



Strengthening Mauritania's national capacity for transparency and ambitious climate reporting

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

10428

Project Type

MSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

CBIT **Yes**

NGI **No**

Project Title

Strengthening Mauritania's national capacity for transparency and ambitious climate reporting

Countries

Mauritania

Agency(ies)

UNEP

Other Executing Partner(s)

Department of Climate and the Green Economy - MEDD

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

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

Climate Change Mitigation 2

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 1

Submission Date

11/18/2021

Expected Implementation Start

7/1/2022

Expected Completion Date

6/30/2025

Duration

36In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

104,709.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
CCM-3-8	Foster enabling conditions for mainstreaming mitigation concerns into sustainable development strategies through capacity building initiative for transparency	GET	1,102,200.00	161,450.00
Total Project Cost(\$)			1,102,200.00	161,450.00

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

Strengthen Mauritania's capacities in climate transparency, according to the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) under the Paris Agreement and thereby achieve its sustainable low-carbon development goals.

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
1. Strengthening Mauritania's capacity to collect and process climate change data into useful information for policymaking and reporting to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Technical Assistance	1. Mauritania improves its Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system and institutional capacity to comply with the Enhanced Transparency Framework	Output 1.1. National institutions strengthened to coordinate, manage and report transparently on implemented climate change activities	GET	240,600.00	47,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
-	Technical Assistance	-	Output 1.2. Technical support, training and tools provided to the country to submit transparent, consistent, comparable, complete and accurate (TACCC) greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories	GET	404,400.00	55,000.00
-	Technical Assistance	-	Output 1.3. Technical support, training and tools provided to the country to track Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) on Mitigation, Adaptation & Vulnerability and support needed and received	GET	312,000.00	44,450.00
Monitoring and Evaluation	Technical Assistance			GET	45,000.00	
Sub Total (\$)					1,002,000.00	146,450.00

Project Management Cost (PMC)

Project Management Cost (PMC)

GET	100,200.00	15,000.00
Sub Total(\$)	100,200.00	15,000.00
Total Project Cost(\$)	1,102,200.00	161,450.00

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 Environment and Sustainable Development	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	161,450.00
Total Co-Financing(\$)				161,450.00

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(\$)
UNEP	GET	Mauritania	Climate Change	CBIT Set-Aside	1,102,200	104,709
Total Grant Resources(\$)					1,102,200.00	104,709.00

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	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)
UNEP	GET	Mauritania	Climate Change	CBIT Set-Aside	50,000	4,750
Total Project Costs(\$)					50,000.00	4,750.00

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	14	42		
Male	31	78		
Total	45	120	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: The expected 120 direct beneficiaries consist of people involved in the Sectoral Task Forces, which includes the Sectoral Focal Points as well as representatives from data providing institutions in line ministries and national institutions involved in the national MRV system and with reporting responsibilities to the UNFCCC; of which, currently 7 are women and 38 men. The project will strive to increase the number of people contributing to the MRV system from the actual 45 already identified to 120 participants, while aiming to achieve a more balanced gender representation by targeting 35% of female participation (42 women) during project implementation.

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

1a. Changes in project design

Minor changes in the project design have been made compared to the approved Project Identification Form (PIF), without impacts on the logical framework, GEF funds allocation per component/outcome, or co-finance commitments. A minor change in wording has been applied to Output 1.1., which now reads *“National institutions strengthened to coordinate, manage and report transparently on implemented climate change activities”* instead of *“National institutions strengthened to coordinate, manage and implement climate transparency activities”* from the PIF.

1b. Project Description

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

Mauritania is one of the Sahelian countries most affected by successive droughts since 1968. The resulting desertification has been devastating and encroaching on subsistence natural resources. According to climate scenarios, Mauritania is likely to experience a high socio-economic and ecological exposure to climate change, and the already noticeable effects climate change have had are notably a direct exacerbating impact on the already very precarious physical environment, and on the general socio-economic conditions of the country.

The Paris Agreement, adopted at the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in December 2015, sets out a global action plan that puts the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C. It establishes that each individual Party should submit a Nationally Determined Contribution and revise it every five years in order to achieve the global goal of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. To achieve this goal, the revision requested that Parties raise the ambition of their NDCs when doing the revision in 2020. Mauritania is presently undertaking the revision of its NDC and is looking at ways and means of raising the ambition. Both the previous Cancun Agreements and the Durban decisions had already triggered a higher level of ambition in the reporting obligations of non-Annex I Parties in terms of frequency, scope and depth; from being previously only subject to submit National Communications (NCs), including national GHG inventories without a fixed

frequency, they are now required to provide NCs every 4 years and Biennial Update Reports (BURs) every two years. The latest decision (18/CMA.1) further raised the standard with Biennial Transparency Reports including a National Inventory Report every 2 years as from 2024 in lieu of the BURs.

With the adoption of the Paris Agreement, all countries agreed on an enhanced transparency framework (ETF) for action and support (Article 13), with built-in flexibility which takes into account Parties' different capacities and builds upon collective experience. The purpose of the framework for transparency of actions is to provide a clear understanding of climate change action considering the objective of Article 2 of the Convention, including clarity and tracking of progress towards achieving Parties' individual nationally determined contributions, and Parties' adaptation actions, including good practices, priorities, needs and gaps, to inform the global stock take under Article 14 of the Agreement.

The ETF requires substantial and immediate progress in countries' domestic monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) systems and strategic de-carbonization planning. This entails moving from often disintegrated, ad-hoc and inconsistent outdated different methodologies for data collection to an integrated, robust and sustainable system. This requires countries to set up new transparency governance structures, develop and implement MRV methodologies, and update, implement, and integrate new data and information flows with pre-defined periodicity. A key condition for successful implementation of the Paris Agreement's transparency requirements is the provision requiring adequate and sustainable financial support and capacity-building to enable developing countries to significantly strengthen their capacity to build and maintain robust domestic and regulatory processes.

In the case of Mauritania, structural and other important gaps and barriers persist concerning the transparency of reporting on GHG emissions and impacts of climate policies and actions, mainly through the following overall classification of gaps and barriers:

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1. **Institutional gaps and barriers** in the coordination of activities to combat environmental degradation and climate change., As notable gaps, one could cite the absence of data-sharing procedures and the lack of a data protection framework. Two main barriers are the weaknesses in inter-sectoral, regional and national coordination together with the poor and the very slow process of mainstreaming climate change into decision-making and development policies. It is therefore clear that the development and implementation of sound institutional arrangements will require time before becoming fully operational and operating without barriers[1].

One of the still existing key barriers is the weaknesses in inter-sectoral and national-regional coordination. Although the decree 156/2012 has been created by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) to clarify the coordination missions of the National Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development (CNEDD) and its technical body (the Technical Committee for Environment and Sustainable Development, or CTEDD) as well as for attributions in reporting, yet these organs beside their capital role in MRV, could not perform well. Some suggest that it's because of its displacement away from the MEDD to the Prime Minister's Office while others argue that it just needs a dynamic follow-up for the CNEDD and Regional Councils for the Environment and Sustainable Development (CREDDs)

to be creative and established via CBIT through an operational workplan that addresses the following[2]:

- a. Challenges for MEDD in uniting efforts and creating the appropriate national platform for dialogue and coordination around environmental and sustainable development issues,
- b. Excessive silo approach of interventions in separate sectors,
- c. Poor and very slow processes to mainstream climate change into decision-making and development policies
- d. The perception of environmental issues as being the responsibility of the MEDD and therefore marginal in relation to the missions and roles of other ministerial departments, leading to insufficient commitment of other technical governmental institutions
- e. Inadequate coordination at the national and regional levels
- f. Lack of an operational framework to identify, develop and monitor implementation of mitigation and adaptation measures as well as support received and needed, including NAMAs
- g. Lack of a formal Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) plan

2. **Legal, regulatory and formal procedural gaps and barriers** in establishing proper mandates and implementation tools; especially the lack of regulatory documents to assign well-defined mandates and responsibilities on MRV for the wide range of stakeholders concerned with climate change. It is noteworthy that a recent legislation enacted in 2020 has corrected the shortcoming of integrating climate change in legislations as this Decree clearly attributes MRV responsibilities within the MEDD. The main regulatory barriers that still exist can be summarized as follows:

- a. Lack of functionality of climate change and GHG emissions embedded in the legal code.
- b. Inadequate operationalization of mandates and responsibilities assigned on MRV of GHG emissions, climate change data, Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicators and climate finance.
- c. Limited mainstreaming of gender issues into development and climate change policies, especially in technical activities like MRV.
- d. Lack of tools to enforce regulation.

3. **Lack of data and access to information** for a robust and detailed M&E system; most importantly, the lack of activity data to estimate emissions and removals from existing sources

and the lack of country-specific emission factors. The situation on data collection pertaining to mitigation and adaptation is similar. The main barriers related to data and access to information can be summarized as follows:

- a. Reluctance of institutions and individuals to accept roles and responsibilities for generating and availing the required GHG inventory data.
- b. Lack of activity data to estimate emissions and removals from selected sources.
- c. General lack of capacity to collect and manage pertinent datasets.
- d. Lack of capacity and funds to perform livestock census, or technical capacity to apply robust livestock surveys and sampling methodologies.
- e. Lack of country-specific emission factors and technical capacity to generate them and move to higher-tier approaches.
- f. Lack of knowledge for effective usage of data and management software.

4. **Lack of capacities and technical expertise**; including, among others, the weak capacity of the structures producing and holding activity data, the limited national technical expertise both quantitatively and qualitatively, and the obsolete nature of the systems for collecting, processing and storing data, and transferring observations. The main gaps related to capacity-building needs can be summarized as follows:

- a. The weak capacity of the institutions producing and holding activity data.
- b. Insufficient national technical expertise, both quantitatively and qualitatively.
- c. Low level of motivation to ensure staff availability due to overburden.
- d. Low level of incentives to develop and maintain a permanent national system for the preparation of BURs and NCs, as well as permanently assigned staff.
- e. Insufficient technical knowledge on the application of methodologies and software.
- f. The obsolete nature of the systems for collecting, processing and storing data, and transferring observations
- g. Technical difficulties in identifying appropriate technologies and estimating costs.
- h. The model chosen for the development of climate change scenarios was considered to be underperforming.
- i. Limited availability of resource persons mandated by institutions for climate change studies specific to their own sectors.

- j. The environment and, in particular climate change, is not yet considered as a separate discipline in the education curricula in Mauritania.
 - k. Insufficient capacity for stakeholder involvement, and lack of institutional and technical expertise in the different sectors.
 - l. Gaps and constraints in assessing the technical and capacity-building needs in detail as well as mobilizing financial resources.
 - m. Inadequate capacity to undertake mitigation assessments.
5. **Financial constraints** and costs associated with an ETF; notably the low State contribution to Climate Change projects and initiatives and the lack of funding for research projects related to climate change. The financial shortcomings can be summarized as follows:
- a. Lack of funding for research projects related to climate change.
 - b. Low State contribution to Climate Change projects and initiatives.
 - c. Insufficient capacity to evaluate financial support needed
 - d. Lack of funds to develop the required data infrastructure for centralizing information collection and management.

As further detailed in the section below, the identification of these challenges has been facilitated through national processes and the process of reporting to the UNFCCC, being thus documented in Mauritania's reports to the Convention, through the Facilitative Sharing of Views under the International Consultation and Analysis (ICA) process of the Convention, and through the National Strategy for the Environment and Sustainable Development, and its Action Plan for the period of 2017-2021.

2) **Baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects**

Mauritania is engaged with the international community in forging a common solution to address climate change. Mauritania ratified the UNFCCC in 1994, the Kyoto Protocol in 2004, the Paris Agreement in 2017 and adhered to the Doha amendment extending Kyoto Protocol until 2020. The country has undertaken a wide range of activities as part of efforts to ensure an effective implementation of the Convention. Mauritania has prepared and submitted the national reports listed below to the UNFCCC:

- i. Four NCs respectively in 2001, 2008, 2014 and 2019;
- ii. The First BUR in 2016, the first to be submitted by a Least Developed Country (LDC) and the second one in 2021.

- iii. Four national GHG Inventories; the last three based on the 2006 IPCC guidelines, the 2006 guidance of the Consultative Group of Experts of the UNFCCC and the 2000 and 2003 IPCC good practice guidance.
- iv. Its Nationally Determined Contribution in September 2015.

Environmental governance is assigned to the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) through Decree 165/2020 of 17 September 2020, establishing the powers and duties of the Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development and the organization of the central administration of his Department. As per Article 2 of this Decree the Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development is responsible for the design, implementation and monitoring-evaluation of the Government's policy in the protection of the environment and biodiversity, the fight against desertification, the rational management of natural resources, prevention and management of the risks of pollution and the fight against climate change. The Minister also ensures that environmental concerns are taken into account in the policies, plans and programs to promote the transition to a more ecological production model and sustainable development.

The mechanism for coordinating sustainable development is organized by Decree no 165-2020 of September 2020 (previously Decree no. 156/2012) which defines the attributions of the Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development and the organization of the central administration of his ministry's directorates and departments.

The Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development is responsible for the design, implementation and monitoring-evaluation of the of the Government's policy in the protection of the environment and biodiversity, the fight against desertification, the rational management of natural resources, prevention and management of the risks of pollution and the fight against climate change. The Minister also ensures that environmental concerns are considered in the policies, plans and programs to promote the transition to a more ecological production model and sustainable development. Among other attributes, the MEDD is in charge of the following activities directly related to climate change:

- ? Define and coordinate the policy to combat climate change to promote economic and social development.
- ? Promote the use of clean technologies aimed at reducing emissions to water, air and soil.
- ? Develop and implement a policy to fight against desertification and bush fires, restoration of degraded lands, protection and rehabilitation of the forest cover.
- ? Develop sustainable environmental information systems to monitor trends in the state of the environment and inform government for decision-making.
- ? Take part in meetings and multilateral negotiations on environment, climate change and sustainable development.
- ? Prepare instruments of ratification and implementation of international, regional and sub-regional conventions and treaties.

Other ministries collaborating in the field of environment, including climate change and sustainable development are:

- i. Ministry of Agriculture.
- ii. Ministry of livestock.
- iii. Ministry of Finance.
- iv. Ministry of Interior and of Decentralization.
- v. Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Promotion of Productive Sectors.
- vi. Ministry of Petroleum, Mining and Energy.
- vii. Ministry of Hydraulics and Sanitation.
- viii. Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy.
- ix. Ministry of Equipment and Transport.
- x. Ministry of Housing, Township and Country Planning.
- xi. Ministry of Petroleum, Energy and Mining.
- xii. Ministry of Social Affairs, Childhood and the Family.
- xiii. Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism.
- xiv. Ministry of National Education and the Reform of the Education System.
- xv. Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.
- xvi. Ministry of Justice.
- xvii. Ministry of Health.
- xviii. General Delegation for Solidarity and Fight Against Exclusion - Taazour

MEDD encourages the integration of women and young people in all actions of environmental protection and restoration. The Ministry comprises the following Directorates:

- ? The Directorate of Planning, Coordination and Statistics.
- ? The Directorate of Regulations and Multilateral Agreements.
- ? The Directorate of Evaluation and Environmental Control.
- ? The Directorate for the Protection and Restoration of Species and environments.
- ? The Directorate of Climate and Green Economy.

? The Department of Administrative and Financial Affairs

The mechanism for coordinating sustainable development was organized by Decree no. 156/2012 which defined the bodies for coordination and inter-sectoral consultation on the environment and sustainable development, at the institutional, political and technical levels and at the national and regional governance scales, through the National Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development (CNEDD) before the promulgation of Decree 165-2020. The mechanism defined by the defunct Decree no. 156.2012 needs to be updated since it has not been mentioned in the recent Decree 165 of September 2020 which sets the powers of the Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development.

It may be necessary to revisit the operational mechanism falling under Decree 156/2012 which is not covered by Decree 165 of September 2020 and better define its mission, role and functions in order to make it more functional and compatible, without replacing them, with other sectoral administrative bodies.

In an effort to consolidate the transparency requirements of the UNFCCC, Mauritania had established a Coordination Unit for the National Climate Change Programme (CCPNCC) within the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD), back in in 2009. This unit was headed by a coordinator who is a senior official of the ministry called *Chargé de Mission*, who worked cumulatively as the UNFCCC Focal Point. He was assisted in his daily duty by an Assistant Coordinator, also a civil servant from the MEDD, and two support staff recruited from the civil society (a Senior Advisor and an Administrative assistant). This unit also relied on other administrative support staff of the MEDD upon request. The CCPNCC, since its creation, developed and mainstreamed climate change into other sectors' policies and strategies while enhancing national institutional arrangements in involving other sectors and national entities into climate change networking and activities (GHG inventories and GHG mitigation, climate change vulnerability and adaptation studies, clean technology needs evaluation and transfer besides implementation of other climate change actions). The CCPNCC worked in involving all stakeholders through the establishment of a network of sectoral focal points on climate change in each sector (or PFSCC in its French acronym) and later the Technical Working Groups (TWG, in English, or GTSCC in its French acronym) on Climate Change as an internal task force formed of the representatives of the data provider structures within each sector or Ministry. Mauritania has thus developed a network of sectoral focal points for climate change within ministerial departments to improve the implementation of the Convention to meet its objectives and systematically introduce climate change concerns in all sectoral activities.

In an effort to consolidate the transparency requirements of the UNFCCC, Mauritania has reorganized and strengthened the framework for implementing and reporting on climate change activities. The CCPNCC changed into a fully operational Directorate of Climate and Green Economy (DCEV, as per the French acronym) within MEDD along with the other Directorates listed above following promulgation of Decree 165/2020. The former CCPNCC has over the years developed a robust database exclusively related to climate change. All the enabling activities conducted in the country since 1997 have resulted in documented capacity building programs involving all the sectoral ministries that have continuously enriched the climate information and constituted the basis for climate funding requests. A database specialist, managing these data, has developed since more than six years a classification and archiving system for this mass of information. This embryo deserves to be capitalized on by CBIT.

It is clear that the two directorates are complementary to each other although each has a field of action that is relatively well defined and circumscribed by the legislation. While the DCEV is exclusively concerned with climate change issues, the DPCS collects all data in the environment and sustainable development sector.

As per Decree 165-2020, the two key Directorates, pivotal for the development and implementation of the CBIT project and to directly benefit from its activities. The two Directorates called upon to play crucial and complementary roles in the CBIT project, namely the Directorate of Climate and Green Economy and the Directorate of Planning, Coordination and Statistics, are organized as follows.

The Directorate of Climate and Green Economy (DCEV), focal point of the UNFCCC, is called upon to:

- ? Formulate, update and coordinate the implementation of national strategies and plans to combat climate change.
- ? Initiate studies and analyses of vulnerabilities to climate change necessary to guide adaptation planning and assist in disaster risk reduction.
- ? Promote the integration of climate resilience in planning documents for development and, in climate-sensitive sectors, such as agriculture, coastal areas, energy, fisheries, transportation, health and water.
- ? Identify, develop and coordinate programs and projects on adaptation and climate resilience at the community level.
- ? Enhance and ensure coherence and synergies between adaptation initiatives and projects,
- ? Capitalize and disseminate information on successful experiences and techniques for combating climate change.
- ? Carry out information and awareness of socio-economic impacts of climate change, adaptation and mitigation measures.
- ? Contribute to strengthening national and local capacities in the field of climate change;
- ? Monitoring the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, in particular through the preparation of communications.
- ? Conduct, in collaboration with the other sectors, the inventories of greenhouse gases including mitigation measures and actions.
- ? Ensure the Secretariat of the National Climate Change Committee (CNCC).
- ? Facilitate, in liaison with universities and relevant Research Centres, the production of knowledge on adaptation
- ? and mitigation techniques that are most appropriate within the context of the country.

- ? Provide support for the implementation of all innovative financing and green financing mechanisms, including the Green Climate Fund (GCF).
- ? Facilitate access to finance and green technologies to all sectoral ministries, civil society organizations and the private sector

The Directorate of Planning, Coordination and Statistics (DPCS) is called upon, on behalf of the environment and sustainable development sector, to:

- ? Develop strategies and reference documents as well as thematic planning tools to guide the department's actions.
- ? Elaborate the sectoral strategy of the department.
- ? Ensure the overall coherence and synergy of the department's programs, projects and activities as well as coherence with those of other ministerial departments.
- ? Coordinate the development of the department's annual work plan (AWP) and ensure its follow-up and evaluation.
- ? Carry out analyses and reports to orient the national policy on the environment and sustainable development.
- ? Ensure the dissemination of good environmental and sustainable development.
- ? Establish an annual report on the state of the environment and sustainable development
- ? Collect, use and disseminate environmental data.
- ? Maintain environmental statistics and develop the required indicators.
- ? Set up an environmental information system.
- ? Define and coordinate the implementation of an environmental education in close collaboration with the other department's concerned.
- ? Contribute to the monitoring of the implementation of major national strategies such as the SCAPP.
- ? Develop, in collaboration with the department of Administrative and Financial Affairs, the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) of the Ministry and ensure its monitoring and evaluation.
- ? Design and implement the monitoring and evaluation of the strategy and the department's annual action plans.
- ? Prepare quarterly, semi-annual, and annual reports on the implementation of the action plans, in accordance with the indicators and targets.

? Manage and supervise monitoring and evaluation of the activities of the department.

The Directorate of Planning, Coordination and Statistics is headed by a Director assisted by a Deputy Director and comprises three Departments responsible for

1. The Strategic Planning, Coordination and Forecasting Department.
2. The Statistics and, Monitoring and Evaluation Department.
3. The Department on environmental education.

The Statistics and Monitoring and Evaluation Department is the one which will play a key role in the development of the MRV system. It is in charge of collecting and disseminating environmental data. It receives and organizes all the documentary resources on the environment and sustainable development as well as those of the department and sets up a collection, a digital database of all the reports and studies, related to the environment, and sets up an environmental information system, connected to all environmental data management platforms in each sector of all directorates, thematic and/or ministerial department. It is responsible for designing and implementing the for designing and implementing the monitoring and evaluation of the strategy and annual action plans including projects, programs and institutions under its authority. It prepares the quarterly, semi-annual and annual reports on the implementation strategy, and annual reports on the execution of the action plans.

The Statistics and Monitoring and Evaluation Department comprises the Environmental Statistics and the Monitoring and Evaluation Divisions.

The Directorate on Climate and the Green Economy is headed by a Director, assisted by a Deputy Director and comprises three departments; the Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Vulnerability Analysis department, a department to promote the integration of Climate Change in sectoral planning and the department for the promotion of the green economy and climate finance.

The Vulnerability Analysis and Greenhouse Gas Inventory Department is responsible for assessing and monitoring climate impacts and climate scenarios on all socio-economic activities, particularly in terms of environment, energy and climate; undertaking and monitoring studies on the analysis and exploitation of the results of the work on the evolution of the climate, to study and update data on the vulnerability of the socio-economic sectors and the impacts of climate change on ecosystems and communities, to undertake the development and projection of mitigation measures over time horizons relevant to the country.

The vulnerability analysis and greenhouse gas inventory Unit consists of the Vulnerability Analysis Division and the Greenhouse Gas Inventory Division.

The Department for the promotion of climate change in sectoral planning includes the Climate Change Sectoral Climate Planning Division and the Sectoral Climate Change Integration and Monitoring Division.

The Department for the promotion of Climate Finance is responsible for analysing existing economic policies and strategies to enable the transition to a green economy; promoting dialogue with stakeholders on issues related to the promotion of the green economy and, to propose new concepts and

plans for sustainable development. It promotes and facilitates access to sustainable financing mechanisms, including climate finance. It provides advice to promoters of climate change adaptation and mitigation projects.

The Green Economy and Climate Finance Directorate is composed of the Green Economy and Development Division and the Climate Finance Division.

Climate actions have never been restricted to the central government only. They have always integrated data supplied by regional and local authorities, whether from DREDD or other sources. This perspective has also been addressed under Decree 165-2020. Thus, the Ministry in charge of Environment and Sustainable Development is represented at the level of the Wilayas (districts) by regional delegations of the environment, which are directed by regional delegates with the rank of central directors.

The regional delegation is responsible for implementing the overall sectoral environmental policy at the level of the Wilaya to implement the programs and activities assigned to it by the department, at the central level; and promote the involvement of the local populations for a sustainable management of the environment, in accordance with the principles of sustainable development.

The regional delegates are appointed by order of the Minister in charge of the environment. The regional delegates prepare and submit to the Secretary General quarterly and annual reports on the general state of the environment of the Wilaya under their responsibility. The regional delegate is under the authority of the Wali. He is responsible to his hierarchy for all the activities of his delegation.

Since 2013 and up to September 2020, this institutional framework, piloted by the sectoral focal point at the Ministerial level and by the CCPNCC at the national level, has been adopted to prepare all enabling activities, namely NCs, BURs, NDCs, TNAs. So far the process has been imperfect due to the slowness of the sectoral ministries or the lack of institutionalization of procedures. For the national GHG Inventories, for example, data are collected, provided, analysed and reported by the respective Ministries with the support of an expert from MEDD. Then, a thematic report (Energy, IPPU, etc) is prepared by the thematic leader under the supervision of DCEV and submitted for the national approval process, estimating emissions and/or archiving. Finally, the data and information which were stored simultaneously in the database unit of the CCPNCC and, where relevant, within the Ministry's appropriate archiving system if existing has been taken over since 2020 by DCEV. However, this system is still used on an ad hoc basis and there are no institutionalised procedures and protocols to ensure MRV on a continuous basis, which is the aim of the requested CBIT support until the transition is completed within the framework of the project. This system which is obsolete and inappropriate to deliver in accordance with the ETF of the Paris Agreement will be replaced by the new framework structured under Decree 165-2020.

It is understood that the Directorate of Planning, Coordination and Statistics is still a nascent structure with little experience in the exercise of its current functions. On the contrary, the DCEV is a structure that has been operational for the past 24 years through the formerly called CCPNCC. This document deals with the development of an MRV system that will be built and matured after a few years thanks to the CBIT.

In the past and up to year 2020, the process of preparing the enabling activities (BUR and NC) began with data collection and included: (i) preparation and verification of data quality; (ii) analysis and preparation of the sector report under the responsibility of the sector focal point with the support of an

independent expert provided by the then existing CCPNCC (iii) compilation of the sector reports was undertaken by a thematic leader with support from an independent expert provided by the former CCPNCC.

All reports were subsequently technically controlled (Quality Assured) by a Senior Advisor reporting to the CCPNCC. All reports (sectoral or compiled) were then submitted to a validation workshop convened by the CCPNCC coordinator for review, appropriation and validation by relevant stakeholders. To further improve the quality of reporting, the CCPNCC has since 2018 hired a consultant, mainly for peer-reviewing the French wording and syntax quality of experts' reports. Additionally, CCPNCC aimed at submitting the BUR2 report to the UN-Global Support Program for peer-review before September 2020, prior to its final submission to the UNFCCC Secretariat. Unfortunately, this event did not take place due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This structure has changed since September 2020, with DCEV now responsible for these steps.

Under Decree 165-2020, the preparation of NCs and BURs will be under the responsibility of the Directorate of Climate and the Green economy, using existing structures. The Directorate of Planning, Coordination and Statistics in its role of data collector, manager, and provider will observe over the next two years the flow of data collection from sectoral ministries, verify the quality of these data and assess with the DCEV its capacity to play a role in the MRV system under construction.

Similarly, the present archiving of the sectoral reports and data by the DCEV will be strengthened and subjected to an evaluation. In fact, there exists a database that has been developed by an independent specialist under the former CCPNCC and this will constitute the baseline for the MRV system under construction together with the PFS. A report to be archived is subject to a process that simultaneously includes the approval of the Thematic Team Leader, the Senior Advisor and the Coordinator. Moreover, information on MRV is available on a website managed by the DCEV[3] and enabled through the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness Program support. However, it needs to be regularly strengthened and updated which is not the case presently. The Directorate of Planning, Coordination and Statistics will henceforth take over this responsibility as attributed by Decree 165-2020.

Similarly, Mauritania has set up a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system to track implementation and progress made for its National Strategy for the Environment and Sustainable Development, 2017-2030 (SNEDD), set for the entire environmental and sustainable development sector and the so-called "National Environmental Action Plan" (SEPANE), at the Directorate of Planning and Inter-sectoral Coordination and of Data (DPCID) within the MEDD, which includes a thematic axis on combating the effects of climate change. The prevailing M&E system at DPCID, so-called SEPANE[4], collects all information and data related to the environment and sustainable development as a whole and across the nation. This set-up will thus change and the newly created Directorate of Planning, Coordination and Statistics in collaboration with the Directorate of Climate and Green Economy will provide an umbrella to CBIT but will not be a substitute nor an opponent. Since the CBIT project, within MEDD, will be focusing on all climate issues, therefore contributing to what the previous M&E system did by covering the climate change aspects, will further support the government to strengthen capacities of the newly constituted Directorates as well as all other concerned ministries. As part of the ongoing efforts to improve the quality of the national transparency products of the SNEDD, CBIT will serve to improve the quality of information generated for preparing NCs, BTRs, other enabling activities and national GHG inventories, climate finance and serve to collect inputs from projects implemented countrywide, besides setting up a permanent structure to enable BTR reporting on a continuous basis.

