-rba-Lesotho-Socio-Economic-Assessment2020.pdf>

6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

The Lesotho Meteorological Services (LMS) through the Ministry of Energy, Meteorology and Water Affairs will lead and coordinate the execution of this project. LMS are therefore the named Executing Agency (EA). LMS will also support the establishment of institutional arrangements (government, CSOs, private sector etc.) for a robust national system for GHG emission inventories and NDC tracking as part of the project. LMS will second a National Project Director (NPD) who will oversee implementation, administration, and monitoring of the project. The project director will be withdrawn for the normal duties and focus on the project for the duration of the project.

LMS will also hold meetings, communications and facilitate information flow among partner institutions and other stakeholders. The Climate Transparency Unit established under the project will be part of LMS. The Climate Transparency Unit will report to LMS on the technical aspects of reporting under the ETF and the proposed legislation and supporting legal and regulatory framework. The Climate Transparency Unit will report and provide accurate and up-to-date technical advice and guidance to both the Project Management Unit and the Steering Committee (defined below) on issues related to the implementation of the project activities.

LMS will lead and coordinate national efforts, including for the establishment of institutional arrangements (government, CSOs, private sector etc.) to build a robust national MRV system. The project is designed to be implemented in parallel and in complementarity with several activities such as the TNC and BUR1 initiatives, jointly executed with UNEP. The TNC and BUR1 projects compiled national GHG inventories (for the years 2005 and 2010, and for the years from 2011 to 2017, respectively) and submitted them to the UNFCCC. The CBIT initiative will build upon this existing work and will develop a broader strategic

long-term monitoring tool for NDC compliance as well as National MRV and GHG Inventory Systems, with the aim to enable the compilation of the national GHG inventories in a timely and efficient way.

UNEP has the role of GEF Implementing Agency of this CBIT project and will support the project implementation in collaboration with the Executing Agency.

A PSC will be formed using the existing structure in Lesotho of the National Climate Change Committee (NCCC). The NCCC acted as PSC for recently completed projects in Lesotho to develop the TNC and BUR1 and are therefore well placed to support CBIT implementation. The existing structure will be used to form a sub-committee of the NCCC of between 10-15 organisations at the inception of the project who will carry out the role as described in Table 9 and report regularly to the NCCC. The PSC will meet three times a year to review work plans, budgets and progress of implementation.

A project management unit (PMU) will be formed to oversee the day to day running of CBIT implementation. The unit will be housed within LMS to ensure that close collaboration is maximized. The unit will be formed of a Project Technical Coordinator and an Administrative and Finance Assistant. LMS will invite members of the PMU to attend meetings or workshops related to CBIT work. At intervals, the project management unit will organize stakeholder consultation or validation works. Periodic and milestone reports will be compiled.

Table 10 and Figure 12 present the institutional arrangements for implementation of the project.

Linkages of CBIT with other projects

The proposed capacity-building project will complement past and on-going activities to support the Government of Lesotho to enhance management and monitoring practices.

Strategic coordination of this project with other initiatives is ensured since Lesotho has a National Climate Change Committee (NCCC) involving a variety of Government and Non-State actors which is operating as a platform to address coordination issues in practical terms. In addition, technical working groups fostering technical coordination under the preparation of the national communications and BUR1 are operational. These same structures have already been active in the preparation of this CBIT project; consultations for

the elaboration of this PIF happened through the NCCC. The NCCC will be used for tracking the overall CBIT process, which falls under the mandate established for its operation. One of the country's priorities is to formalize relationships with key institutions such as the Lesotho's Bureau of Statistics, academic and research institutions, as well as others identified during the preparation of the BUR1 under the Domestic MRV component.

LMS will closely coordinate and manage the other baseline transparency related activities, to ensure that CBIT activities will build upon the interventions already implemented and under implementation, to ensure that resources are used efficiently, impacts maximized and duplication of work is avoided. As LMS has the overall mandate to coordinate and oversee all climate change projects under implementation, a consolidated workplan of CBIT project activities and other projects should be drawn up to identify coinciding activities. This will ensure that synergies can be drawn between complimentary projects and timeline clashes can be minimized. This is specifically important to ensure stakeholder availability. Through the CBIT project, the country aims to internalize procedures and establish an institutional framework that will be sustainable over time.

Table 10: Institutional arrangement for the project

Body	Composition	Role and description	Frequency of meetings
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Body	Composition	Role and description	Frequency of meetings
Project Steering Committee (PSC)	<p>Focal Persons from key Ministries and government departments, NGOs, private sector, research and academia. Members will be selected from the NCCC to form a sub-committee. This should include the following participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? LMS ? CTU and CCU ? Department of Energy ? Department of Livestock Services ? Department of Transport ? Department of Forestry ? Bureau of Statistics ? Department of Gender / NGO with Gender responsibilities ? Maseru City Council ? National University of Lesotho ? Lesotho Council of Non-Government Organizations (LCN) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Oversight of the project progress and implementation of outputs; ? Approve annual work plans and budget; ? Approve management decisions to ensure timely delivery of quality outputs; ? Provide overall guidance and strategic direction; ? Involve national stakeholders to support project implementation, as well as provide synergies with other complementing initiatives and ongoing projects; ? Provide insight on national policy barriers and proposed stages of national policy development. ? The NPD will act as the PSC Chair, and the PTC as the PSC Secretary 	Once per term (three times a year)

Body	Composition	Role and description	Frequency of meetings
Implementing GEF Agency (IA)	UNEP, Climate Change Mitigation Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Ensure timely disbursement/sub-allotment to executing agency based on agreed legal document and in accordance with UNEP and GEF fiduciary standards; ? Follow-up with Executing agency for progress, equipment, financial and audit reports; ? Provide consistent and regular oversight on project execution and conduct project supervisory missions as per Supervision Plans and in doing so ensures that all UNEP and GEF criteria, rules and regulations are adhered to by project partners; ? Technically assess and oversee quality of project outputs, products and deliverables ? including formal publications; ? Provide no-objection to main TORs and subcontracts issued by the project, including selection of project manager or equivalent; ? Attend and facilitate inception workshops, field visits where relevant, and selected steering committee meetings; ? Assess project risks, and monitor and enforce a risk management plan; ? Regularly monitor project progress and performance and rate progress towards meeting project objectives, project execution progress, quality of project monitoring and evaluation, and risk; ? Monitor reporting by project executing partners and provide prompt feedback on the contents of the report; ? Promptly inform the management of any significant risks or project problems and take action and follow up on decisions made; ? Apply adaptive management principles to the supervision of the project; ? Review of reporting, checking for consistency between execution 	Periodic meetings with Project Management Unit (PMU) and EA, at least once per month.

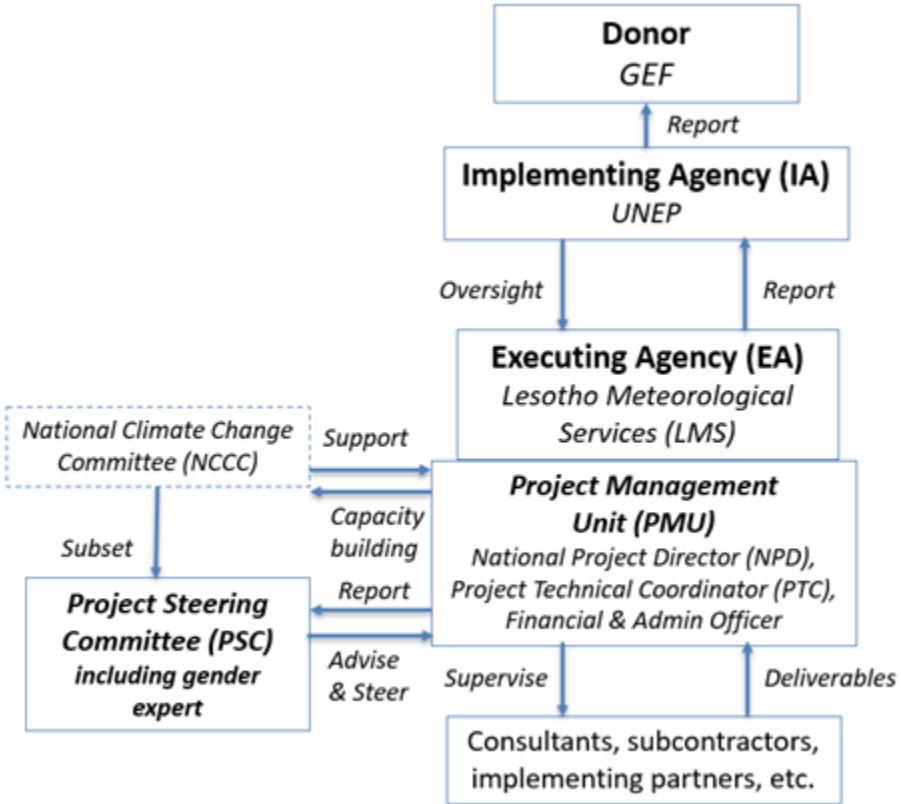
Body	Composition	Role and description	Frequency of meetings
<p>Executing Agency (EA)</p>	<p>Lesotho Meteorological Services (LMS).</p> <p>This includes the Climate Transparency Unit (CTU) and Climate Change Unit (CCU).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Ensure that the project meets its objectives and achieves expected outcomes; ? Ensure technical execution according to the execution plan laid out in the project document; ? Ensure technical quality of products, outputs and deliverables; ? Ensure compilation and submission of progress, financial and audit reporting to IA; ? Submit budget revisions to IA for approval; ? Address and propose solutions to any problem or inconsistency raised by the IA; ? Bring issues raised by or associated with clients to the IA for resolution; ? Facilitate meetings of Steering Committees and other oversight bodies of the project; ? Day to day oversight of project execution; ? Submit all technical reports and completion reports to IA (realized outputs, inventories, verification of co-finance, terminal reporting, etc.); ? Monitoring and evaluation of the project outputs and outcomes; ? Effective use of both international and national resources ? Timely availability of financing to support project execution; ? Proper coordination among all project stakeholders; in particular national parties; ? Timely submission of all project reports, including work plans and financial reports, ? Follow-up with, or progress, procurement, financial and audit reports. 	<p>Internal quarterly meetings between PTC and NPD</p>

Body	Composition	Role and description	Frequency of meetings
Project Management Unit (PMU)	National Project Director (NPD) <i>(Contributions are funded in the form of co-finance from LMS)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Will be represented by an officer from LMS (in the form of co-finance) ? Host/chair the PSC annual meetings; ? Report to and receive advice from the PSC; ? Identify and secure partner support for the implementation of project activities; ? Advise on hiring process. 	Regular meetings with PTC, at least twice per month.

