

Developing an Integrated Transparency Framework for NDC Planning and Monitoring

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10004

Countries

Morocco

Project Name

Developing an Integrated Transparency Framework for NDC Planning and Monitoring

Agencies

UNDP

Date received by PM

5/31/2019

Review completed by PM

5/19/2020

Program Manager

Pascal Martinez

Focal Area

Climate Change

Project Type

MSP

PIF ☐

CEO Endorsement ☐

Project Design and Financing

1. If there are any changes from that presented in the PIF, have justifications been provided?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

DS: The GEF Portal submission does not provide any overview or information on any changes compared to PIF stage. Consequently, no justifications have been provided, either. Please provide this information in the relevant section.

December 24, 2019:

Thank you for the clarification. Cleared

Response to Secretariat comments UNDP, 08/09/2019: There were no changes compared to PIF

2. Is the project structure/ design appropriate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

Please provide above information. Once provided, the full review can commence.

December 24, 2019:

The project structure is appropriate. Cleared

Response to Secretariat comments UNDP, 08/09/2019: There were no changes compared to PIF

3. Is the financing adequate and does the project demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objective?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

December 24, 2019:

While the project objective is "Morocco has the institutional, technical and managerial capacities to plan and report on the implementation of its NDCs", the description says the project will support the initiation of MRV capacities in two pilot subnational regions and "only the MRV of mitigation actions". If some activities are geographically limited and only focused on mitigation, it is unclear how the objective can be achieved from the existing baseline. Please explain.

April 27, 2020:

Thank you for the clarification. Cleared.

Response to Secretariat comments

UNDP, 08/04/2020:

The planned activities at the territorial level (outputs 1.2.1 & 1.2.2) will be conducted only at a pilot level as a limited budget is allocated for such activities (\$80,000 out of the total requested budget of \$1,500,000; i.e. a share of 5.3%). To achieve the project objective, most of the efforts will be implemented at the national level to build the necessary transparency capacities in conformity with the Paris Rule Book's MPGs, notably decision 18/CMA.1 adopted in COP24.

Only mitigation aspects are considered in the project, as the Moroccan Government considers it the key component of the country engagement's in the Paris Agreement through its NDCs (i.e., 17% GHG reduction by 2030 based on national budget and an extra 25% GHG reduction to reach 42% contingent on international support).

Adaptation is also of paramount importance to the country. As stated in its first NDC (2016), the country is planning on developing a dedicated M&E system part of its National Adaptation Plan (NAP), which is being developed through another initiative under the leadership of the SSSD, the executing partner of the present CBIT project

4. Does the project take into account potential major risks, including the consequences of climate change, and describes sufficient risk response measures? (e.g., measures to enhance climate resilience)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

December 24, 2019:

Yes, the potential risks are taken into account. Cleared.

Response to Secretariat comments

5. Is co-financing confirmed and evidence provided?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

December 24, 2019:

Yes. Cleared.

Response to Secretariat comments

6. Are relevant tracking tools completed?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

December 24, 2019:

No. Please complete the CBIT tracking tools.

April 27, 2020:

Thank you for the added document. Cleared.

Response to Secretariat comments

UNDP, 04/08/2020:

CBIT tracking tool added

7. Only for Non-Grant Instrument: Has a reflow calendar been presented?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

N/A

Response to Secretariat comments

8. Is the project coordinated with other related initiatives and national/regional plans in the country or in the region?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

December 24, 2019:

Yes, the project is coordinated with work the UNDP is carrying out as well as with initiatives supported by WB, GIZ and ICAT. Cleared.

Response to Secretariat comments

9. Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan that monitors and measures results with indicators and targets?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

December 24, 2019:

1. The project does include a budgeted M&E Plan but the total budget is presented "Excluding project team staff time, and UNDP staff and travel expenses". Please provide detailed information of all the items financed as part of the M&E plan and indicate which of them support the Implementing Agency staff time and travels.
2. In addition, the terminal Evaluation is carried out UNDP. How can it be independent? Please explain.

April 27, 2020:

Thank you for the clarification. Cleared.

Response to Secretariat comments

UNDP, 04/08/2020:

1. The project team staff time and their travel expenses are respectively covered by the Project Management Cost (PMC).
2. This is clearly explained under M&E Section:
An independent terminal evaluation (TE) will take place upon completion of all major project outputs and activities. The terms of reference, the evaluation process and the final TE report will follow the standard templates and guidance for GEF-financed projects.

The evaluation will be 'independent, impartial and rigorous'. The evaluators that will be hired to undertake the assignment will be independent from organizations that were involved in designing, executing or advising on the project to be evaluated. Equally, the evaluators should not be in a position where there may be the possibility of future contracts regarding the project being evaluated.

The GEF Operational Focal Point and other stakeholders will be actively involved and consulted during the terminal evaluation process. Additional quality assurance support is available from the BPPS/GEF Directorate.

The final TE report will be cleared by the UNDP Country Office and the UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Adviser, and will be approved by the Project Board. The TE report will be publicly available in English on the UNDP ERC.