On the other hand, the Directorate of Climate and Green Economy is supported by the sectoral focal points of other ministries in the process of guiding sectoral ministries on how to prepare their sectoral contributions for NCs, BTRs and other reports. Sectoral ministries are thus encouraged to be responsible for making contributions with a view to improving the quality of sectoral data and preparing low-carbon sectoral strategies based on, inter alia, CDM experiences and NAMAs. All this package will provide for an added value to the prevailing M&E system for the environment (SEPANE) and eventually the MRV system.

Moreover, the Mauritanian government has made considerable efforts to integrate climate issues into its development planning, particularly the Strategic Framework for Poverty Reduction (CSLP 2012-2015) and (ii) the National Action Plan for the Environment (PANE 2012-2015) and the sectoral strategies (i) the National Strategy for Food Security (SNSA 2015-2030), (ii) the National Adaptation Plan and Low Carbon development of MEDD (PAN/LCD December 2012) and (iii) the National Agricultural Investment and Food Security Program (PNIASA 2012-2015). This consideration has been repeated in the country's new vision for development up to 2030, namely the "Accelerated Growth and Shared Prosperity Strategy" (SCAPP 2016-2030), that aims to multiply its results in the medium-term concerning:

- ? The area of socio-economic prosperity while ensuring sustainability of resources, and
- ? "Building Better Environmental Governance" for providing, inter-alia, sustainable development with a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy and the preservation of environmental and cultural integrity. This strategy places the NDC as a key source document for future development plans.

While issues related to climate change gained political attention and momentum, gaps and barriers for the development of robust transparency products became more evident (concerning the development of NCs, GHG Inventories and BURs, and tracking NDC implementation). It also became clear that the established structure in Mauritania was in dire need to enhance its transparency capacities and efforts. As a response to these needs, the national system has evolved with the promulgation of Decree 165-2020 that frames and regulates the process with clearly defined responsibilities to the various Directorates of MEDD. The sectoral focal point approach which is currently evolving since 2016, towards the expansion of the system to a network of sectoral task forces or sectoral technical working groups (GTSCC), will continue along with a long-term vision of establishing an independent academic arbitral authority, comprising three research units from academic institutions and the civil society to foster auditing and quality control, and thus create a basis for future domestic MRV[5]. The sectoral working groups are each chaired by their respective PFSCC. The CNEDD, composed of the sectoral focal points, is currently characterized with a gender disparity as it comprises 7 females and 38 males. The sectoral working groups have as members department representatives who manage climate related activities, or activities related to data and statistics relevant for climate change. The department representatives are designated by an administrative act of the Minister (order, memo or letter), and officially notified to the MEDD. The institutional arrangements that had been developed and adopted for the preparation of the GHG inventory of the BUR2 are provided in Figure 1.

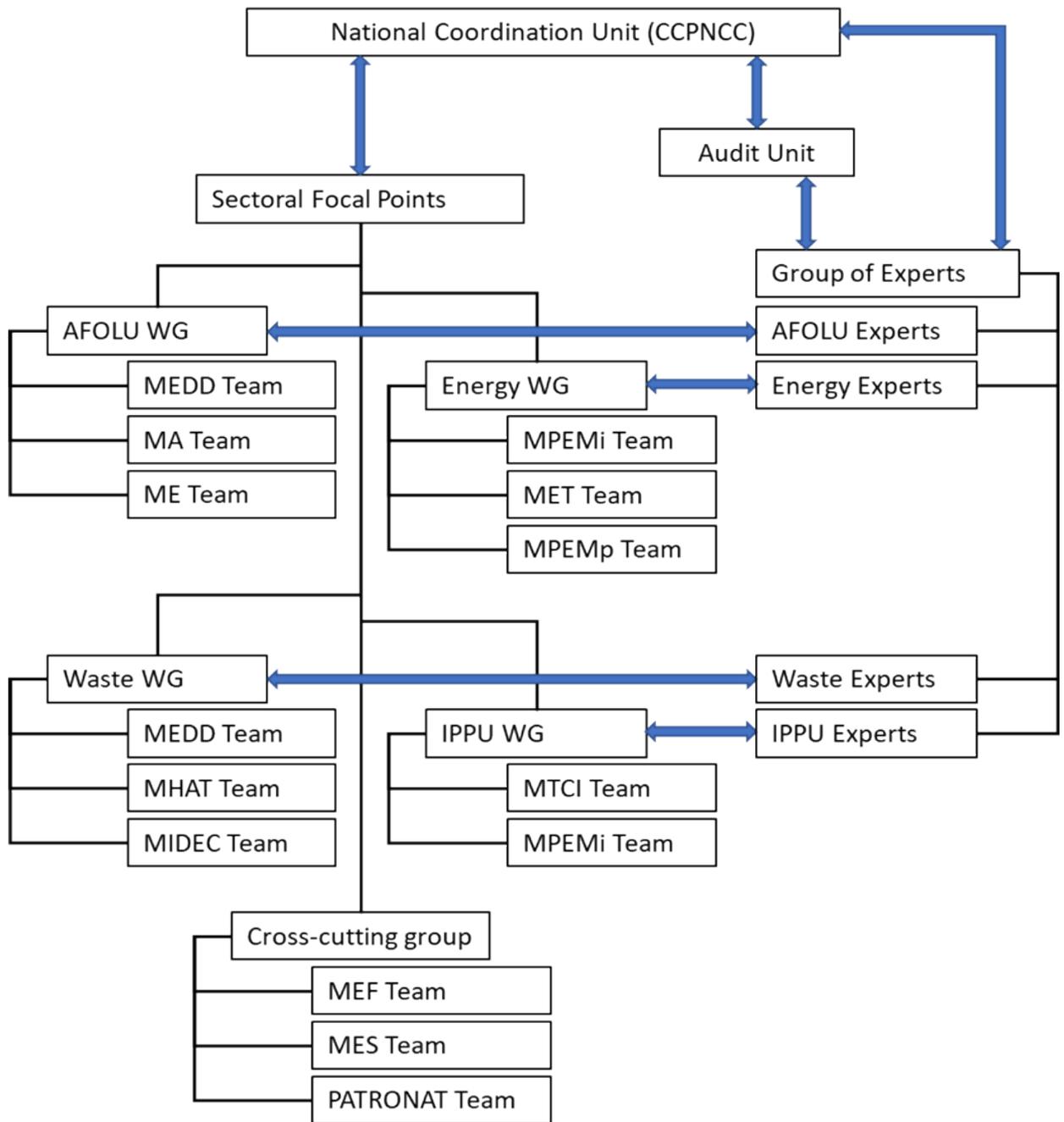
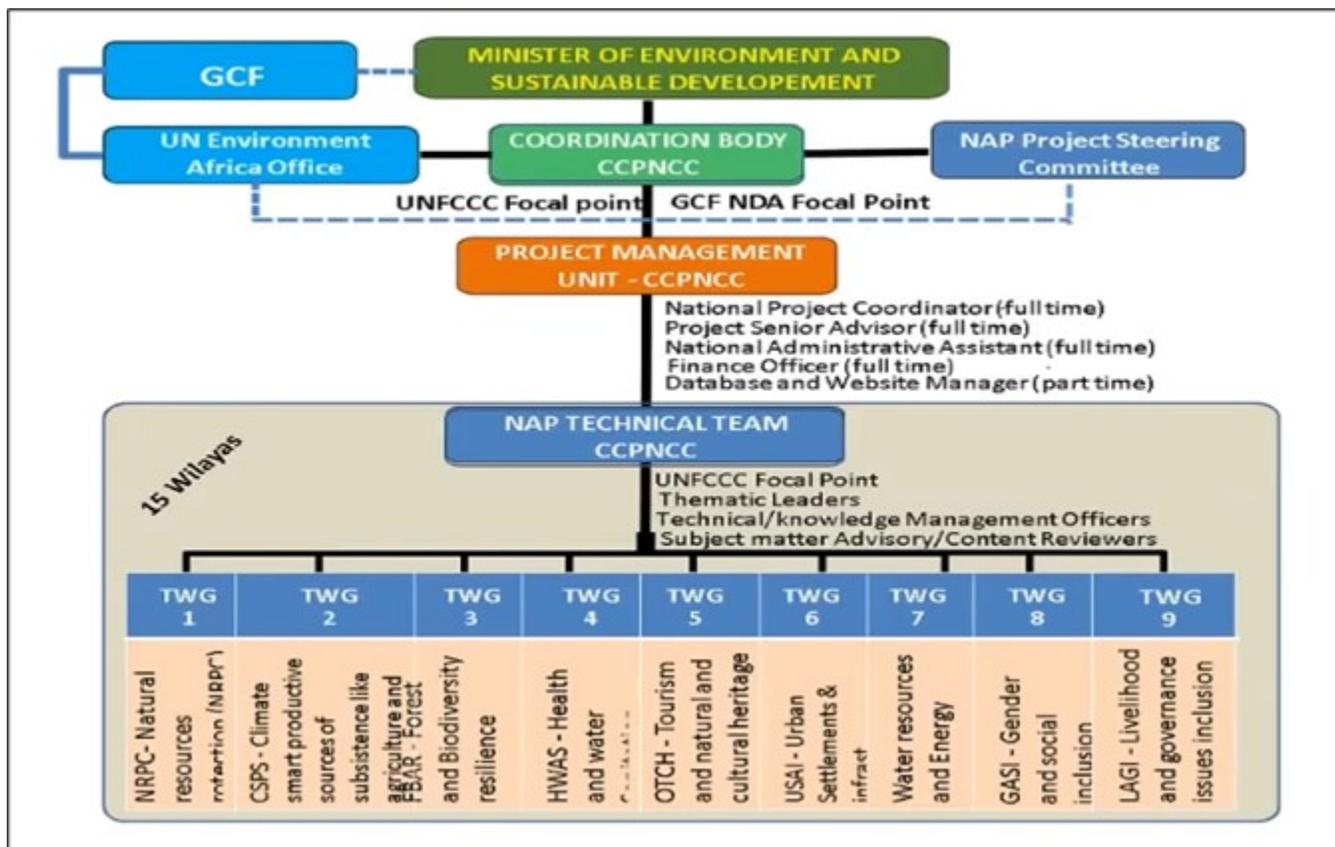


Figure 1. Institutional arrangements for GHG inventory preparation (Reproduced from BUR2)

The National Technical Expert Group on Climate Change (GTNCC) created to oversee the development and implementation of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) as illustrated in Figure 2 and the GTSCC established within the framework of the BUR2 preparation were responsible for providing technical support to the previously existing CCPNCC and now through the newly created DCEV, through the sectoral focal points. Their objective was to promote the decentralization of climate change-related activities to Sectoral Departments of all ministries. The GTSCC is now responsible for:

- i. Promoting and monitoring the implementation of climate change activities at the sectoral level; and
- ii. Ensuring the technical quality of the documents to be produced for climate change activities under their responsibility on behalf of the Department, before their validation and sharing with the Directorate of Climate and Green Economy of the MEDD.



NAP Technical Team= GTNCC; TWG= GTSCC, (Source: MDA/ICA: Facilitative Sharing of Views. May 15, 2017)

Figure 2: Structure of the National Transparency Framework

Despite the achievements and efforts made by Mauritania to implement the Convention and adhere to its transparency requirements, the ETF poses additional challenges for Mauritania. The country does not have yet the needed capacities to monitor, report, and verify the mitigation and adaptation actions and policies, and corresponding finance and sustainable development contribution in a structured and institutionalized manner, using robust domestic and regulatory processes. Despite having been able to prepare NCs, BURs and its NDC, and improved the national GHG inventory component of these reports, the process of producing these reports was not well-structured and usually happened on an ad hoc basis with partial dependency on external financial support. In addition, Mauritania's NDC and the

BUR2 are explicit about the country's challenges in MRV, describing how the MRV approach has never actually been applied to track emissions, mitigation and adaptation measures, and support needed and received in a systematic manner. Mauritania has taken steps with the intent to gradually improve this situation, and this is described in the BUR2 with amongst other efforts, the country adhering to the Central and North Africa Regional MRV Networks in September 2019.

CHALLENGES, GAPS AND BARRIERS

During the preparation of the BUR1, Mauritania emphasized on the institutional arrangements for a smooth flow of the MRV process through the implication of the sectoral focal points. Capacity building and sensitization of the stakeholders led to consultations on the MRV, the outcome being the development of a plan. Unfortunately, delays in receiving timely support on this issue barred the implementation of the plan. Several initiatives were taken on the MRV system despite the barriers and challenges which considerably hampered them. More deliberations on the MRV were held during the preparation of the BUR2. The results were further strengthening of capacity and the development of the sectoral focal points into technical working groups for the four IPCC sectors.

The identification of challenges, gaps and barriers has been facilitated through national processes and the process of reporting to the UNFCCC, notably the preparation of the NC4 and BUR2. The barriers and gaps are thus documented in Mauritania's reports to the Convention, through the Facilitative Sharing of Views under the ICA process of the Convention, and through the National Strategy for the Environment and Sustainable Development, and its Action Plan for the period 2017-2021. The following describes these challenges, which are used as a basis to define the current activities aimed at improving Mauritania's transparency capacities and proposes additional actions to enhance the transparency framework of the country.

Institutional gaps and barriers

Before September 17, 2013, the MEDD was a state body delegated to the Prime Minister's Office (MDEDD) and was not a Ministry in its own right. This did not give it sufficient credentials or institutional weight to assert itself to the other structures, including line ministries, of the State, to carry the message of integration of climate change into sectoral strategies and policies. This weighed heavily on the activities pertaining to the preparation of national reports, particularly in the collection of needed data from other departments. The creation of MEDD improved this situation, namely with the establishment several years back of the CCPNCC, now the Directorate of Climate and Green Economy, to manage the process with the support of different committees operating at national, sectoral and regional levels. Despite becoming more prominent in the political structure through the establishment of MEDD, the management of climate change issues and its MRV still suffer from its very young status. In order to further improve the situation and enhance the existing institutional arrangements towards enhanced transparency reporting, the CCPNCC has been redesigned into a directorate (Directorate of Climate and Green Economy, DCEV) in 2020. As well, a Directorate of Planning, Coordination and Statistics has been created to collect and manage data pertaining to the environment including climate change. These changes provide for a more robust framework for implementing the MRV system and track the NDC implementation within the broader context of climate actions.

There are key ministries and agencies that collect and publish sector-specific activity data that are accessed when they become publicly available. Key ones are the energy statistics published annually

by the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy and Mines (MPEM); annual agriculture facts and figures by the Ministry of Rural Development, comprising agriculture and livestock, previously the Ministry of Agriculture (MA), and the Ministry of livestock (ME)[6], vehicle population and inspection statistics by the Ministry of Transport and Equipment (MET) and household statistics published every 5 years by the Mauritania National Statistics Agency (ONS). Although Mauritania has a number of existing sectoral data supply platforms, some challenges have been observed in the data generated.

Although the data published by the institutions are mostly relevant for the sectoral reports, significant improvements are still needed in numerous areas. Often, the data published from these public data platforms do not contain the necessary details or the necessary statistical information to allow comprehensive climate reporting, notably for GHG inventories on a sustainable basis.

The newly created Directorate of Planning, Coordination and Statistics will henceforth assume the responsibility for centralizing this data management process through an electronic platform and the CBIT project is timely for the provision of the necessary capacity building and development of appropriate tools for implementing the data collection and management framework.

Regulatory and formalized procedural gaps and barriers

The main regulatory gap in relation to climate change was the lack of mention of climate change in the Mauritanian Environmental Code and its implementing texts until the promulgation of Decree 165 in September 2020. GHG emissions were unregulated, making access more difficult to monitor the sources. Several implementing texts provided for by the previous Environmental Code were not yet in place. Decree 165-2020 now explicitly include aspects of climate change and especially the issue of GHG emissions, mitigation, adaptation and climate finance within the ambit of the DCEV. Additionally, and even if the latest legislative/regulatory texts are not yet fully operationalized, they provide for a system to ensure proper access to and sharing of GHG emissions, and mitigation and adaption relevant information and data. The gaps and barriers are expected to disappear with the application of Decree 165-2020 which clearly demarcates the responsibilities of the various Directorates of the MEDD, including their tasks relative to the environment and the climate, including reporting to the Convention.

Access to information and data

Despite the efforts to cover all existing sources and sinks, the national GHG inventory is still not accurate, and incomplete. For example, during the ICA process, the Mauritanian team discovered several weaknesses in the data quality of activities, particularly in the AFOLU sector, mainly due to a lack of activity data to estimate emissions and removals from some source categories. Due to the limited data (e.g., area of organic soils drained from unknown forests), knowledge gaps and lack of a default methodology, it is not possible to estimate CO₂ emissions due to the drainage of organic soils of forests. In addition, data on several sources does not exist in Mauritania, particularly in the industrial processes sector. In the Energy Sector there was a lack of access to reliable data on conventional energy in the available GHG inventory studies. There are also specific barriers in monitoring emissions from the Livestock sector, a sector of major importance for Mauritania. Being a desert and having a highly mobile livestock population (20 million heads) because of the lack of pastoral resources, performing a census is both very expensive and difficult to administer. Consequently, the use of estimates instead of a statistical census becomes easier and less resource demanding. This situation could however be greatly improved with capacity building initiatives of staff of the newly created Ministry of Rural Development responsible for Livestock (2018), allowing them to better administer

surveys and sampling, or even utilize satellite images to get more accurate figures. In terms of improvements, efforts are being made to identify and evaluate new sources and sinks for which cost-effective estimation methods are available.

Another important deficiency remains the low level of adequacy of emission factors to represent local conditions in the country. All factors used are default, such that estimates in the AFOLU sector are greatly conditioned, often affected by errors of evaluation and classification[7]. In terms of data storage and accessibility, the current database which had been set up on the premises of the CCPNCC has now been transferred to DCEV, but it should be updated periodically using new tools, and for enhanced visibility and availability of data to promote utilization for research purposes and planning. The CBIT project will support the development of the tools for enhancing utilization of the centralized database.

Capacity-building needs and barriers

The lack of capacity, and thus the need for capacity building, has been a recurrent barrier for Mauritania's ability to plan, implement and monitor climate policies and actions effectively. Even when capacity and staff with the needed technical expertise are available, the capacities are seldom internalized in the institutions, and disappear with the change of staff. Additionally, a real weakness exists in the means for diagnosing and monitoring the terrestrial environment (specialized laboratory, dedicated research institution). Mauritania's capacity to monitor and control the terrestrial environment, especially the rural vegetation cover, wood resources, wild and terrestrial flora, and the urban and industrial environment is still very weak. The function of monitoring terrestrial natural resources (vegetation, fauna, and flora) is limited due to insufficient personnel and to absence of technical means. No laboratory for analysis and monitoring of air quality exists in the country. The weakness of skills corresponding to the profiles requested is one of the major problems of the DCEV. Competencies, when they exist, are not always assigned to the right positions, and many of the positions with defined profiles do not have the personnel with the right skills.

Financial barriers

Another barrier to establish an ETF is the insufficiency of financial means granted to the MEDD through the State budget to reinforce its capacities for intervention and operation, for example, inadequate mobilization of funds to acquire software and undertake in-situ demonstrative activities of the resilience of communities and their sources of livelihood. The DCEV does not have sufficient human, financial and material resources to carry out its mission properly.

A summary of the existing gaps and barriers to be addressed by the CBIT project is given in the problem tree in Figure 3. Problems beyond the scope of this project and which it will not address are also depicted.

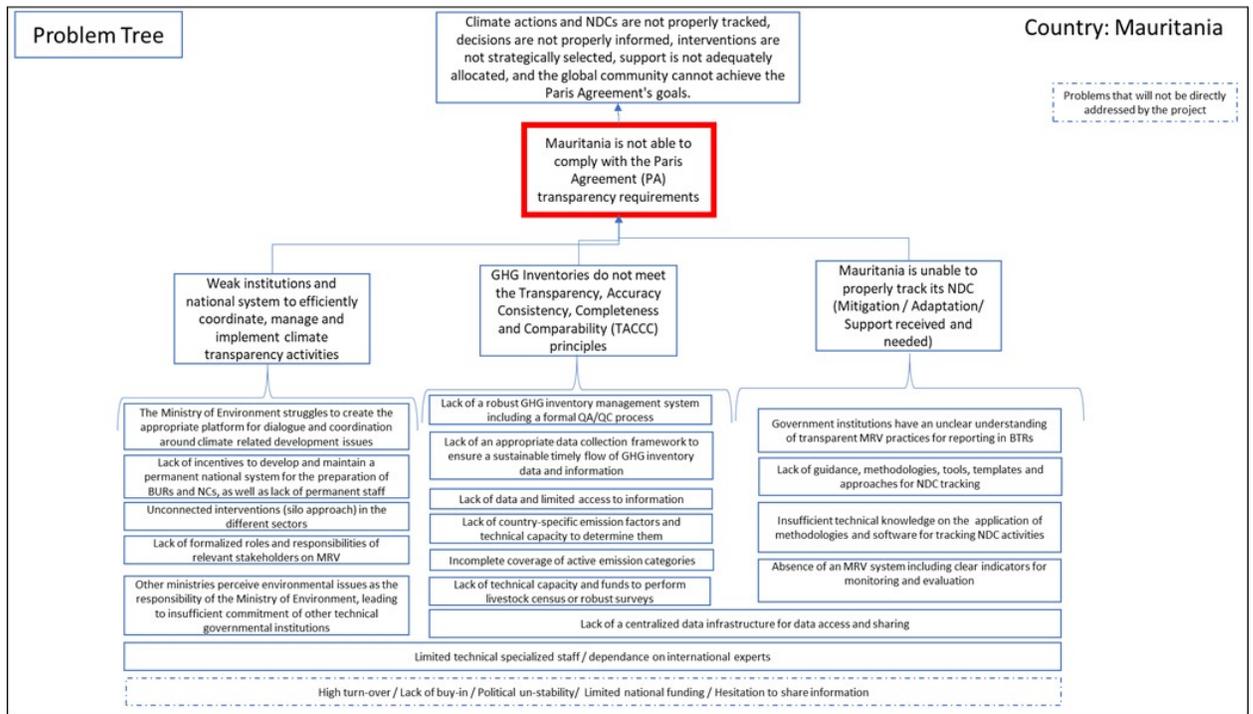


Figure 3. Existing gaps and barriers to be addressed in the CBIT project

ASSOCIATED BASELINE PROJECTS ? NATIONAL EFFORTS

Developing Mauritania's Domestic Monitoring Reporting and Verification System

Having identified the gaps and barriers described above, Mauritania already started the process of planning interventions to address the current situation and enhance its transparency capacities. During the preparation of the first BUR, the main approach adopted by Mauritania for developing and operationalizing its national MRV system focused on integrating the new MRV into the existing national M&E system used for monitoring national development rather than establishing a new layer of institutional structures. The development and operationalization of the new MRV system aim to build upon the existing M&E system by incorporating the following aspects:

- i. Estimating and reporting national GHG emissions.
- ii. Monitoring of GHG emissions or reductions attributed to specific mitigation measures (policies, programs, measures or projects).
- iii. Monitoring of climate support (provided by the government or received from donors or in some form of market funding).
- iv. Technology transfer and capacity building to enable the implementation of climate actions or measures.
- v. Co-benefits or sustainable development benefits associated with mitigation measures.

Following the ICA process on the BUR1, stakeholder consultations were organized to program the development and implementation of the domestic MRV system. Some ten meetings took place on the subject and the outcome was an elaborated workplan with a calendar of activities translating the objectives to be rolled out during the period 2018 to 2020. Unfortunately, due to lack of resources, funds in particular, the program could not be realized. Meanwhile, major changes on the political front warranted a revision of priorities and a postponement of the development of the MRV program. To revamp the MRV process, the CCPNCC, now the Directorate of Climate and Green Economy, found it necessary to renew the capacity building and sensitization process, this time with a larger group of stakeholders, namely the potential members of the sectoral working teams during the preparation of the BUR2. A series of virtual capacity building sessions were organized to review the initial plans and work out a new calendar of activities over the period 2020 to 2021, to coincide with the CBIT process. The development and implementation will commence soon when resources will be made available once the CBIT project is approved.

To this end, during the preparation of its BUR1 in 2016, Mauritania designed a simple non-burdensome MRV structure, easy to integrate and be accepted by the identified institutions, while meeting the essential elements for the MRV system (Figure 4).

Planning activities & Implementation ➡	Mainstreaming indicators & Tools ➡	Testing the initial MRV System ➡	MRV Final shaping & upscaling ➡
Stakeholders' consultation on MRV & Structuration	Identify and integrate key mitigation indicators And co-advantages	Install pilot MRV in key sectors	Adopt initial MRV system
MRV institutionalization & data collection	Develop, and test reporting models in key sectors	Collect comments from data providers & users	Train stakeholders on initial MRV system
Consolidate data sharing Network	Develop data sharing protocols	Improve MRV model	Upscale MRV to GHG data providers
Install technology Information infrastructure	Training data providers & network users	Collect new comments from data providers & users	Open a public register for comments
Launch MRV inception Workshop			Launch of the MRV system

Source: Mauritania's BUR 1, 2016 - CCPNCC MEDD.

Figure 4. Process and activities for rolling out and institutionalizing the domestic MRV system

This MRV structure, developed for the preparation of NCs and BURs, was reviewed and updated but could not be implemented during the preparation of the BUR2 due lack of resources, namely funds and national capacities. Thus, it is not yet institutionalised. Moreover, it does not have the necessary modalities and procedures to ensure continuous MRV, especially for emissions and tracking of NDC as well as mitigation and adaptation actions. The reviewed and updated MRV structure (Figure 27 of the BUR2) is reproduced as Figure 5 below. The BUR2 spelled out the conditional need for support from the international community for the development and operationalisation of the MRV system. This conditionality is being looked upon by this CBIT project.

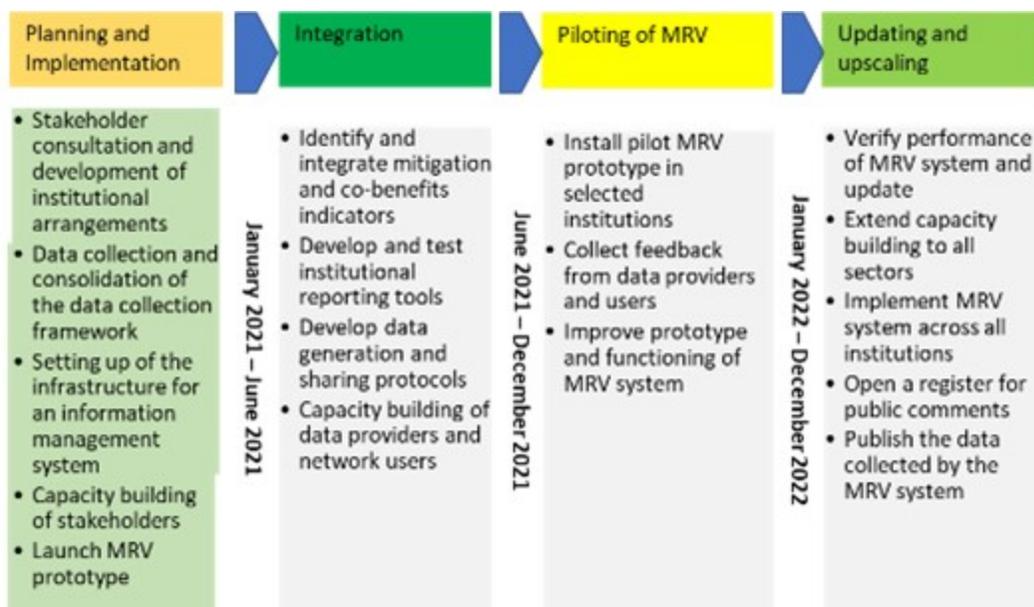


Figure 5. MRV structure proposed for development in the BUR2

Current UNFCCC reporting continued, done on an ad-hoc basis, despite the recognized need to institutionalise and formalise continuous MRV processes in the institutions collaborating in the technical working groups of the different sectors to respond to the ETF requirements of biennial reporting on (i) GHG inventory (ii) NDC implementation progress and achievement (iii) climate impacts and adaptation, and (iv) support needed and received.