Body	Composition	Role and description	Frequency of meetings
	<p>Project Technical Coordinator (PTC)</p> <p><i>(funded with GEF grant)</i></p>	<p>The PTC will be paid with GEF funds and be hosted by LMS, and will be responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Take responsibility for day-to-day project operations; ? Take responsibility for the execution of the project in accordance with the project objectives, activities and budget; ? Deliver the outputs and demonstrate its best efforts in achieving the project outcomes; ? Coordinate project execution and liaison with national counterparts (relevant ministries, electric utilities, private sector, NGOs etc.); ? Undertake field visits; ? Manage financial resources and processing all financial transaction relating to sub-allotments; ? Prepare all annual/year-end project revisions; ? Attend and facilitate inception workshops and national steering committee meetings; ? Assess project risks in the field, monitor risk management plan; ? Ensure technical quality of products, outputs and deliverables; ? Coordinate the project work team; ? Coordinate with strategic taskforces; ? Act as secretary of the PSC; ? Plan the PSC annual meetings; ? Periodic reporting to UNEP and the PSC for allocation of the GEF grant according to the quarterly and annual work plans and budgets in coordination with UNEP and PD; ? Notify UNEP and the PSC in writing if there is need for modification to the agreed implementation plan and budget, and to seek approval; 	<p>Regular meetings with NPD at least twice per month.</p>

Body	Composition	Role and description	Frequency of meetings
	Project Administrative and Financial Assistant <i>(funded with GEF grant, part time position)</i>	? Budgetary control and processing of all financial transactions ? Support to process procurements and other administrative tasks ? Prepares / reviews financial reports ? Prepares /reviews budget revisions	Every two weeks with the PTC

Figure 12: Organogram of the project implementation structure



Coordination with other initiatives:

Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives. Please identify other relevant ongoing (GEF) projects and present the possibilities of coordinating with the project. This should include global or regional GEF projects.

This project will feed into the CBIT Global Coordination Platform. Lessons learned, data and information from modelling derived from the MRV system based on the data integration tools will thus be shared with the Global Coordination Platform.

Several of the projects listed under the Baseline Scenario section (international climate cooperation projects) are potentially able to directly share valuable information with the current project or build upon its results. In particular:

GEF-6 Enabling Activity project aiming to support the preparation and submission of the Third National Communication (TNC): this project included the update of the national GHG inventory, and identification of recent adaptation and mitigation actions performed in the country. Adaptation data was also collected throughout the Vulnerability & Adaptation assessment exercise. Information produced under this project has already been used to produce this PIF and will also provide essential input to activities 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.2.4, 1.3.1 and 1.3.2 of this CBIT project.

GEF-6 Enabling Activity project aiming to support the preparation and submission of the First Biennial Report (BUR1): under this project, Lesotho fulfilled its current reporting obligations under the UNFCCC. The CBIT project will expand on lessons learned in managing GHG emissions related data associated with the preparation of the GHG Inventory and Mitigation actions. The preparation of the GHG Inventory and measuring and reporting of mitigation actions in Lesotho will be further improved through CBIT interventions by using the latest methodologies and advanced datasets. The CBIT project will establish a robust institutional structure and provide tools and capacity building activities to manage Lesotho's climate change MRV system, thus contributing to enhance the quality of future BURs and Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) under the Paris Agreement.

Special attention will be drawn to build upon outputs and activities under the BUR1 project on institutional arrangements, which will lay the ground for activities 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.3 and 1.2.4 of this CBIT project.

The GHG inventory produced under the BUR1 lays the ground for improvements under this CBIT project, in particular under CBIT activities 1.1.1, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.3.1, 1.3.2 and 1.3.3.

On NDC implementation tracking and climate finance, coordination will be ensured concerning results of the BUR1 project under its components 3, 4 and 5, as previously detailed. One of the partial results of such project is the proposal of a climate change MRV system specific to the compilation of BURs for Lesotho, contained in the report: *The Development of a Framework for Lesotho's Climate Change Measuring, Reporting and Verification System*, LMS (2019). Such an MRV system will have a key role in implementing the MPGs and allowing Lesotho to prepare its first BTR for submission to the UNFCCC.

With regard to coordination with sector-specific projects on mitigation policies, activities 1.3.1 and 1.3.2 of this CBIT initiative will build upon results obtained from other existing and previous projects, namely **Support to Reform in the Energy Sector** and **Development of Cornerstone Public Policies and Institutional Capacities to Accelerate SE4ALL Progress**, which have contributed to an initial building of sectorial MRV in the Energy Sector. In addition, the projects **Urban Distribution Rehabilitation and Transmission Expansion Project** and **Scaling Up Renewable Energy Program (SREP)** will provide mitigation datasets for MRV and numerical tracking of the same sector that will be taken as input under the above-mentioned activities.

Concerning MRV of Adaptation, coordination with the following sectorial projects should be noted: **Lesotho Adaptation of Small-Scale Agriculture, The Smallholder Agriculture Development Program, Reducing Vulnerability from Climate Change in the Foothills, Lowlands and Lower Senqu River Basin, Strengthening Capacity for climate change adaptation through support to Integrated Watershed Management Programme, Wool and Mohair Promotion Project, Technical support for the establishment of the Lesotho Soils Information System and Strengthening Capacity for Climate Change Adaptation through Support to Integrated Watershed Management**. Such projects increase the awareness and capacity of the government and local stakeholders to reduce risks of climate-induced losses at the sectorial level. Regarding projects under concurrent implementation, the CBIT project activities will be aligned to make sure that synergies are maximized and that a mechanism for coordination is set up. The expected outcomes of all these adaptation projects will provide input to activities 1.3.1, 1.3.2 and 1.3.3 of this CBIT project.

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions from below:

NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

The project is fully consistent with the objectives stated in the National Climate Change Policy (2017-2027), which encompasses adaptation and mitigation. It is especially aligned with the first INDC and looks into creating capacity to track its implementation as well as that of subsequent INDCs. Furthermore, the needs to be addressed by this project are aligned with the ones identified in Lesotho's First and Second National Communications to the UNFCCC, as well as with those that will be communicated in the 1st BUR and TNC. Furthermore, the project is designed to support a number of sectoral climate initiatives, as well as national plans, and assessments as follows:

Table 11: GEF project alignment with national strategies

National strategies / plans / reports / assessments	GEF Project Alignment and Contribution
Lesotho's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)	Lesotho has committed itself to the adoption and implementation of policies and measures designed to mitigate climate change and adapt to its impacts. Lesotho recognizes capacity building efforts in setting up a national MRV system as a fundamental pillar of its NDC for the purpose of transparency and accountability. The national MRV system for the NDC will build upon existing structures for M&E and inter-sectoral coordination. The development of a robust transparency framework which measures and tracks mitigation as well as adaptation efforts will enable Lesotho to expand the activities through which it can meet its mitigation and adaptation targets. This project will therefore create and strengthen an enabling policy environment and institutional setting that will contribute to the implementation of measures to adapt to and mitigate climate change. In addition, the project will provide data to update the national GHG inventory system, which will further enhance the accuracy of inventory information and inform future decision making. .
Lesotho's First and Second National Communications (FNC, SNC) to the UNFCCC	Lesotho's First National Communication reiterated that despite both short- and long-term training that had taken place in climate-related fields, the country required additional financial resources and greater coordination skills to build institutional capacity and take the subject of climate change to a broader audience, including rural communities. Lesotho SNC identified capacity-building needs as a tool to strengthen further the reporting and monitoring of national GHG data gathered through different sectors. This project is aligned with the national priorities and needs explained in the National Communications, and the CBIT activities identified are designed to address the gaps and capacity-building needs identified in the National Communications.

