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Strengthening the Capacity of the Dominican Republic to Generate Climate Information and Knowledge in the Framework of the Paris Agreement

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

9869

Countries

Dominican Republic

Project Name

Strengthening the Capacity of the Dominican Republic to Generate Climate Information and Knowledge in the Framework of the Paris Agreement

Agencies

UNEP

Date received by PM

6/4/2019

Review completed by PM

Program Manager

Milena Vasquez

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

Yes, only the wording of some outputs have been adjusted.

3/23/2020: Outputs have been adjusted in this resubmission, but justifications have been provided, and overall the objectives and structure since PIF remain the same. Comment cleared.

Response to Secretariat comments

UNEP response March 5, 2020

One of the outputs of the project (considering the purchase of air quality monitoring equipment) was dropped off in this version of CEO Endorsement document. This change allows for a more streamlined and integrated transparency project, taking into account the closer ties among the remaining outputs of the project organised under Components 1 and 2. A variation of 7% and 13% in the allocation of the budgets of each Component was done respectively. Two new profiles of consultants participating in the project were added, strengthening the local team to work within the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, while other studies and training activities were expanded and given a wider outreach.

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

Overall there is a lack of clarity of the vision of the transparency system in the country and how this project will support that vision. In particular, we are interested in understanding the readiness (and how this project will support specific gaps) of the DR to meet the requirements of BTRs. There are a lot of details but not enough clarity on how the different pieces will fit together within the project and in coordination with ongoing initiatives.

Output 1.1 - Please clarify the scope of proposed activities under this output. In particular what specific areas of knowledge and training will be part of the proposed long-term agreement with academia. Please also clarify how the agreement will be implemented in practice - will these specific trainings be sponsored by the government for its officials? Will these include certifications? Please clarify as well the purpose of activity 1.1.4. What is the finance mechanism needed for exactly? Would this output fail without it? Will it focus on finding domestic sources of finance instead of international funding options?

Output 1.2 - Please clarify how this Integrated Training Programme Scheme will be tailored to different stakeholders. Please also clarify if these trainings will be carried out by national academia. Please justify including training on big data and air quality monitoring with regards to the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement. Please clarify if the project will use any existing training materials for the other subjects from for example the CGE, the IPCC, and FAO, and other sources. Please also clarify why there is reference of training at sub-national level and what their role in the DR's transparency system under the Paris Agreement will be.

Output 1.3 - Please clarify the purpose for the purchase of monitoring stations for CO₂ and black carbon and how it ties to the rest of the CBIT project. How will information collected by these be used by the government in support of its transparency system?

Output 1.4 - Please clarify how the scope for the activities under this output were chosen, and what is the expected impact on the DR's inventories, informed by the most recent work on its first BUR. Please also clarify whether these improvements are expected to be applied in the next BUR.

Output 2.1 - It is not clear if Activity 2.1.1 is a result of the ICAT work or if it is serving the ICAT work, and whether Activity 2.1.3 is part of ICAT's work. Please clarify these overlaps. Also, please clarify the plans for a "more developed online platform to be developed outside of the CBIT project". Please also clarify why this output will require sub-national testing.

3/23/2020: the overall comment on clarity has been addressed with additional information.

Output 1.1: Specific information on the training, including scope and whether they will lead to certifications, as well as sources of funding have not yet been determined and will be determined with the activities under this Output. However, additional details provided adequately explains reasoning for this output. Comment cleared.

Output 1.2: additional details have been provided and clarifications on training at the sub-national level have been provided. Training on big data and air pollution has been removed. Comment cleared.

Output 1.3: This output has been removed and replaced by what used to be Output 1.4. Comment cleared.

Output 1.4: Reasoning for choosing these areas of development have been well justified and clarification on the application of the improvements to future reports have been provided. Comment cleared.

Output 2.1: Coordination between this project and the ICAT support have been clarified. Comments cleared.

Response to Secretariat comments

UNEP response March 5, 2020

Response to Overall comment:

To clarify the country's vision we have included further information in the final paragraphs of section A.1.1, on the vision to deal with shortcomings identified at country level to address appropriately the new BTR requirements. In this section, and also section 3, information was included stating the approach for building capacity in transparency through this CBIT project and its emphasis on multiplying the trained staff in the country. These elements were extracted from the Theory of Change defined to build this CBIT project, which is submitted in the portal.

Response to comment on Output 1.1:

· New information was added under Output 1.1, including a list of institutions where already there are initial contacts to expand the basis of interaction with the Government in technical (transparency related) matters.

· A more thorough description of specific areas of knowledge and training are now described. At this point of conversation with the institutions, the level of detail is not fully developed on the inclusion of certification schemes of the topics to be lectured or the degree of sponsorship from the Government for its officials. Official certification obtained by successful Government trainees has been initially discussed and it is encouraged, depending upon the administrative qualifications to provide such certification by the institutions finally providing the training activities to the staff officials. The final decision of whether these programmes will include certification schemes will be made between the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and the selected institutions prior to signing the long-term agreement.