ASSOCIATED BASELINE PROJECTS ? INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

Table 1. List of associated baseline projects

Project	Support Institution	Implementing Agency	Status	Description	Amount
Initial National Communication	GEF	UNEP	Completed	With support from the GEF, Mauritania was able to prepare and submit to the UNFCCC Secretariat three NCs, respectively in 2001, 2008, 2015. The process of preparing NCs	350,000
Second National Communication (NC2)	GEF	UNEP	Completed		450,000

Third National Communication (NC3)	GEF	UNEP	Completed	assisted in identifying gaps and barriers for enhanced transparency, which is currently planned to be addressed through the development of the national MRV system and CBIT funding.	500,000
First Biennial Update Report (BUR1)	GEF	UNEP	Completed	With support from the GEF, Mauritania was able to prepare and submit to the UNFCCC Secretariat its first biennial update report on 14 March 2016. The process of preparing the BUR1 assisted in identifying gaps and barriers for enhanced transparency, which is currently planned to be addressed through the development of the national MRV system, and CBIT funding.	352,000
Fourth National Communication (NC4)	GEF	UNEP	Completed	Mauritania prepared and submitted its NC4 on 16 September 2019 with support from the GEF. The NC4 addressed some of the areas identified for improvement, especially the GHG inventory, mitigation and adaptation assessments.	500,000
Second Biennial Update Report (BUR2)	GEF	UNEP	Completed	Mauritania has completed its Second BUR based on GEF funding and submitted it to the UNFCCC in February 2021. The BUR2 served to fill some of the gaps described in the baseline scenario of the BUR1 and NC3, namely the enhanced transparency to be further addressed by this CBIT project.	352,000

National Adaptation Plan Capacity Building Project to advance the process of the national climate change adaptation plan (GCF-NAP READINESS)	GCF	UNEP	Approved readiness proposal	Mauritania is facing the consequences of climate change acutely. To meet this major challenge, Mauritania has embarked on the process of developing the National Adaptation Plan (PNA) to Climate Change. This process, supported by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and implemented by the United Nations Environment Program (UN Environment) was entrusted by the Government to the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, through the Coordination Unit of the National Climate Change Program which has set up a capacity building plan to advance the process of the national climate change adaptation plan (PNA GCF-NAP READINESS PROJECT) piloted by a PMU	2,670,374
Mauritania: Enabling Activities for the Preparation of Fifth National Communication (NC5)	GEF	UNEP	Project preparation phase	Mauritania benefited from an Enabling Activity (EA) for the Preparation of its Fifth National Communication (NC5) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)? within the framework of the UNEP project document approved by UNEP PAG on 19 Aug 2020. At an early phase (First phase), there would be a project implementation plan to be prepared accordingly so as to facilitate the project execution later	500,000

Mauritania Nationally Determined Contribution to Paris Agreement with the support of UNDP.	UNDP	UNDP	Ongoing	Based on Mauritania's BUR2 data, just completed in 2021 with funding from The GEF and submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat, Mauritania, with UNDP support, has decided to actualize its NDC. This process is currently underway and it is planned for completion before the year ends. All sectoral ministries and their affiliated agencies, the private sector and the civil society are attending this process, planned to last more than two months	200,000 Euros
Climate change adaptation and livelihoods in 3 arid regions of Mauritania: Trarza; Inchiri and Adrar	GEF	UNEP	GEF Adaptation Project to start in 2021	This is a GEF adaptation t to climate change project meant for reinforcing resilience of the Trarza, Inchiri and Adrar arid Wilayas, namely their communities and ecosystems. The project is under the sponsorship of UNEP and executed by MEDD over a period of four years	4,416,210

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

The vision of the desired alternative scenario is based on overcoming the barriers described in the baseline scenario. Overcoming these gaps and barriers will ensure that the MRV emissions, mitigation, adaptation and support systems provide greater transparency, accuracy and comparability of information on mitigation and adaptation measures, and allow Mauritania to:

- i. Estimate emissions and sinks of GHGs (TACCC GHG inventory) to inform the global stocktake and serve as baseline for assessing mitigation actions when implementing the NDC.
- ii. Measure and track reductions in GHG emissions and sequestration of organic carbon generated by the implementation of proposed mitigation measures.

- iii. Facilitate the identification and evaluation of objectively verifiable monitoring indicators to measure progress against intended objectives.
- iv. Promote the reporting and communication of GHG emission reductions, SDG contribution, gender indicators, and climate finance of proposed mitigation and adaptation measures in a transparent manner; and
- v. Enable verification, possibly by an independent third party of the reliability of the results obtained on the implementation of proposed mitigation and adaptation measures.

These improvements, allowing for continuous transparent up to standard reporting, will also enable Mauritania to properly monitor and regularly assess the effectiveness and impacts of its climate change policies, make potential adjustments if needed, create political buy-in, and potentially increase its NDC ambition over time. Even though the implementation of various support initiatives has enabled Mauritania to the basic foundation for MRV, a lot still remains to be done. This is partly because the existing national GHG inventory reporting system does not link to Mauritania's NDC priority sectors in a structured and sustainable manner, nor is the information generated from this system used in the national decision-making and policy formulation processes. Mauritania's CBIT project will therefore build on the existing GHG inventory reporting system and establish a functional and robust MRV system that will withstand long-term climate reporting both inside the country and to the international community. As well, the data and information collected will allow for better assessments of progress in achievement of the sustainable Development goals on account of the close linkages that most of the SDGs have with climate.

The CBIT work will cover the **establishment of an online centralized climate change data hub**, inclusive of the development of reporting tools and templates, and training and capacity development of new and existing teams in transparency related activities. In terms of the ETF required by the Paris Agreement with the implementation of NDC activities, the CBIT project will also sharpen Mauritania's ability to effectively:

- i. Strengthen national institutions to better coordinate, manage and implement climate transparent activities.
- ii. Track progress and effectiveness of climate actions? implementation.
- iii. Track progress of the achievement of NDC goals on a regular and continuous basis.
- iv. Compile information and report on the implementation of its NDC in a transparent manner.

Effective engagement of data users and data suppliers in the MRV system will result in the generation of good quality and timely climate reports. Continuous preparation of these reports using established institutions and engagement of stakeholders will increase the 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.

Improved quality of climate change data and information will result in policy decisions that are better informed by available evidence, thereby informing policy actions on GHG emissions reduction, and increasing Mauritania's resilience through adaptation to climate change. At the international level, accurate, consistent, and internationally comparable data on GHG emissions will inform the global stock take and track progress towards achieving emissions reduction as stipulated under the Paris

Agreement. The following sections describe the expected outcome and proposed outputs to overcome the gaps and barriers described in the baseline scenario and achieve the vision described above for the alternative scenario.

The immediate development objective of this project is to overcome critical gaps and barriers in Mauritania's MRV capacities, thus assisting Mauritania to improve and operationalize its national MRV system to track GHG emissions and adaptation, and to report on NDC implementation to be responsive to new transparency requirements under the Paris Agreement. A description of the objectives of the project is presented in the objective tree (Figure 6).

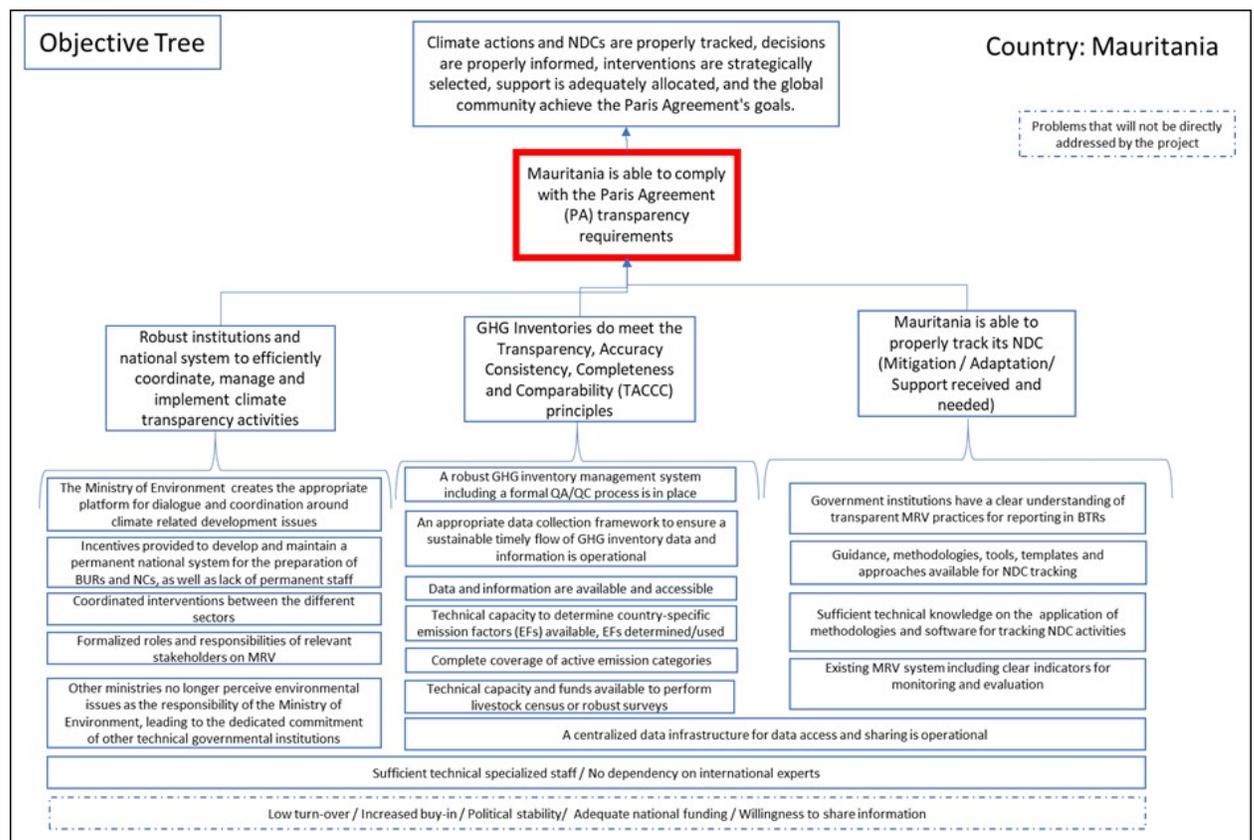


Figure 6. Description of the objectives of the CBIT project

Expected outcome: Mauritania improves its MRV system and institutional capacity to comply with the Enhanced Transparency Framework

The expected changes from the present situation to post CBIT project is described in Table 2.

Table 2. Description of changes from the present situation to post CBIT project.

Current (limiting) behaviour that will be addressed to support realization of the outcome	Desired/transformation behaviour
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(i) The existing situation is characterized by weak institutional arrangements and lack of management systems that are not appropriate for reporting to the Convention. National Institutions are not yet prepared for transparency-related activities. There are disconnections with such activities, within and between institutions which hamper integration of climate actions in national priorities. This is reflected in the poor institutional coordination and lack of mechanisms for regular data collection and management of GHG inventory compilation to enable tracking of NDC activities and to correctly inform the international community. This arises from weak policies and the absence of regulatory frameworks, themselves stemming from inappropriate allocation of responsibilities on the UNFCCC reporting process. There is currently a lack of personnel dedicated to the follow-up of climate actions for reporting and mainstreaming purposes. Hence the need for strengthening institutional capacities through institutionalisation of the MRV process to develop and implement an appropriate GHG inventory management system to overcome this barrier.

(ii) The latest GHG inventory submitted with the BUR2 does not fully meet the IPCC principles: Transparency, Accuracy, Completeness, Consistency and Comparability. This originates from insufficiently detailed reporting, low quality activity data and solely default emission factors for Tier 1 level only, non-coverage of some active emission sources, lack of consistency and comparability in the time series. The key barriers preventing the compilation of a transparent GHG inventory of the required standard are insufficient knowledge of the institutional staff on the compilation of an inventory, unavailability of activity data on a sustainable basis due to the inexistence of an appropriate mechanisms and tools for data collection, and lack of capacity to undertake research for developing national emission factors. All these and lack of resources barred the institutionalization of the GHG inventory compilation process which explains why previous inventory compilations have been outsourced.

(iii) The country is not yet ready to properly track its NDC (Mitigation / Adaptation activities and Support received and needed). The existing M&E structure used by national institutions is not suitable for implementing the MRV system required for reporting in compliance with the ETF of the Paris Agreement. The M&E does not have clear indicators as the appropriate MRV system should have. Moreover, there is a lack of proper mechanisms and tools for collection of data and other information to track NDC activities (Adaptation / Mitigation / Support received and needed). Another major barrier is the severe lack of capacity of the executing entities' staff as well as of data providers, especially at the plant level, to enable the country move to higher Tier reporting

(i) Strengthened institutional arrangements and appropriate management systems will be in place for reporting to the Convention. Reviewed and consolidated GHG inventory management system will be developed with clear roles and responsibilities attributed to the Institutions contributing to the process. Having formalized (legal) procedures for institutions will ensure the timely provision of data and information of good quality necessary for sustainably compiling GHG inventories which will allow for tracking of NDC activities. MRV emissions institutionalised and problem of lack of staff in key institutions solved. Mauritania will be able in turn to comply with future reporting requirements and integrate climate actions in its development priorities.

(ii) Mauritania will be prepared to compile Transparent, Accurate, Complete, Consistent and Comparable inventories in the future to comply with the ETF of the Paris Agreement. National Inventory Reports (NIRs) will reflect the TACCC principles after overcoming the existing challenges. The transfer of knowledge through capacity building of national experts within the framework of the CBIT project will enable the transition from outsourcing to in-house reporting which will thus institutionalize the GHG inventory compilation process. Concurrently, the mechanisms and tools for activity data collection will be developed and implemented to ensure regular data and information flow for producing good quality inventories and other information for developing country specific emission factors. Mauritania will also gain capacity on the development of national emission factors, which will in turn enable the adoption of higher Tier methods for yielding better quality GHG inventories.

(iii) Mauritania will be ready to track its NDC (Mitigation / Adaptation/ Support received and needed) after completion of the CBIT project which aims at consolidating the existing M&E structure into an MRV system suitable to prepare Mauritania to meet the requirements of the ETF. Concurrently, the mechanisms and tools necessary for the collection of data and other information will be developed, tested and implemented stepwise during the project lifespan. Staff of executing entities and data providers will be trained and become capable of implementing the newly developed MRV system for tracking NDC activities (Adaptation / Mitigation / Support received and needed).

Potential indicators to assess the above-mentioned behavioural change of main beneficiaries are:

- i. Number of institutions that have the capacity (institutional, technical, and human capacities) to collect and process climate change data into useful information for policymaking and reporting to the UNFCCC under an enhanced transparency framework
- ii. Qualitative assessment of institutional capacity for transparency-related activities
- iii. Qualitative rating of the national GHG inventory reporting in its ability to track GHG emission from the key sectors
- iv. Number of stakeholders (sectoral focal points), using training and tools provided to elaborate climate change policies and reports on NDC activities required by UNFCCC in line with PA requirements

Measurement and verification methods for the above indicators can be a combination of:

- ? Survey by MEDD of the number of national experts, by national institution, able to collect and process climate information for reporting and policy making
- ? Evaluation by UNEP-DTU of the end of project report against criteria of Annex IV of the CBIT Programming directions
- ? Terminal evaluation report with updated rating of the country's institutional capacity for transparency, considering inputs from sectoral focal points within ministries and other relevant institution
- ? TTE report from the ICA process (It is expected that 1 BUR or 1 BTR will be submitted to the UNFCCC within the CBIT project timeframe) and
- ? Stakeholders' feedback gathered at the end of the project on their use of the training and tools provided to elaborate climate change policies and reports

The changes from the existing situation to when the CBIT project is completed is depicted in the Theory of Change (ToC) in Figure 7. The ToC traces the different stages of the route for realizing the project objective 'Strengthen Mauritania's capacities in climate transparency, according to the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) of the Paris Agreement and thereby achieve its sustainable low-carbon development goals'. It also includes the drivers and assumptions and expected impacts.

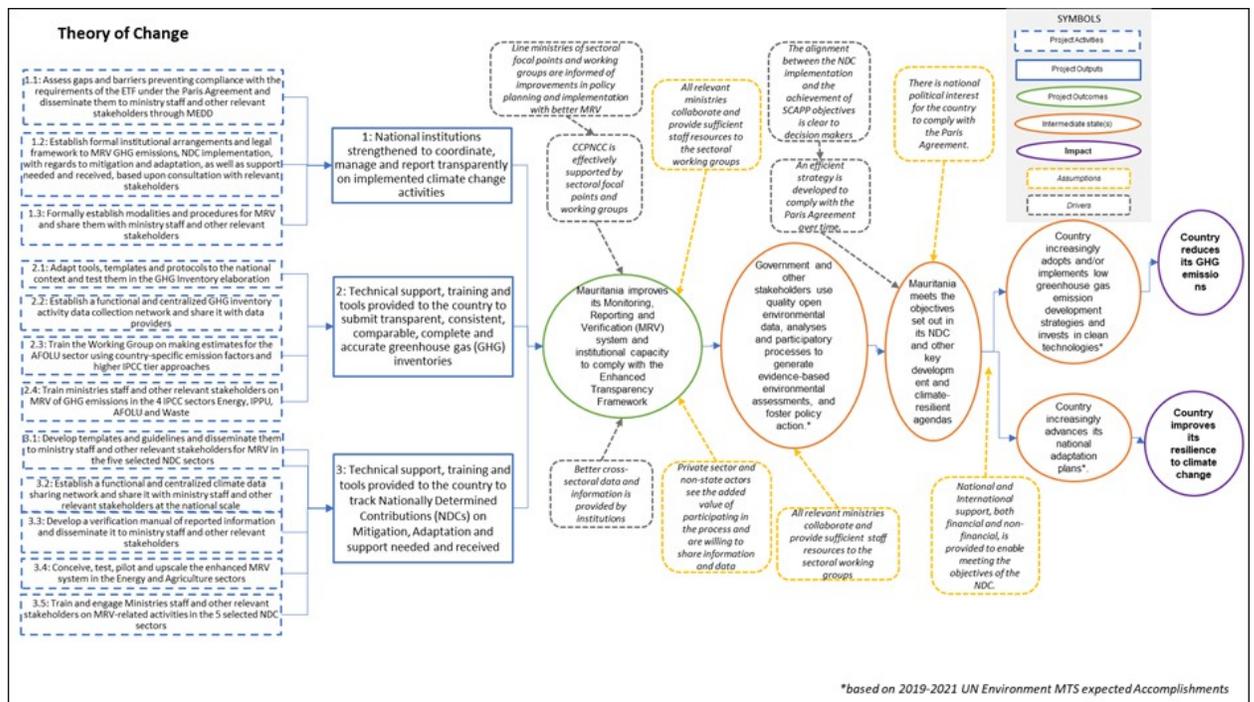


Figure 7. Theory of Change of the CBIT project

The following sections describe the expected outputs:

Output 1. National institutions strengthened to coordinate, manage and report transparently on implemented climate change activities

Output 1 seeks to address the identified institutional gaps and barriers, related to the lack of formalized procedures, inhibiting a robust, regular and comprehensive MRV of GHG emissions, mitigation actions, support received and needed, and adaptation activities. As such, it aims at establishing effective and functional institutional arrangements through a legal framework to conduct MRV of GHG emissions, the implementation of Mauritania's Nationally Determined Contribution regarding mitigation, adaptation, as well as support received and needed, in line with the ETF requirements.

This output will enhance the functionality of the current institutional arrangements for climate action and reporting. The following specific areas will receive attention:

- i. Assessment of the requirements of the ETF, and identification of gaps and barriers in the relevant national institutions in addition to previous assessments, as needed.
- ii. Streamlining and formalization of coordination roles and responsibilities of relevant institutions in MRV functions.
- iii. Establishment of formalized procedures for data collection and reporting amongst others in the national MRV system.

Activity 1.1: Assess gaps and barriers preventing compliance with the requirements of the ETF under the Paris Agreement and disseminate them to ministry staff and other relevant stakeholders through MEDD.

The first step to obtain a quality output would consist in performing an in-depth analysis of the current situation to identify the concrete gaps and barriers that need to be addressed in the current institutional arrangements so as to enable Mauritania to enhance its capabilities to be compliant with the ETF and its associated reporting requirements. This will directly respond to the identified existing barriers in capacity to address the technical and human capacity needs, as well as several of the institutional barriers identified.

The assessment will be based on the modalities, procedures and guidelines (MPGs), for the transparency framework for action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, which were adopted in December 2018 at COP 24, held in Katowice, and will come into force in 2024. The current MRV systems' gaps and barriers will be assessed in order to apply the modalities, procedures and guidelines. The activities will consist of consultations with the relevant institutions and stakeholders, and potential engagement of additional institutions and stakeholders, currently not actively involved in the national MRV system. This activity will take place through stakeholder workshops and reports thereon describing the assessment of the gaps and barriers identified and potential ways and means to overcome these barriers in the institutional set-up of the MRV system.

Planned activities consist of assessments made by the senior expert with the support of a national expert through interactive meetings with stakeholders. The findings will be validated during one workshop over 5 days, 3 days breakout session for each thematic area and 2 days plenary for cross-cutting issues and integrating gender considerations. The MRV thematic areas are:

- (a) GHG inventory compilation and preparation of national GHG inventory report
- (b) Mitigation analysis and reporting
- (c) Adaptation analysis and reporting

Deliverables:

1.1.1 One assessment report by the senior expert on institutional and technical gaps and barriers on the MRV thematic areas GHG inventory, mitigation and adaptation inclusive of gender considerations in climate reporting.

1.1.2 One stakeholder consultation report from national expert supporting the senior expert on assessment of institutional and technical gaps and barriers, one each on the MRV thematic areas GHG inventory, mitigation and adaptation inclusive of gender considerations in climate reporting.

1.1.3 One consolidated final assessment report based on validation workshop results, on the MRV thematic areas of GHG inventory, mitigation and adaptation inclusive of gender considerations in climate reporting.

Activity 1.2: Establish formal institutional arrangements and a legal framework to MRV GHG emissions, NDC implementation with regards to mitigation and adaptation, as well as support received and needed, based upon consultation with relevant stakeholders.

Institutional roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders as well as the legal framework will be reviewed, with the aim of streamlining the coordination function for the preparation of NCs and BTRs, internalizing the processes of their preparation so that they are not outsourced and performed on an ad hoc basis, while expanding the scope and number of institutions to include the following selected NDC themes:

- i. Energy sector (mitigation),
- ii. Agriculture including livestock, Forestry, and Other Land Use sector (mitigation and adaptation),
- iii. Transport sector (mitigation),
- iv. Waste and industry sector (mitigation), and
- v. Water and resilience building (adaptation).

The strengthened MRV structure resulting from this output will also ultimately support the integration of knowledge from transparency initiatives into national policy and decision-making.

Planned activities will comprise consultations through interactive meetings with stakeholders guided by the senior expert with the support of the national expert for preparing the draft proposal on institutional arrangement and legal frameworks. The draft proposal will be validated during one workshop over 5 days, 3 days breakout sessions for GHG inventory, mitigation and adaptation, including support received and needed, and 2 days plenary for cross-cutting issues and integrating gender considerations.

Deliverables:

1.1.4 Draft proposal on institutional arrangements and formal legal frameworks, for the thematic areas GHG inventory, mitigation and adaptation, including support received and needed for the 5 NDC themes.

1.1.5 Reports on stakeholder consultations to inform the draft proposal on institutional arrangements and formal legal frameworks, one each for the thematic areas GHG inventory, mitigation and adaptation, including support received and needed for the above 5 NDC themes.

1.1.6 Draft proposals on gender integration in the institutional arrangements and formal legal frameworks, one each for the thematic areas GHG inventory, mitigation and adaptation, including support received and needed for the above 5 NDC themes.

1.1.7 Final institutional arrangements and legal frameworks, including gender integration, validated during a stakeholder workshop, submitted to Government for adoption.

Activity 1.3: Formally establish modalities and procedures for MRV and share them with ministry staff and other relevant stakeholders.

In order to adhere to the ETF and enable an effective MRV of climate actions, the stakeholders involved in MRV activities (as identified through activity 1.2) need to be provided with modalities and procedures for MRV, in order to streamline the national MRV efforts. Data collecting, processing and sharing arrangements will be formalized which will inform the related institutions and stakeholders on how to produce and report the necessary GHG inventory and climate action activity data in the required timeframe and manner in accordance with the ETF. The modalities and procedures will also provide information on data management and sharing practices, with the goal of improving data exchange, communication and coordination among different public institutions and with the private sector, thus creating the basis for better data management. QA/QC procedures will also be established.

Wide stakeholder consultations will be conducted through interactive meetings with stakeholders guided by the senior expert with the support of the national expert for preparing the draft proposal on Modalities, Procedures and Guidelines. The draft proposal will be validated during one workshop over 5 days, 3 days breakout sessions for GHG inventory, mitigation and adaptation, including support received and needed, and 2 days plenary for cross-cutting issues.

Deliverables:

1.1.8 Draft proposal on establishment of Modalities, Procedures and Guidelines prepared and shared with stakeholders, for the thematic areas GHG inventory, mitigation and adaptation, including support received and needed

1.1.9 Stakeholder consultation reports to inform the draft proposal on establishment of Modalities, Procedures and Guidelines, for the thematic areas GHG inventory, mitigation and adaptation, including support received and needed

1.1.10 Final Modalities, Procedures and Guidelines, validated during a stakeholder workshop, submitted to Government for adoption

Output 1 is aligned to activity (a), (b) and (c) of the GEF CBIT programming directions on how to strengthen national institutions for transparency-related activities in line with national priorities. It will also ensure that the required information on transparency under the Paris Agreement, as described in the GEF CBIT programming directions, is properly mapped and appropriate action to ensure its delivery is taken, thus being aligned to activity (j) of the referred document on how to assist the improvement of transparency over time.

Output 2. Technical support, training and tools provided to the country to submit transparent, consistent, comparable, complete and accurate greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories

Mauritania is expected to generate disaggregated and reliable data and country specific emission factors that can be used to properly estimate the national GHG emissions by sector and at the required Tier level. This Output will focus on building technical capacities in the country to enhance GHG inventory elaboration according to the guidelines recommended by the COP. For this purpose, tools, templates and guidelines need to be adapted to the national context and country specific emission factors developed so as to ensure the sustainable elaboration of transparent, consistent, comparable,

complete and accurate GHG inventories. These include Excel-based tools for data collection, calculation and tracking of GHG emissions and generation of national emission factors for the AFOLU sector. Technical staff will be trained on the IPCC 2006 guidelines and any subsequent version or refinement becoming available and on tools developed under CBIT.

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Activity 2.1 Adapt tools, templates and protocols to the national context and test them in the GHG inventory elaboration

Tools, protocols, templates as well as functional structures will be adapted to the national reality to assist sustainable GHG emissions estimations. The tools and templates will be designed with the view to help sectoral actors collect and perform their data management responsibilities, building upon previous experiences in Mauritania and in similar cases, especially in neighbouring and French-speaking countries, as much as possible. Activities will consist of collection of activity data and information such as plant specifications and process technologies adopted in Mauritania under the guidance of the international consultants for use in adapting tools and templates, and protocols for the 4 IPCC sectors Energy, IPPU, AFOLU and Waste. The draft adapted tools and templates, and protocols will be validated during a workshop with sectoral actors. The latter and members of the four TWG will be trained on the use of the final adapted tools, templates, and protocols (at least 20 persons).

Deliverables:

1.2.1 Drafts of adapted tools and templates, and protocols for the 4 IPCC sectors Energy, IPPU, AFOLU and Waste

1.2.2 Collected activity data and information such as plant specifications and process technologies reflecting national circumstances for activity areas submitted to international consultant for adapting tools, templates and protocols for the 4 IPCC sectors

1.2.3 Final adapted tools, templates and protocols for the 4 IPCC sectors after validation during a workshop with sectoral actors

1.2.4 Training workshop reports on the use of the final version of adapted tools and templates, and protocols for the 4 IPCC sectors.

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Activity 2.2: Establish a functional and centralized GHG inventory activity data collection network and share it with data providers.