<p>National Climate Change Policy (NCCP)</p>	<p>The NCCP is a key policy document that puts in place robust adaptation and mitigation measures to address most of the challenges posed by climate variability and change. It has been developed to ensure that qualitative, effective and coherent climate change adaptation and mitigation processes take place, and to serve as the pillar for comprehensive sectoral strategies and action plans. The NCCP highlights the importance of robust GHG monitoring and accounting to support decision-making and access to climate finance and carbon markets. It also underscores the need to generate clear and accepted data for use in climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.</p>
<p>The National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)</p>	<p>The National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA, 2005) acknowledged that the key national institutions dealing with climate change are facing severe shortage of trained staff.</p>
<p>Technology Needs Assessment (TNA, 2004)</p>	<p>Lesotho undertook its first TNA in 2004. Further exercises to identify technologies needs for mitigation and adaptation have been done to a limited extent when identifying potential mitigation and adaptation measures within the framework of the preparation of national communications and the NDC. The Technology Needs Assessment Phase IV project, to be implemented by UNEP, will support the country in conducting a more comprehensive assessment for technology needs to address specific adaptation and mitigation actions. An endorsement letter was submitted on 14 October 2019 and the implementation is expected to start on 1st July 2020.</p> <p>The TNA (2004) on adaptation to climate change identified the following barriers which the project will directly or indirectly address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Lack of data, information, knowledge and awareness, especially on emerging technologies;</i> - <i>Insufficient human and institutional capabilities;</i> - <i>Inadequacy of policies or their absence thereof.</i>
<p>National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP)</p>	<p>The NDMP aims at: reducing vulnerability to climate-related disasters such as sustained and severe droughts; increasing capability to prevent, alleviate, contain, or minimize the effects of climate-related disasters; enhancing readiness or preparedness to deal with climate related disasters; and ensuring the country's full recovery from the impacts of disasters. The Disaster Management Authority (DMA) is conscious of the data requirements of the planning process that involves coordinating data from more than 10 government departmental sources. The CBIT project assistance will therefore not only support the overall objectives of disaster management but also strengthen and capacitate the process of planning for disaster mitigation.</p>

<p>Lesotho's Vision 2020</p>	<p>This document embodies the country's development aspirations up to the year 2020, and advocates for the strengthening of institutions that are responsible for natural resources and environmental management, environmental advocacy and awareness campaigns as the main challenge for the implementation of global agreements for sustainable development. As part of the implementation strategy for Vision 2020 (and succeeding the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and the Interim National Development Framework (INDF)), Lesotho developed the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) of 2012/13 – 2016/17, currently being updated. The project responds directly to the 4th and 5th strategic Goals of the NSDP by improving national resilience to climate change through undertaking or reviewing vulnerability assessments and strengthening capacity for disaster risk management.</p>
<p>United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2019-2023 for Lesotho</p>	<p>The project is aligned with UNDAF 2019-2023 for Lesotho, in its Pillar 3: "Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth for Poverty Reduction", Outcome 3.2: "By 2023, the people of Lesotho use natural resources in a more sustainable manner and the marginalized and most vulnerable are increasingly resilient" and Output 6: "The capacity of farmers, communities and institutions at national, district and local levels strengthened to design, implement and monitor community-based adaptive, resilient, climate smart natural resources management initiatives".</p>
<p>Lesotho Gender and Development Policy 2018 – 2030</p>	<p>The project is aligned with the objectives "Promote women, men, girls, boys" and other marginalized groups to participation in climate change decision-making and implementation." and "Facilitate equal participation and representation of women, men, girls, boys and other groups in climate change and resilience agenda".</p>

Hence, the proposed CBIT project is consistent with key national development priorities and policies, among which: **the National Strategic Development Plan, National Climate Change Policy (2017), Nationally Determined Contributions, National Disaster Risk Reduction policy (2011), Environmental Act (2008), National Environmental Action Plan and National Adaptation Programme of Action (2007)**. The proposed CBIT project also contributes to **Option 3 "Capacity Building and Policy Reform to Integrate Climate Change in Sectoral Development Plans"** and **Option 4 "Improvement of an Early Warning System against Climate Induced Disasters and Hazards"** defined in the Lesotho NAPA. The Government policies and strategies have in all cases emphasized the need for capacity-building in order to adapt to climate change. It is expected that this project will generate valuable lessons, methodologies and approaches to strengthen these policies so as to promote resilience throughout sectoral and national planning.

Finally, this project is also contributing to the Sustainable Development Goal 13 to combat climate change and its impacts; it will contribute to the specific target 13.3 "Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning" and 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?.

8. Knowledge Management

Elaborate the "Knowledge Management Approach" for the project, including a budget, key deliverables and a timeline, and explain how it will contribute to the project's overall impact.

Knowledge management and best practices exchange are important elements of the project and have been directly incorporated into several project outcomes/outputs.

The proposed project builds on lessons learned through the implementation of previous National Communications and the Biennial Update Report, as well as assessments undertaken through participation in the CBIT Global Coordination Platform. Such analysis is presented in section 1) *Global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed* and in section 2) *The baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects*.

With regard to plans to ensure the outreach and dissemination of project results, a strategy will be implemented on two different fronts: at the global and at the national levels. Envisaging international peer-exchange and outreach, LMS will rely on the links with the Global CBIT Coordination Platform to share lessons learned, disseminate project results and participate in peer-exchange activities, as outlined in project activity 3.5 (refer to the *Proposed alternative scenario* section for further details). At the national scale, LMS will develop and implement a plan to reach out to ministries, agencies and other relevant national stakeholders on a regular basis to share findings, results and project deliverables, including through the web-based / online tool developed as part of project activity 3.3 (refer to further details in the *Proposed alternative scenario* section).

LMS, as the executing agency responsible for overall coordination related to MRV of climate change, will be leading the management of information and knowledge products produced by the project and ensuring their appropriate dissemination to relevant stakeholders. Project-related information will also be shared through the NCCC, BOS, sectoral focal points and relevant non-state actors to ensure a wide outreach to the representatives of different ministries, academia and external experts. Knowledge products and communication materials produced by the project will be documented and widely shared at the national level through existing information sharing networks and forums like BOS' centralized databank that is easily accessible, Local Government Structures such as chiefs, District and Community Councils, and District and Village Disaster Management teams established by the Disaster Management Authority (DMA), which include stakeholders that are not only from the government but also include civil society organizations and the private sector. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security has an established and

vast network of extension services in the country, used to channel weather, climate and climate change information from LMS to the farmers, which will also be utilized.

Moreover, this CBIT initiative will build on these and other national stakeholders' engagement initiatives to strengthen information-sharing and data collection related to climate change. In addition, the proposed MRV system seeks to increase and improve the knowledge management on climate change and enabling activities including sourcing, sharing and reporting of nationally approved adaptation, mitigation and GHG activity data.

The project will work closely with related projects and produce knowledge exchange products on key innovations developed and carried out by the project. The experts from key GHG emission sectors and stakeholders will be encouraged to converge in different technical meetings to brainstorm and exchange information on the best option to track Lesotho's NDC.

Lesotho subscribes to the full implementation of the Paris Agreement and aims to remain an active partner of the CBIT Global Coordination Platform and the processes of sharing lessons, including gender related information, with other parties to the UNFCCC. This national project will allow the country to participate in the CBIT global coordination platform by providing and receiving inputs. Sharing lessons learnt and experiences under the platform will ensure alignment of this CBIT project with other national, regional and global transparency initiatives.

Communications

Information on processes and lessons learned will be consistently collected and documented throughout project implementation, as much as possible, and then shared and replicated to contribute to the project's impact and sustainability. Knowledge will be shared through the CBIT Global Coordination Platform. Critical results from project activities will be carefully documented and disseminated within and beyond the project intervention area through existing information sharing networks and fora.

The project will include the following activities to communicate and inform the stakeholders on the outputs of the CBIT project as well as other con-current projects:

- ? Presentation of achieved outputs and deliverables to project steering committee members 3 times a year, during the PSC meetings;
- ? Presentation of the results and findings of the project implementation and technical deliverables as part of side events in Conference of Parties (COP) and international/regional workshops for peer review

exchanges on lessons learned and good practices incorporated in the ETF framework of the PA from CBIT as described in Output 1.3;

? Presentation of the main findings of the project outputs to inline ministries and other stakeholders such as private sector and civil society organizations as part of the Final closing workshop.

The key deliverables contributing to knowledge management are summarised in the below table:

Table 12: Knowledge management-related deliverables

Outputs	Knowledge products produced by the project (deliverables)	Indicative timeline	Indicative Budget (US\$)
Component 1			
Output 1.1	D 1.1.2: Stakeholder consultation report on institutional arrangements and legal framework, including gender sensitive considerations	M6	30,000
	D 1.1.9: Training workshop report (including information on gender of participants) and training materials on handover training for newly appointed Transparency Unit staff	M3	20,000
Output 1.2	D 1.2.1: Report on protocols and methodologies to collect and manage GHG Inventory data	M5	30,000
	D 1.2.4: An operational climate data collection and tracking tool component of the MRV tool to support GHG Inventory compilation	M17	50,000
	D 1.2.5: 3 Train the Trainer workshops (including information on gender of participants), followed by training workshop reports and training materials	M22, M25, M28	20,000
Output 1.3	D 1.3.2: Report on indicators for the NDC target and methodology to use the indicators to track NDC progress	M8	20,000
	D 1.3.3: Tools, templates, guidelines, indicators and procedures for tracking NDC implementation (mitigation, adaptation and associated support) including data collection templates, methodologies for mitigation and adaptation action assessment and identification of wider impacts of climate action	M14	40,000
	D 1.3.5: An operational web-based climate data MRV tool ? a public facing system for display of national information and data on climate change, including the impacts of climate policies and actions	M17	70,000

	D 1.3.6: Three train the trainer workshops accompanied by workshop reports (including information on gender of participants) and training materials on tools, templates, guidelines, procedures and indicators for tracking NDC implementation (mitigation, adaptation and climate finance), evaluating wider impacts and compliance with reporting under the MPGs	M23. M26, M29	15,000
	Total estimated budget		295,000

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) activities and related costs are presented in the costed M&E Plan (Annex J) and are fully integrated in the overall project budget.

The project will follow UNEP standard monitoring, reporting and evaluation procedures. Reporting requirements and templates are an integral part of the legal instrument to be signed by the Executing Agency (LMS) and the Implementing Agency. The project M&E plan foresees a Terminal Evaluation (TE), worth USD 30,000. In addition, USD 3,500 have been provisioned to organize the project's Inception and Final Workshop.

The project M&E plan is consistent with the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation policy. The Project Results Framework presented in Annex A includes SMART indicators for each expected outcome as well as end-of-project targets. These indicators along with the key deliverables and benchmarks included in Annex L will be the main tools for assessing project implementation progress and whether project results are being achieved. The means of verification to track the indicators are summarized in Annex A. Moreover, the implementation of the Gender Action Plan will be monitored through the specific indicators, targets and means of verification provided in Table 8 under 3. *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment*.