10. Does the project have descriptions of a knowledge management plan?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

December 24, 2019:

Except with the output 1.1.3 "Lessons learned are shared at the regional and global level through the CBIT Global Coordination Platform" which has a total budget of \$40,000, the knowledge management plan of the proposal is vague ("key stakeholders will be engaged") and mainly relies on existing external initiatives such as the NDC Partnership and the 4C Morocco. Please provide more detail of knowledge management plan of this proposal in particular.

April 27, 2020:

We note the response in the review sheet but we don't see the clarification in the project proposal. Please provide the expected information in the project proposal.

May 19, 2020:

Thank you for the new inputs in the project description. Cleared.

Response to Secretariat comments

UNDP, 04/08/2020:

The Climate Change Competence Center (4C) plays a key role in terms of knowledge management and capacity building in Morocco and in Africa also. This center is institutionalized as a Public Interest Grouping (GIP) in October 2015, during its first Constitutive General Assembly, and encompasses as members several line ministries, private companies, research centers and NGOs. The 4C acts as a platform for the relevant actors in different sectors (public, economic, research & development, civil society, local governments, etc.) to enhance their skills and knowledge, as well as a hub for the development and dissemination of skills related to climate change.

For instance the 4C Morocco played a central role in the development of the GHG NIS and is expected to play an important role in the development of overall MRV system of NDCs.

For the CBIT project, the 4C Morocco, will play a key role in capitalizing and disseminating project results and also in ensuring synergies and coordination with other transparency initiatives.

UNDP, 05/13/2020:

Clarification was integrated in CEO ER and PRODOC - See pages 42 & 43 in the Prodoc and pages 30 & 31 in the CEO

Agency Responses

11. Has the Agency adequately responded to comments at the PIF stage from:

GEFSEC

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

December 24, 2019:

The agency was requested to ensure effective coordination with ICAT during PPG phase and elaborate on the coordination at CEO endorsement (approval) stage of the CBIT project. ICAT is listed in Table 2 "List of programmes and projects concerned by partnerships and synergies with the CBIT project" but the effective coordination with ICAT remains unclear. Please clarify.

April 27, 2020:

We note the response in the review sheet but we don't see the clarification in the project proposal. Please provide the expected information in the project proposal.

May 19, 2020:

Thank you for the complement in the project description. Cleared.

Response to Secretariat comments

UNDP, 04/08/2020:

The ICAT initiative started effectively its project at the Souss-Massa subregion in June 2019 and the activities of the project are still ongoing.

The project team of FNC-2BUR coordinates with the ICAT on a continuous basis, mainly with the UN Environment representative in Denmark and the SSSD Director at the Souss-Massa subregion. Coordination concerns for instance the need to coordinate the approaches of GHG inventory and MRV between the national level and subnational level. The project team uses this coordination process to get feedback for planning activities of Outcome 1.2 “The NDC governance framework is piloted in two subnational regions”.

UNDP, 05/13/2020:

Comments were added in page 25 in the Prodoc and page 17 and 18 in the CEO

STAP

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement N/A

Response to Secretariat comments

GEF Council

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement N/A

Response to Secretariat comments

Convention Secretariat

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement N/A

Response to Secretariat comments

Recommendation

12. Is CEO endorsement recommended?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

December 24, 2019:

Not yet:

1. Please address the comments above.
2. In addition, we note in the PPG budget table that no amount has been spent while the project is now fully developed. Please explain.
3. Further, we take note that the Government requested UNDP to carry out some identified executing functions. Please explain why and demonstrate that no other entity is able to carry out such functions.
4. Finally, please highlight in yellow any change in the proposal to facilitate the next review.

April 27, 2020:

Not yet:

1. Please address the last comments.
2. Thank you for the update of the PPG table. Cleared.
3. We take note of the confirmation that UNDP will not carry out any executing functions and of the changes in the PRODOC/CEO Endorsement. Nevertheless, the letter from the Ministry of Energy dated 29 May 2019 endorsing the request by SSSD to UNDP for direct support services to be charged to the project budget is still uploaded in the Portal. Does this mean UNDP will undertake these functions to be financed by the project budget? If it is not the case, who will implement these services and why this letter is still uploaded?
4. Thank you.

May 26, 2020:

Not yet. Please address the following comments:

- 1- The NIM audit is included in the M&E Plan but this has to be covered by the PMC (please see below). Please remove the NIM audit from the M&E Plan in Portal and in the ProDoc.