Most institutions usually collect and store data in their individual databases, which are stand-alone and at different stages of development or complexity. These data do not necessarily meet the specifications needed for producing GHG inventories of the required quality. The adapted tools, tools templates and protocols will serve to enable sectoral actors to collect and manage data for producing GHG inventories as per TACCC principles. Moreover, some of these databases are online whereas others are offline. These data are not always published or made available as and when required for the elaboration of national GHG inventories which explains why the GHG inventory is substandard based on TACCC principles and compiled on an ad-hoc basis. This output will focus on developing a centralized activity data collection network that seeks to bring the existing data from the stand-alone databases and missing

ones of sectoral actors for an annual automatic flow of activity data and other information into a centralized data hub for GHG inventory compilation. This centralized data hub will also serve for data sharing and as a central repository. The improved regular data flow will enable the production of better quality GHG inventories for meeting the TACCC principles and ETF of the Paris Agreement in a sustainable and timely manner.

To enable operationalisation of the centralized data centre, a server will be purchased and installed within MEDD premises to host the data sharing platform including the necessary software for sectoral actors to access the system. The system will integrate the adapted tools, templates and protocols in the software for use by the sectoral actors remotely as far as possible.

Deliverables:

1.2.5 Functional centralized data sharing platform

1.2.6 Training workshop report, including materials on how to use the centralized data sharing platform for GHG inventories

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Activity 2.3 Train the Working Group on making improved estimates for the AFOLU sector through the development and use of country-specific emission factors and higher IPCC tier approaches

One critical deficiency in the national MRV system is the lack of stock and emission factors, and land occupation disaggregated by IPCC class, reflecting the local conditions in the country, especially for the AFOLU sector. The lack of country-specific stock and emission factors, and disaggregated land occupation introduces uncertainty in the GHG emissions estimates and implies an insufficient capacity to do fully informed decision-making, as stakeholders do not feel that the data provided necessarily reflect realities on the ground. This leads to reluctance to establish concrete sectoral climate change strategies and makes concrete decisions on implementation mechanisms more difficult.

This activity will provide capacity-building in IPCC methodologies to the AFOLU sectoral working group staff, in order to enhance their technical capacity to establish country-specific stock and emission factors and disaggregated land occupation for Mauritania in this sector and enable the country to adopt higher IPCC tier approaches. This will be achieved through an assessment of data needs based on the choice of appropriate methodologies. National experts will work with stakeholders to collect the required data under the guidance of the senior expert for the derivation of national emission factors. GIS technology will make use of satellite imagery to develop land use and land cover changes over time for disaggregating land occupation by IPCC class for moving to higher Tier in the land sub-sector. Workshops, two for livestock and two for land, will be organized to validate these data and methodologies. Trainings on livestock, LULUCF and use of GIS technology, will ensue to support activity data collection and processing in the AFOLU sector including facilitating access to the latest satellite data on land use and land-use mappings. The experience in piloting the development of the higher tier methodology in the AFOLU sector will provide the necessary capacities for the AFOLU TWG to share their experience with the other sectoral working groups with the aim of replicating the exercise in the other sectors over time without CBIT technical support.

The activity will enable Mauritania to efficiently improve the quality of its activity data and emission factors, starting with the most relevant key categories of the AFOLU sector. This improved

understanding will also facilitate information-based policy planning and decision-making in designing appropriate mitigation measures.

Deliverables:

1.2.7 Assessment reports on data needs and methodologies for developing country specific emission factors, one each for the livestock and land categories, including land cover maps and land use change by area between the 6 IPCC land classes of the country.

1.2.8 Data and information for developing country specific stock and emission factors on livestock (cattle and / camels) population for the country, and LULUCF, land cover maps and land use change by area between the 6 IPCC land classes of the country.

1.2.9 Validation workshop report on data collected and methodologies for developing national stock and emission factors for livestock and land sectors, including land cover maps and land use change by area between the 6 IPCC land classes of the country.

1.2.10 Training workshop reports on developing national stock and emission factors for the livestock, LULUCF and use of GIS technology for tracking land use changes and determine livestock population

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Activity 2.4: Train ministries staff and other relevant stakeholders on MRV of GHG emissions in the four IPCC sectors Energy, IPPU, AFOLU and Waste

A number of tailor-made training programmes on special selected topics of MRV will be organized for newcomers who are likely to join the national teams following the inclusion of new institutions. For those who have some experience on the MRV process, a number of refresher training programmes on advanced topics in GHG inventory will be organized. In the event that new international guidance on MRV of GHG emissions becomes available, training on such new guidance will be organized. Peer exchange programmes will also be incorporated to allow Mauritania experts to join existing international/regional partnership platforms and share lessons and good practices in MRV including gender considerations, especially through the CBIT Global Coordination Platform.

Deliverables

1.2.11 Training materials and training workshop reports on MRV of GHG emissions, including an improvement plan (based on IPCC 2006 Guidelines) for the 4 IPCC sectors, one for Energy/IPPU and one for AFOLU/Waste.

1.2.12 Share lessons learned and good practices on the development of MRV emissions on the CBIT Global Coordination Platform.

Output 2 is aligned to activities (a), (b) and (c) of the GEF CBIT programming directions on institutional strengthening and enhancing information and knowledge management structure to meet Article 13 needs, respectively. Moreover, it aligns to activities (d), (e) and (f) related to the provision of relevant tools, training, and assistance for meeting the provisions stipulated in Article 13.

Output 3. Technical support, training and tools provided to the country to track NDCs on Mitigation, Adaptation and support needed and received

This output seeks to address the identified gaps and barriers related to the access to information and data inhibiting an accurate MRV and the relevance of transparency reports with respect to the ETF of Article 13 of the Paris Agreement and also for national policy and decision-making.

Mauritania is expected to generate detailed and reliable data to carry out MRV of the impact of climate policies, facilitated by appropriate guidance on data collection, a common repository to store and access data, and procedures for verification. The following specific elements will receive attention:

- i. Improvement of processes for the compilation of each sector? statistics, facts, figures and data;
- ii. Introduction of verification processes of NDC outcomes to be responsive to a high-level standard of data quality.

-

Activity 3.1: Develop templates and guidelines and disseminate them to ministry staff and other relevant stakeholders for MRV in the five selected NDC themes

The activity will be dedicated to developing tools and templates as well as functional structures to assist close follow-up of NDC activities and annual sectoral reporting, including SDG contribution, gender indicators and climate finance where relevant, to streamline the information provided to the centralized data sharing network by the relevant stakeholders. This will include the development and incorporation of climate-specific indicators[8]. After the indicators are formulated and incorporated into the templates and guidance notes, a mechanism will be put in place to help stakeholders of the different sectors in conducting regular assessments to evaluate progress of implementation of the NDC policy interventions, alongside the preparation of sector APRs.

A number of workshops will be organized for the assessment of NDC policy interventions and the development of climate-specific indicators for the five selected NDC themes: Energy sector (mitigation), Agriculture including livestock, Forestry, and Other Land Use sector (mitigation and adaptation), Transport sector (mitigation), Waste and industry sector (mitigation), and Water and resilience building (adaptation). Consultative meetings will be held for planning and coordination of NDC sector visibility. Stocktaking and evaluation will also be covered as well as a final demonstration workshop for policy makers and stakeholders.

The tools and templates will be designed with the view to help sectoral actors perform their data management responsibilities, building upon previous experiences in Mauritania and in similar cases, especially in neighbouring and French-speaking countries, as much as possible. Once the sharing network has been established and templates and guidance notes have been prepared, hands-on training workshops will be organized to build the capacity of users in records management processes such as collection, quality control, organization, uploading, storage and archiving.

Deliverables:

1.3.1 Draft templates and guidelines developed and shared with stakeholders for tracking NDC mitigation and adaptation actions including support received and needed

1.3.2 Stakeholder consultation reports on data and information required to develop templates and guidelines for tracking NDC mitigation and adaptation actions including support received and needed

1.3.3 Final templates and guidelines post validation workshop on data and information required for tracking NDC mitigation and adaptation actions including support received and needed

1.3.4 Training workshop reports on the use of templates and guidelines on data and information required for tracking NDC mitigation and adaptation actions including support received and needed

Activity 3.2: Integrate templates and guidelines for NDC tracking in the centralized climate data sharing network and train relevant stakeholders at the national scale on its use

A functional centralized climate data sharing network was established for GHG inventory activity data collection network and shared it with stakeholders under activity 2.2. The data sharing network provided the adapted tools, templates, and protocols for the GHG inventory. This centralized climate data sharing network will be further developed under activity 3.2 to integrate templates and guidelines developed for tracking NDC mitigation and adaptation actions. Relevant stakeholders with privileged access will be trained on the use of the centralized data sharing network for uploading data and other information required for reporting on mitigation and adaptation NDC activities including support received and needed. The platform will also serve for data sharing with other stakeholders under request and as a repository of NDC data.

Deliverables:

1.3.5 Report post integration of NDC mitigation and adaptation templates and guidelines in the data sharing network.

1.3.6 Training workshop reports on how to use the online data sharing network for NDC tracking and final version of the operation manual

Activity 3.3: Develop a verification manual of reported information and disseminate it to ministry staff and other relevant stakeholders.

Drafts of the verification manual will be prepared and disseminated to the NDC relevant sectors (project executors and managers of NDC activities) for trial/ piloting. Feedback received from the users will be incorporated into its final version. Staff capacity of key coordination institutions will be enhanced, namely in the Ministries of Environment and Sustainable Development; Energy; Rural

Development (Agriculture and Livestock); Hydraulics and Sanitation; and Habitat. Verification capacities will be built through hands-on training and training of trainers (ToTs) on the application of the verification manual to guarantee sustainability in the long-term. Five sessions for 15 participants one for each NDC sector are planned for training, dissemination and sharing of verification manual.

Deliverables

1.3.7 Draft verification manual

1.3.8 Stakeholder consultation workshop reports for validating draft verification manual

1.3.9 Training and dissemination workshop report, and sharing of final version of verification manual

Activity 3.4: Conceive, test, pilot and upscale the enhanced MRV system in the Energy and Agriculture sectors

With the necessary tools, templates, indicators, capacities and awareness created through the other activities, it will be important to initiate and test the proposed GHG and NDC implementation MRV structures and activities. At this stage, the aim will be to conceive and test the functional capability of the enhanced MRV system in the Energy and Agriculture (with focus on livestock) sectors and the following elements of the enhanced MRV system:

- i. Institutional structure;
- ii. Sector-specific templates and use of sector Annual Progress Report (APR) indicators; and
- iii. Data collection and management protocols.

The BUR2 identified the structure to be developed as the domestic MRV system for guaranteeing transparency as per Article 13 of the Paris Agreement. The BUR2 also brought forward the need for international support and capacity building for the development and implementation of this domestic MRV system. Mauritania's CBIT project will be most welcoming and enable the country to consolidate the existing M&E into the MRV system and lay the foundation in setting up a functional and robust MRV system that can withstand long-term climate reporting in-country and to the international community while feeding back for the realignment of developmental policies and strategies on the low carbon path. This proposal will help to avoid duplication of efforts and maximize the complementarity of support in MRV-related areas. The timing of this proposal is crucial as it will also support the development of climate indicators, in particular for implementing and tracking NDC actions. The consolidated sectoral thematic working groups will work under the supervision of the the Directorate of Climate and Green Economy, and the climate change committee to implement the different steps of the MRV prototype.

The design and operationalization plan to enhance Mauritania's national MRV system, which comprises 4 steps, forms the basis for redefining the structure to enable the country to become compliant with the ETF of the Paris Agreement and for which the requested GEF support will be used to roll it out as from July 2022 to June 2025 during implementation of the CBIT project after approval.

The steps covering the design, development, testing/piloting and upscaling of the MRV structure are provided in Figure 8 below.

Step 1: Planning and design stage

The conception phase of the institutional structure will last 6 months (Step 1 of Figure 8). At the start, roles and responsibilities of each entity to contribute in the MRV system will be determined in consultation with the various representatives of the national network of climate change sector focal points (PFS), the climate technical and regional committees and other partners. In this context, the new sectoral working teams will determine whether the current sectoral M & E data are compatible with an appropriate MRV system and what the needs are for integrating it into a centralized national climate data-sharing system within a national registry at the climate coordination hub. To carry out this action, the teams will ensure capacity-building of the stakeholders in this field. Considering the urgency of the process to set up the MRV system to produce GHG inventories and track NDC implementation, this step must be carried out as soon as possible. This step will lead to upgrading the latest design of the MRV system prototype, including the data collection protocols and networking climate data through the setting up of the necessary infrastructure for an MRV information management system. The prototype MRV will be validated during an inception workshop with a wide group of stakeholders. The promulgation of Decree 165-2020 has started the process by providing the appropriate legal framework.

Step 2: Development of MRV system (Indicators and tools)

This step on testing will last for 12 months (Step 2 of Figure 8), in order to collect feedback for potential adjustments, and identify further areas of improvement. Sector teams will use the templates to provide relevant data on selected NDC actions in their respective sectors for processing and archiving; sector-specific Annual Progress Report (APR) indicators will be adopted to track progress of implementation and impacts thereof and finally, information on sector-specific NDC actions will be made available on the upgraded centralized data sharing network., including on Mitigation, Adaptation and Support received and needed.

The MRV setup will be integrated into existing M&E at the national, sectoral and district levels, where possible. As part of the integration process, indicators for mitigation and adaptation actions, SDG contribution and climate finance for key policies and measures will be developed and included in the national M&E framework. The M&E framework will track the implementation of national and sector policies and programmes and report annually in the national APR. The APR will then become the main M&E framework for monitoring implementation of mitigation and other climate actions, including their GHG impacts and co-benefits. Combined MRV/M&E templates and other reporting tools will be developed, incorporated into the existing reporting templates and tested. Data needs will be reviewed with the objective of generating the required data sets within a data sharing protocol. Capacity building of data providers and network user will be key to the success of the development of this step.

Implementing this type of M&E system will allow the sectors/ key stakeholders to better evaluate progress and if needed, modify and adjust the implementation processes in order to more directly support the achievement of desired outcomes and objectives of national policies and strategies. The M&E system continues to be challenged by institutional and technical capacity constraints and a set of fragmented information, both at the national and sub-national levels. The CBIT project aims at overcoming these challenges and if not possible, at least lay a strong foundation which will be enhanced in the medium term.

Step 3: Implement and Test MRV system prototype and refine

This redesigned and improved MRV system setup will be piloted simultaneously over the course of the CBIT project) in key sectors. Feedback on its deployment will be collected and the MRV system improved based on these to make it robust and operational. The test on the workability of the system will be on the focus areas Energy and Agriculture.

The performance of the sector's MRV will be assessed during the testing phase by looking at the following: institutional arrangement performance; challenges and feedback received on the use of templates, tools, protocols and IT setup, and last but not least, key capacity gaps. These observations will be documented for use in the improvement of the MRV system before it is fully rolled out for implementation in a pilot phase in the same sectors Energy and Agriculture (with focus on livestock) over a period of 9 months (Step 3 of Figure 8).

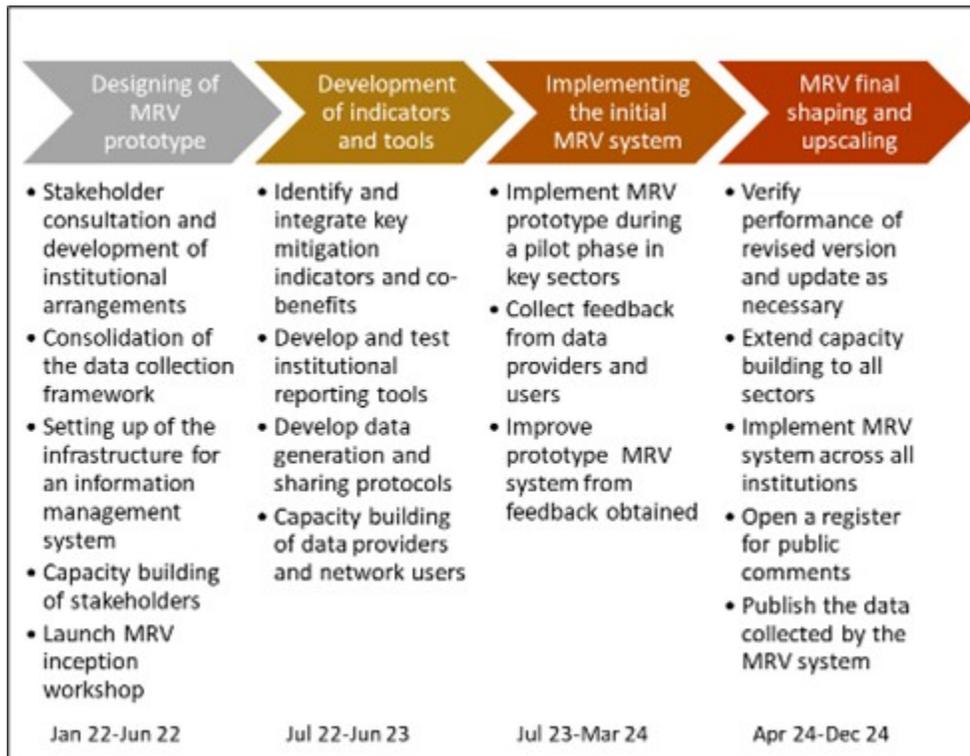


Figure 8. MRV development steps

Deliverables:

1.3.10 MRV system prototypes for mitigation in the energy sector, and both mitigation and adaptation in the Agriculture (Livestock) sectors.

1.3.11 Report on assistance provided by national expert to design, develop, implement and upscale the MRV prototypes for mitigation in the energy sector, and both mitigation and adaptation in the Agriculture (Livestock) sectors.

1.3.12 Training and validation workshop reports, one each for mitigation and adaptation, on design and development, and implementation and upscaling of the MRV system prototypes

Activity 3.5: Train and engage Ministries staff and other relevant stakeholders on MRV-related activities in the 5 selected NDC sectors.

Step 4: Verification, updating and deployment

This updated MRV system will then be fully deployed and institutionalized by extending it to all sectors for emissions, mitigation, adaptation and finance as appropriate. This step may possibly be done during the preparation of the BTR1 when the latter project will be implemented. A public register will be opened to register comments from users and the wider public for its refinement and the data collected will be published annually in the APRs to maximize transparency. These datasets will be used to prepare UNFCCC reports. Prior to that, regular biennial system-wide audit and stakeholder consultations will be performed to identify areas of improvement.

This activity of 9 months duration (step 4 of Figure 8) will be dedicated to verification of the performance and updating of the MRV system. It will seek to address the identified gaps and barriers on technical skills needed to enable the proper functioning of the data network and application of methodologies and to enable appropriate capacities needed for an effective functioning of the institutional arrangements described in output 1.

A number of tailor-made training programmes on special selected topics of MRV will be organized for newcomers who are likely to join the national teams following the inclusion of new institutions. For those who are familiar with the MRV process, a number of refresher training programmes on advanced topics in policy impact assessment, methodologies for tracking NDC etc. will be organized during the development, testing and implementation processes. In the event that new international MRV guidance becomes available, training on such new guidance will be incorporated in the programmes. Peer exchange programmes will also be incorporated to allow Mauritania experts to join existing international/regional partnership platforms and share lessons and good practices in MRV, especially through the CBIT Global Coordination Platform.

Deliverables:

1.3.13 Training programmes and training materials to engage stakeholders and policymakers on tracking and reporting on NDC mitigation and adaptation actions for all sectors, including support received and needed

1.3.14 2 Training workshop reports on the appropriation of technical skills to use the centralized data sharing platform to upload data and other information for tracking NDC mitigation and adaptation actions for all sectors, including support received and needed

1.3.15 Share lessons learned and good practices on the system developed for tracking NDC actions on the CBIT Coordination platform

Output 3 is aligned to activity (a) and (c) of the GEF CBIT programming directions on institutional strengthening for transparency-related activities in line with national priorities and enhancing information and knowledge management structure to meet Article 13 needs respectively. It also aligns to activities (d), (g), (h) and (i) of the GEF CBIT programming directions on how to provide relevant tools, training, and assistance for meeting the provisions stipulated in Article 13, as well as to activity (k), to assist with improvement of transparency over time, cutting across all three main clusters of CBIT support.

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

This CBIT project 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 (1/CP.21) adopting the Paris Agreement, complies with this Focal Area Strategy by:

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

The requested support also neatly aligns with CBIT activities outlined in paragraph 18 of the CBIT programming directions document, as described in each output. The proposal aims to:

- i. Strengthen Mauritania?s national institutions for transparency-related work.
- ii. Assist in establishing more robust regulatory and procedural provisions for data and information monitoring, reporting and verification.
- iii. Support the development of guidelines and tools, for more correct and precise data generation, storage and management, and scenario building.

- iv. Provide targeted training and capacity-building for meeting the provisions stipulated in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, as well as assist with the improvement of transparency work over time.
- v. Temporarily compensate for the lack of national funding available, while ensuring the establishment of capacities and systems that become self-sustainable over time.

Moreover, the proposed components reflect the capacities identified as most needed in Mauritania's NCs, NDC, and BURs and the corresponding technical analysis, complying with paragraph 19 of CBIT's programming direction. 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.

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

The project will build on the foundation that Mauritania has already laid in its M&E system for tracking national development, in order to set up a functional and robust MRV system for climate change, allowing for reporting on a continuous basis, thus responding to the MPGs for Article 13 of the Paris Agreement. The GEF requested funding will focus on strengthening the existing climate reporting structure to make it more ambitious to support the following actions and the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement:

- i. Preparing and submitting NCs regularly,
- ii. Updating and submitting NDCs regularly,
- iii. Tracking progress of implementation and effectiveness of climate actions, and
- iv. Tracking progress in the achievement of NDC goals and reporting these in Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs).

In the absence of this support, Mauritania will continue to heavily rely on its existing M&E system, subject to scattered short-lived support initiatives, where capacity is not internalized in the relevant institutions, hindering the achievement of the international transparency obligations of the Paris Agreement. Mauritania has a stable track record in submitting its NCs and BURs which are yet to fully meet the reporting standards. In addition, the upcoming MPG requirements to be implemented by end 2024 at the latest pose a new challenge for Mauritania. The CBIT support will enhance the needed capacities to generate, collect and compile the necessary disaggregated data and other information through institutionalization of the process. The same data sets and information will also serve to generate national and other reports of good quality for other uses and notably informing the national development plans and strategies. The setting up a centralized permanent structure for archiving will constitute an institutional memory for feeding of data as and when required in the long term for not only reporting to the UNFCCC but for other purposes such as sensitization, development of research projects, development of environmental standards and the related legislations. The quality of data, analysis and reporting at the national and international levels will be greatly enhanced through this CBIT support. Additionally, the CBIT project will serve to integrate the gender issue in the project's

activities and serve to create the environment for institutions to pursue with this endeavour on a continuous basis and follow progress in meeting the SDG targets.

The national teams will improve their skills and capacities in applying the developed tools, templates and methods needed to respond to the MPG requirements in accordance with decision CMA/18.1 through the development and implementation of the MRV systems for emissions, NDC tracking of mitigation and adaptation actions, and support received and needed under this CBIT support. Hence, Mauritania will provide accurate, consistent and internationally comparable data on GHG emissions, tracking progress towards achieving its NDC mitigation and adaptation actions and the means of implementation and support, including good practices, priorities, needs and gaps, by submitting BTRs on a regular basis, thus informing the global stock take under Article 14 of the Paris Agreement while conforming to the ETF of the PA. Mauritania's submission of high-quality reports will contribute at the global level to build mutual trust and confidence that promote effective implementation and realization of the Paris Agreement.

The CBIT program is designed to improve the mandatory reporting of UNFCCC signatory Parties. As such, this project is funded on the basis of fully agreed costs. In the case of this program, eligible activities have been described in the GEF document Programming Guidelines for the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (GEF / C.50 / 07). The activities of this project are within the scope of the programming directions. Co-financing is not a necessity for this project, but the Government of Mauritania plans to contribute to the project with an in-kind contribution to project activities and management costs totalling US\$ 161,450 to support project operations in the form of staff (45 project Sectoral Focal Points of which 43 are from the Ministries and one each from the civil society and the private sector. In addition to the civil servants in the Project Management Unit of the DCEV who will be working partially for the project) as well as office facilities, equipment, traveling and communications for the duration of the project (36 months).

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

The project is associated with global benefits through capacity development mainly in the areas of GHG inventories and emissions reductions. In the absence of this project, the barriers identified and described in the root causes and barriers and baseline scenario will subsist, leading to a continuing uncoordinated approach in data collection and analysis, which will prevent effective use of the M&E infrastructure being developed. In such a scenario, the use of inaccurate, obsolete, and inconsistent information in the preparation of its BTRs will hinder Mauritania from meeting the enhanced transparency requirements as defined in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement and other global goals. In addition, the lack of a robust transparency framework will continue to inhibit Mauritania to assess the implementation of its climate policies and actions, which will in turn prevent adjustment of its strategies and implementation plans. A missing monitoring and evaluation structure will not identify if the intended progress is materializing.

The project will enhance Mauritania's capacity to implement and operationalize the Paris Agreement, and mainstream it into national and sub-national policy, planning financial and legal frameworks. Having an operational and functional user-friendly centralized MRV system will ensure high quality GHG data and related information is provided in a transparent, accurate manner and on a regular basis. The MRV system will act as a repository of knowledge and information and contribute to improving

the design and prioritization of action to reduce GHG emissions, adapt to climate change impacts and monitor and improve the effectiveness of climate financing.

This project will monitor Indicators from the CBIT Tracking tool, especially Indicator 3- *Quality of MRV Systems*, and Indicator 5- *Qualitative assessment of institutional capacity built for transparency-related activities proposed under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement*. The baseline and target set during the project development phase, following the scale of 1-10 for Indicator 3 and 1-4 for indicator 5.

Indicator 3 ? from 3 presently to 6 post project

Indicator 5 ? from 2 currently to 4 after project completion

The indicator from the GEF CBIT programming directions document (Annex III) and GEF6 CBIT Tracking tool that best describe the current situation on ?Quality of MRV systems? is *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* and the target one is *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.*

The indicator for qualitative assessment of institutional capacity for transparency related activities, as defined in the GEF CBIT programming directions document (Annex IV)[9] and GEF6 CBIT Tracking tool will be used to assess the achievement of Outcome 1.

The current indicator description which best describes the Article 13 related institutional capacities is the following:

"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 and mandate to coordinate transparency activities under Article 13". Indeed, there is a consortium of interdisciplinary independent specialists that includes academics and retired professional experts, whom the MEDD may assign through an MoU with clear mandates to coordinate transparency activities.

The expected indicator improvement achieved through CBIT support, by enhancing institutional capacities will be illustrated by the achievement of the following described indicator:

"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. The institution has authority or mandate to coordinate transparency activities under Article 13. Yet, activities are not integrated into national planning or budgeting activities".

The description of the indicators as defined by the CBIT Tracking tool at CEO Endorsement stage is provided in Annex A in this document.

7) Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up

Innovativeness

Mauritania has been actively pursuing the development and operationalization of an MRV system that will be integrated into the existing national development Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) superstructure rather than setting up new layers of institutional structures. Mauritania considers this approach as an innovative and cost-effective way of mobilizing institutions and setting up processes for performing MRV functions on a sustainable basis at project, sector and national levels. Mauritania's attention has been on designing a simple-to-integrate MRV structure that is acceptable and less burdensome to the identified institutions, but which at the same time meets the essential elements for MRV, in response to the Paris Agreement ETF.

The domestic MRV system will ensure that the existing sectoral or national development M&E system is consolidated and able to track and report on a regular basis?:

- i. GHG emissions or reductions attributed to a particular mitigation action (policy, programme, measure or project).
- ii. Climate-related support provided by the Government of Mauritania or received from donors or the market in the form of finance, technology transfer and capacity-building to enable the implementation of a certain action or as a result of an action taken in a particular sector of the economy.
- iii. Sustainable development benefits of mitigation and adaptation actions. Since the proposed MRV system will be seeking to be integrated into the existing developed M & E structures, performing any additional MRV function will not require new law. The institutions will rather draw their authority to perform their MRV functions from the existing legal framework that mandates them to carry out M & E and regulatory tasks.

The innovation of the intervention, resulting in an enhanced transparency system, is further defined by providing Mauritania with a robust national system for generating and storing data on time that will give the country the ability to track the progress of its climate policies and actions and make better informed decisions to plan for the future.

Sustainability

The long-term sustainability of the outcomes of the project are ensured by the internalization of procedures and workflows in a robust MRV structure with officially appointed focal points and sectoral teams, with activities ensuring that the built-up capacities are maintained and replicated in the institutions, allowing Mauritania to have the appropriate procedures and ability to prepare NCs, BURs, and NDCs on a regular basis with less dependence on external support over time.