The M&E plan will be reviewed and revised as necessary during the project Inception Workshop (IW) to ensure project stakeholders understand their roles and responsibilities vis-à-vis project monitoring and evaluation. Indicators and their means of verification may also be fine-tuned at the inception workshop. General project monitoring is the responsibility of the Project Management Unit (PMU) but other project partners could have responsibilities in collecting specific information to track the indicators. It is the responsibility of the Project Technical Coordinator to inform UNEP of any delays or difficulties faced during implementation so that the appropriate support or corrective measures can be adopted in a timely fashion.

The PSC will receive periodic reports on progress and will make recommendations to UNEP concerning the need to revise any aspects of the Results Framework or the M&E Plan. Project oversight to ensure that the project meets UNEP and GEF policies and procedures is the responsibility of the UNEP Task Manager. The UNEP Task Manager will also review the quality of draft project outputs, provide feedback to the project partners, and establish peer review procedures to ensure adequate quality of scientific and technical outputs and publications.

Project supervision will take an adaptive management approach. The UNEP Task Manager will develop a project Supervision Plan at the inception of the project, which will be communicated to the Project Management Unit and the project partners during the Inception Workshop. The emphasis of the Task Manager's supervision will be on outcome monitoring but without neglecting project financial management and implementation monitoring.

Progress vis-?-vis delivering the agreed project global environmental benefits will be assessed with the Steering Committee at agreed intervals. Project risks and assumptions will be regularly monitored both by the Project Management Unit, the project partners and UNEP. Risk assessment and rating is an integral part of the Project Implementation Review (PIR). The PIR will be completed by the Project Technical Coordinator and ratings will be provided by UNEP's Task Manager. The quality of project monitoring and evaluation will also be reviewed and rated as part of the PIR. UNEP's Task Manager will have the responsibility of verifying the PIR and submitting it to the GEF. Key financial parameters will be monitored quarterly to ensure cost-effective use of financial resources.

Since this is a Medium-Size Project (MSP) of less than 4 years of duration, no Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) will be undertaken. However, if the project is rated as being at risk or if deemed needed by the Task Manager, he/she may decide to conduct an optional Mid-Term Review (MTR). This review will include all parameters recommended by the GEF Evaluation Office for Terminal Evaluations (TE) and will verify information gathered through the GEF tracking tools, as relevant. The review will be carried out using a participatory approach whereby parties that may benefit or be affected by the project will be consulted. Such parties were identified during the stakeholder analysis (see section 2 above). Members of the project Steering Committee could be interviewed as part of the MTR process and the Project Manager will develop a management response to the review recommendations along with an implementation plan. Results of the MTR will be presented to the Project Steering Committee. It is the responsibility of the UNEP Task Manager to monitor whether the agreed recommendations are being implemented.

In line with the GEF Evaluation requirements and UNEP's Evaluation Policy, all GEF funded projects are subject to a performance assessment when they reach operational completion. This performance assessment will be either an independent Terminal Evaluation or a management-led Terminal Review.

In case a Review is required, the UNEP Evaluation Office will provide tools, templates, and guidelines to support the Review consultant. For all Terminal Reviews, the UNEP Evaluation Office will perform a quality assessment of the Terminal Review report and validate the Review's performance ratings. This quality assessment will be attached as an Annex to the Terminal Review report, validated performance ratings will be captured in the main report.

However, if an independent Terminal Evaluation (TE) of the project is required, the Evaluation Office will be responsible for the entire evaluation process and will liaise with the Task Manager and the project implementing partners at key points during the evaluation. The TE will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. It will have 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 staff and implementing partners. The direct costs of the evaluation (or the management-led review) will be charged against the project evaluation budget. The TE will typically be initiated after the project's operational completion. If a follow-on phase of the project is envisaged, the timing of the evaluation will be discussed with the Evaluation Office in relation to the submission of the follow-on proposal.

The evaluation report will be publicly disclosed and will be followed by a recommendation compliance process. The evaluation recommendations will be entered into a Recommendations Implementation Plan template by the Evaluation Office. Formal submission of the completed Recommendations Implementation Plan by the Project Manager is required within one month of its delivery to the project team.

The Evaluation Office will monitor compliance with this plan every six months for a total period of 12 months from the finalisation of the Recommendations Implementation Plan. The compliance performance against the recommendations is then reported to senior management on a six-monthly basis and to member States in the Biennial Evaluation Synthesis Report.

The GEF Core Indicator Worksheet is attached as Annex F. It will be updated at mid-term and at the end of the project and will be made available to the GEF Secretariat along with the project PIR report. As mentioned above, the MTR/MTE and TE will verify the information of the tracking tool.

The direct costs of reviews and evaluations will be charged against the project evaluation budget. A summary of M&E activities envisaged is provided in Annex J. The GEF contribution for this project's M&E activities (including the inception workshop, PSC meetings, closure workshop and evaluations) is US\$ 45,000.

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget from GEF	Budget co-finance	Time Frame
Inception Workshop	Executing Agency (Project Manager)	\$ 3,750 (for catering, transport, and venue)		Within 2 months of project start-up
Inception Workshop Report	Executing Agency (Project Manager)	Part of the PM duties		3-4 weeks after the Inception Workshop
Measurement of project progress and performance indicators	Executing Agency (Project Manager)	Part of the PM duties		Annually, as part of the PIR
Baseline measurement of project outcome indicators, GEF Core indicators	Executing Agency (Project Manager)	Part of the PM duties		Included in Annex A of the CEO Endorsement Document
Mid-point measurement of project outcome indicators, GEF Core indicators	Executing Agency (Project Manager)	Part of the PM duties		Mid-Point (as part of the MTR or the PIR process)
End-point measurement of project outcome indicators, GEF Core indicators	Executing Agency (Project Manager)	Part of the PM duties		End Point (as part of the final PIR, Final Report or TE)
Half-Yearly Progress Reports	Executing Agency (Project Manager)	Part of the PM duties		Within 1 month of the end of reporting period i.e. on or before 31 January and 31 July

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget from GEF	Budget co-finance	Time Frame
Gender Action Plan as per Table 8 under 3. <i>Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</i> .	Executing Agency (Project Manager)	Part of the PM and Gender expert duties		Within 1 month of the end of reporting period i.e. on or before 31 January and 31 July (as part of the Half-Yearly Progress Reports and PIRs.)
Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings	Executing Agency (Project Manager and National Project Director)	US\$ 7,500 for catering and transport costs only (3 PSC meetings per year over 3 years)	Venue to be co-financed by EA (EA meeting room)	Three (3) per year
Reports of PSC meetings	Executing Agency (Project Manager)	Part of the PM duties		2 weeks after PSC meeting
Project Implementation Review (PIR) report	Executing Agency (Project Manager) and UNEP (Task Manager)	Part of the PM duties		Annually, part of reporting routine
Monitoring visits to field sites	Executing Agency			As appropriate
Quarterly expenditure reports	Executing Agency (Project Manager and Financial Officer)	Part of the PM and Financial Officer duties		Within 1 month of the end of reporting period i.e. on or before 31 January, 30 April, 31 July and 31 October
Annual Inventory of Non-expendable equipment	Executing Agency (Project Manager)	Part of the PM duties		Annually, as at 31 December of each year, to be submitted within 2 months
Co-financing report	Executing Agency (Project Manager) and co-finance partners	Part of the PM duties		Annually, on or before 31 July

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget from GEF	Budget co-finance	Time Frame
Final closing workshop	Executing Agency (Project Manager)	US\$ 3,750 (for catering, transport, and venue)		1 or 2 months before the project's technical completion
Final closing Workshop Report	Executing Agency (Project Manager)	Part of the PM duties		2-3 weeks after the closing Workshop
UNEP Final Report	Executing Agency (Project Manager)	Part of the PM duties		Within 2 months of the project completion date
Publication of Lessons Learnt and other project documents	Executing Agency (Project Manager)	Part of the PM duties		Part Final Report
Terminal Evaluation (TE)	UNEP Evaluation Office, with the support of the UNEP Task Manager and the Executing Agency	US\$ 30,000		Initiated at the project's technical completion
Total		US\$ 45,000		

10. Benefits

Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, as appropriate. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)?

This CBIT project will support Lesotho to develop a national MRV system to support climate mitigation and adaptation action. The development of such a system can provide primary and secondary socioeconomic benefits. Primarily with the creation of sustainable employment opportunities at a local level through the commitment to strengthen institutional memory and standardize processes. This will be achieved in the project duration predominantly through the formation of the Climate Transparency Unit under LMS. Whilst initially this will be staffed by international consultants, the handover of the role to new government employees will directly create jobs and support the career development of individuals

through institutionalised roles and responsibilities as well as technical training (e.g. NDC tracking and stock takes).

The secondary benefits of increased transparency for climate change reporting can be far reaching and myriad. Improved mitigation and adaptation monitoring and reporting can ensure that co-benefits are focused and prioritized as part of climate action. Enhanced coordination between government ministries, private sector, civil society, academia and communities ensures that socioeconomic benefits are brought into focus. This can include responsive energy planning, improving the national and local economies, improving the resilience of agriculture industries, improving the health and wellbeing of the population and empowering communities and citizens.

The activities in Output 1.3 notably will inform and drive the implementation of policies in the areas of GHG mitigation and climate change adaptation in relation to the implementation of the NDC. These initiatives will be in line with the obligations under the UNFCCC, national sustainable development needs and the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) No. 13 to combat climate change and its impacts.