C. Describe The Budgeted M & E Plan: ①

The M&E plan has a total budget of USD 31,000. A GEF grant of USD 31,000 is charged to the project budget with an in-kind co-financing, as it is detailed in the table below:

GEF M&E requirements	Primary responsibility	Indicative costs to be charged to the Project Budget (US\$)		Time frame
		GEF grant	Co-financing	
Inception Workshop	UNDP Country Office	USD 5,000	In-kind	Within two months of project document signature
Inception Report	Project Manager	None	None	Within two weeks of inception workshop
Standard UNDP monitoring and reporting requirements as outlined in the UNDP POPP	UNDP Country Office	None	None	Quarterly, annually
Risk management	Project Manager UNDP Country Office	None	None	Quarterly, annually
Monitoring of indicators in project results framework	Project Manager	None	None	Annually, before PIR
GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR)	Project Manager and UNDP Country Office and UNDP-GEF team	None	None	Annually
NIM Audit as per UNDP audit policies	UNDP Country Office	Per year: USD 1,000 (Total Audit Cost: U	None	Annually or other frequency as per UNDP Audit policies

2- On the Project Description table, there is many text repeated (see bellow as examples). If possible, please delete all the unnecessary repetitions so that the project format is consistent with all the other projects in the GEF Portal.

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

Morocco has the institutional, technical and managerial capacities to plan and report on the implementation of its NDCs

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
1. Strengthening the NDC governance system	Technical Assistance	1.1 An integrated governance to sustain national tracking and accounting system for progress toward NDC implementation is established	1.1.1 A national NDC governance framework is designed and endorsed	CBIT	30,000	20,000
1. Strengthening the NDC governance system		1.1 An integrated governance to sustain national tracking and accounting system for progress toward NDC implementation is established	1.1.2 National MRV guidelines and procedures are established	CBIT	50,000	10,000
1. Strengthening the NDC governance system	Technical Assistance	1.1 An integrated governance to sustain national tracking and accounting system for progress toward NDC implementation	1.1.3 Lessons learned are shared at the regional and global level through the CBIT Global Coordination	CBIT	30,000	10,000

May 29, 2020:

The remaining comments have been addressed and the project is now recommended for CEO Approval.

Response to Secretariat comments

UNDP, 04/08/2020:

1. Done
2. PPG budget table is updated in Annex C of CEO ER document. The PPG amount spent to date is USD 29 924.
3. UNDP will not carry out any executing functions. Changes have been implemented in the PRODOC/CEO Endorsement.
4. Done

UNDP, 05/13/2020:

On point 3, the aforementioned letter from the Ministry has been taken out of the portal as UNDP will not provide direct support services.

UNDP, 05/26/2020:

1) NIM Audit is removed from the M&E Plan, in the Portal and in the Prodoc. The cost of NIM audit will be covered by the PMC (see PMC details in TBWP in Prodoc). The explanation in the Prodoc about Audit as following moved from M&E Plan section to Financial Planning and Management section: **Audit: The project will be audited as per UNDP Financial Regulations and Rules and applicable audit policies on NIM implemented projects.**

2) The repeated text is removed as much as the Portal permits and completed the resubmission. The Portal didn't let to remove 'type of funding' and 'project components' in Table B. For your kind attention and advise.

Review Dates

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

Response to Secretariat comments

First Review		
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement**Response to Secretariat comments****Additional Review (as necessary)****Additional Review (as necessary)****CEO Recommendation****Brief Reasoning for CEO Recommendations****Cover Memo**Context and justification:

By formulating an ambitious NDC with a target of 42% reduction of GHG emissions by 2030 as compared to the BAU projection, where most GHG emitting sectors are committed to reduce their emissions, Morocco fits perfectly within the obligations expected by the international framework on climate change of the Paris Agreement. However, the implementation of NDCs require a more robust domestic MRV systems in line with the Enhancement Transparency Framework of the Paris Agreement.

The Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) project is expected to strengthen Morocco's climate change transparency system by creating an enabling institutional environment to ensure sustainable engagements of key stakeholders, building capacities and skills, developing appropriate tools, methodologies and strengthening information system infrastructure.

The project aims to support Morocco in developing an integrated transparency framework for NDC planning and monitoring to support the country's international commitments. It will set the prerequisites for a strengthened transparency framework by supporting the efforts already engaged by the country. Furthermore, the project will support the country to engage its territories in the implementation of its NDCs, by developing subnational MRV systems and building capacities in two pilot subnational regions.

Components and expected results:

The project integrates the following two main components: 1: Strengthening the NDC governance system, aiming to establish an adequate governance framework that can support effectively the deployment of the domestic MRV system; and 2: An integrated MRV system is established, through building the necessary technical capacities for the establishment of an integrated and robust domestic MRV system, including the improvement of the GHG National Inventory System, sectoral planning of mitigation actions, monitoring and reporting of the impact of mitigation actions and support.

The expected results are: 1) An integrated governance to sustain national tracking and accounting system for progress toward NDC implementation is established, 2) The NDC governance framework is piloted in two subnational regions, 3) GHG accounting and reporting capacities are strengthened, 4) Planning and tracking mitigation actions capacities are strengthened through new methodological tools and guidance and 5) building MRV capacities of support, including finance, technology transfer and capacity building.

Co-financing:

The project will benefit from the support of \$300,000 in-kind provided by the Secretariat of State in charge of Sustainable Development.