To ensure sustainability and scaling up of the project, it is expected that once the MRV system has been piloted and tested in the energy and agriculture sectors, an assessment will be carried out to determine the system's performance in these selected sectors, specifically the performance of the institutional set up, besides IT and knowledge management set up. The DCEV does not currently have sufficient human, financial and material resources to carry out its mission properly. Through Activities 1.2 and 1.3, formal institutional arrangements and legal framework, including modalities and procedures for MRV, will be established, ensuring the internalisation of climate change MRV in the institutions. This will ensure the long-term sustainability of the MRV system since adequate resources will be allocated to these activities in the national budget once they are formalised in the legal framework and institutional arrangements. The assessment will also identify challenges and gather

feedback on the use of the templates and guidelines. This assessment will be the first step in the process of continuous improvement of the developed guidelines, templates and tools.

As far as institutionalization of climate transparency is concerned, the objective of this project is to ensure that a designated transparency institution is made operational (with standing staff) to coordinate and implement transparency activities. This institution will have a clear mandate and authority to coordinate activities under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, and its activities will be integrated into Mauritania's national planning and budget. This is reflected in Indicator / Target B of the project's Results Framework (Annex A).

Potential for scaling-up

Once the MRV system is piloted in the selected sectors, the activity will be scaled up to other sectors, as the institutional framework will be in place and formalised. The pilot sectoral experience will be replicated in the remaining sectoral working groups through internal workshops and knowledge-sharing. This also includes determining national emission factors in sectors distinct from the ones initially piloted, as described in activity 2.2. In addition, the DCEV will retain the work arrangement established with other line Ministries, and undertake continuous efforts in training its personnel and practitioners on any new guidance in international transparency processes. Initial efforts for replicating the sectoral experiences to other sectors will be led by the DCEV, but additional external expertise might be required, in which case Mauritania will look for potential additional sources of support through other initiatives, such as the Global Support Programme and the Central and North Africa Regional MRV Networks.

With regards to training materials produced within the framework of the CBIT project and available online, they will be kept in the archive to be set up and maintained by the DPCS of MEDD for later use after adapting them to the evolving context of reporting. The online data collection and management platform will be maintained and managed by the DPCS to sustain reporting in the medium and longer term. These two issues are embedded in Decree 165-202, which guarantees their servicing through the annual budget of the MEDD and thus their continued existence and use by MEDD, other ministries and the stakeholders at large not only for reporting but also for other purposes towards sustainable development.

The DCEV, as the CBIT project executing agency, is designated as the national entity for the preparation of Mauritania's national GHG inventory. It functions as the 'single national entity' and thus collaborates with the Directorate of Planning, Coordination and Statistics and other inventory stakeholders to undertake management of activity data and emissions factors, compilation of emission estimates from the sectors, quality control/quality assurance, improvement planning, and preparation of the reports. At the project management level, DCEV will ensure the coordination of CBIT project deliverables with that of preparation of Mauritania's NC5 and BTR1 under the UNFCCC, and other climate related projects. This therefore means that the climate change team will coordinate the use of project resources/inputs (such as funds, expertise, time, etc.) to ensure delivery of project results at a lower cost, while avoiding duplication of effort.

The CBIT project is a flagship initiative that is aimed at building capacities of national institutions so that they will be able to enhance their climate transparency framework on a sustainable basis. This will be achieved through developing a strategy that outlines a functional and credible national transparency

architecture, capable to deliver the MRV of GHG emissions, climate actions, SDGs, support as well as track progress towards NDC goals.

[1] MDA/ICA: Facilitative Sharing of Views. May 15, 2017, 3rd National Communication and BUR2

[2] National Strategy for the Environment and Sustainable Development, and MDA/ICA: Facilitative Sharing of Views. May 15, 2017, 4th National Communication and BUR2

[3] <https://ccpncc.org>

[4] SEPANE stands in French for monitoring and evaluation of the national action plan for environment.

[5] MDA/ICA: Facilitative Sharing of Views. May 15 2017

[6] These two ministries (MA and ME) are again twinned on 31 October 2018 into a single ministry called the Ministry of Rural Development (MDR)

[7] MDA/ICA: Facilitative Sharing of Views. May 15, 2017; 3rd National Communication and second Biennial Update Report

[8] When work will be initiated the amount of relevant indicators identified might be different

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

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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

The project will take place in Mauritania. The impacts will be relevant nationwide, but most of the institutions and relevant stakeholders are based in the capital area of Nouakchott with the coordinates 18°04'47.7"N 15°57'48.0"W.



1c. Child Project?

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

Not applicable.

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.

While national stakeholders had already been consulted during the project identification (PIF) phase to get their views in defining the scope of CBIT activities in Mauritania, additional consultations were undertaken at PPG stage during 2 workshops.

The first workshop of 3 days duration (5th-7th May 2021) served for the launch of the preparatory phase and consultations. Given the particular health context due to the Covid-19 pandemic which restricts travel to Mauritania, this workshop was partly organized face-to-face for a large part of the national participants, with others in virtual. Under the chairmanship of the Deputy Director of the DCEV, participants included: the International Consultant; the National Consultant, Sectoral Focal Points ? Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD); Ministry of Health (MS); Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (MET); Ministry of Interior and Decentralization (MIDEC); Ministry of Higher Education (MES); Ministry of Petroleum, Energy and Mining (MPEMi); Ministry of Habitat, Urbanism, Landscaping (MHUAT); Ministry of Hydraulic and Sanitation (MHA); Ministry of Rural Development (MDR) and several other national experts and members of civil society and the private sector (The National Union of Mauritanian Patronage (UNPM)), representatives of the Nouackchott region, besides UNEP representatives.

The following recommendations were drawn from the various debates to serve as conclusions for this consultation workshop:

- ? In view of the cross-cutting nature of the issue of climate change, capacity-building must cover the needs of all stakeholders to enable them to comply with the Modalities, Procedures and Guidelines resulting from the Paris Agreement on reporting through national communications and Biennial Transparency Reports.
- ? Establishment of a national platform for the collection of data used for regular exchanges in order to enrich and improve the quality of activity data and reduce uncertainties.
- ? Integration of research centers, higher education institutions and research into the national network by ensuring them continuous support so that they direct part of their efforts towards the development of country-specific emission factors to enhance the emission estimates by adopting the IPCC methodology Tier 2 or 3 in future GHG inventories.
- ? Improving the integration of gender in climate activities in general and particularly in the CBIT process to enhance gender objectives compared to the current situation described in the PIF.

The final workshop took place on the 8th of September 2021, over one day, to validate project activities and the engagement of stakeholders during project implementation. All proposed activities were presented by the international consultant, together with indicators and institutional arrangements, followed by a session of questions and answers as well as comments received by e-mail after the workshop. The audience included representatives of MEDD, line ministries, including: Ministry of Health (MS); Ministry of Interior and Decentralization (MIDEC); Ministry of Habitat, Urbanism, Landscaping (MHUAT); Ministry of Higher Education (MES); Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy (MPEMa); Ministry of Economy and Industry (MEI); Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Higher Education (MES); National Meteorology Office, inside the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (MET); and several other national experts and members of civil society (NGO OMASSAPE); and the private sector (The National Union of Mauritanian Patronage (UNPM), representatives of the Nouackchott region, UNDP, besides UNEP representatives. 34 participants were present at the start of the session including the experts in charge of the workshop moderation, out of which 10 were women. The workshop reports including the list of participants by affiliation and sex are provided with this submission.

Error! Reference source not found.3 below lists the outcome of the consultations with national stakeholders relevant for climate change, their respective functions, overall role related to climate change, and how they will be engaged throughout project implementation.

Table 3. List of Institutions and their roles in the CBIT project

Stakeholder main group and name	Existing activities with potential to be leveraged	Content of engagement, contributions to the project (identified by Output)
Government		
Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) - DCEV	Directorate responsible for Project Management and Coordination (Executing Entity)	<p>To provide overall policy guidance and determine strategic directions on how to integrate climate change into broad national development framework. Ensure inter-ministerial coordination on climate change issues and facilitate financial and technical resource mobilization to support the implementation of climate change activities with respect to GHG inventory compilation, V&A and mitigation activities, as well as providing political authority to mobilize efforts at the sectoral level to combat climate change. Collaborate with other Directorates of MEDD and line ministries to develop, implement the MRV systems and use this information for reporting to the UNFCCC. Represent Mauritania in the ICA process.</p> <p>Component 1, Outputs 1, 2 and 3</p>
	Directorate responsible for Planning, Coordination and Statistics	<p>To run the centralized data collection and sharing platform for environmental and climate data and information, maintain up to date environmental statistics, define and coordinate climate education programme on the environment, Contribute in the implementation of government environmental strategies such as the SCAPP and prepare quarterly, half-yearly and annual reports on the execution of plans</p> <p>Component 1, Outputs 1, 2 and 3</p>

Stakeholder main group and name	Existing activities with potential to be leveraged	Content of engagement, contributions to the project (identified by Output)
Ministry of Finance (MF)	<p>Sectoral focal point</p> <p>Provide inputs to the improvement of the national MRV system's institutional structure and formalizing data sharing and information procedures</p>	<p>Develop harmonized climate change programmes from all sectors especially in the key sectors of finance and economic planning, forestry, agriculture, land and water, health, energy and coastal zones management to ensure coherence and building of synergies among these sectors;</p> <p>Source and utilize funding in collaboration with the DCEV for the implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation activities;</p> <p>Strengthen financial mechanisms for sustainable implementation;</p> <p>Prepare a common Mauritanian position in relation to the on-going negotiations under the UNFCCC in collaboration with the Directorates of MEDD. Such a position should as far as possible be consistent and feed adequately into the overall African position, and ultimately the Group of 77 and China but highlighting national areas of difference;</p> <p>Offer strong technical backstopping to the political leadership, Cabinet and Parliament in particular, to share the common African vision on efforts made to combat Climate Change in general and on the African climate platform in particular.</p> <p>Outputs 1 and 3</p>

Stakeholder main group and name	Existing activities with potential to be leveraged	Content of engagement, contributions to the project (identified by Output)
Ministry of Transport and Equipment (MET)	<p>Sectoral focal point</p> <p>Collection and provision of activity data for estimating emissions for the Transport category of the GHG inventory</p>	<p>Continue to collect and provide activity data in an improved manner on an annual basis for sustainability</p> <p>Invest further in this activity for more disaggregated data towards moving to higher tier methods for estimating emissions</p> <p>Support the generation of country specific emission factors for improving the quality of the GHG inventory</p> <p>Implement and track mitigation projects in the transport categories</p> <p>Outputs 1, 2 and 3</p>
Ministry of Petroleum and Energy and Mines (MPEMi)	<p>Sectoral focal point</p> <p>Collect and provide activity data for the Energy sector (petroleum industry, energy consumption and mining) for estimating emissions of the GHG inventory</p>	<p>Continue to collect and provide activity data in an improved manner on an annual basis for sustainability</p> <p>Invest further in this activity for more disaggregated data towards moving to higher tier methods for estimating emissions in case energy sector categories are key ones</p> <p>Support the generation of country specific emission factors for key categories, thus improving the quality of the GHG inventory</p> <p>Implement and track mitigation projects in the Energy sector</p> <p>Outputs 1, 2 and 3</p>
Ministry of Hydraulics and Sanitation (MHA)	<p>Sectoral focal point</p> <p>Collect and provide data for estimating emissions in the domestic wastewater category of the GHG inventory</p>	<p>Continue to collect and provide activity data in an improved manner on an annual basis for sustainability</p> <p>Support the development of mitigation projects in the domestic wastewater category</p> <p>Outputs 1, 2 and 3</p>

Stakeholder main group and name	Existing activities with potential to be leveraged	Content of engagement, contributions to the project (identified by Output)
Ministry of Rural Development (MDR) comprising agriculture and livestock	<p>Sectoral focal point</p> <p>Collect and provide data for estimating emissions in the AFOLU sector of the GHG inventory and for vulnerability and adaptation assessment</p>	<p>Continue to collect and provide activity data in an improved manner on an annual basis for sustainability</p> <p>Collect and provide more disaggregated data towards moving to higher tier methods for estimating emissions in the AFOLU sector categories</p> <p>Support the generation of country specific emission factors for key categories, thus improving the quality of the GHG inventory</p> <p>Implement and track mitigation and adaptation projects in the AFOLU sector</p> <p>Outputs 1, 2 and 3</p>
Ministry of Housing, Urban and Spatial Planning (MHUAT)	<p>Sectoral focal point</p> <p>Tracking of area under settlements in the country for the GHG inventory in the Land sub-sector</p>	<p>Contribute data on land use changes for estimating emissions in the land sub-category</p> <p>Outputs 1 and 2</p>
Ministry of Higher Education and Research	<p>Sectoral focal point</p> <p>Integrate climate change in the educational curriculum</p> <p>Conduct research on climate change impacts and adaptation</p>	<p>Develop education modules for a better integration of climate change in courses</p> <p>Improve and update research on climate impacts and adaptation</p> <p>Support research into the development of country-specific emission factors</p> <p>Outputs 1 and 2</p>

Stakeholder main group and name	Existing activities with potential to be leveraged	Content of engagement, contributions to the project (identified by Output)
Ministry of Interior and Decentralization (MIDEC)	<p>Sectoral focal point</p> <p>Provide inputs to the improvement of the national MRV system's institutional structure and support information and data collection and sharing</p>	<p>Mainstream climate actions in the development programmes of all sectors within the low carbon and sustainable development agendas</p> <p>Guide government on appropriate funding for the decentralized implementation of climate change NDC mitigation and adaptation activities</p> <p>Outputs 1 and 3</p>
Ministry of Economy and Industry (MEI)	<p>Sectoral focal point</p> <p>Provide inputs to the improvement of the national MRV system's institutional structure and support information and data collection and sharing</p>	<p>Promote the integration of climate actions in the economic and industrial development within the low carbon and sustainable development agendas</p> <p>Guide government on appropriation of funds for the implementation of climate change NDC mitigation and adaptation activities</p> <p>Outputs 1 and 3</p>
Ministry of Health (MS)	<p>Sectoral focal point</p> <p>Provide data for adaptation in the health sector within the MRV system and for clinical waste for the inventory</p>	<p>Improve data collection and provision within the MRV system for emissions, mitigation and adaptation</p> <p>Outputs 2 and 3</p>

Stakeholder main group and name	Existing activities with potential to be leveraged	Content of engagement, contributions to the project (identified by Output)
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (MAEC)	Sectoral focal point	Support MEDD in the negotiations within the context of the convention and develop international cooperation with bilateral and multilateral partners for supporting the low carbo development of the country Output 3
Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy (MPEMa)	Sectoral focal point	Improve data collection and provision within the MRV system for emissions estimates on Fishing Output 2
Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Tourism (MICAT)	Sectoral focal point	Improve data collection and provision within the MRV system for emissions estimates on the IPPU sector Output 2
Ministry of Social Affairs Children & Women	Sectoral focal point	Support the integration of women and youth in climate change activities and sensitize the population on mitigation and adaptation Output 1
Ministry of Basic education and reform of National Education	Sectoral focal point	Integrate climate issues in the educational system to promote adaptation and mitigation of the younger segments of the population Output 1
Ministry of Employment, Youth and Sports	Sectoral focal point	Promote vocational education on climate change to the workers community, and sensitize youth on climate change issues for behavioural change on mitigation and adaptation Output 1
Government Departments/Agencies		
Statistical Agency	Collect, quality control and provide data on socio-economic statistics	Support the development and implementation of the centralized data collection network for the MRV system Outputs 1, 2 and 3

Stakeholder main group and name	Existing activities with potential to be leveraged	Content of engagement, contributions to the project (identified by Output)
National Meteorology Agency (NMA)	Collect and provide climate data and scientific advice	Provide historical climate data for use in V&A studies and AFOLU emissions estimates, and support the development of regional and local climate change scenarios for vulnerability and adaptation assessments Output 3
Strategies Branch (MEF) Ministry of Economy	Monitor and evaluate progress in the development policies	Pursue the monitoring and evaluation functions with emphasis on the mainstreaming of climate issues in the new low carbon development strategy Output 1
National Monitoring Committee of SCAPP	Monitor and evaluate progress in the implementation of national policies and strategies	Pursue the monitoring and evaluation functions with special attention to climate issues within the new low carbon development strategy Output 1
CT/Chargé des Filières Agricoles et de la Protection des végétaux	Sectoral focal point Collection of data on agricultural production	Support the collection of improved disaggregated data on agriculture for the inventory and V&A assessments, support implementation of mitigation and adaptation activities of the NDC on agriculture Output 3
Private sector		
Confédération Nationale du Patronat de Mauritanie (National Union of Mauritanian Patronage)	Consulted in order to streamline appropriate data reporting and relevant information; potentially receive training during the CBIT project.	In charge of planning, financing and implementing sectoral climate actions by the private sector, collect and provide needed data and other information within the MRV systems for tracking mitigation and adaptation as appropriate by the private sector Outputs 2 and 3

Stakeholder main group and name	Existing activities with potential to be leveraged	Content of engagement, contributions to the project (identified by Output)
The National Union of Mauritanian Patronage (UNPM - Agence Panafricaine de la Grande Muraille Verte	Sectoral focal point Supporting forestation	Provide data on the implementation of the project Grande Muraille Verte Output 3
Agricultural Federation of Mauritania	Sectoral focal point Provide data and information on the agricultural sector	Continue provision of data and other information on agriculture and related projects for reporting Output 3
NGOs and CSOs		
Nafor?	Information, communication and influence between the political and the social sphere Consulted on needs for monitoring and communicating on climate activities. Incorporate their views into project design.	NGOs and CSOs are along with the government representing the general interests or those of segments of the population, and are thus important stakeholders and partners in addressing climate change issues, especially regarding engagement and communication with the general public Output 3
ONG GLOBE	Partner of MEDD on the environment	Support the deployment of the MRV systems with regard to engagement and communication with its members and the general public Output 3

Stakeholder main group and name	Existing activities with potential to be leveraged	Content of engagement, contributions to the project (identified by Output)
Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights and Civil Society	<p>Sectoral focal point</p> <p>Information, communication and influence between the political and the social sphere Consulted on needs for monitoring and communicating of climate activities. Incorporate their views into project design.</p>	<p>NGOs and CSOs are along with the government representing the general interests or those of segments of the population, and are thus important stakeholders and partners in addressing climate change issues, especially regarding engagement and communication with the general public.</p> <p>Output 3</p>
Directorate of Civil Society	<p>Sectoral focal point</p> <p>Linkage between CSOs and MEDD</p>	<p>Continue to link CSOs with MEDD for enhanced transparency and reporting on climate actions</p> <p>Output 3</p>
Regional (Wilayas)	<p>Information, communication and influence between the political and the social sphere Consulted on needs for monitoring and communicating of climate activities. Incorporate their views into project design.</p>	<p>Regional administrators have a crucial role in supporting the implementation of government plans and strategies on climate, especially to increase resilience of the population</p> <p>Output 3</p>
Academia		

Stakeholder main group and name	Existing activities with potential to be leveraged	Content of engagement, contributions to the project (identified by Output)
Universit? de Nouakchott Assria	<p>Research, analysis and creation of new knowledge</p> <p>Involved in the discussions on the development of national emission factors, support in the GHG inventory, adaptation studies and development of methodologies to M&E climate actions</p>	<p>Academic and research institutions are central institutions that can gather additional data needed on climate projects and provide new knowledge, analysis and insight for improving climate assessments and develop national emission factors</p> <p>Outputs 2 and 3</p>
Ecole Normale sup?rieur (ENS)	<p>Research, analysis and creation of new knowledge</p> <p>Involved to engage in the discussions on the development of national emission factors, support in the GHG inventory and development of methodologies to M&E climate actions</p>	<p>Academic and research institutions are central institutions that can gather additional data needed on climate projects and provide new knowledge, analysis and insight for improving climate assessments and develop national emission factors</p> <p>Outputs 2 and 3</p>

Stakeholder main group and name	Existing activities with potential to be leveraged	Content of engagement, contributions to the project (identified by Output)
l'Institut Sup?rieur des ?tudes Technologiques (ISET)	<p>Research, analysis and creation of new knowledge</p> <p>Involved to engage in the discussions on the development of national emission factors, support in the GHG inventory and development of methodologies to M&E climate actions</p>	<p>Academic and research institutions are central institutions that can gather additional data needed on climate projects and provide new knowledge, analysis and insight for improving climate assessments and develop national emission factors</p> <p>Outputs 2 and 3</p>
Decentralized institutions		
Municipalities, City and District councils	Provide information on Domestic solid waste and wastewater	<p>The city and district councils will continue to be involved in the provision of data and other information relating to emissions and mitigation in the waste sector</p> <p>Outputs 2 and 3</p>
Others		
Development Partners (FAO, UNDP, WFP, GIZ, IUCN)	Consulted in order to assist in identifying approaches to mobilize support needed and track support received	<p>Provide support related to transparency, which should be tracked and reported under the ETF</p> <p>Outputs 1, 2 and 3</p>

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

In order to achieve the project goals and implement the proposed activities, there should be a strong sustainable participation of several stakeholders from the public and private sectors. A significant number of stakeholders usually responds to the complexity of climate change related activities. In that vein, there are public entities that must collaborate very closely with the project execution unit to develop, implement and operationalize a robust transparency system for emissions, mitigation, adaptation and support needed and received; not just for establishing monitoring procedures, but for generating disaggregated quality activity data and information for reporting to the Convention while concurrently informing the public policy process for optimal decision making.

These stakeholders have been engaged to solicit their input on the scope/coverage and relevance of the project components, and the strategies that will be adopted during project implementation as well as their commitment to participate in the project during the implementation phase. A summary of their views, comments and suggestions on the project design and the implementation strategies have been integrated in the final project document. The agenda and minutes of the stakeholder inception and validation workshops with the list of participants disaggregated by sex are also provided as annexes.

The stakeholder engagement arrangements during project implementation are as follows. The Project Manager will be responsible for monitoring and supporting ongoing stakeholder involvement during project implementation. The MRV system, through the centralized data collection and sharing platform, will serve for stakeholder engagement in the future for climate change activities in the country. Until the MRV platform is developed and rendered operational (under outputs 1.2 and 1.3 of the CBIT project) the exchange of information with stakeholders will be performed using physical means, when possible, backed up by virtual exchanges through an electronic platform (such as Teams or Zoom) and through e-mails and phone calls. Stakeholder engagement will be a continuous activity throughout the lifecycle of the project. The project will track and ensure participation of the working groups (V&A, mitigation and GHG emissions), and participation in project events, namely the capacity-building sessions, on an ongoing basis in order to engage stakeholders, train them and facilitate their participation and dedicated collaboration in the future. Civil society will have representatives in each of the Technical Working Groups on GHG inventory, Mitigation, Adaptation and Support needed and received. This will enable them to better participate in the project and contribute to improve their engagement during the project lifecycle and after completion for mainstreaming findings in their activities.

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only; Yes

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;

Co-financier;

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

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:

Mauritania's two previous national medium-term development plans (CSLP[1] I and II) recognized gender inequality as a major development challenge and put forward specific policy actions to address them. During the third CSLP, a specific ministry (MASEF) for social affairs, childhood and women was created. Several line ministries, local governments' authorities and civil society organizations (CSOs) responded by designing programmes to translate the gender policy objective to concrete ground level activities. More recently, in preparing Mauritania's NDC to the UNFCCC, the country recognized the need to address gender related issues with unconditional support.

Although some progress has been made in mainstreaming gender into development and climate change, a lot remains to be done when it comes to equal treatment of gender issues in technical activities like MRV, since a significant gap still exists. The CBIT project will therefore build on the past efforts of linking gender issues to climate change. Reference shall be made to the GEF Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP) 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. Efforts will also be made to maintain an acceptable gender representation in project management structures (committees, institutional frameworks) and capacity-building activities (trainings, workshops). For instance, the current distribution of sectoral focal points is of 7 females and 38 males. Through the project preparation and implementation, efforts will be made to achieve greater gender balance, aiming to double the number of female sectoral focal points during the project implementation. This will be done in two steps, first by requesting the institutions to provide female candidates to the focal point positions if individuals with the right qualifications are available, and secondly by prioritizing women in the capacity building activities during project implementation, to incentivise the enhancement of women's capacities, thus improving their chances of being assigned to MRV and transparency related positions.

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. Following CBIT Programming Directions and the GEF Policy on

Gender Equality published in November 2017, based on this substantive initial mainstreaming effort, a gender responsive results-based framework has been developed during the PPG design phase.

As of 2019, the UNDP Human development Index 2020, the Gender Development Index of Mauritania was 0.864 from HDIs of 0.5 for females and 0.579 for males.

The gender analysis undertaken within the context of the CBIT project revealed the following.

General

Links between gender and climate change

The effects of climate change in Mauritania mainly affect women on whom the family economy relies. 29% of families are headed by women, 32% in rural areas and 25.4% in urban areas (Source: *Secretariat of State for the Status of Women; Groupe de Suivi Genre; Indicateurs genre en Mauritanie, March 2003; section 2.2.1. page 20*).

Benefits of including women in climate action

UN Climate Change News, 6 March 2019

On the eve of International Women's Day on 8 March, whose theme this year is 'Think Fairly, Build Smart, Innovate for Change', everyone should recognise the benefits that women bring to climate action so that climate change can be addressed seriously. Climate change affects people differently - depending on their socio-economic circumstances, potential disabilities, age, or gender. When climate change solutions take these different realities into account, they are more effective, and their effects are felt throughout society. Here are five reasons why climate action and women must be considered holistically.

a) 100% of the population must participate

51% of humanity is made up of women and girls. To achieve the Paris Agreement's most ambitious target of 1.5°C and limit warming to well below 2°C, it is essential that women's needs, perspectives, and ideas, as well as those of men, are included in climate action to create equitable, effective, and sustainable solutions.

In addition, indigenous women have experienced the effects of climate change for generations and have been pioneers and leaders in environmental conservation. Their knowledge and skills contribute greatly to building resilience to climate impacts and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Their traditional skills and knowledge of natural resource management in areas such as innovation, waste and energy are effective tools in climate action strategies.

b) Empowering women means more effective climate responses

Women make up about 43% of the agricultural workforce in developing countries. When given the same access to resources as men, women can increase their agricultural yields by 20-30%, which not only increases total agricultural production in these countries by 2.5-4%, but also helps reduce hunger by 12-17%, according to the UN. This can have a positive impact on climate change adaptation in two

ways - appropriate technology or resources contribute to more sustainable agriculture and environmental conservation, and reduced poverty enables people to better adapt to climate disruptions.

Investing in women and girls has multiple impacts on entire communities and countries. Studies show that countries with a high representation of women in parliament are more likely to ratify international environmental treaties.

c) Women are key to building resilience to climate change

Communities are more successful in resilience and capacity building strategies when women are also involved in planning. According to the UN, women are more likely to share information about community well-being, which is important for resilience, and are more willing to adapt to environmental change when it affects their family life.

In addition, women are usually the first responders to local natural disaster responses, leaders in disaster risk reduction, and contribute to post-disaster recovery by responding quickly to their families' early needs and strengthening community structures.

d) Climate change affects everyone, but not equally

There is evidence that climate change has a greater impact on the most vulnerable population groups, both in developed and developing countries, and that it exacerbates existing inequalities. Women often face greater risks and burdens due to the consequences of climate change in situations of poverty and due to existing roles, responsibilities and cultural norms.

Targeted investments in gender equality and women's empowerment yield results in environmental sustainability, poverty reduction, social policy and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By approaching climate change from a gender perspective, women's rights are also considered, addressing existing gender inequalities rather than exacerbating them.

e) Countries have agreed! Actions continue under the aegis of the UNFCCC

Countries have recognised the importance of the equal participation of women and men in UNFCCC processes and in the development and implementation of gender-responsive national climate policies by establishing a specific agenda under the Convention on gender and climate change. This includes the first-ever UNFCCC Gender Action Plan under the Lima Work Programme on Gender Equality (LWPG), which has five priority areas:

- Capacity building, knowledge sharing and communication
- Improving stakeholders' understanding and expertise in mainstreaming gender equality issues into the thematic areas of the Convention and the Paris Agreement and into policies, programmes, and projects on the ground
- Gender balance, participation and empowerment of women
- Achieving and maintaining the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women in the UNFCCC process.
- Coherence (within the UNFCCC, across the UN)
- Strengthen gender mainstreaming in the work of UNFCCC bodies, the secretariat and other UN entities and stakeholders for coherent implementation of gender equality mandates and activities
- Enforcement of gender equality and means of implementation

- Ensuring respect for, and promotion and mainstreaming of, gender equality and women's empowerment in the implementation of the Convention and the Paris Agreement
- Monitoring and reporting
- Improve monitoring and reporting on the implementation of gender-related mandates under the UNFCCC.