The project is also associated with global benefits through capacity development mainly in the areas of GHG inventories and emission reductions. In the absence of this project, there will be an uncoordinated approach in data collection and analysis, which will prevent effective implementation of the NDC in Lesotho. With the effective implementation of this project Lesotho will be able to contribute to the global effort committed to under the Paris Agreement.

11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification*

PIF

CEO
Endorsement/Approval

MTR

TE

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Low	Low		

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Elaborate on the types and risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and impacts (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and any measures undertaken as well as planned management measures to address these risks during implementation.

This is a low risk project. However the UNEP ESSF guiding principles - Leave No One Behind, accountability, resilience and sustainability, gender equality and women empowerment - are still applicable to low-risk projects.

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
10635_CBIT Lesotho_SRIF	CEO Endorsement ESS	
CBIT Lesotho_ESERN_2021.04.09	Project PIF ESS	

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

Project Objective	Objective level Indicators	Baseline	End of project Target	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	UN Environment MTS reference
To build and strengthen Lesotho's national capacities for planning, monitoring and evaluating its climate policies and actions as defined in the Nationally Determined Contribution in order to comply with the Paris Agreement Enhanced Transparency Framework.	Indicator A: Number of women capacitated in handling climate change data and contributing to climate action decision making	Baseline A: 5	End-of-project target A: 60	Attendance sheets of training events disaggregated by gender (target 60% women). Post-training surveys to collect feedback of participants on the usefulness/effectiveness of the training, disaggregated by gender.	Assumptions: The respective institutions will support training of female individuals involved in climate change data handling and climate action. Risks: Women intended to receive the training may not be able to participate due to factors that disproportionately affect women, such as expectations of family duties.	UNEP MTS 2022-2025 The expected 2030 outcome of UNEP Climate Change subprogramme is that "government and non-government development actions are compatible with the long-term mitigation and resilience goals of the Paris Agreement".
	Indicator B: Qualitative assessment of institutional capacity for transparency related activities <i>Based on the GEF 1-4 rating scale outlined in Annex IV of the CBIT Programming Directions*</i>	Baseline B: 2	End-of-project target B: 3 (+1)	Evaluation by LMS at the technical compilation of the project against criteria set forth in CBIT programming directions, Annex IV	Assumptions: Interest shown by the inline sectoral agencies of the project will be sustained to support the capacity requirements of Enhanced Transparency of Framework of Paris Agreement. The National Climate Change Bill will be ratified to provide legal framework.	

* Guidance for ratings:

1. No designated transparency institution to support and coordinate the planning and implementation of transparency activities under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement exists.
2. Designated transparency institution exists, but with limited staff and capacity to support and coordinate implementation of transparency activities under Article 13 of Paris Agreement. Institution lacks authority or mandate to coordinate transparency activities under Article 13.
3. Designated transparency institution has an organizational unit with standing staff with some capacity to coordinate and implement transparency activities under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement. Institution has authority or mandate to coordinate transparency activities under Article 13. Activities are not integrated into national planning or budgeting activities.
4. Designated transparency institution(s) has an organizational unit with standing staff with some capacity to coordinate and implement transparency activities. Institution(s) has clear mandate or authority to coordinate activities under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, and activities are integrated into national planning and budgeting activities.

Project Outcomes	Outcome level Indicators	Baseline	End of project Target	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	MTS Expected Accomplishment
Outcome 1: Lesotho uses climate change data and information as input to plan, monitor and report climate change strategies, policies and actions in compliance with the Enhanced Transparency Framework	Indicator 1.1: Qualitative rating of the national GHG inventory reporting in its ability to track GHG emission from the key sectors <i>Based on the GEF 1-10 rating scale, outlined in Annex III of the CBIT Programming Directions**</i>	Baseline 1.1: 2	End-of-project target 1.1: 6 (+4)	Stakeholders' feedback reports on the quality of the national GHG inventory and its ability to track emissions in key sectors. This can include comments on the availability of data and whether sufficient resources are allocated by institutions. Assessment report on the country's institutional capacity for transparency, including inputs from climate change focal points within ministries and key sectors. Feedback from the ICA process under the PA (if submission of UNFCCC reports coincide with project completion date).	Assumption: The institutions will release people for training. Participants will train other staff within their institutions. Risk: Constraints in administering physical training due to COVID 19.	CC Subprogramme, Outcome 3: State and non-state actors adopt the enhanced transparency framework arrangements under the Paris Agreement
	Indicator 1.2: Qualitative rating of the national MRV system for tracking mitigation, adaptation and support. <i>Based on the GEF 1-10 rating scale outlined in Annex III of the CBIT Programming Directions**</i>	Baseline 1.2: 2	End of project target 1.2: 7 (+5)	Stakeholder's feedback gathering at the end of training activities delivered in Output 1.3 on the MRV tool for tracking mitigation, adaptation and support. Longer term, feedback from ICA process under the PA.	Assumption: Incentives will be in place to maintain trained staff within government agencies who benefit from training. Risk: Engagement from stakeholders is low and restrictions to capacity building due to COVID-19.	
	Indicator 1.3: Number of stakeholders (sectoral representatives) using training and tools provided to elaborate climate change policies and report on NDC activities in conformity with the enhanced transparency framework of the Paris Agreement	Baseline 1.3: 0	End-of-project target 1.3: 30 (out of which 60% of women)	Stakeholders' feedback gathered from surveys conducted at the end of the project on their capabilities to use the training and tools provided to elaborate climate change policies and reports. (Disaggregated by gender)	Assumption: The institutions will release individuals for training. Participants will train other staff within their institutions. Designed tools and templates are adopted and used Risk: Constraints in administering physical training due to COVID 19. Insufficient participation of key stakeholders	
	Indicator 1.4: Number of indicators, including gender sensitive indicators, tracking the Nationally Determined Contribution populated in the online MRV tool.	Baseline 1.4: 0	End-of-project target 1.4: 8	Review of indicator data available on the online platform.	Assumption: The institutions will release individuals for training. Participants will train other staff within their institutions. Indicator data is available. Risk: Accessibility of technology as a barrier for engagement.	

****Guidance for Ratings:**

1. Very little measurement is done, reporting is partial and irregular and verification is not there.
2. Measurement systems are in place but data is of poor quality and/or methodologies are not very robust; reporting is done only on request or to limited audience or partially; verification is not there.
3. Measurement systems are in place for a few activities, improved data quality and methodologies, but not cost or time efficient; wider access to reporting is still limited and information is partial; verification is rudimentary/non-standardized
4. Measurement systems are strong in a limited set of activities however, analyses still needs improvement; periodic monitoring and reporting although not yet cost/time efficient; verification is only upon specific request and limited.
5. Measurement systems are strong for a limited set of activities and periodically report on key GHG related indicators i.e. mainstreamed into the activity implementation; reporting is improved through few pathways but limited audience and formats; verification limited.
6. Measurement systems are strong and cover a greater percentage of activities ? feedback loops exist even if they are not fully functioning; reporting is available through multiple pathways and formats but may not be complete/transparent; verification is done through standard methodologies but only partially (i.e. not all data is verifiable)
7. Measurement regarding GHG is broadly done (with widely acceptable methodologies), need for more sophisticated analyses to improve policy; Reporting is periodic with improvements in transparency; verification is done through more sophisticated methods even if partially
8. Strong standardized measurements processes established for key indicators and mainstreamed into institutional policy implementation; reporting is widely available in multiple formats; verification is done for a larger set of information
9. Strong Monitoring and Reporting systems ? robust methodologies, cost effective

and efficient, periodic; verification done to a significant degree
10. Strong MRV systems that provide quality GHG related information in a transparent, accurate and accessible to a wide audience, with feedback of information from MRV flowing into policy design and implementation.

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

PIF REVIEW SHEET

Enabling Lesotho's Enhanced Transparency Framework

GEF Secretariat Review for Medium Sized Project ? GEF - 7

Basic Information

GEF ID

10635

Countries

Lesotho

Project Title

Enabling Lesotho's Enhanced Transparency Framework

GEF Agency(ies)

UNEP

Agency ID

UNEP: 01840

GEF Focal Area(s)

Climate Change

Program Manager

Namrata Rastogi

PIF

Part I ? Project Information

Focal area elements

1. Is the project/program aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements in Table A, as defined by the GEF 7 Programming Directions?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

8/11/2020: Yes, the project is aligned with the GEF climate change focal area strategy.

Agency Response

Indicative project/program description summary

2. Are the components in Table B and as described in the PIF sound, appropriate, and sufficiently clear to achieve the project/program objectives and the core indicators?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

8/11/2020: The project is organized under one component and one outcome (which is the same as the project's objective). We suggest breaking it into additional project outcomes to provide additional clarity as to how the resources will be distributed among the different areas of work and to further breakdown the outputs which are quite broad.

6/4/2021: While we see changes in the submitted PDF, these have not been fully reflected in the Portal, particularly the breakdown of resources by output.

7/20/2021: Changes have been reflected in table B of the portal. Cleared.

Agency Response

July 15, 2021

The resources per output have now also been broken down in the GEF Portal.

April 9, 2021

The comment was duly considered and, in response, the component and outcome statements have been reworded to differentiate from the objective statement. Most importantly, the single outcome has been restructured so that the 3 outputs are organized by theme (institutional arrangements, GHG inventories and MRV system/NDC tracking), following guidance from UNEP's Quality Assurance Section (QAS). This restructuring implied a reorganization of activities and also a more balanced distribution of the budget among the three outputs, as per Table B (p. 1-2) and Section 3. Alternative scenario (p. 16-25).

We have also taken the opportunity of this review sheet to update the CBIT Lesotho PIF in line with the latest GEF guidance on M&E. As such, the M&E budget has been segregated as a separate line in Table B. The US\$ 45,000 budgeted for M&E include the costs of the Inception Workshop and the Terminal Evaluation, which were previously budgeted for under the different project Outputs.