· On Activity 1.1.4, the aim is to identify ways to ensure the sustainability of capacity-building activities beyond the project's duration. The activity is expected to provide support in maintaining the capacities created on a longer period than the duration of this CBIT project and also facilitate the updating of teaching tools and educational products designed under this project. We believe that this activity is important for the output's long term success. Both domestic and international funding options will be explored; a focus on economic sustainability means that domestic funding sources may be more relevant.

Response to comment on Output 1.2:

New information was added under Output 1.2 to respond to the review comments:

- Training to be different stakeholders (see deliverables D6 and D8)
- Training to be provided primarily by national academia.
- Will draw on existing training materials
- Items on big data and air quality monitoring with regards to the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement have been removed from the project proposal.
- Information on sub-national level and relevance to transparency system.

Response to comment on Output 1.3:

The output related to equipment purchase of monitoring stations for CO2 and black carbon has been removed.

Response to comment on Output 1.4:

Additional information was included under the new output 1.3 (former 1.4) on the selection of activities in the Transport Sector and in the Industrial Sector given their national relevance, and the requests made during the scoping mission to focus work on these sectors.

The expected impact on GHG inventories is significant in terms of enhanced accuracy of emission factors and upgrade of Tier as the prioritized categories/subcategories comprise the 95% of the absolute emissions from its current GHG Inventory. Namely, the Category of Transport contributes with the highest CO2 emissions in the whole inventory, whereas the Category of Industries of Energy is the second highest overall emitter.

The Dominican Republic has already closed the technical work associated with its first BUR and it is undertaking its political approval, so it will not benefit from these activities. Nevertheless, the country has recently requested support to UNDP for the creation of its fourth national communication and its second BUR, which will start in 2020. The country is expecting to work on its First BTR in 2022. The improvements in the GHG Inventory aimed with this output, will be available for these upcoming rounds of reporting of the country to the Convention and for a more accurate NDC tracking.

Response to comment on Output 2.1:

- The link between the ICAT and this CBIT project is stated more directly now, clarifying how the deliverables of the ICAT project will be implemented and made operational through the CBIT project (see description of activity 2.1.1). The difference between the activity 2.1.3 and the work under ICAT was expressed more clearly: ICAT is taking care of data flows and information associated with the preparation of the BUR, whereas the CBIT project is taking into consideration the NDC (its clarification and tracking).
- After consultation with the country, subnational activities under this output were discarded.
- Information about the external use of a compilation, storage and management data tool was also left out of this project.

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

Please justify the need for a South-South Cooperation expert, considering the well resourced and highly experienced Chief Technical Advisor is expected to carry out the knowledge exchange activities.

Please clarify the budget section on transfers & grants to implementing partners. Who are the implementing partners? Have these been chosen already? Will these be locally based?

3/23/2020:

South-South Cooperation Expert: additional clarifications on the expected activities of this role have been clarified. Comment cleared.

Implementing Partners: These will mainly be local academic institutions. Comment cleared.

Response to Secretariat comments

UNEP response March 5, 2020

South-South Cooperation Expert

The Chief Technical Advisor and the South-South Cooperation Expert have distinct roles and duties.

The South-South Cooperation Expert's responsibility is to share regional best practices on technical and organizational aspects (e.g. estimation of GHG emissions from transport, creation of tools and templates, agreements with academia, assessment of capacity and material needs, etc.). The expert will:

- Provide regional MRV and climate transparency insights to all experts involved.
- Share regional best practices in several technical aspects including academia agreements (D1) and capacity needs assessments and materials (D6 and D7).
- Provide inputs to support the definition and implementation of the Training Programme considered in activity 1.2.2. via the provision of on-site and online training activities.
- Provide insights on regional best practices on the calculation tool for estimation of GHG emissions from transport (D10), and its reports (D11).
- Provide inputs based on best regional practices as they relate to creation of guidelines and templates for NDC tracking (D23) and their associated validation workshops (D24).
- On output 1.4, facilitate the sharing of lessons learnt from other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean by maintaining close interaction with the regional South-South Cooperation network (including networks such as the Central American Integration System and the Association of Caribbean States).
- Review materials posted on the CBIT Global Coordination Platform in order to find content that could be useful for the enhancement of the climate transparency framework of the Dominican Republic.
- Search for climate transparency information developed in the Dominican Republic, as a result of the CBIT project and other related initiatives, that could be added to the Platform.
- Work with the regional South-South Cooperation network to organize regional technical workshops, Webinars, and Communities of Practice which are relevant for the Dominican Republic.