Mauritania adheres to these principles (*Source: UN Climate Change News, 6 March 2019*)

Legal and policy framework in Mauritania

The provisions of national policies in the short term (1-2 years), medium term (3-9 years) and long term (10+ years)

According to 2017 data, the representation of women in the Mauritanian public administration is 20.00% for Grade A: Director General and Deputy Director; Grade B: Head of Department 29.03%; Grade C: Head of Division 33.98%. (Source: Evaluation of UNDP's interventions in the promotion of gender equality (UNDP, KAM Oleh, International Consultant; March 2020).

Short term

The current government's short-term objective is to bring these quotas to at least 33%; see: Organic Law n°2018-008 amending and supplementing certain provisions of Organic Law n° 2012-034 of 12 April 2012 amending certain provisions of Ordinance n° 2006-029 of 22 August 2006 on the promotion of women's access to electoral mandates and elective functions. (Source: JO ,n°1407 of 28 February 2018. Page 85)

Medium term

Reach a 35% quota for female participation in political life and decision-making by 2030. Organic law n°2018-008

Long term

Reach the quota of 40% or more of female participation in political life and decision-making in 2050. Organic law n°2018-008

Institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms

To what extent is gender mainstreamed in the current institutional arrangements on climate change

According to the national gender institutionalization strategy, gender is represented by a sectoral focal point within each ministry supervised by the Gender Monitoring Group (see paragraph 58 of the strategy). In turn, climate change is so far represented by a CC sectoral focal point within each ministry designated by administrative letter from its ministry, which still needs to be formalized by ministerial order of the MEDD.

What does the country plan to do about institutional arrangements on gender equality?

Mauritania adheres to the provisions set out in paragraph 72 of the national gender institutionalisation strategy (page 23)

What is the country's plan on Gender and Climate Change Coordination

The MEDD's project is to institutionalize the network of sectoral focal points with the objective of making it more functional in their intersectoral coordination tasks.

Reporting to the UNFCCC

To what extent has gender been taken into account in the reporting process?

As far as all sectoral focal points are concerned, gender is included in all aspects of reporting.

Analysis on gender in various spheres of life. Provide disaggregated data if available from the ONS census.

Women's economic participation

Based on the study conducted in 2003 by CMAP, women's contribution to national wealth is estimated to have increased from 23.5% in 1988 to 28.1% in 2000. These rates of women's participation in national wealth show that women are increasingly present in the economic sphere, particularly in the primary sector, and that they remain largely confined to the so-called informal sector (trade, processing, etc.) (*source: National Gender Institutionalization Strategy, March 2015, paragraph 43 page 14*)

Employment

Among women, 35.6% of jobs were in trade, 15.5% in services and 13.1% in agriculture (1.2% in livestock farming) (*source: National Gender Institutionalization Strategy, March 2015, paragraph 45 page 14*).

Profession and sectors of activity

In Mauritania, according to the 2013 national baseline survey on employment and the informal sector, the occupation rate indicating the percentage share of the working age population actually employed in economic activity is estimated at 39.8% with disparities between men and women. Indeed, the distribution of the employed population by sex and age group indicates that the occupation rate of men (58.4%) is much higher than that of women (25.1%). The only high occupation rate for women is in self-employment, where it is 53% compared to 45.6% for men, but this category of employment is characterized by its precariousness. (Source: Mauritania Country Gender Profile, January 2015, AfDB; section 3. page 08, paragraph 41)

Informal employment

According to gender, the rate of informal non-agricultural salaried employment remains much higher for men, at 66.9% compared to 39.2% for women.

(Source : Situation de l'emploi et du secteur informel en Mauritanie en 2012, ONS; page 56, section 4.1.8.)

Gender wage gap

According to the Global Gender Gap Report published by the World Economic Forum in 2008, for similar jobs, women's pay in Mauritania is 35 per cent lower than men's, and this percentage is identical to that reported in the same report published in 2006.

Source: (No. 100) on Equal Pay, 1951 - Mauritania ... - ILO

Women's financial decision-making

In Mauritania, women have complete independence in financial decision-making, hence their position as leaders in trade.

Women's political participation

Although Mauritanian women have equal electoral rights with men, and have seen their representation in parliament increase from 3% to 20% between 2000 and 2018, their voice and representation remains limited due to discriminatory practices. Social norms are often at the root of the disadvantages girls and women face and tend to confine them to the role of wife, mother, and housewife. (Source: World Bank: Mauritania Economic Situation Report; May 2021, page 33)

Education of girls and women

The completion rate for girls has improved at all school levels, but remains low at the secondary level (Source: World Bank: Mauritania Economic Situation Report; May 2021, page 31)

Women's health

In terms of reproductive health, with a rate of 626 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2013, maternal mortality is one of the main public health challenges. Similarly, the use of family planning methods remains low, although it has increased: the overall contraceptive prevalence rate is 11.4%, of which 10% is for modern methods and 1.5% for traditional methods.

Modern contraception is used more by married women living in urban centres (20.5%) than those living in rural areas (5%).

(source: National Gender Institutionalization Strategy, March 2015, paragraph 53 page 16).

Gender-based violence (GBV)

Available data on violence against women show that the main form of violence at the national level remains psychological violence with a prevalence of 63%.

According to the MICS 2011 survey, the average prevalence of FGM is 69.4% for women aged 15-49; it is 46.5% for girls under 5.

(source: National Gender Institutionalization Strategy, March 2015, paragraph 58 page 18).

Households headed by women

29% of families are headed by women, 32% in rural areas and 25.4% in urban areas (Source: Secretariat of State for the Status of Women; Gender Monitoring Group; Gender Indicators in Mauritania, March 2003; section 2.2.1. page 20).

Feminisation of poverty

Poverty affects women more than men. Indeed, the analysis of poverty by household as the statistical unit of observation indicates that the incidence of poverty fell from 35.1% in 2008 to 22.3% in 2014. In relation to the gender of the head of the household, the results of the 2014 PCVS also favour female-headed households. In fact, 23.2% of male-headed households are poor compared to only 20.2% of female-headed households (source: National Gender Mainstreaming Strategy, March 2015, paragraph 40 page 13).

Women's access to resources

Access to land

According to the only study on women's access to land ownership conducted in 2002 by the SECF, women have difficulty accessing land: 56% of them need the approval of a third party to carry out a land transaction, only 31% of them are informed of the procedures for granting land, 18.7% are landowners. (Source: Mauritania Country Gender Profile, January 2015, AfDB; section 3.B. page 10, paragraph 48).

Access to property and other non-land rights

(Source: Strat?gie Nationale d'Institutionnalisation du Genre, March 2015, paragraph 40 page 13).

Marital status, customary marriages and access to land and property

The prevalence of child marriage among girls aged 18 to 22 was 33.8% in the MICS survey, and that of early pregnancy 19.6%.

(Source: World Bank: Mauritania Economic Situation Report; May 2021, page 31)

Access to finance

In addition, there are dynamic measures to strengthen the economic power of women (development of the cooperative movement, presence in the military and paramilitary corps, setting up of women's micro-finance structures, financing of income-generating activities, etc.).

(source: National Gender Institutionalisation Strategy, March 2015, paragraph 35 page 12)

Access to agricultural resources

Women are confronted with serious obstacles linked to the habits and customs widely perpetuated in the different communities of the country. In Moorish society, land and property are family privileges and must be kept, from generation to generation, under the patronymic of the holding family. For black communities, land remains undivided from generation to generation and under the guardianship of the head of the family, the eldest. Women from non-traditional landowning strata (in particular former slaves or harratines) are the ones who cultivate the land most (for the benefit of their former masters) for rain-fed and post-dam crops, but they are subject to various forms of sharecropping.

(Source: Mauritania Country Gender Profile, January 2015, AfDB; section 3.B. page 10, Box 2).

Sector-by-sector gender summary for natural resources

Agriculture

Despite their strong presence in agriculture, women have difficulty becoming landowners. According to the only study on women's access to land ownership conducted in 2002 by the SECF, women have difficulty accessing land: 56% of them need the approval of a third party to carry out a land transaction, only 31% of them are informed of the procedures for granting land, and 18.7% are landowners.

(Source: Mauritania Country Gender Profile, January 2015, AfDB; section 3.B. page 10, Paragraph 48).

Forestry

No information on forestry

Water

According to the results, a tap in the dwelling (22.3%), a cart with a small tank (17%) and unprotected wells (16.8%) are the main sources of water for more than 56.1% of households.

Analysis of the level of potability¹¹ of the water consumed by households shows that almost two out of three households (65.4%) consume potable water and 34.6% of households consume water at risk (from sources exposed to contamination). Analysis of households consuming drinking water shows that almost half of them (49.3%) have an internal tap (in the dwelling) (*Source: ONS; Profil de Pauvret? de la Mauritanie - 2014; page 80.*)

Energy

The 2014 EPCV shows that the energy most used for cooking by households is gas (44.6%). It is followed by wood/ramass, which is used by almost 31.8% of households. Charcoal is the fuel used for cooking by 17.5% of households.

(Source: ONS; Profil de Pauvret? de la Mauritanie - 2014; page 84).

Gender relations in Mauritania

Attitudes towards gender equality

Women in Mauritania face multiple barriers to their economic and social inclusion. Due to deep-rooted social norms, Mauritanian girls and women face great inequalities within the household, in the labour market and in institutions. These inequalities lead, among other things, to child marriage, early pregnancies and a low level of education for girls.

(Source: World Bank: Mauritania Economic Situation Report; May 2021, Executive Summary page xi)

Gender decision-making

Other barriers to women's access to finance include limited access to advice and information, illiteracy in rural areas and patriarchal norms that limit their decision-making capacity. Despite the existence of a law criminalising discrimination in access to financial services, the gender aspect is not taken into account. Women in Mauritania also face wage discrimination. However, there is also no law establishing the principle of equal pay for work of equal value between men and women.

(Source: World Bank: Mauritania Economic Situation Report; May 2021, page 29)

Gender and climate change in Mauritania

Different impacts of climate change on men and women

Despite the Mauritanian government's strong political commitment, materialised by the adoption of several strategies and texts in favour of the promotion of women and gender equity, Mauritanian women are still vulnerable. This vulnerability is perpetuated by the persistence of backward socio-cultural factors and above all by the inadequate application and popularisation of national and international legal texts, poverty resulting from poor access to production factors (land and credit), illiteracy (42.8% for men and 49.9% for women) and the inadequacy of female leadership.

(Source: Mauritania Country Gender Profile, January 2015, AfDB; section 1. page 3.c, Paragraph 17).

Decision-making on climate change mitigation and adaptation

Climate change focal points within MASEF and gender focal points within MEDD fully share decision-making on climate change mitigation and adaptation

Women's leadership in climate action

Gender is a priority in the fight against climate change, the country has a strong need for capacity building for women's leadership in climate action

Food security

Like the countries of the Sahel, Mauritania is periodically exposed to food insecurity due to recurrent droughts. Women are the most vulnerable in this area as they carry the burden of the household during transhumance and when men migrate.

Drought and floods

As in the Sahel sub-region, the country is often exposed to droughts as well as flash floods exposing the general population to extreme vulnerability, particularly women.

Gender Action Plan:

More specifically, this project will include gender mainstreaming in some of its activities. A gender expert will be contracted under budget line 110404 to facilitate the mainstreaming activities along the technical consultants. Activities earmarked are under Outputs 1.1 ?national institutions strengthened to coordinate, manage, and report transparently on implemented climate change activities? and Output 1.2 ?Technical support, training and tools provided to the country to submit transparent, consistent, comparable, complete and Accurate GHG inventories?. The gender expert will attend the training workshop on these two outputs for the mainstreaming exercise. The consultation and collaborative initiatives will produce a report on gender integration in the institutional arrangements and formal legal frameworks for the thematic areas GHG inventory, mitigation and adaptation. The Ministry of Social Affairs Children & Women will be the leading institution for gender mainstreaming in climate activities through its sectoral focal point. As well, civil society organizations as well as research institutions and development partners working in the fields of gender and climate change will be privileged partners.

Finally, 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.

Project Components / Outputs	Gender mainstreaming Objectives	Gender mainstreaming Activities / Indicators	Targets / Means of Verification (MoV)	Responsibility
Overall Project Management	Promote the participation of women in the Project Steering Committee	Activity: Meetings of the PSC Indicator: % of women participating in the PSC meetings	Target: 35% MoV: List of participants of PSC meetings	PMU
Component 1 Output 1.1	Promote the participation of women as representatives of institutions during activities aimed at strengthening these institutions in the coordination, management and reporting transparently on climate change activities	Activity: 1.1, 1.2 Indicator: % of women participating in the working groups	Target: 35% MoV: List of participants attending workshops disaggregated by sex	PMU
Component 1 Output 1.2	Promote the participation of women and capacitate them to undertake MRV of emissions	Activity:2.4 Indicator: % of women participating in the working groups	Target: 35% MoV: List of participants attending workshops disaggregated by sex	PMU

Across all Outputs	Promote women participation in project consultation meetings, workshops and trainings.	<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 35 % of participants attending the project consultation meetings, workshops and trainings are women</p> <p>MoV: Gender disaggregated attendance sheets</p>	PMU
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[1] Mauritania's Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS) implemented between 2001 and 2009 by the NPP Government. GPRS1 spanned 2002 and 2005 where GPRS2 continued from 2005 and 2009.

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.

The private sector plays a crucial role for climate policies to be implemented into activities on the ground, whether it is the implementation of the electrification programme through the adoption of renewable energy technologies, industrialisation of the country through the deployment of clean production processes, application of energy efficient equipment and products for the market, greening

of the construction sector, improvement of rural water access through solar pumping stations, or regulation of age of imported vehicles, or tax exemption for buses used in public transport, all part of the unconditional NDC of Mauritania. Ultimately, the private sector will be involved in the import, investment, operation and maintenance of equipment. Therefore, the private sector, especially technology providers and transport companies, will have to be integrated into the MRV system for tracking the progress in achieving the NDC. The private sector will also be asked to collaborate by providing the activity data usually needed for TACCC GHG inventories, e.g. in the case of livestock, farmers and herders have to be consulted to make accurate accounting of number of livestock heads. The status of current economic activities and the impacts of alternative low carbon development measures need to be the object of MRV in order to take stock of emissions and establish the impact of climate policies and actions at the national level. These actors have been consulted through the Confédération Nationale du Patronat de Mauritanie (National Union of Mauritanian Patronage) and the Agricultural Federation of Mauritania and will be engaged in project activities through the thematic working groups. They will thereafter be integrated into the national MRV system to ensure that detailed activity data from private sectors' emitting sources are tracked properly and submitted to MEDD for inclusion in the UNFCCC reports. In addition, businesses will be informed about potential climate risks relevant for their activities (e.g. in agriculture). The engagement of the private sector can also contribute to an increased mobilization of financial resources and technical capabilities in the development of innovative climate services and adaptation technologies. The private sector can effectively contribute to developing the low carbon development agenda as privileged partners, through Private and Public sector Partnerships (PPP) and Build Operate Transfer (BOT) modalities where conditionality applies to NDC actions.

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):

The major risk that could prevent the successful implementation of the CBIT project are:

- i. insufficient institutional coordination,
- ii. insufficient high-level political will and commitment,
- iii. data availability and accessibility constraints
- iv. inertia on institutional buy-in, and
- v. limited skills.

Ideas on the way the risk factors will be remedied are provided in the table below:

Risk description	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Mitigation Strategy and Safeguards	By Whom / When?
<p>Risks to the achievement of the project objective: Strengthen Mauritania's capacities in climate transparency, according to the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) under the Paris Agreement and thereby achieve its sustainable low-carbon development goals.</p>				
<p>Insufficient high level political will and commitment</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create high-level awareness and seek final approval from political authorities from the line ministries at the outset of project implementation (before the project kicks-off); - Provide regular progress reports to the Ministers whose sectors are included in the CBIT project. 	<p>MEDD before project start</p>

<p>COVID-19 Pandemic slows down project implementation</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>The COVID-19 Pandemic will limit or prohibit travel for some time.</p> <p>During the project preparation phase:</p> <p>Stakeholders? consultations and baseline assessments conducted remotely via survey, email and video calls to inform the design of the project;</p> <p>During project implementation:</p> <p>Focus on the desk-based work of developing training packages at start-up in preparation for training events;</p> <p>if necessary, and if travel remains restricted longer than expected, the project will develop materials for and conduct meetings and training virtually; and</p> <p>Undertake desk research and conference interview where needed and appropriate.</p>	<p>MEDD through DCEV throughout project cycle</p>
<p>Climate change impacts</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Climate change risks such as extreme weather events could affect internet connectivity and the safe storage of data and pose mobility issues. Mitigation actions include alignment with early warning systems and considering such risks in the design of the system and tools.</p>	<p>Mauritania Meteorological services throughout project cycle</p>
<p>Risks to the achievement of Outcome 1: Mauritania improves its Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system and institutional capacity to comply with the Enhanced Transparency Framework</p>				

<p>Data availability and accessibility constraints</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>As much as possible, take advantage of the existing national data collection infrastructure.</p> <p>Include publicly available and industrial data providers in the technical working group to facilitate data access;</p> <p>Establish legal or less formal collaboration arrangements with institutions that are repositories of data;</p> <p>Revise data collection templates specifically designed for different data providers,</p> <p>Organize training for industrial data providers under the existing environmental reporting mechanism,</p> <p>Expand the participation of data providers to cover new areas in the new MRV task,</p> <p>Support continuous data generation and sharing through the centralized climate data sharing network.</p>	<p>DCEV of MEDD throughout project cycle</p>
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<p>Insufficient institutional coordination</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Fully integrate the CBIT project steering committee into the existing climate change implementation committee;</p> <p>Expand the representation of sectors involved in transparency activities to include all sector stakeholders described in the CBIT proposal;</p> <p>Establish a channel for regular briefing of CNEDD by the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD);</p> <p>Ensure clear linkages of NDC implementation in line ministries.</p>	<p>MEDD before project start</p>
<p>Limited sustainability of project impact, due to reliance on external experts</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Identify and harness existing capacities and skill sets in order to increase participation of all national experts,</p> <p>Where consultants are to be recruited, they will be paired with local experts to facilitate knowledge transfer,</p> <p>As much as possible, include experts from national academic/research institutions, CSO and businesses.</p>	<p>DCEV of MEDD throughout project cycle</p>

Inertia on institutional buy-in	Low	Medium	<p>Build on workable existing institutional arrangements for the GHG inventory,</p> <p>Involve additional line ministries at the project outset,</p> <p>Revise existing memorandums of understanding to reflect an updated and more efficient institutional framework</p> <p>Design specific buy-in strategies for different stakeholders (i.e. line ministries, industrial operators, businesses and NGOs).</p> <p>Establish and strengthen inter-ministerial working groups/committees</p>	Project Steering Committee at project inception
Private sector actors not willing to cooperate with the project by providing information and engaging in project activities	Medium	Medium	<p>The respective sectoral ministries will ensure private actors engagement in their respective sectors</p> <p>The private sector will have a representative in the PSC.</p>	Sectoral ministries and PSC

? **Climate Risks Screening:**

The GEF policy on climate change and disaster risks, states that, *“short- and long-term risks posed by climate change and other natural hazards are considered systematically in the screening, assessment and planning processes?”. based on established methodologies, and significant risks and potential impacts are addressed throughout the design and implementation of projects and programs?*

According to the IPCC, risk is the *“potential for adverse consequences where something of value is at stake and where the occurrence and degree of an outcome is uncertain. In the context of the assessment of climate impacts, the term risk is often used to refer to the potential for adverse consequences of a climate-related hazard, or of adaptation or mitigation responses to such a hazard, on lives, livelihoods, health and well-being, ecosystems and species, economic, social and cultural assets, services (including ecosystem services), and infrastructure. Risk results from the interaction of vulnerability (of the affected system), its*

exposure over time (to the hazard), as well as the (climate related) hazard and the likelihood of its occurrence? (IPCC 2018).

Risk assessments have four main elements:

- 1) identify the hazards;
- 2) assess vulnerability and exposure;
- 3) rate the risk; and
- 4) identify measures to manage the risk.

Hazards may include short-term, or acute, shocks (e.g. extreme events of storm, fire or flood), and slow onset, or chronic, events that occur over a long period of time (e.g. drought). Based on the IPCC definition of risk, climate risk assessments should not only consider consequences of hazards (e.g. food insecurity from a reduction of crop yield due to drought) but also consequences from responses (e.g. food insecurity from expansion of biofuels for land-based mitigation, or methane emissions from increased rice farming promoted by projects).

Vulnerability describes the propensity or predisposition to be adversely affected. Vulnerability encompasses a variety of concepts and elements including sensitivity or susceptibility to harm and lack of capacity to cope and adapt. Vulnerability may be a result of physical, social, economic, and environmental factors.

Exposure refers to the presence of people; livelihoods; species or ecosystems; environmental functions, services, and resources; infrastructure; or economic, social, or cultural assets in places and settings that could be adversely affected. Negative impacts occur when something is both vulnerable and exposed.

The climate risk analysis for the CBIT project has been undertaken in line with this IPCC framework and according to the STAP guidelines below. It discusses climate risks relative to the activities within the lifecycle of the project and the transparency system that will be developed and operationalized. The system is expected to exist well beyond the duration of this CBIT project. Climate change and risks stemming from it is the foundation to this project and all of its outputs have been elaborated to raise awareness on them, provide tools to mitigate them at the national level and inform the global community for cooperative action.

(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?

Mauritania is one of the countries of the Sahel most impacted by successive droughts since the 1960s. According to climate scenarios (Fourth national Communication of Mauritania to the UNFCCC), Mauritania is likely to experience higher temperatures with accompanying heat waves, a reduction in

rainfall generally resulting in prolonged droughts but more intense rainfall events causing floods. The recurrent drought has resulted in desertification which has been seriously affecting subsistence living through reduction of natural resources. To this end, and in addition to the risks related to the vulnerability of the national economy to exogenous shocks, the impacts of climate change, without claiming to be exhaustive, will particularly affect vital sectors of the national economy such as water resources, agricultural and livestock production, the coastal economy, and natural ecosystems. In the end, the pressure on natural resources will be more sustained to meet the basic needs of rural populations.

The proposed project will take place mostly in the capital, Nouakchott, which has a lower exposure compared to the rural areas in terms of vulnerability. The two climate hazards that can possibly affect Nouakchott are extreme events such as flooding and silting up as reported in the fourth national communication. Actions already under way to adapt to these are: (i) Combating the risk of flooding in the city of Nouakchott: various activities have already been undertaken and have intensified since 2013 and (ii) Combating the risk of silting in the city of Nouakchott: A major mobilization has been made to stop the threat to the city thanks to the personal involvement of the Head of State.

Potential climate-related effects that have been taken into consideration include:

? Disruptions in data collection and data storage systems and infrastructure.

Since most of the activities will take place in Nouakchott (low vulnerability) and involve mostly historical data that already exists in various databases, it is very unlikely that the activities themselves will be affected by these extreme events that could strike the capital city and are of relatively short durations. Moreover, the transparency system that is to be developed and established by this CBIT project will require periodic collection and processing of data from most ministries that are sited in Nouakchott and to a lesser extent from the decentralized offices all over the country. Development of the necessary infrastructure for the centralized storage and sharing of data is an activity to be realized within very finite time periods and are not expected to be indefinitely affected by extreme climate events that are of short durations. This CBIT project can thus take precautionary measures and develop procedures, guidelines and protocols for the collection of data to take place while taking on board the climate risks in Nouakchott and throughout the country. At most, the activities may have to be rescheduled.

? Difficulties to undertake capacity building activities.

Training activities, workshops and meetings could also be adversely affected by the same extreme climate events and in the same manner. In this case, all activities are scheduled to take place in Nouakchott where the vast majority of stakeholders are sited. In case a climate extreme hits Nouakchott, the training session can be postponed to after the passage of the event. Accessibility to the venues is easy and Nouakchott has a low exposure and vulnerability to climate risks. As well, the capital city has the highest adaptive capacity in the country.

CBIT is a short-term (three years) project based in a low vulnerability region of the country and focuses almost entirely on the creation, compilation, storage and processing of existing climate information for building capacity of stakeholders. Thus, it can be considered as low risk in terms of climate change. Moreover, the objective of the project beyond its own duration is precisely to provide a transparency system that can both keep track of mitigation actions and enhance Mauritania's adaptation efforts.

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

According to the anticipated scenarios in the Fourth National Communication for the 2050 time-horizon, Mauritania, in the absence of appropriate adaptation measures at the local level and GHG mitigation measures at the global level, should experience a high socio-economic and ecological exposure to the climate. This would cause considerable and damaging impacts that are still poorly documented, particularly in order to understand the socio-economic costs that would result from it. However, Mauritania has developed its National Adaptation Plan which has identified six measures in response to the vulnerabilities of specific key sectors and sites studied, namely Nouakchott among others.

The activities under this project have very low probabilities of being compromised by climate-related extreme events. On the other hand, the transparency system that will be established through it will remain operational long after the project has ended and is anticipated to have a net positive contribution to building resilience and adaptive capacities of Mauritania.

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

As noted in the response to (i) and (ii), climate impacts pose a low risk for this project. Resilience practices are included in the project's activities as well as the outputs that will endure after its technical completion:

? Regarding data collection, data storage and infrastructure

The project has included resilient practices able to withstand the threats posed by the extreme events that, depending on the region, may affect the timely collection of existing raw data as well as its processing and centralized storage but not make it impossible. This will be reflected mostly through the outputs on the preparation of tools, namely, Output 1.2 and Output 1.3. Commissioning of the infrastructure for data storage and sharing is an activity to be undertaken at a specific point in time and can be scheduled at a time when there is no significant risk of extreme climate events.

? Regarding difficulties to undertake capacity building activities

During its execution, the project will ensure the safety of the personnel and the stakeholders. It is possible though very unlikely that the training component under Output 1.2 and Output 1.3 may be disrupted but realized with some delays; once capacities are built, the only need will be to update these outputs in the future well beyond GEF funding. In the unlikely event that 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 assured. Online options will be preferred, when possible, to save resources for travel, as a default guidance for the project.

? Regarding strengthening of national institutions

Output 1.1 will be achieved once outputs 1.2 and 1.3 are completed. In this way, national institutions will be robust enough to coordinate, manage and report transparently on implemented climate change activities in the future well beyond this project. Given the actions taken by government of Mauritania in mainstreaming climate change in its development policies and in the implementation of its National Adaptation Plan, the long-term benefits are not expected to be affected by climate risks.

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

Technical measures considered will include systematic backups of relevant information and databasing at more than one site. Strengthening technical and institutional capacity, as well as systems to generate the required information for the ETF of the Paris Agreement to address climate risks, are the very objectives of this CBIT project.

? **Covid-19 Risk and Opportunity Analysis:**

Risk analysis and response measures

Mauritania is no exception to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on health, welfare and the economy. According to the World Bank report, the COVID-19 pandemic and all the restrictive measures have caused the first economic contraction in Mauritania since 2008. The consecutive years of drought and food insecurity followed by the COVID-19 pandemic aggravated a pre-existing precarious nutritional situation due both to the disruption of economic and livelihood activities and an increase in the price of basic foodstuffs. COVID poses a risk to several aspects of project design and implementation. The risk analysis and response measures have been done based on the GEF document "GEF Project Design and Review Considerations in Response to the COVID-19 Crisis". The key risks are related to the availability of technical expertise, capacity and changes in timelines, stakeholder engagement processes, enabling environment, and financing. The main risks identified, and the response measures considered in the CBIT are shown in the Table 4.