Note: all the edits have been highlighted in yellow in the updated PDF version of the CBIT Lesotho PIF uploaded in the "Documents" tab of the GEF portal.

Co-financing

3. Are the indicative expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines, with a description on how the breakdown of co-financing was identified and meets the definition of investment mobilized?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

8/11/2020: Please clarify from which ministry or government office the expected in-kind co-financing would come from.

6/4/2021: Cleared.

Agency Response

April 9, 2021

The Ministry of Energy and Meteorology through Lesotho Meteorological Service (LMS) has been included as the co-financier in Table C.

GEF Resource Availability

4. Is the proposed GEF financing in Table D (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines? Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

8/11/2020: The GEF financing requested seems high for the proposed project and context. Please comment.

6/4/2021: While this is true, we note that Lesotho is a much smaller economy than the countries listed by comparison. In addition, Lesotho has ongoing work on its first BUR and Third NC that has been approved since 2014. We are simply asking for clarifications on how the project's cost was estimated considering the context.

7/20/2021: This has been sufficiently explained. Cleared.

Agency Response

July 15, 2021

The proposed budget reflects the need to undertake a number of activities and produce deliverables to improve national climate transparency in order to meet the requirements of the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement. Several activities, products and services that are required have their costs determined not by the size of the country's economy but rather by fixed minimum start-up costs of investment for the implementation of a MRV system on a permanent basis (the proposed software tools and other tracking tools indicated in outputs 2 and 3 are good examples in this regard). Moreover, some activities such as training events require the preparation of training materials and manuals, which entails high costs regardless of the number of attendees.

We would like to emphasize the fact that the country government is also committing to provide in-kind co-finance which amounts to over 18% of the GEF grant requested, demonstrating the relevance attributed by the country to the CBIT project ? a commendable effort given the size of the country's economy.

Finally, even though Lesotho is a small economy, as pointed out by the GEF reviewers, the vulnerabilities of Lesotho to climate change are quite remarkable and go beyond the size of its economy. In this instance, the effectiveness of the CBIT initiative in the country will also depend on an adequate budget that responds to the challenges posed by climate change.

April 9, 2021

The GEF financing being requested for this project ? US\$ 1,182,500 ? stands in the standard range for a CBIT national project. Examples from other approved CBIT projects in Africa include CBIT Sierra Leone (US\$ 1,344,495) CBIT Burkina Faso (US\$ 1,180,000), CBIT Ghana (US\$ 1,100,000) and CBIT South Africa (US\$ 1,100,000).

The STAR allocation?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

8/11/2020: N/A

Agency Response

The focal area allocation?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

8/11/2020: N/A

Agency Response

The LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

8/11/2020: N/A

Agency Response

The SCCF (Adaptation or Technology Transfer)?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

8/11/2020: N/A

Agency Response

Focal area set-aside?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

8/11/2020: As of this date there are sufficient resources in the CBIT set-aside to support this project.

Agency Response

Impact Program Incentive?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

8/11/2020: N/A

Agency Response

Project Preparation Grant

5. Is PPG requested in Table E within the allowable cap? Has an exception (e.g. for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated? (not applicable to PFD)

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

8/11/2020: Yes, a PPG request of \$50,000 is made, which is within the allowable cap for a MSP.

Agency Response

Core indicators

6. Are the identified core indicators in Table F calculated using the methodology included in the corresponding Guidelines? (GEF/C.54/11/Rev.01)

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

8/11/2020: Yes, a number and explanation for target beneficiaries has been provided. Please note that by CEO endorsement we will also ask for the CBIT qualitative indicators to be reported on.

Agency Response

April 9, 2021

This is well noted. We will make sure the CBIT qualitative indicators are included in the project results framework of the CEO Endorsement Document.

Project/Program taxonomy

7. Is the project/program properly tagged with the appropriate keywords as requested in Table G?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

8/11/2020: Yes, the project is properly tagged.

Agency Response

Part II ? Project Justification

1. Has the project/program described the global environmental/adaptation problems, including the root causes and barriers that need to be addressed?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

8/11/2020: We're specifically interested in learning more about the context for Lesotho and the root causes and barriers to meeting the requirements of the enhanced transparency framework and other transparency-related activities in line with national priorities. Please review this section so that it is more relevant to Lesotho and the context of the project. We note that some of this information is provided under the baseline scenario.

6/4/2021: Not cleared. The section added of limited capacities does not seem to be specific to Lesotho. Please revise and be more specific.

7/20/2021: Cleared.

Agency Response

July 15, 2021

Section "1. Global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed" has been improved to include specific information on the limited capacities of Lesotho to carry out transparency-related activities, as per a recent self-assessment as well as reports issued by external consultants in the context of the preparation of the country's first BUR (p. 7).

April 9, 2021

Section "1. Global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed" has been amended to include an analysis of the root causes and barriers in Lesotho to meeting the requirements of the enhanced transparency framework and other transparency-related activities (p. 6-7).

2. Is the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects appropriately described?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

8/11/2020: Please address comments below:

1. While the section elaborates on key gaps and barriers as informed by the CBIT self-assessment tools, we found some of the information to be quite broad and lacking a level of prioritization. We suggest this section and the previous one are further revised to provide additional clarity (including identifying areas where additional information/detail may be needed, which is what the PPG can further support).
2. We appreciate the inclusion of several projects serving as baseline; however, these are lacking time frames to further explain their relevance and potential synergies. Please provide.
3. Additional specific information as to the experience of the country in the implementation of its enabling activity projects, including the one currently underway (TNC and first BUR) is needed. What is the current implementation status for those projects? Why have they been so delayed since approval in 2014 and 2015? What specific barriers have been identified from these experiences and how do they inform this proposal? The inclusion of the different activities under the BUR 1 project, which overlap with this project is confusing. The way it is presented undermines the incremental reasoning for this project. Please clarify.

6/4/2021: This section was significantly strengthened.

1. Cleared.

2. Cleared.

3. Please update this section on NC and BUR submission as according to the UNFCCC website these reports have not yet been submitted.

7/20/2021: The expected end dates of the NC and BUR projects have been updated. Cleared.

Agency Response

July 15, 2021

3. The section has been updated with information according to which the submission of the TNC and BUR to the UNFCCC is expected for September 2021 (p. 14).

April 9, 2021

1. Section "2. *Baseline Scenario*" has been revised to provide additional clarity on gaps and barriers, including areas where additional information could be obtained through PPG support (p. 7-16).

2. Further information on the baseline projects, such as timeframes, relevance and potential synergies, have been added to this section (p. 14-16).

3. Additional clarification has been provided on the status of the TNC and BUR1 projects, barriers identified, and activities that will feed into this CBIT Project (p. 8-10; 13-15); coordination to avoid overlap has been further explored in Section "6. *Coordination*". Moreover, all along Section "3. *Alternative Scenario*", the text now mentions how CBIT will build upon these projects, including their specific partial results that informed the elaboration of this PIF.

3. Does the proposed alternative scenario describe the expected outcomes and components of the project/program?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

8/11/2020: See comment above on Table B regarding the proposed structure of the project. Overall, it is difficult to assess this section, without further clarity on the barriers and baseline scenario per the

comments above. We found this section to be repetitive and too broad at times, so it could use a revision as well. Simplifying this section would aid the review process, particularly in areas where there is not a lot of clarity at this stage. See additional questions below on each output:

Output 1: Activity 1.3 seems to anticipate the results of Activity 1.1, which aims to analyse the current transparency framework and identify gaps and barriers, and Activity 1.2, which will propose formal institutional arrangements based on that analysis, will lead to the need for the creation of a "climate transparency unit". Further, Activity 1.4 should likely be part of the consideration taken in the analysis and proposal under Activities 1.1 and 1.2.

Output 2: This output is quite wide in scope and it is unclear how it builds upon existing capacities and systems. Additional prioritization (or plans for prioritization during PPG is not known at this time) is needed. Activity 2.1: What is meant by an NDC implementation tracking system? What institutional arrangements are expected to support this? Activity 2.2: How do these tools, templates, protocols and guidelines build on existing ones and how will it respond to gaps in data availability, etc.? Activity 2.4: What impact are default emissions factors having on Lesotho's inventory and are country-specific emission factors expected to have a large impact? Is this a priority when compared to the rest of the needs in the country's transparency system? Activity 2.5: Is there an existing website for this type of information? How is this activity informed by experience? Will it be an information portal only or will it also be used for data management?

Output 3: Consider re-organizing Outputs 2 and 3 to integrate training under the specific topics, instead of bundling all training under a separate output. Activity 3.1 would be aligned with Activity 2.6, Activity 3.2 would be aligned with Activity 2.1.

6/4/2021: Thank you for the clarifications. This section has also been significantly strengthened. Our comments have been addressed. Cleared.

Agency Response

April 9, 2021

Sections "1. *Global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers*", and "2. *Baseline scenario*" have been improved for additional clarity (p. 6-16).