The Chief Technical Advisor has responsibilities of a different scope, encompassing daily execution and overview of the project, planning, management, coordination and reporting. The advisor will focus on the project's main activities, rather than on searching for relevant regional and international best practices. Thus, most of the knowledge exchange activities (i.e. those at the regional level) will be channelled through the South-South Cooperation Expert. Furthermore, the Chief Technical

Advisor will provide national insights for all local experts involved in order to support the co-drafting of all products assigned to local experts. In addition, he or she will provide local insights to international experts.

A full list of the responsibilities associated to each of these positions (including an expanded description of the activities to be performed by the South-South Cooperation Expert) is available in Annex G.

Implementing partners

In terms of implementing partners, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources has started conversations with the *Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra* and with the Evangelical University for overall cooperation in the projects with the Ministry. Both universities have campuses in the Dominican Republic in the large cities of Santo Domingo and Santiago, covering a large amount of the country. Up to this point of initial conversations, both have responded favourably to the request by the Government and they are waiting for the project to be approved to advance further. In case the project needs to look for additional implementing partners, preference will be given to those that are locally-based.

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 Ok.

Response to Secretariat comments

5. Is co-financing confirmed and evidence provided?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Yes, three co-financing letters have been submitted confirming the listed amounts.

Response to Secretariat comments

6. Are relevant tracking tools completed?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

Core Indicator 11 has been submitted, and CBIT indicators are being tracked. Please consider re-assessing target for the indicator on MRV systems, which seems low at a 5 or provide a justification.

3/23/2020: CBIT indicators have been updated. Comment cleared.

Response to Secretariat comments

Targets reassessed under Annex L.

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

Please note that the Executing Partner Type says GEF Agency when it should say Government considering the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources is the executing partner.

The GEF has reviewed the letter from the OFP regarding the request to UN Environment for execution support and we found that it is lacking an estimate of resources to be channeled to ROLAC for this support as well as the reasoning behind it. Please provide a more detailed explanation.

3/23/2020: Executing partner has been changed to an NGO - the Centre for Agricultural and Forestry Development. Comment cleared.

Response to Secretariat comments

UNEP response March 5, 2020

The country has decided for a local NGO - the Centre for Agricultural and Forestry Development (CEDAF) - to execute the project locally, instead of ROLAC. UNEP has undertaken a capacity assessment of CEDAF and has deemed that the NGO has the required capacity, expertise and experience to be the executing agency of the project. The CEO Endorsement document and its annexes has been updated accordingly. The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources will remain a committed contributor through its in-kind co-finance support to the project and it will appoint a national project focal point whom will act as the project's Steering Committee Chairperson.

This change was reflected in the selection of Other Executing Partner(s) and Executing Partner Type

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Yes.

Response to Secretariat comments

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Yes.

Response to Secretariat comments

Agency Responses

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

GEFSEC

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement N/A

Response to Secretariat comments

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

Not yet, please address comments above.

If allowed please change the CBIT label from NO to YES in Part I: Project Information.

3/23/2020: All comments have been addressed. P.M. recommends CEO Endorsement.

Response to Secretariat comments

UNEP response March 5, 2020

The portal has no option to change the CBIT Label from NO to YES. That feature is not there in the portal. Not allowed to change.

Review Dates

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement**Response to Secretariat comments**

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review		
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		

CEO Recommendation**Brief Reasoning for CEO Recommendations**

The objective of this project is to strengthen the capacities of the Dominican Republic to meet enhanced transparency requirements as defined in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement. The Dominican Republic ratified the Paris Agreement on September 21, 2017. Its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) is in line with the vision of its 2030 National Development Strategy and include a reduction by 25% of 2010 baseline per capita greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030. Adaptation is also identified as a constitutional priority for the country, which is committed to increase the resilience of the most vulnerable social groups and economic sectors.

The project is aligned with the CBIT programming priorities to support activities that strengthen national institutions for transparency-related activities, to provide relevant tools, training, and assistance for meeting the provisions stipulated in Article 13, and to assist in improving transparency over time. It is built on a strong baseline of existing policies, including a roadmap for the implementation of the mitigation section of its NDC, and support from ICAT, Information Matters, UN-REDD, and the GCF Readiness Program. It will also coordinate with existing support from the GEF for its first BUR.

The project aims to achieve the following outcomes:

1. Institutional arrangements, technical and technological capacities of line Ministries for mitigation data collection, monitoring, reporting, and verification are strengthened;
2. The Dominican Republic is able to track its NDC and clarify its NDC information through a participatory process.

The project will target key remaining barriers in monitoring and projecting GHG emissions, developing country-specific activity data and emission factors to go beyond Tier 1 estimates, tracking climate finance support and estimating budgetary needs to support mitigation efforts, and coordinating and clarifying NDC information for future NDC development and informing domestic policies and strategies. It will also aim to establish a long-term capacity building strategy through arrangements with academia.

Co-financing of \$360,000 is provided by the national government in-kind.