Table 4. Covid-19 related risks and response measures

COVID-19 related risk		Response measure
Availability of technical expertise, capacity, and changes in timelines	Training and knowledge management activities cannot be held due to restrictions	<p>A combination of remote and digital-based guidance by international experts and utilization of national experts will be adopted to ensure the implementation of the activities.</p> <p>Activities related to knowledge management and possible exchanges will adhere to UNEP guidance on travel and precautions related to containment of the COVID-19 global pandemic, and the project will develop virtual or on-line activities to support these exchanges where possible. The same modalities will be employed when technical trainings are not possible in person.</p>
	Limited capacity and experience for remote work and online interactions affect the effectiveness of the interventions.	The development of guidelines, templates and manuals for each output developed within the project will ensure the outputs of the project can be used beyond project implementation and will allow the staff to access detailed information on the MRV process, ensuring the sustainability of the work and strengthening the capacity of the institutions involved.
	Delays in project implementation	<p>Most activities and events will be organized and conducted using virtual platforms to ensure that any COVID-19 related limitations will be dealt with in a timely manner.</p> <p>Furthermore, the design of the project has integrated delays by allowing most of the activities to overlap with one another.</p>
	Limited availability of international and national consultants to support project implementation.	The PMU will consult the UN consultant databases with the support of UNEP to identify consultants with appropriate expertise in the different MRV components and proven competences for carrying out home-based assignments.
Stakeholder Engagement Process	Mobility of stakeholders and staff is affected	The project design has taken into account steps to minimize these risks such as limiting travel and will also sensitize the project staff and stakeholders on sanitary measures to be observed during the project lifetime. The sensitization campaign will be repeated throughout the

COVID-19 related risk		Response measure
	Highly vulnerable actors and typically marginalized groups are not involved in project implementation	project implementation and reinforced during events when risks are estimated to be high.
Enabling Environment	Government priorities change because of the pandemic	The high-level involvement and commitment of national stakeholders shown during the preparation of the CEO endorsement package reaffirms the interest of the country and ensures the project implementation is country driven. The design of the project activities, prioritizing the use of virtual platforms, will allow stakeholders to continue with their involvement in potential lockdown phases.
Financing	Co-financing availability	The contribution from the government of Mauritania is provided in-kind, in the form of government personnel and public resources. Thus, the co-finance will not be affected.
	Price increase in procurement	There is a certain level of flexibility that can be accommodated within the budgeted amounts. Moreover, most of the activities revolve around services by international consultants supported by local ones and in case the price increase is consequent, the PMU will negotiate with eventual service providers to ensure proper running of the project activities. Other cost-cutting measures could be a reduction of the number of participants attending meetings or shifting from physical meetings to virtual ones in some cases.

Opportunity analysis

Most of the activities to achieve project results are likely to have an impact on COVID-19 though indirectly. CBIT activities will result in strengthened institutions for the implementation of the MRV systems and all institutions will consider the existing COVID-19 situation during project implementation. The project can only improve collaboration between the institutions and also offer the opportunity to sensitize stakeholders on precautionary sanitary measures to be observed in everyday life. Additionally, use of ICT facilities will generate savings by reducing travel costs.

Given that a significant number of workshops and meetings will be virtual, this will reduce generation of waste. Another positive impact from COVID-19 is the opportunity to slowly introduce e-governance (online public service provision and delivery without physical interactions) over time, enabling service provisions in both rural and urban areas. Post CBIT project, the centralized data collection and sharing platform will benefit a wide number of stakeholders to use climate information more efficiently within the low carbon development agenda of the country while also offering other Global Environment Benefits.

The fact that the underlying principles of this project are to reduce emissions and promote adaptation, COVID-19 is likely to have environmental and development benefits at different scales depending on the sector addressed. Given the long-term need of practicing social distancing and other sanitary measures, COVID-19 is likely to introduce policy changes to national and many global meetings and conferences including those of the UNFCCC, GEF, UNCBD, UNCCD to enable innovative and digital modalities to be fully employed, applied and rolled out to countries. This is likely to change the modalities (currently travel heavy and posing risks of exposure through physical contact) of conducting Convention businesses and contribute to the long-term desired outcome of the Convention of stabilizing global emissions.

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.

? Institutional arrangements:

Mauritania has already initiated some activities aimed at improving its capacities related to climate transparency, e.g. by the establishment of sectoral focal points, and continues to do so, despite limited access to funds and the described barriers. The CBIT work will build on these other transparency initiatives as outlined in the baseline scenario. The CBIT proposal will consolidate and build on the already mentioned gaps and needs, which were identified during the preparation of BUR1 and BUR2. The next activity as the first Biennial Transparency Report, will be closely aligned and coordinated with CBIT support activities to ensure they are mutually supportive, and that duplication of efforts is avoided. This will be ensured at the project management level, where the DCEV climate change team will be in charge and coordinate CBIT activities and Mauritania's BTR1 preparation.

The MEDD will be the Project Executing Agency at the national level, and through its project management unit, DCEV, will coordinate and supervise the activities to be implemented by the sectoral technical working groups (GTSCC), whose deliverables will be quality assured by the technical committee comprising the sectoral focal points from the line ministries. This is a revamped structure based on the one already established under previous reporting initiatives, so as to ensure cost-effectiveness and avoid duplication of efforts. The structure for implementation and coordination of CBIT activities is illustrated in Figure 9. As such, the DCEV and its staff, headed by its Director, in collaboration with other MEDD Directorates will monitor and supervise all activities with the support of the other Ministries through the PFSCC. The PFSCCs will report on the implementation of activities of the GTSCCs to the DCEV. The creation of legal frameworks and institutionalisation of MRV procedures at the national level will be laid out according to Decree 165/2020, which establishes the role and responsibilities of MEDD, itself as the entity that decides on policies, strategies and work programs as well as on implementation. For coordination purposes of all sectors dealing somehow with environment and/or sustainable development, the decree 156/2012 created several organs, namely CNEDD, CTEDD and CREDD; but these have never been functional. It might be a good solution to include the dynamization of these organs among the results of this CBIT.

A full-time, dedicated Project Manager, supported by a financial and administrative assistant will be appointed by MEDD to run the Project Management Unit (PMU) and execute the day-to-day management of the project. UNEP, as the Implementing Agency (IA) for the project, will oversee the project and provide the technical assistance required. UNEP will be responsible for project supervision to ensure consistency with GEF and UNEP policies and procedures. The institutional structure of the project will

include a Project Steering Committee (PSC), with a mandate to oversee and guide project implementation, and to review annual workplans and project reports. The PSC will include representatives of MEDD (DECV and DPCS), and key sectoral focal points from the line ministries responsible for the two sectors for mitigation (Energy and Transportation) and two sectors for adaptation. Members of relevant implementing NGOs and CBOs as well as the private sector will also be invited to participate to the PSC to ensure local ownership and guidance for the project.

The project will follow UNEP standard monitoring, reporting and evaluation processes and procedures. An M&E plan consistent with the GEF M&E policy will be developed in the PPG phase. The Project Results Framework to be developed will include SMART indicators for each expected outcome as well as end-of-project targets. These indicators will be the main tools for assessing project implementation progress and whether project results are being achieved. Day-to-day project monitoring will be the responsibility of the project management team particularly the Project Manager. In addition, other project partners will be responsible to collect specific information to track the indicators.

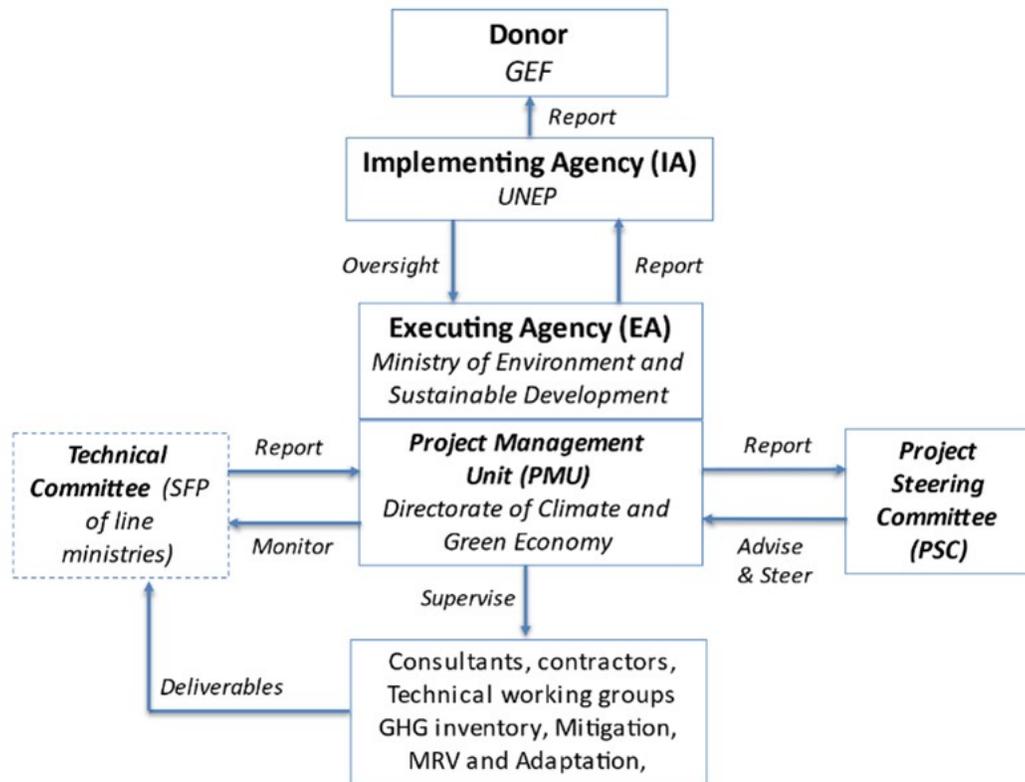


Figure 9: Structure of the CBIT project execution arrangement

? Coordination with other initiatives:

The proposed CBIT initiative in Mauritania is also envisioned to be overarching, encompassing all transparency-related initiatives in the country, and will therefore coordinate with all relevant institutions, ongoing initiatives and non-state actors. To ensure better coordination of the CBIT project with GEF-financed and other potential initiatives that aim to ensure easy tracking of implementation and joint reporting, the CBIT project will also be uploaded into the GEF-CBIT Global Coordination Platform database. Mauritania will also receive additional guidance and promote peer exchange activities through publications, workshops, and webinars, besides participating in discussions aimed at supporting countries' understanding of Article 13 requirements as part of activities undertaken by the CBIT Global Coordination Platform project, which is a GEF-funded project jointly managed by UNEP and UNDP.

In addition, during the project preparation stage, specific strategies have been developed on how the CBIT project activities and its stakeholders could be incorporated into existing institutional structures of GEF-financed projects in Mauritania. Some of the initiatives support practical exchange on climate change mitigation-related activities and MRV practices, through capacity building and establishment of the knowledge management platform. The project team will participate in sub-regional, regional, and global initiatives to allow for regular sharing of lessons learned and good practices in MRV.

Moreover, the Implementing Agency, UNEP, is supporting over 70 countries with their national reporting, and more than 20 countries with CBIT projects, being the GEF Agency leading this type of initiative. It is supporting the development and implementation of many CBIT projects in Africa, including other countries in Western Africa, such as Ghana, Sierra Leone and particularly Burkina Faso and Togo, neighbouring and also French-speaking countries, with potential synergies to be explored during project implementation and evaluation.

Numerous national GEF and non-GEF projects that focus on climate change initiatives have been and continue currently to be implemented in Mauritania. The CBIT project is planned to be implemented in coordination with these other relevant GEF-financed projects, enabling activities and other ongoing or future initiatives that will run in parallel with it from 2022 to 2024. Even if these projects have been developed on an ad-hoc basis, their implementation encompasses all national relevant stakeholders, ranging from ministries, government agencies, the private sector and the civil society. Almost all of these stakeholders will be called upon to participate directly or indirectly in the CBIT project. The latter will thus leverage on existing capacities and frameworks already in place for ongoing projects. On the other hand, these projects do not have operational data sharing platforms as well as especially developed tools, templates and methods for collecting data and other information. Since significant data required for these projects which are climate-related are common with those of the CBIT project, these projects can make use of the tools, templates and methods developed and implemented under the CBIT project as such or after adapting them for meeting specificities required by individual ones. National experts and institutions will make use of their enhanced capacity resulting from the training received under the CBIT project to adapt the tools, templates and methods. As well, synergies will be developed between ongoing and the CBIT project through the use of data and information common to more than one projects as the centralized data collection framework will facilitate this process compared to the stand-alone individual management. Resources thus saved can be redirected to improve and enhance the existing reporting frameworks.

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.

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

•National Action Plan for Adaptation (NAPA) under LDCF/UNFCCC	YES
•National Action Program (NAP) under UNCCD	YES
•National Communications (NC) under UNFCCC	YES
•Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) under UNFCCC	YES
•National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) under UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD	YES
•National Implementation Plan (NIP) under POPs	YES
•Biennial Update Report (BUR) under UNFCCC	YES
•Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)	YES
•Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC)	YES
•United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)	YES
•United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF)	YES
•Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	YES
•Accelerated Growth and Shared Prosperity Strategy (SCAPP)	YES
•National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE) under GEFSEC	YES

In addition to responding directly to the priorities and barriers described earlier, and extracted from the NCs, NDC, BUR and ICA process, the project components are aligned with the seven pillars outlined in the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) and the master plan. The project is aligned and further designed to support a number of the sectoral climate initiatives, plans and assessments through an enhanced MRV as depicted in Table 5.

Table 5. Linkages of the CBIT project with other national initiatives

National strategies, plans or reports, assessments	Linkages & provision of baseline information to the CBIT project
National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE)	The GEF-5 NPFE for Mauritania provides information on Mauritania's vulnerability to climate change, ongoing climate change related support projects, and GEF STAR allocation budget for climate change activities. The GEF-5 had a 2 million USD allocated to mitigation activities focusing on the promotion of renewable energy, with a focus on wind energy. Relevant GEF-6 NPFE funded projects with climate change as focal area are the preparation of NC4 (completed), and the project "Continental Wetlands Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change" (Project approved).

<p>National strategies, plans or reports, assessments</p>	<p>Linkages & provision of baseline information to the CBIT project</p>
<p>Mauritania's NDC</p>	<p>Mauritania has proposed mitigation and adaptation measures in its NDC. Inclusion of both mitigation and adaptation in the NDC is part of the medium-term development agenda. The new 15-year development strategy (SCAPP 2016 - 2030) has identified NDC as a source document for future development plans, particularly in:</p> <p>? Mitigation sectors: Energy, Transport, AFOLU, Waste, Industry;</p> <p>? Priority areas for adaptation: Agriculture and food security, sustainable management of forest resources; resilient infrastructure in the built environment; climate change and health; water resources; gender and vulnerable populations.</p> <p>The ability to properly MRV these activities is a priority and will enhance Mauritania's capacity in to conduct appropriate climate policy planning, implementation and monitoring. The NDC is presently under revision with the support of UNDP.</p>
<p>National Adaptation Programme of Action to Climate Change (NAPA)</p>	<p>The National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) from 2004, elaborated with GEF support, defines adaptation priority activities in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Livestock sector ●Forestry sector ●Agriculture ●Water sector ●Arid and semi-arid ecosystems ●Marine and coastal ecosystems <p>The NAPA provides information on climate change vulnerability and shall be used to identify adaptation activities to MRV.</p>
<p>National Adaptation Plan (NAP)</p>	<p>Mauritania is receiving assistance, with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness funds, in its NAP process. The process launched on April 24, 2019, will strengthen technical and institutional capacities to manage climate change adaptation planning, improve quality and access to climate change data, support the acquisition of adaptation finance and enhance the monitoring and evaluation of adaptation planning impacts at a national and local level. The process will focus on support for an initial policy and institutional review to identify long term capacity development needs for adaptation planning and to help to develop a roadmap to advance national adaptation planning in Mauritania. The outcome of the activity will be used to identify adaptation actions to MRV.</p>
<p>NAMAs</p>	<p>Mauritania has not yet developed NAMAs but intends to do so as part of the implementation of its NDC. Facilitating Implementation and Readiness for Mitigation (FIRM) ? in its proposal (Readiness), Mauritania intends to develop two NAMAs in the energy sector. The MRV of NAMAs is crucial to assess their impacts and report them to the international community.</p>

National strategies, plans or reports, assessments	Linkages & provision of baseline information to the CBIT project
Preparation of National Communications and Biennial Transparency Reports	<p>With support from the GEF, Mauritania has prepared three NCs and one BUR to the UNFCCC in 2000, 2008, 2015 and 2016, respectively. The project was executed by the DCEV. The Fifth National Communication document for funding is under preparation and the BTR1 will be prepared and is expected to run concurrently during the same period as the CBIT project.</p> <p>The CBIT proposal is aimed at solving several challenges faced during the preparation and report of national GHG emission inventories, mitigation and adaptation, such as data quality and management, improved use of the 2006 IPCC methodology, institutional arrangement, etc.</p>
TNA	<p>With support from the GEF, Mauritania has prepared two Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) reports to the UNFCCC. The first TNA addressing climate change mitigation technologies in the energy was submitted in 2003. The second TNA from 2017 addressed climate change mitigation technologies (in the energy and waste sectors) and climate change adaptation technologies (for agriculture, forest and rangeland sectors). The monitoring of the adoption of mitigation and adaptation technologies, and their application will also be supported by an improved MRV system provided by CBIT.</p>
Growth and shared prosperity strategy-SCAPP	<p>The SCAPP from 2016 provides some information on the country's NDC figures, vulnerability to climate change, and stresses the need for improved national capacities for monitoring climate change.</p>
The Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development (CPDD) 2018-2022	<p>The project is aligned with the Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development, especially regarding Strategic Priority 1- Inclusive growth, Outcome 1.3: Institutions and communities contribute to sustainable management of natural resources, and to anticipate/respond to crises and to the effects of climate change; and Strategic Priority 3 - Governance, Outcome 3.4: Central and local institutions provide a more effective and transparent management and coordination of public policies.</p>

NDC

Mauritania developed and submitted its NDC in 2015 to contribute to the global objective to limit GHGs emissions to less than 2°C within the framework of the Paris Agreement. Conscious of the difficulties encountered globally towards meeting this agreement, the international community urged for a revision of the NDC to build in more ambition by all parties? signatory to the Paris Agreement to objectively meet the agreed objective. Mauritania is presently revising its NDC to make it more ambitious.

Mauritania committed to a 4.2 million tons CO₂ eq of greenhouse gases in its NDC, representing 22.3% reduction of its Business-as-Usual emissions by the year 2030. The cumulative emissions reduction will be of the order of 33.56 million tons CO₂ eq of greenhouse gases for the period 2020 to 2030. The gases targeted are the three direct ones CO₂, CH₄ and N₂O in the sectors Energy, IPPU, AFOLU and Waste. Mauritania will unconditionally achieve 12% of the reduction in emissions with the remaining 88% conditional upon international support. In addition to direct financial support, Mauritania would appreciate to receive further support for mitigating its financing needs through:

- (i) the NAMA platform, particularly for energy efficiency and renewable energy programs;
- (ii) the inclusion of international carbon markets, such as the CDM, in a post-2020 climate agreement which, coupled with an appropriate accounting regime (MRV), could be used to finance low-carbon investments.

Additionally, Mauritania brought forward in its NDC the importance of adaptation for the country to reduce its high vulnerability and build resilience of the population to the impacts of climate change. The initiatives proposed for deployment by 2030 in the different sectors aim to reduce the vulnerability of natural and socio-economic systems to face climate change. To this end, Mauritania is seeking the support of its partners at the international level to achieve its adaptation priorities, which include:

- ? A food needs coverage rate of 117% for rice, 80% for wheat, 75% for traditional; 160% for milk and 126% for white meat;
- ? The construction of sewage systems (wastewater and rainwater) in the cities of Nouakchott, Rosemary and Nouakchott, Rosso, Ka?di, Kiffa, Nouadhibou, N?ma, Aioun, Timb?dra, Akjoujt and Atar;
- ? Aerial seeding of degraded land (10,000 ha/year) to promote the regeneration of the natural environment;
- ? Restoration of natural pastures (setting aside and management of rangelands)
- ? The realization of 300 drillings (150 of which at depths greater than 200 m) for the exploration of aquifers, which can be transformed into exploitation drillings and/or piezometers;
- ? The realization of hydrogeological evaluation of the resources in difficult or vulnerable areas and the extension of regular monitoring to all the catchment areas with the remote transmission system;
- ? The realization of the drinking water supply project (AEP) in 4 wilayas of the northern zone of the country
- ? The realization of desalination projects for coastal areas and others,
- ? The realization of 2000 small, isolated networks of drinking water supply (AEP) in the rural environment powered with solar energy

- ? The protection of the cities of Nouakchott and Nouadhibou against the risks of marine submersion and silting
- ? Strengthening the resilience of the vulnerable population, particularly in rural areas, to the effects of climate change,
- ? Strengthening the institutional and technical capacities of national and local structures for planning, financing and implementing climate change adaptation measures,
- ? Strengthening the resilience of natural ecosystems to the effects of climate change,
- ? The rehabilitation and integrated sustainable management of wetlands against the effects of climate change,
- ? The development of small water bodies on pilot sites,
- ? The promotion of responsible fishing on the lake of Foug Gleita,
- ? Capacity building for the monitoring and management of inland fisheries,
- ? Promotion of fish farming to improve food security and poverty reduction in rural areas.
- ? Strengthening the nutrition and health of vulnerable households.

This CBIT project, in addition to providing the necessary capacity building to strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of national and local structures for planning, financing and implementing climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, will also support the development and implementation of robust MRV systems not only for reporting with enhanced transparency in accordance with the Paris Agreement but also to disseminate and share knowledge and information while improving mainstreaming of climate issues within the sectoral development plans and strategies.

SDGs

Regarding the SDGs, the CBIT project will directly support and contribute to the realization of goal 13, namely, to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts through the development of appropriate tools to facilitate implementation and reporting of actions earmarked in the NDC, it will also indirectly contribute Mauritania in meeting the other SDGs. A summary of the potential contribution of this CBIT project to the most fitting SDGs along with the telling targets and indicators that will be concerned is provided in Table 6.

Table 6. CBIT project contribution to SDGs

SDG	Target	Indicator
SDG5-Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life	5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments 5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions

<p>SDG13- Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</p>	<p>13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries</p> <p>13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning</p> <p>13.3 Improve education, awareness- raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning</p> <p>13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities</p>	<p>13.1.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population</p> <p>13.1.2 Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015?2030</p> <p>13.1.3 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies</p> <p>13.2.1 Number of countries with nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans, strategies as reported in adaptation communications and national communications</p> <p>13.2.2 Total greenhouse gas emissions per year</p> <p>13.3.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment</p> <p>13.b.1 Number of least developed countries and small island developing States with nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans, strategies as reported in adaptation communications and national communications</p>
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UNDAF

The United Nations Development Assistance Framework signed with Mauritania for the period 2018-2022 rests on three pillars, namely (i) Promoting strong, sustainable and inclusive growth, (ii) The human capital and basic social services and (iii) Strengthening governance in all its dimensions. The CBIT project will be directly concerned and will contribute to all three pillars. CBIT activities are called upon to contribute to pillars one and three through the following outcomes.

CBIT output 1.1 will strengthen national institutions to coordinate, manage and report transparently on implemented climate change activities. CBIT outputs 1.2 and 1.3 will provide the necessary tools for collecting disaggregated data in an organized manner within the MRV systems and also offer common centralized platform for storing and sharing these. Information and data stemming from the CBIT project will be on GHG inventories and through tracking of NDC mitigation and adaptation activities.

These data will contribute to achieving the following UNDAF outputs:

Pillar 1: Promoting strong, sustainable and inclusive growth

Activity 1.1: National institutions in charge of economic affairs (MEF) have the capacity to design strategies, carry out inter-sectoral coordination, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of gender responsive public policies that create employment and livelihoods for the poor and excluded.

Activity 1.3: Institutions have increased capacities and expertise to produce and make available disaggregated data and vulnerability analyzes to ensure regular monitoring of the level of achievement of outcomes, including SCAPP.

Pillar 2 : Strengthening governance in all its dimensions

Activity 2.4: Public administration and local government actors in eight wilayas (regions) have the technical, financial and organizational capacities to design and implement gender sensitive development policies at sub-national level.

Pillar 3 : Strengthening governance in all its dimensions / Strategic work of environmental governance

Activity 3.1: National institutions have the technical, financial and organizational capacities to ensure operational environmental coordination, ecosystem protection and effective disaster risk management.

Activity 3.2: Vulnerable communities have adequate capacities, resources and an enabling environment to enhance the resilience of socio-economic development assets and community livelihoods through effective disaster and climate risk

Management.

Activity 3.3: National actors have the technical, financial and organizational capacities for the effective integration of Climate Change and disaster risk reduction into development policies and strategies and for the promotion of the use of renewable energies.

Activity 3.4: National institutions and rural communities develop and implement sustainable models to access renewable energy.

Activity 3.5: National institutions have the technical and organizational capacities for effective gender responsive management of water resources.

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.

Mauritania has strived during the preparation of its 2 BURs to develop and implement an appropriate MRV system to estimate GHG emissions and track NDC actions but could not reach the required level to be compliant with the ETF of the PA. Lessons learned from these initiatives which informed the CBIT project concept and plan are: the lack of funds and especially capacity of national institutions and experts. Other identified key ?non-drivers? are the inexistence of a robust legal framework well defining the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders within an MRV structure, low level of enforcement of existing legislations and absence of procedures to ensure a sustainable flow of data and information on climate actions. Additionally, Mauritania does not have the appropriate tools for operationalizing a centralized data network on climate and national emission factors to report accurately on its emissions. These gaps and barriers in turn prevented the mainstreaming of climate change into the national development policies and strategies. Another key lesson learned from the reporting process is the disparity between women and men with the former underrepresented in climate activities though they are more vulnerable and prone to be affected by climate change and its impacts. CBIT will provide the platform to address these challenges and is expected to prepare the country to improve compliance with the ETF of the Paris Agreement.

The CBIT project of Mauritania will create knowledge through the development of indicators for measuring GHG emissions and tracking NDC activities in mitigation, adaptation and support received and needed. Activities 1.3, 2.1 and 3.1 will also develop the tools, protocols and guidelines of how data will be collected in accordance with the Modalities, Procedures and Guidelines established under the Paris Agreement. Another essential part in managing this knowledge is through Activities 2.2 and 3.2 as they will establish a functional and centralized data collection and sharing platform. This will allow for better information sharing between different institutions in the country, which also can act to reduce the challenges associated with staff changes, as the system will be institutionalized, used by numerous members of the personnel and will serve to preserve institutional memory.

Concurrently, the capacity of the sectoral focal points from most ministries and other relevant stakeholders will be enhanced through training under activity 3.5. To ensure long-term sustainability, it is planned to have a train the trainer component alongside with refresher programmes and tailor-made ones on special topics for newcomers. Through this approach, and through having both online and onsite training sessions, a robust system which can reach almost all of the necessary stakeholders of Mauritania will be achieved. Additionally, the production of an MRV manual is included as a deliverable which will be a document for use post the CBIT project.

Furthermore, this national project will allow the country to participate in the CBIT Global Coordination Platform by providing and receiving inputs. The material available on the CBIT Global Coordination Platform will expand during the course of this project, as more countries are advancing in the implementation of their CBIT projects.

Sharing lessons learnt and experiences under the platform will ensure alignment of Mauritania's CBIT project with other national, regional and global transparency initiatives. The responsibility to identify suitable aspects of Mauritania's CBIT project to share in coordination with the CBIT Global Coordination Platform team will rest with the PMU, namely the project manager. Similarly, it will also be the task of the project Manager to identify which best practices available on the Platform are relevant and applicable to Mauritania, and to facilitate peer-exchange beyond reading the material on the platform. The final decision will however rest with the Director of the DCEV, who may consult with the appropriate technical working group if required.

Under the guidance and exchanges facilitated via the Global Support Program for National Communication and Biennial Update Reports, Mauritania will participate on South-south learning and capacity building activities via webinars, regional workshops and networks on NC and BUR specific topics. Moreover, Mauritania will contribute to the south/south efforts from the CBIT Global Coordination Platform, and also participate in workshops in other countries in the region.

Knowledge generated through the project and learning by the institutions, national experts and other relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, the civil society and NGOs, will induce behavioural changes within a more appropriate legal framework, itself supported with better procedures and arrangements that will promote collaboration and sharing in a transparent manner. These changes will smoothen data and information generation, collection, storage and use in a sustainable way by wide groups of stakeholders including policymakers towards reducing their carbon footprints and thus national emissions. Since special emphasis has been laid out on the gender issue with clear objectives and indicators in the developed Gender Action Plan, the project will promote gender equality while empowering disadvantaged and marginalized groups. These groups will acquire knowledge and learn to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

In terms of budget, the main knowledge management elements in the deliverables add up to USD 185,000, as shown in the table below:

Deliverable	Description	Estimated value for Knowledge management (USD)	Expected delivery date (Project month)
1.1.1	Assessment of institutional and technical gaps and barriers on the MRV thematic areas GHG inventory, mitigation, adaptation inclusive of gender considerations in climate reporting	25,000	M 5
1.1.8	Establishment of Modalities, Procedures and Guidelines prepared and shared with stakeholders, one each for the thematic areas GHG inventory, mitigation and adaptation, including support received and needed	45,000	M 12
1.2.1	Adapted tools and templates, and protocols for the 4 IPCC sectors Energy, IPPU, AFOLU and Waste	30,000	M 15
1.2.5	Functional centralized data sharing platform	35,000	M 17
1.3.1	Templates and guidelines for tracking NDC mitigation and adaptation actions including support received and needed, developed and shared with stakeholders	40,000	M 15
1.3.5	Report on post integration of NDC mitigation and adaptation templates and guidelines in data sharing network	15,000	M 18
1.3.14	Training workshop reports on the appropriation of technical skills to use the centralized data sharing platform to upload data and other information for tracking NDC mitigation and adaptation actions for all sectors, including support received and needed	20,000	M 18
Total estimated budget		210,000	

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 comply with 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 and the Implementing Agency

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.