Section "3. *Alternative scenario*" has also been re-worked and outputs restructured. Below are further details for each Output:

Output 1, which has been reformulated as *?Institutional arrangements and legal framework to collect and manage GHG Inventory data and NDC tracking data drafted and submitted to the government for adoption?* now comprises the following activities, in reply to the concerns raised in the comment (p. 18-20):

- *Activity 1.1 Analyse the current transparency framework in Lesotho, various institutions, mandates, roles and responsibilities and identification of gaps, barriers and needs related to the collection and management of GHG Inventory data and NDC tracking data in view of the ETF and its various reporting requirements*

- *Activity 1.2 Draft and propose for Government adoption formal institutional arrangements and the associated legal framework needed to collect and manage GHG Inventory data and NDC tracking data at the national level*

- *Activity 1.3 Identify national budget and staff needs to establish the institutional arrangements proposed and the implementation of the associated legal framework*

As previously stated, the single outcome has been restructured so that the 3 outputs are organized by theme (institutional arrangements, GHG inventories and MRV system/NDC tracking). **Output 2** has thus been amended to focus on GHG inventories and its new formulation is *?National GHG Inventory Management System improved and relevant stakeholders trained on IPCC's latest guidelines and tools for national GHG inventories?*. Moreover, its activities were reviewed for a more efficient prioritization, based on the analysis of deliverables produced under the BUR1 project: the activity on the development of country-specific emission factors and activity data has been replaced by the development of methodologies to apply protocols for QA/QC of GHG Inventory data. Output 2 now comprises activities centered on: protocols and methodologies for collecting, managing and undertaking QA/QC of GHG Inventory data; a climate data collection and tracking tool; and related training. Also, the analysis established by the country with regards to the processes of preparation of the last two National GHG inventories has identified the need for the country to progressively move away from a system of preparation of these inventories through the work of international consultants, with limited interaction with national government counterparts towards a system based on a permanent involvement of the Government GHG Inventory team. Together arises the need to review the availability and suitability of existing tools, templates, protocols and guidelines, considering also the declared interest of the country to start implementation of the 2006 IPCC guidelines for national inventories. Conclusions from previous projects for the preparation of GHG inventories will help to identify appropriate sources of activity data and shed light on how to respond to gaps in data availability. These will be further analyzed at PPG stage. Finally, with regards to the preparation of a web-based climate data display tool as part of the national MRV system of Lesotho (Activity 3.3), currently there is no similar tool, as information on projects and its results are displayed on an ad-hoc basis according to the objectives of different climate-related projects (p. 25). A different climate data collection and tracking tool will be built under activity 2.3 of this Project, as further clarified below with respect to Information Technology (IT) tools.

Output 3 is now formulated as *National MRV system designed, tested and operationalized and Ministry staff/local authorities and other relevant stakeholders trained on tracking Nationally Determined Contributions according to the ETF, including co-benefits for SDGs achievement*. It now encompasses activities focused on: an NDC implementation tracking system ? indicators, tools, templates, protocols and guidelines ? including for support needed and received, climate change impacts and adaptation; a web-based climate data display tool; capacity-building and tools to implement the national MRV system; and peer-exchange through the CBIT Global Coordination Platform.

Further clarification has been provided in the description of *Activity 3.1 Develop and adopt an NDC implementation tracking system, including indicators for monitoring and evaluation* (p. 24, previously, Activity 2.1).

- Concerning current *Activity 3.2. Elaborate tools, templates, protocols and guidelines for tracking of NDC commitments, including support needed and received as well as information related to climate change impacts and adaptation*, as mentioned in the description of Output 3, the templates, protocols and guidelines for data management will build upon work under BUR1, activity 5.2. ?Develop and document protocols and operation procedures for the MRV System?. An NDC implementation tracking system will be inaugurated, with the provision of new formalized protocols and methodologies for data collection and reporting with standardized sectorial guidelines, templates and tools will ensure that climate data and information flow properly, especially from line and auxiliary agencies (p. 24). CBIT will establish an NDC implementation tracking system which is missing, according to the Second National Communication report, as indicated in section 2. *Baseline scenario* (p. 13). Additional information on tools has been provided under *Activities 2.3 and 3.3* (p. 22; p. 24-25), as further explained below.

- Previous *Activity 2.4 Develop country-specific emission factors and activity data, prioritizing the energy and AFOLU sectors* has been replaced by *Activity 2.2 Develop methodologies to apply protocols for QA/QC of the GHG Inventory data*. Based on the analysis of deliverables produced in preparation for the Third National Communication and BUR1, priorities have been reviewed with regards to the skills to be developed and associated tools. After an assessment of the two last GHG inventories prepared in 2018 and 2020 by external firms, priorities have shifted from the development of local emissions factors to enhancing QA/QC and training. Additional information on QA:QC has been provided in the output description (p. 20-21).

- For the sake of clarity, two IT tools were distinguished:

(i) one focused on collecting and managing data for internal use of the technical staff in relevant institutions, which is the focus of *Activity 2.3 Test and operationalize a climate data collection and tracking tool*, under output 2 (p. 22), aimed at improving data collection and management, with the double objective of enhancing the preparation of the National GHG Inventory and the NDC implementation tracking (further information is provided in the description on which BUR1 project activities will inform activity 2.3); Results of this activity will allow Lesotho to properly keep track of its progress in NDC implementation, and in producing high quality transparency reports, in order to allow the Party to report under the ETF set by the PA, and provide useful and accurate inputs to the global stocktaking, as well as to assist the country in providing information to feed the web-based climate data display tool (described in Activity 3.3 cited below);

(ii) the other tool, to be developed under *Activity 3.3 Develop and operationalize a web-based climate data display tool as a part of the national MRV system of Lesotho*, will be oriented towards displaying data and information to external users from the national and international community, providing direct access to national information and data on climate change, including the impacts of climate policies and actions, to all relevant institutions and the general public (now under output 3, p. 24-25).

Details on the software and hardware specification related to such tools will be further developed at PPG stage.

4. Training activities have been reorganized under the specific topics of outputs 2 and 3. Now the following activities include training:

- *Activity 2.4 Train staff from government institutions and relevant stakeholders to use the climate data collection and tracking tool and manage relevant data associated with the preparation of the National GHG Inventory* (p. 22)

- *Activity 3.4 Enhance skills and provide tools to implement the national MRV system of Lesotho including tracking progress of NDC implementation* (p. 25).

4. Is the project/program aligned with focal area and/or Impact Program strategies?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

8/11/2020: Yes.

Agency Response

5. Is the incremental/additional cost reasoning properly described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

8/11/2020: This is ok at this stage, although additional clarity on the previous sections will strengthen this reasoning.

6/4/2021: Cleared.

Agency Response

April 9, 2021

This is well noted. Refer to our replies above for further details.

6. Are the project?s/program?s indicative targeted contributions to global environmental benefits (measured through core indicators) reasonable and achievable? Or for adaptation benefits?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

8/11/2020: yes.

Agency Response

7. Is there potential for innovation, sustainability and scaling up in this project?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

8/11/2020: Consider the role of Lesotho as a leader among LDCs and how this might be able to play a role in scaling up and innovation.

6/4/2021: Cleared.

Agency Response

April 9, 2021

Section "7) Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up" has been amended to include mentioning to the country's role as a LDC (p. 28).

Project/Program Map and Coordinates

Is there a preliminary geo-reference to the project's/program's intended location?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

8/11/2020: This is a national capacity-building project.

Agency Response

Stakeholders

Does the PIF/PFD include indicative information on Stakeholders engagement to date? If not, is the justification provided appropriate? Does the PIF/PFD include information about the proposed means of future engagement?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

8/11/2020: Thank you for providing the detailed list of key stakeholders. Please comment on whether any stakeholders were part of consultation during the project identification stage.

6/4/2021: Cleared.

Agency Response

April 9, 2021

Stakeholders consultation at PIF stage happened through the National Climate Change Committee (NCCC). The text under Section "2. *Stakeholders*" has been amended accordingly (p. 30-31).

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Is the articulation of gender context and indicative information on the importance and need to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, adequate?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

8/11/2020: Yes.

Agency Response

Private Sector Engagement

Is the case made for private sector engagement consistent with the proposed approach?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

8/11/2020: Yes.

Agency Response

[Redacted area]

Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Does the project/program consider potential major risks, including the consequences of climate change, that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved or may be resulting from project/program implementation, and propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

8/11/2020: Please add climate-change related risks.

6/4/2021: Cleared.

Agency Response

April 9, 2021

Climate change risks have been added to the 'Risks' section (p. 36).

Coordination

Is the institutional arrangement for project/program coordination including management, monitoring and evaluation outlined? Is there a description of possible coordination with relevant

GEF-financed projects/programs and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project/program area?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

8/11/2020: Please remove repetitive information in the description of the baseline projects and focus on specific areas of coordination and differentiate between activities/projects that will inform this project, activities/projects that will happen in parallel to this project and thus will require active coordination, and activities/projects that will be informed by this project. For example, under the Lesotho Adaptation of Small-Scale Agriculture (LASAP) project, the description mentions that meteorological stations and downscaled models can feed directly into early warning systems and mechanisms in this project. However, it is not clear which Component, Output, Outcomes this is referring to. Please clarify.

6/4/2021: Thank you for the additional clarifications. Please consider further simplifying the section to only include projects with which there will be direct coordination. (i.e. informing the design of the project falls more under KM than coordination). This section should not be repetitive to the baseline scenario section.

7/20/2021: Cleared.

Agency Response

July 15, 2021

Section ?6. Coordination? has been further simplified to avoid repetition vis-?-vis the baseline scenario, as suggested by the reviewer (p. 39).

April 9, 2021

Section ?6. Coordination? has been amended to provide additional information on projects that will inform the CBIT project and also those that will require active coordination with this initiative, indicating the specific outputs and activities involved (p. 37-40).

Consistency with National Priorities

Has the project/program cited alignment with any of the recipient country?s national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

8/11/2020: Yes.

Agency Response

Knowledge Management

Is the proposed ?knowledge management (KM) approach? in line with GEF requirements to foster learning and sharing from relevant projects/programs, initiatives and evaluations; and contribute to the project?s/program?s overall impact and sustainability?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

8/11/2020: Yes.

7/26/2021: On the KM approach please address the following:

1. Please include a brief discussion of how this project learns from and builds on relevant previous experience, evaluations and GEF investments.
2. Please include plans to develop and implement a strategic communications plan to ensure outreach and dissemination of project results.