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 Manager to inform UNEP of any delays or difficulties faced during implementation through the Executing Agency so that the appropriate support or corrective measures can be adopted in a timely fashion.

The project Steering Committee (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-à-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 Manager 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 the UNEP Evaluation Policy, the project will be subject to an independent Mid-Term Evaluation or management-led Mid-Term Review at mid-point, when required, and an independent Terminal Evaluation or a management-led Terminal Review, with a quality assessment and ratings? validation performed by the Evaluation Office, at the end of the project.

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 and validation will be attached as an Annex to the Terminal Review 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 Project 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 will be charged against the project evaluation budget. The TE will typically be initiated after the project's operational completion[1]. 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 draft TE report will be sent by the Evaluation Office to project stakeholders for comment. Formal comments on the report will be shared by the Evaluation Office in an open and transparent manner. The project performance will be assessed against standard evaluation criteria using a six point rating scheme. The final determination of project ratings will be made by the Evaluation Office when the report is finalized. 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 and evaluations) is US\$ 45,000.

M&E Activity	Description	Responsible Parties	Timeframe	Indicative budget (USD)
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M&E Activity	Description	Responsible Parties	Timeframe	Indicative budget (USD)
Inception Workshop (IW)	<p>Report prepared following the IW; which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A detailed workplan and budget for the first year of project implementation, - An overview of the workplan for subsequent years, divided per component, output and activities. - A detailed description of the roles and responsibilities of all project partners - A detailed description of the PMU and PSC, including an organization chart - Updated Procurement Plan, M&E Plan, Gender Action Plan - Minutes of the Inception Workshop with an attendance sheet (gender disaggregated) 	<p>Execution: PM</p> <p>Support: Financial cum Administrative assistant</p>	<p>1 report to be prepared following the IW, to be shared with participants 4 weeks after the IW (latest)</p>	<p>GEF: US\$ 2,750</p>
Steering Committee Meeting	<p>Prepare minutes for every Steering Committee Meeting with an attendance sheet (gender disaggregated).</p>	<p>Execution: PM</p> <p>Support: Financial cum Administrative assistant</p>	<p>At least 1 per year</p> <p>Minutes to be submitted 1 week following each PSC meeting</p>	<p>GEF: US\$ 750 per meeting for a total of US\$ 2,250</p>

M&E Activity	Description	Responsible Parties	Timeframe	Indicative budget (USD)
Half-yearly progress report	<p>Part of UNEP requirements for project monitoring.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Narrative of the activities undertaken during the considered semester - Analyzes project implementation progress over the reporting period; - Describes constraints experienced in the progress towards results and the reasons. 	<p>Execution: PM</p> <p>Support: Financial cum Administrative assistant</p>	Two (2) half-yearly progress reports for any given year, submitted by July 31 and January 31 (latest)	GEF: Nil
Quarterly expenditure reports	Detailed expenditure reports (in excel) broken down per project component and budget line, with explanations and justification of any change	<p>Execution: PM and Financial Officer</p> <p>Support: Financial cum Administrative assistant</p>	Four (4) quarterly expenditure reports for any given year, submitted by January 31, April 30, July 31 and October 31 (latest)	GEF: Nil
Project Implementation Review (PIR)	<p>Analyzes project performance over the reporting period. Describes constraints experienced in the progress towards results and the reasons. Draws lessons and makes clear recommendations for future orientation in addressing the key problems in the lack of progress.</p> <p>The PIRs shall be documented with the evidence of the achievement of end-of-project targets (as appendices).</p>	<p>Execution: PM</p> <p>Support: Financial cum Administrative assistant</p>	1 report to be prepared on an annual basis, to be submitted by 15 July latest	GEF: Nil

M&E Activity	Description	Responsible Parties	Timeframe	Indicative budget (USD)
Annual Inventory of Non-expendable equipment	Report with the complete and accurate records of non-expendable equipment purchased with GEF project funds	Execution: PM Support: Financial cum Administrative assistant	1 report per year as at 31 December, to be submitted by 31 January latest	GEF: Nil
Co-financing Report	Report on co-financing (cash and/or in-kind) fulfilled contributions from all project partners that provided co-finance letters.	Execution: PM Support: Financial cum Administrative assistant	1 annual report from each co-finance partner, and 1 consolidated report, to be submitted by 31 July latest	GEF: Nil
Final Report	<p>The project team will draft and submit a Project Final Report, with other docs (such as the evidence to document the achievement of end-of-project targets).</p> <p>Comprehensive report summarizing all outputs, achievements, lessons learned, objectives met or not achieved structures and systems implemented, etc. Lays out recommendations for any further steps to be taken to ensure the sustainability and replication of project outcomes.</p>	Execution: PM Support: Financial cum Administrative assistant	Final report to be submitted no later than three (3) months after the technical completion date	GEF: Nil

M&E Activity	Description	Responsible Parties	Timeframe	Indicative budget (USD)
Project closure workshop	The project team will draft and submit a Project Closure workshop Report during which an assessment of success in implementing the different activities of the project. Concurrently, challenges encountered and causes for unsuccessful completion of activities, if any will be identified and documented to serve improve outcomes of future activities.	Execution: PM Support: Financial cum Administrative assistant	One report to be submitted no later than two (2) weeks after workshop	GEF: US\$ 5,000
Terminal Evaluation (TE)	Further review the topics covered in the mid-term evaluation. Looks at the impacts and sustainability of the results, including the contribution to capacity development and the achievement of global environmental goals.	Execution: Independent Evaluator / PM Support: Financial cum Administrative assistant	Can be initiated within six (6) months prior to the project's technical completion date	GEF: US\$ 35,000
TOTAL M&E COST			GEF: US\$ 45,000	

[1] The timing of the evaluation expenditure should be discussed with the donor or consult with the Evaluation Office.

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 (LDCE/SCCF)?

The centralized data collection and sharing platform will not only improve knowledge of Mauritania's efforts to reduce emissions and build resilience but also provide precious data for use in other development avenues. For example, data collected for preparing the inventory for the Waste sector will be available to set the scene for sanitation in the country and this information can be tapped for charting strategies for the future, including its relationship with health issues. Moreover, once the system is developed and operationalized, linkages with other environmental or socio-economic data can also be analysed, established and improved. These strengthened systems will enable Mauritania to better track and manage

its natural resources, thus allowing for interventions to be planned, executed, and evaluated more promptly. The database of the centralized data collection and sharing platform will render possible the provision of up-to-date statistics, indicators and geographical information about climate change causes and impacts to the public, both for decision-making in the private sector or by citizens, and for the government itself for policymaking. Mauritania's economy is centred mostly in agriculture and livestock, two sectors that are directly affected by climate change. Tracking of NDC adaptation activities will serve to provide information about climate change impacts on agriculture and livestock, such as the successive droughts. Such information will enable farmers make better informed decisions on farming practices while helping government to prioritise natural resources toward drought management programmes for those affected.

Mauritania's climate actions earmarked in its NDC will require public and private sector intervention in the form of investments. With the more robust climate data sharing platform, the country will be better placed to track and evaluate the impact of its policies and allow for adjustments to improve outcomes. This higher efficiency can free up resources for other public and private sector investments and interventions, which will in turn benefit the country socio-economically. For example, based on the calculations under the mitigation MRV system, the government of Mauritania will be able to quantify the impacts of NDC actions, not only in terms of GHG emissions reduction but to also provide reliable information on the creation of jobs, the percentage of the population having access to electricity, the reduction in energy costs and on the overall improved welfare of communities. Similarly, the adaptation MRV system will not only increase resilience but also inform the government of Mauritania on other aspects such as food security, access to water resources and improved sanitation, thus enhancing decision-making.

One important benefit, if not the most important especially for the medium and longer term, remains the mainstreaming of climate in the national planning processes. The wide array of disaggregated data collected, compiled, analysed and archived within the centralized data collection and sharing platform will provide a robust base for informed national policy-making on climate and other related matters, an element that will be fully developed as part of Output 1. Additionally, the CBIT project will establish formal institutional arrangements and a legal framework to MRV GHG emissions, NDC implementation with regards to mitigation and adaptation, as well as support received and needed as laid out under activity 1.2. This will guarantee a regular sustainable flow of data and other information to support public and private interventions.

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/Approva I	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, guiding principles captured in the GP questions 1-10 are applicable for all UNEP projects. Inclusion of the diverse views of the people including the right holders would need to be considered throughout the project.

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
10428_CBIT Mauritania_SRIF_2021.09.28	CEO Endorsement ESS	
CBIT Mauritania_ESERN_2020.08.26	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	UNEP MTS reference
Strengthen Mauritania's capacities in climate transparency, according to the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) under the Paris Agreement and thereby achieve its sustainable low-carbon development goals	Indicator A: # of institutions that have the capacity (institutional, technical, and human capacities) to collect and process climate change data into useful information for policymaking and reporting to the UNFCCC under an enhanced transparency framework	Baseline A: 0	End-of-project target A: 8 institutions listed below are able to collect and process climate information for decision making and reporting MEDD, Ministry of Petroleum, Energy and Mining, Ministry of Rural Development (Agriculture and livestock), Ministry of Equipment and Transport, Ministry of Social Affairs, Childhood and the Family, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economy and Industry	Survey by MEDD of the number of national experts, by national institution, able to collect and process climate information for reporting and policy making	Assumption: Relevant stakeholders including the private sector provide climate information on an annual basis Risks: Insufficient high – level political will and commitment COVID-19 Pandemic slows down project implementation, Climate change impacts	UNEP MTS 2018-2021 Climate Change Objective: Countries increasingly transition to low-emission economic development and enhance their adaptation and resilience to climate change
	Indicator B: Qualitative assessment of institutional capacity for transparency-related activities <i>Based on the GEF 1-4 rating scale, outlined in Annex III of the CBIT's Programming Directions**</i>	Baseline B: Rating: 2	End-of-project target B: Rating: 4 (+2)	Final PIR and Terminal evaluation report with an updated rating of the country's institutional capacity for transparency, considering inputs from sectoral focal points within ministries and other relevant institutions.	Assumption: Relevant institutions allocate resources including human resources for training to implement transparency related activities. Relevant institutions abide with Decree 165/2020, to support Directorate of Environment and Green Economy to comply with Article 13 of the Paris Agreement.	
	Indicator C: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment. <i>(GEF Core Indicator 11)</i>	Baseline C: 0	End-of-project target C: 42 women 78 men (120 in total)	Monitoring of the number of individuals involved in the national MRV system. The expected 120 direct beneficiaries will consist of people involved in the Sectoral Task Forces, which includes the Sectoral Focal Points as well as representatives from data providing institutions in line ministries and national institutions involved in the national MRV system and with reporting responsibilities to the UNFCCC.	Assumption: through the project's support and advocacy, the different institutions and line ministries will strive to increase the number of people contributing to the MRV system from the actual 45 already identified to 120 participants, while aiming to achieve a more balanced gender representation by targeting 35% of female participation (42 women) during project implementation.	
Project Outcomes	Outcome level Indicators	Baseline	End of project Target	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks	MTS Expected Accomplishment
Outcome 1: Mauritania improves its Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system and institutional capacity to comply 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's Programming Directions**</i>	Baseline 1.1: Rating: 3	End-of-project target 1.1: Rating: 6 (+3)	Final PIR and Terminal evaluation report with an updated rating of the quality of the country's GHG inventory, considering inputs from sectoral focal points within ministries and other relevant institutions. TTE report from the ICA process (It is expected that 1 BUR or 1 BTR will be submitted to the UNFCCC within the CBIT project timeframe)	Assumption: MRV emissions system established. Tools and templates designed for data collection adopted. Data sharing platform operational. Risk: Inertia in institutional buy-in, Data availability and accessibility constraints,	Expected Accomplishment (b): Countries increasingly adopt and/or implement low greenhouse gas emission development strategies and invest in clean technologies
	Indicator 1.2: Number of stakeholders (sectoral focal points), using training and tools provided to elaborate climate change policies and reports on NDC activities required by UNFCCC in line with PA requirements	Baseline 1.2: 0	End-of-project target 1.2: 26, of which 17 men and 9 women	Stakeholders' feedback gathered at the end of the project on their use of the training and tools provided to elaborate climate change policies and reports (gender disaggregated)	Assumptions: Training successful. Developed tools adopted and used. Risks: Insufficient institutional coordination, Limited sustainability of project impact, due to reliance on external experts	

***Qualitative rating levels of institutional capacity for transparency-related activities (1 to 4):**

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

****Qualitative rating levels for MRV systems (1 to 10):**

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 need 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).

GEF Secretariat Review for Medium Sized Project ? GEF - 7

Basic Information

GEF ID

10428

Countries

Mauritania

Project Title

Strengthening Mauritania's national capacity for transparency and ambitious climate reporting

GEF Agency(ies)

UNEP

Agency ID

UNEP: 1733

GEF Focal Area(s)

Climate Change

Program Manager

Pascal Martinez

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

February 2, 2020

Yes, the project aligns with CBIT objectives. Cleared.

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

February 2, 2020

The project is comprehensive on its scope as described in Table B. Nevertheless, more clarity is needed when it comes to M&E system which will have an important role. The project description explains that Mauritania has already set up a "functional and robust M&E system" which will integrate the MRV system. Please explain with more clarity what is the existing M&E system (role, partners, modalities...) so that we can better understand how the project will articulate with this system.

September 4, 2020

Thank you for the clarification. Cleared.

Agency Response

August 26, 2020

Further information on the existing national M&E system on the environment and sustainable development has been provided under section 2 ? *the baseline scenario*, as well as the added value to be provided by CBIT with regard to the MRV system and climate change information (p. 6-8; 13).

Note: as requested, the edits have been highlighted in yellow in the updated version of the PIF uploaded on the 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

February 2, 2020

This project does not required co-financing. Co-financing of \$161,450 in-kind from the government is listed. Cleared.

Agency Response

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

February 2, 2020

Yes. The project is requesting funding from the CBIT set-aside. Cleared.

Agency Response

The STAR allocation?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

N/A. The project is requesting funding from the CBIT set-aside.

Agency Response

The focal area allocation?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

N/A. The project is requesting funding from the CBIT set-aside.

Agency Response

The LDCF under the principle of equitable access

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

N/A. The project is requesting funding from the CBIT set-aside.

Agency Response

The SCCF (Adaptation or Technology Transfer)?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

N/A. The project is requesting funding from the CBIT set-aside.

Agency Response

Focal area set-aside?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

The project is requesting a total of \$1,261,659 from the CBIT set-aside. Cleared.

Agency Response

Impact Program Incentive?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

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

February 2, 2020

Yes. Cleared.

Agency Response

Core indicators

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

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

February 2, 2020

The project is expected to benefit to 45 direct beneficiaries. Please clarify who the beneficiaries are and how this estimate was determined.

September 4, 2020

Thank you for the clarification. Cleared.

Agency Response

August 26, 2020

Further clarification has been provided below the table F. *Project's Target Contributions to GEF 7 Core Indicators* (p. 3).

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

February 2, 2020

Yes. Cleared.

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

February 2, 2020

The root causes and barriers are described under the baseline scenario while these elements should appear under "a. The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed". Please follow the table of contents as proposed in the Portal.

September 4, 2020

Thank you for the adjustment. Cleared.

Agency Response

August 26, 2020

The text in section 1a. (1) *The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed* now includes the overview of the country's gaps and barriers (p. 5-6).

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

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

February 2, 2020

The baseline scenario as referred as "national efforts" is unclear. It relies on developing a future Mauritania's Domestic MRV System which forms the basis for the requested GEF support. Please clarify what is actually already in place and planned with MRV System so that we can better understand the difference and the potential complementarity between this baseline and the project.

September 4, 2020

Thank you for the addition inputs and clarification. Cleared.

Agency Response

August 26, 2020

Further information on what is already in place and planned steps with regard to the MRV system and climate change information has been provided under section 2 ? *the baseline scenario*, as well as the added value to be provided by CBIT (p. 6-8; 13).

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

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

February 2, 2020

Yes. Cleared.

Agency Response

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

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

February 2, 2020

Yes, the proposal is aligned with CBIT strategies. Cleared.

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

February 2, 2020

As already mentioned, the existing M&E System is not clearly described so the additional cost reasoning of the project remains unclear. Based on a more detailed description of the existing M&E System, please explain further what is expected contribution of the baseline and what is the added value of the GEF funding.

September 4, 2020

Thank you for the clarification. Cleared.

Agency Response

August 26, 2020

Section 5- *Incremental/Additional Cost Reasoning* has been amended with additional information on the expected contribution of the baseline (existing M&E system) and the added value of the GEF funding for this CBIT project (p. 23).

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

February 2, 2020

Focusing on the enhancement of the national climate transparency capacity, the project is expected to benefit to 45 direct beneficiaries. Cleared.

Agency Response

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

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

February 2, 2020

1. The description says that CCPNCC does not have sufficient human, financial and material resources to carry out its mission properly. Please explain how this issue will be addressed to ensure the sustainability of the results after the end of the project.

2. The proposal also explains that once the MRV system is piloted in the selected sectors (energy and agriculture), the activity will be scaled up to other sectors. Please explain how and with which support this expected scaling up can be achieved after the completion of the project so that all the relevant sectors are taken into account in the future ETF.

September 4, 2020

1 and 2. Thank you for the clarification. Cleared.

Agency Response

August 26, 2020

1. Further clarification has been provided in section 7. Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up (p. 25), referring to the integration of MRV activities in the legal framework, institutional arrangements and national budget.

2. Section 7. Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up has been amended with information on

how the replication of sectoral experiences is expected to occur and potential additional sources of support (p. 25).

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

February 2, 2020

There is no specific location as the project interventions are at country level. Cleared.

Agency Response

November 19, 2020

The map has been updated on the Portal and on the uploaded PIF document, with the proper designation for 'Western Sahara'. Our apologies for this oversight.

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

February 2, 2020

Yes. Cleared.

September 11, 2020

The proposal mentions that there have been consultations on the project with civil society and private sector, prior to the submission of the PIF. However, there's no description of those consultations. Please provide a description of the stakeholder consultations that took place with civil society organizations, and private sector entities, as indicated in the Stakeholders section (#2). Please note that the GEF Policy on Stakeholder Engagement (Nov 2017) requires that at PIF stage 'Agencies provide a description of any consultations conducted during project development??. Please apology for not having raised this issue earlier.

October 15, 2020

Thank you for the additional information. Nevertheless, while the comment highlighted in particular the CSOs and private sector entities, the text still doesn't mention how these categories have been consulted and who they are. The conclave 1 only includes national institutions and there is no list of participants for the conclave 2. In addition, the mention of CSOs and private sector entities in the table 1 remains very vague about who these stakeholders precisely are. Please note that our previous comment requested to provide a description of the stakeholder consultations that took place with civil society organizations, and private sector entities. Please complete as expected.

November 17, 2020

Thank you for the complement. Cleared.

Agency Response

October 7, 2020

Further information on the consultations held at PIF stage has been provided under section ?2. *Stakeholders?* (p. 26-28).

November 9, 2020

The section ?2. *Stakeholders?* (pages 26-30) has been further amended with information on the names of private sector, CSO and other non-state stakeholders consulted during the PIF development. These stakeholders have been consulted as part of the 2nd conclave held on 19 September 2019.

Note: the additional edits have been highlighted in yellow in the updated PDF version of the PIF uploaded in the "Documents" section of the GEF Portal.

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

February 2, 2020

Yes. Cleared.

September 11, 2020

The PIF references the 2012 GEF Policy on Gender Mainstreaming and the old GEF Gender Equality Action Plan. GEF's new policy and guidelines on gender equality have now been in effect for over two years and it is important that the project closely review the new requirements and guidelines. This is not critical but as the project is sent back for clarification about the stakeholder consultations, please include a reference to the latest gender policy and guidelines.

October 15, 2020

Thank you for updating the reference to the latest gender policy and guidelines Cleared.

Agency Response

October 7, 2020

The gender section was updated with reference to the latest new GEF Policy on Gender Equality (GEF, 2017c) (p. 30).

Private Sector Engagement

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

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

February 2, 2020

Yes. Cleared.

Agency Response

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

February 2, 2020

Relevant potential risks are taken into account. Please assess and incorporate climate change risks.

September 4, 2020

Thank you for the additional inputs. Cleared.

Agency Response

August 26, 2020

Climate change risks have been incorporated in section 5. *Risks*, with the risk level and mitigation measures assessed for Mauritania (p. 31-32). A risk related to the Covid-19 pandemic has also been included in the table.

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

February 2, 2020

The description says that the CCPNCC will be the Project Executing Agency at the national level and refers to figure 1 which describes the existing structure of the National Transparency Framework. Nevertheless, the institutional coordination and arrangements specific to the project remains unclear, notably as regard to the project monitoring and evaluation. Please explain further.

September 4, 2020

Thank you for the clarification. Cleared.

Agency Response

August 26, 2020

Further clarification has been provided in section 6. *Coordination*, with additional information on the national arrangements for project monitoring and evaluation, which will make use of the existing structure illustrated in Figure 1 so as to ensure cost-effectiveness and avoid duplication of efforts (p. 32-33). Moreover, the institutional arrangements for this project have been added as per Figure 3: Structure of CBIT Coordination (p. 33).

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

February 2, 2020

Yes. The project is consistent with national strategies and plans. Cleared.

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

February 2, 2020

Yes. Cleared.

Agency Response

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

September 4, 2020

Even if the PIF was submitted in November 5, 2019, the Agency uploaded its ESS screening and estimated the overall risk as low. Cleared

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

February 2, 2020

Yes. Cleared.

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

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

February 3, 2020

Not yet. Please address the comments. To facilitate the review process, please also highlight in yellow the changes in the text of the proposal.

September 11, 2020

Not yet. Please address the comments above in stakeholders and gender boxes.

October 15, 2020

Not yet. The comments above on stakeholders consultations has not been addressed.

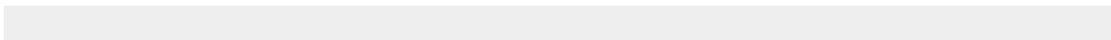
November 17, 2020

Thank you for addressing the comment. Nevertheless, we see a map in the Portal and in the uploaded project document with the name of Morocco where the official maps of the UN show Western Sahara. To avoid any difficulty during the project design and implementation, please simply remove the name on this territory (better) or use UN official maps. Please apology for not having raised this issue in the previous reviews.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

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

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion



**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	2,000	0
International CBIT Expert (consultant)*	22,000	16,000	6,000
International CBIT Expert Travel	4,000	0	0
National Consultant	8,000	8,000	0
Inception & consultation workshop	2,500	2,500	0
Data gathering and sectoral consultative workshops	5,000	4,963	0
Final validation workshop	2,500	2 489	0
Miscellaneous costs	2,000	1,978	0
National Consultant travel	2,000	1,897	0
<i>Further preparation activities to be carried after CEO Approval</i>	0	0	4,173
Total	50,000	39,827	10,173

* no travel budget was spent due to Coivd-19 restrictions.

If at CEO Endorsement, the PPG activities have not been completed and there is a balance of unspent fund, Agencies can continue to undertake exclusively preparation activities up to one year of CEO Endorsement/approval date. No later than one year from CEO endorsement/approval date. Agencies should report closing of PPG to Trustee in its Quarterly Report.

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

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

The project will take place in Mauritania. The impacts will be relevant nationwide, but most of the institutions and relevant stakeholders are based in the capital area of Nouakchott with the coordinates 18°04'47.7"N 15°57'48.0"W.



ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

GEF budget category & detailed description	Outcome 1	M&E	PMC	Total	Responsible entity
02. Goods	42,200	-	2,300	44,500	
ICT equipment for data management during meetings and workshops - Output 1	1,300			1,300	MEDD
ICT equipment for data management during meetings, workshops and data collection on the ground - Output 2	2,600			2,600	MEDD
ICT equipment for data management during meetings, workshops and data collection on the ground - Output 3	1,300			1,300	MEDD
Printing of 200 copies of MRV manual	2,000			2,000	MEDD
Provision of a server including software licenses for online sharing platform	35,000			35,000	MEDD
1 laptop + 1 desktop + 1 printer + Licences			2,300	2,300	MEDD
07. Contractual services (company)	122,000	-	13,500	135,500	
GIS Firm for development of country specific EFs	37,000			37,000	MEDD
Local or international IT/Network services Company for setting up online data sharing platform	85,000			85,000	MEDD
Independent financial audits			13,500	13,500	MEDD
09. International Consultants	309,100	35,000	-	344,100	
Gender consultant - For gender mainstreaming	27,700			27,700	MEDD
Senior Expert 1 - IA, legal framework and MPGs - MRV systems	105,600			105,600	MEDD
Senior Expert 2 - MRV GHG inventory + Tools and Templates for AD collection	45,000			45,000	MEDD
Senior Expert 3 - Development of country specific EFs	39,150			39,150	MEDD
Senior Expert 4 - Templates and guidelines for NDC tracking	36,450			36,450	MEDD
Senior Expert 5 - MRV specialist to conceive, test and upscale MRV prototypes for NDC mitigation and adaptation tracking	55,200			55,200	MEDD
Terminal Evaluation		35,000			UNEP Evaluation Office
10. Local Consultants	196,600	-	-	196,600	
National Expert 1 - IA, legal framework and MPGs - MRV systems	67,200			67,200	MEDD
National Expert 2 - MRV GHG inventory + Tools and Templates for AD collection	34,300			34,300	MEDD
National Expert 3 - Development of country specific EFs	38,750			38,750	MEDD
National Expert 4 - Support Senior Expert 4 on development of templates and guidelines for tracking of NDC actions, and produce the verification manual	28,200			28,200	MEDD
National Expert 5 - Support to Senior Expert 5 for MRV prototypes	28,150			28,150	MEDD
11. Salary and benefits/Staff Costs	-	-	82,800	82,800	
Project Manager			54,000	54,000	MEDD
Financial and administrative assistant			28,800	28,800	MEDD
12. Training, Workshops, Meetings	278,800	10,000	-	288,800	
2 training sessions by IT firm on use of online sharing platform for NDC tracking	12,000			12,000	MEDD
2 workshops for conceptualisation and validation of MRV systems for tracking of NDC actions - Senior expert 5	11,000			11,000	MEDD
2 workshops for consultation and validation of tools and templates - MRV GHG inventory	11,800			11,800	MEDD
2 workshops with stakeholders for consultation and validation of verification manual - National expert 4	9,100			9,100	MEDD
3 training sessions by IT firm on use of online data platform	12,000			12,000	MEDD
3 training sessions by Senior expert 2 on adapted tools and templates	15,000			15,000	MEDD
3 training sessions of stakeholders including policy makers for their engagement in the MRV systems for tracking NDC actions	18,000			18,000	MEDD
3 training sessions on MRV GHG inventory for newcomers - National expert 2	17,400			17,400	MEDD
3 workshops for development and validation of templates and guidelines for tracking NDC actions - Senior expert 4	17,400			17,400	MEDD
4 training sessions by National expert 4 on use of MRV verification manual	6,400			6,400	MEDD
4 training sessions of new stakeholders including policy makers for their engagement in the MRV systems for tracking NDC actions	20,000			20,000	MEDD
4 training sessions on development of country specific EFs - GIS Expert	19,200			19,200	MEDD
4 training sessions on development of country specific EFs - Senior expert 3	19,200			19,200	MEDD
4 workshops for consultation and validation data and information - Country specific EFs	19,000			19,000	MEDD
5 training sessions on use of developed templates and guidelines for tracking NDC actions - Senior expert 4	24,500			24,500	MEDD
6 validation workshops for stakeholder consultation for the 3 activities in output 1	34,800			34,800	MEDD
Meetings organized by national experts with stakeholders	12,000			12,000	MEDD
Inception workshop		2,750		2,750	MEDD
PSC meetings (1 per year)		2,250		2,250	MEDD
Project closure workshop		5,000		5,000	MEDD
13. Travel	8,300	-	-	8,300	
Attendance to international/regional workshops for peer review exchanges on lessons learned and good practices incorporated in the ETF framework of the PA from	8,300			8,300	MEDD
14. Office supplies	-	-	1,600	1,600	
General office supplies			1,600	1,600	MEDD
Grand Total	957,000	45,000	100,200	1,102,200	

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.

Not applicable

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.

Not applicable

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).

Not applicable