Agency Response

July 28, 2021

1. This CBIT Project will build on lessons learned through the implementation of previous NCs and BURs, as well as assessments undertaken through participation in the CBIT Global Coordination Platform. Such analysis already is presented in section 1) *Global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers* and in 2) *The baseline scenario* section of the PIF, especially concerning gaps and barriers identified through the above-mentioned initiatives, and will be further

explored at PPG stage. A reference to the lessons learned from the NCs and BURs has now also been made in the Knowledge Management section of the PIF, p. 42.

2. A paragraph has been included in the Knowledge Management section of the PIF (p. 42) to provide a brief overview of the strategy to disseminate project results. This plan will be further elaborated during the PPG phase. However, given the special nature of CBIT projects, the project will not include a Communications Plan *per se*, since it is not meant to target a very broad audience beyond the ministries, agencies and other relevant national stakeholders directly involved in the project's implementation.

Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS)

Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately documented at this stage and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

8/11/2020: Yes.

Agency Response

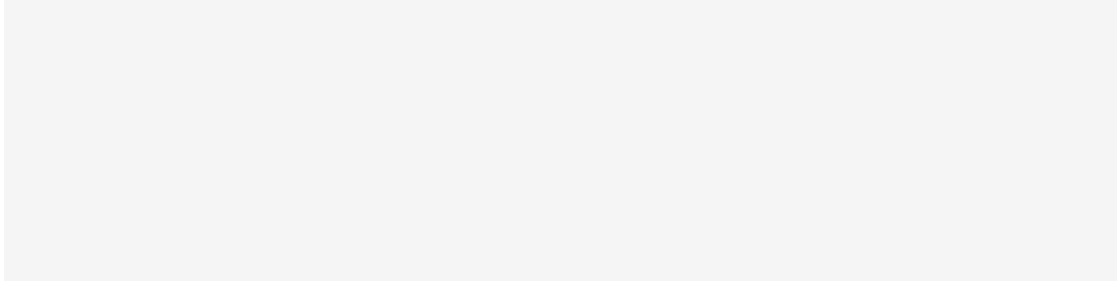
Part III ? Country Endorsements

Has the project/program been endorsed by the country's GEF Operational Focal Point and has the name and position been checked against the GEF data base?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

8/11/2020: Yes, Mr. Stenley Damane has endorsed the project.

Agency Response



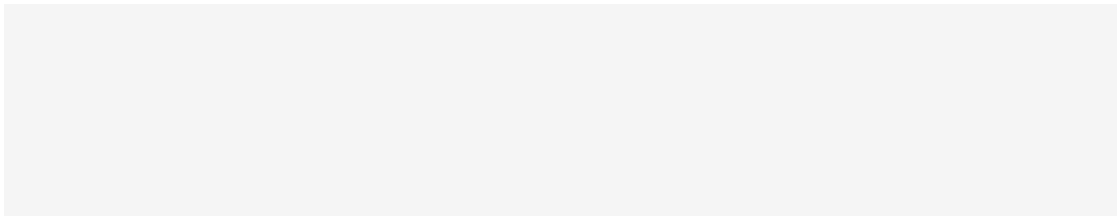
Termsheet, reflow table and agency capacity in NGI Projects

Does the project provide sufficient detail in Annex A (indicative termsheet) to take a decision on the following selection criteria: co-financing ratios, financial terms and conditions, and financial additionality? If not, please provide comments. Does the project provide a detailed reflow table in Annex B to assess the project capacity of generating reflows? If not, please provide comments. After reading the questionnaire in Annex C, is the Partner Agency eligible to administer concessional finance? If not, please provide comments.

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

8/11/2020: N/A

Agency Response



GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

Is the PIF/PFD recommended for technical clearance? Is the PPG (if requested) being recommended for clearance?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

8/11/2020: Please address comments above.

6/4/2021: Please address remaining comments.

7/20/2021: Technically cleared.

7/26/2021: Please address remaining comments highlighted in yellow above.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Additional recommendations to be considered by Agency at the time of CEO endorsement/approval.

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Review Dates

Agency Response

First Review

Additional Review (as necessary)

Additional Review (as necessary)

Additional Review (as necessary)

Additional Review (as necessary)

ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG).
(Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status
in the table below:

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: US\$ 50,000			
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (US\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent to date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
GEF expert	2,000	1,790.00	210.00
International CBIT expert	21,000	16,000.00	5,000.00
National consultant	11,000	4,405.82	6,594.18
Inception & consultation workshop with national stakeholders	2,500	2,212.83	-
Data gathering and sectoral consultative workshops	7,000	6,999.51	
Final validation workshop with national stakeholders	2,500	1,787.83	3,015.40
National consultant travel	,000	-	-
Miscellaneous costs	2,000	1,752.95	231.48
Total	50,000	34,948.94	15,051.06

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.



Geo-coordinates of Maseru: 29.31°S, 27.48°E

ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

GEF budget category & detailed description	Outcome 1	Subtotal	M&E	PMC	Total	Responsible entity
02. Goods	55,000	55,000		4,900	59,900	
2 laptops and 1 printer			0	4,900	4,900	LMS
Purchase and commissioning of a server including licenses to host web-based MRV tool	55,000	55,000			55,000	LMS
07. Contractual services (company)	525,500	525,500			525,500	
Firm of international consultants to develop a national climate data collection and tracking tool and an interlinked web-based MRV tool for tracking NDC implementation	155,000	155,000			155,000	LMS
Firm of international consultants to further develop institutional arrangements, support the Climate Change Bill and institutionalise the Transparency Unit	120,000	120,000			120,000	LMS
Firm of international consultants to support the government in developing a framework for tracking NDC implementation and the development of indicators	120,500	120,500			120,500	LMS
Firm of international consultants to support the government to develop GHG inventory data protocols and methodologies and a QA/QC Plan and provide training	130,000	130,000			130,000	LMS
07. Contractual services company		0		5,250	5,250	
Independent financial audits		0		5,250	5,250	LMS
08. International Consultants		0	30,000		30,000	
Terminal Evaluation		0	30,000		30,000	UNEP Evaluation Office
10. Local Consultants	223,500	223,500			223,500	
Climate Transparency unit co-ordinator	82,500	82,500			82,500	LMS
Climate Transparency unit IT expert	82,500	82,500			82,500	LMS
National legal framework consultant	58,500	58,500			58,500	LMS
11. Salary and benefits/Staff Costs	27,000	27,000		93,600	120,600	
Project Administrative and Financial Assistant (part-time)		0		32,400	32,400	LMS
Project Technical Coordinator	27,000	27,000		61,200	88,200	LMS
12. Training, Workshops, Meetings	130,000	130,000	15,000		145,000	
Climate Change Bill consultation workshops	15,000	15,000			15,000	LMS
Consolidation workshop to identify resources from other ministries needed to implement legal framework and facilitate handover of CTU	10,000	10,000			10,000	LMS
Consultation workshop on the development of the climate data collection and tracking component of the MRV tool	10,000	10,000			10,000	LMS
Final Workshop		0		3,750	3,750	LMS
GHG Inventory training workshops on use of the national climate data collection and tracking component of the MRV tool	15,000	15,000			15,000	LMS
Inception workshop		0		3,750	3,750	LMS
Institutional arrangements workshop and follow up one-to-ones	15,000	15,000			15,000	LMS
Project Steering Committee Meetings		0		7,500	7,500	LMS
Training workshops on NDC implementation, including integrating gender-responsiveness in NDC implementation	15,000	15,000			15,000	LMS
Training workshops on the online MRV tool for NDC tracking	15,000	15,000			15,000	LMS
Workshops on the development of climate specific NDC indicators	20,000	20,000			20,000	LMS
Workshops on the development of tools and guidance, and validation of the final web-based climate data MRV tool	15,000	15,000			15,000	LMS
13. Travel	69,000	69,000			69,000	
Attendance and reporting from international/regional workshops for peer review exchanges on lessons learned and good practices incorporated in the ETF framework of the PA from CBIT	8,000	8,000			8,000	LMS
Travel costs associated with attendance at workshops for international and national consultants (consultation workshop on MRV tool and GHG training workshops)	20,000	20,000			20,000	LMS
Travel costs associated with attendance at workshops for international and national consultants (institutional arrangements workshop, climate change bill consultation workshops)	12,000	12,000			12,000	LMS
Travel costs associated with attendance at workshops for international and national consultants (workshops on the development of climate specific NDC indicators, training on NDC implementation)	20,000	20,000			20,000	LMS
Travel for 3 individuals to attend UNFCCC COP	9,000	9,000			9,000	LMS
14. Office supplies		0		3,750	3,750	
Office supplies, printing, miscellaneous		0		3,750	3,750	LMS
Grand Total	1,030,000	1,030,000	45,000	107,500	1,182,500	

ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

Instructions. Please submit an finalized termsheet in this section. The NGI Program Call for Proposals provided a template in Annex A of the Call for Proposals that can be used by the Agency. Agencies can use their own termsheets but must add sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality as defined in the template provided in Annex A of the Call for proposals. Termsheets submitted at CEO endorsement stage should include final terms and conditions of the financing.

N/A

ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows

Instructions. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The Agency is required to quantify any expected financial return/gains/interests earned on non-grant instruments that will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. Partner Agencies will be required to comply with the reflows procedures established in their respective Financial Procedures Agreement with the GEF Trustee. Agencies are welcomed to provide assumptions that explain expected financial reflow schedules.

N/A

ANNEX H: (For NGI only) Agency Capacity to generate reflows

Instructions. The GEF Agency submitting the CEO endorsement request is required to respond to any questions raised as part of the PIF review process that required clarifications on the Agency Capacity to manage reflows. This Annex seeks to demonstrate Agencies? capacity and eligibility to administer NGI resources as established in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, GEF/C.52/Inf.06/Rev.01, June 9, 2017 (Annex 5).

N/A